



## Draft Minutes

**PdNWC Executive Committee  
December 15, 2009 – 3-5PM  
Dona Ana County Government Center  
845 N. Hotel Blvd, Rms 113/117, 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  
Sue Watts-TTUHSC  
Inga Groff-League of Women Voters  
Joe Groff-Chihuahuan Desert Wildlife Rescue  
Peter Bennett-City of LC  
Daniel Borunda-USIBWC  
Mike Landis-USBR  
Louis Irwin-Rio Grande Citizen's Forum  
Kevin Von Finger-Frontera Land Alliance  
Katrina Martich-Martich Professional Services  
Hilary Brinegar-NMDA  
Jennifer Montoya-BLM  
Zhu Ping Sheng-Texas AgriLife Research  
Adrienne Widmer-City of Las Cruces  
Gilbert Morales-City of Las Cruces  
Ian Leslie-Leasburg Water Board  
Lupe Garcia-Leasburg Water Board

1. Meeting of the Paso del Norte Watershed Council called to order by Conrad Keyes at 3:04 PM. Those present introduced themselves.
2. Minutes from Sept 29, 2009 meeting approved with corrections noted by Hilary.
3. City of Las Cruces: In reply to the NY Times article that reported that wastewater treatment plants were out of compliance on numerous occasions, Jorge Garcia, Gilbert Morales, and Adrienne Widmer gave a presentation describing the new Board of Utility Commissioners for the City of Las Cruces and how they will set strategic policy directions. They also brought us up to date on all of the new water and wastewater projects that have recently come on line and those that will be coming on line in the near future. They will also be relocating the composting facility.

4. Updated Principles and Guidelines for Water and Land Related Resources Implementation Studies-Conrad Keyes. Guidelines apply to all projects funded by WRDA and are being expanded to apply to other agencies as well. There is new emphasis is on non-monetary benefits. Agencies must have public comment on projects and will be reviewed for compliance. Public comment period is 90 days. Biological committee will follow-up and a comment letter will be drafted by Kevin, Mike and Conrad by mid-January.
5. Public comment for Dona Ana MDWCA project-Conrad Keyes. Ian Leslie explained that Leasburg MDWA is opposed to Hope Road Sewage Treatment Plant proposed by DAMDWA. Alternatives not being considered. Conrad will draft a comment letter if Council wishes to submit one.
6. Letters-Conrad Keyes. Letters to Rep Teague encouraging support of WRDA were sent. Hilary will circulate a letter to Oberstar for comment and she would like to get it mailed before the end of the month.
7. La Mancha Wetland-Kevin Bixby. Located on west back of the Rio Grande north of Mesilla Bridge. The design is underway and is proposed to be a backwater slough that will reduce sediment input as compared to a flow through system. Water depletions due to evaporation are to be off set by water rights.
8. Committee and subcommittee reports/updates:
  - a. Clean Water Subcommittee – 319(h) Workplan– Hilary Brinegar. Sub-contracts are being signed. Funds should be available by mid-January. Contracts and position description for coordinator are being developed.
  - b. Technical Committee - Zhuping Sheng. Fact sheet describing current and future projects available. Scope for next phase ready to submit to the Corps of Engineers. Phase III report complete.
  - c. Biological Committee-Jennifer Montoya and Kevin Bixby.
    - NM Outstanding National Resource Waters proposal—Aldo Leopold in Black Range may qualify. Hilary will send update.
    - Rio Grande Canalization Project—Conceptual restoration plan and projects need to be prioritized. To get most ecological benefit projects are likely to be clustered. Using public/private partnerships, interagency agreements and environmental consultants.
  - d. Education Committee-re-organization-tabled
9. Financial report-Zhu Ping Sheng. No changes since last report.
10. Other:
  - a. Weather modification association annual meeting; Santa Fe; April 21-3
  - b. Urban Green Space Enhancement through Use of Runoff and Stormwater: Defining the Potential in the Paso Del Norte Region –Resend to everyone
  - c. IBWC Presidio flood control project EIS out for comment-Dan Borunda
11. Date for Annual Meeting-Conrad Keyes. At Texas AgriLife March 8
12. Adjourn