



Approved Minutes

PdNWC Executive Committee June 22, 2009 – 3-5PM Corbett Center—Senate Chambers NMSU Campus |Las Cruces, NM

Conrad Keyes, Chair
Hilary Brinegar, Asst Chair

Sue Watts, Secretary
Ari Michelsen, Treasurer

Present:

Conrad Keyes, Jr.-Corps consultant
Kevin Bixby-SWEC
Barbara Kauffman-Rio Grande COG
Sue Watts-TTUHSC
Inga Groff-League of Women Voters
Joe Groff-Chihuahuan Desert Wildlife Rescue
Peter Bennett-City of LC
Hilary Brinegar-NMDA
Julie Maitland-NMDA
Elizabeth Verdecchia-USIBWC
Mike Landis-USBR
Woody Irving-USBR
Jennifer Montowy-BLM
Garisha Ganjegunte-TX Agrilife Research
Mike Fahy-EPWU
Ed Kellum-Sen. Udall's staff
Bill Waldman-Sen. Udall's staff
Dara Parker-Sen. Bingaman's staff
Beiling Liu-NMISC
Phil King-NMSU/CE
Christopher Brown-NMSU Dept of Geography

1. Meeting of the Paso del Norte Watershed Council called to order by Conrad Keyes. Those present introduced themselves.
 - 1a. Minutes from April 6 meeting approved.
2. Report from Dara Parker-Senator Bingaman's office.
 - Funding for water projects authorized in Public Lands Management Omnibus Bill.
 - Cooperative Watershed Management Program targets watershed groups and PdNWC could qualify.

- DOI has a Secure Water Program and Rio Grande basin is a target basin. Goal is to mitigate impacts on a watershed scale
 - Instream monitoring will go to USGS
 - NM Resources Bill targets groundwater
3. RiverWare Conceptual Model Layout for Rincon Valley - Phil King
 - Incorporates groundwater/surface water interactions.
 - Combines Riverware and Modflow
 - Modeling of Rincon valley is first step in calibration
 - Report will be finalized in August and presented to Army Corps of Engineers
 4. 319(h) proposal - Julie Maitland and Hilary Brinegar
 - Proposal was accepted by NMSU's Office of Grants and Contracts and ranked highly by NMED
 - Workplan development meeting with NMED to be held on July 13 so Clean Water subcommittee will meet before that
 - Requested ~\$245,000. Could be available in January.
 5. Technical Committee update - Chris Brown (Co-Chair)
 - 44 core soil samples analyzed from Picacho Arroyo watershed in New Mexico and Americas Arroyos in El Paso. Included texture analysis, soil water characteristics, and hydraulic conductivity measurements. The data obtained will be used to calibrate and validate a model that will combine this data with satellite-based vegetation and topography measurements. Once calibrated, this scaling algorithm can be used to predict fine scale soil parameters for the entire region.
 6. Biological Committee update -
 - Has not met in a while. Need to reconstitute.
 - Kevin Bixby to chair. Members: Jennifer Montoya, Brian Hanson, Girisha Ganjegunte, Mike Landis. Dara Parker and Beth Bardwell to provide advice.
 - Some issues/committees that could have biological impacts include: Federal Coordinating Committee, Congressman Reyes's office, Rio Grande Environmental Management, Rio Grande Watershed Management committee (IBWC, Salinity Assessment Group, Transboundary Aquifer, flood control)
 - Goal of committee is to develop a watershed restoration plan. Need to coordinate with 319h proposal.
 7. Education Committee-
 - Also needs to be reconstituted.
 - Inga Groff to Chair. Members: Peter Bennett, Hilary Brinegar, Mike Landis, Barbara Kauffman.
 - First goal is to develop a power point presentation that could be used in various settings

- Council members attending professional meetings could also give a presentation about the Council and its activities, if appropriate.
 - Phil King and Zhuping Sheng will give a talk in Socorro in August about the modeling project
8. URGWOM 5-year Plan update - URWGOM Tech Committee
 - 2.12.1 Elephant Butte to El Paso. Four major tasks to accomplish
 - 2.12.2 El Paso to Ft Quitman (2010-2013)
 - 2.12.3 Water Quality Monitoring, Caballo Reservoir to Ft Q (2011-2013)
 9. IBWC Canalization EIS ROD-
 - Addresses water resources protection, soil protection, and cultural processes
 - Contains typical mitigation measures
 - 6% of funds to be used for environmental enhancements
 - Conrad Keyes, Jennifer Montoya, and Kevin Bixby to talk to Daniel Borunda about how Council might work with IBWC on enhancement projects
 - Council could assist with organization of stakeholders group to address dredging issues
 - Council will send letter to Commissioner Ruth relating Council's willingness to help develop restoration strategy
 10. Review of PdNWC 2010-2011 Work Plan – ALL
 - Change timeline to 2010-2013
 - Email proposed changes to Conrad within 10 days
 11. Treasurer's Report
 - Distributed for review and includes all funding except 319h grant
 12. Next meeting to be held same day (end of Sept) as Rio Grande Citizen's Forum if possible, in El Paso, TX. An additional meeting will be called before that date if needed.
 13. Meeting adjourned.

Attachment 1: Notes from Dara Parker



Microsoft Word
Document

Attachment 2: Rio Grande modeling



Microsoft Office
Word Document