



Approved Minutes

**Paso del Norte Watershed Council
Executive Committee meeting
September 15, 2010 – 3-5PM
USIBWC Headquarters
4171 N Mesa, Suite C-100 | El Paso, TX**

Conrad Keyes, Chair
Hilary Brinegar, Asst Chair

Sue Watts, Secretary
Ari Michelsen, Treasurer

Present:

Amanda Cleghorn-WWF
Bill Hargrove-UTEP
Brian Hanson-319 grant coordinator
Christopher Brown-NMSU
Chris Canavan-NMED
Conrad Keyes, Jr.-Corps consultant
Elizabeth Verdecchia-USIBWC
Evaristo Cruz-Ysleta del Sur Pueblo

Hilary Brinegar-NMDA
Jennifer Montoya-BLM
Julie Maitland-NMDA
Kevin Von Finger-Frontera Land Alliance
Luzma Nava-NMSU
Mike Landis-USBR
Sue Watts-ecologist
Zhuping Sheng-Texas AgriLife Rsrch Ctr

1. Meeting of the Paso del Norte Watershed Council called to order by Conrad Keyes at 3:11 PM. All present introduced themselves.
2. Agenda approved.
3. Minutes from the May 7, 2010 were approved by email. The minutes of the July 16 meeting were approved with Zhuping Sheng's recommended edits.
4. Updates and reports
 - a. PdNWC website-Chris Brown. Still waiting for contract to be finalized. Brian Hanson recommended some updates for information on the website and a counter has been added. Once the contract is finalized the new mapping functions will be implemented.
 - b. Financial Report-Zhuping Sheng. Financial report was distributed for review.
 - c. Clean Water Committee, 319(h) grant update—Brian Hanson, Hilary Brinegar.
 - o Contractor activities are occurring as planned. Water samples are being collected by EBID personnel for analysis by Water Tech Associates. Phil King and Randa Hatamleh will be analyzing the results to identify potential pollution hotspots. Geoff Smith is beginning preliminary studies to calibrate the method for source tracking.

- Outreach activities for stakeholders are being developed and include fact sheets on *E. coli* (Liz Verdecchia, lead) and watershed health (Brian Hanson, lead). Volunteers from the Council will attend public functions over the next few months to answer questions and increase our visibility in the communities.
 - Loretta Reyes with the City of Las Cruces (and Peter Bennett's supervisor), provided a presentation to the Las Cruces City Council about the collaboration between the City and the Watershed Council on the 319(h) project; she provided general information and ultimately received permission for Peter to represent them in Council activities. Hilary was present to answer questions from City Council members.
 - EBID is seeking permission to expand their boundaries to include an additional 4000 acres in Selden Canyon.
- d. Technical Committee-Zhuping Sheng, Chris Brown. A new contract was signed with the Army Corps of Engineers in August (\$200,000). It includes 2 subcontracts (UACJ and NMSU), and there will be a kick-off meeting in October.
- e. Biological Committee- Jennifer Montoya, Hilary Brinegar.
- Proposed projects sent to USBR and USIBWC to develop integrated management plan for watershed that would include terrestrial, riparian, and aquatic restoration. Blue Earth is too busy to take on the project; perhaps someone at UTEP could help. Jennifer will meet with Bill Hargrove and Vanessa Lougheed.
 - The stormwater coalition is getting MOU's signed. The Council needs to be involved to voice concerns about harvesting water solely for agricultural purposes. Planning needs to be more broad-based and should include more than structures.
5. PdNWC work plans for 2011-2015—Conrad Keyes. Members to review plans and send recommended edits. Will be voted on at annual meeting.
6. Next EC Meeting –Annual meeting November 9, 11:30-1:30, Great American Land and Cattle Restaurant, Anthony
7. The meeting was adjourned at 5:03 PM.