



**Minutes**  
**Paso del Norte Watershed Council**  
**Executive Committee Meeting**  
**March 31, 2011 – 9:00-11:00 AM**  
**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:**

Aaron Wendt-TSSWC Board  
Amy Louise-USACE (by phone)  
Ari Michelsen-TX Agrilife Rsrch Ctr  
Bill Hargrove-UTEP CERM  
Brian Hanson-319 grant coordinator  
Chris Canavan-NMED  
Conrad Keyes, Jr.-Corps consultant  
Daniel Borunda-USIBWC  
Elizabeth Verdecchia-USIBWC  
Elke Sauter-TX Agrilife Rsrch Ctr  
Gilbert Anaya-USIBWC

Hilary Brinegar-NMDA  
Katrina Martich-Martich Prof Svcs  
Kevin von Finger  
Michael Ada-RGCOG  
Mike Landis-USBR  
Peter Bennett-City of Las Cruces  
Rebecca Little Owl-USIBWC  
Stephen Kissock-USACE (by phone)  
Sue Watts-ecologist  
Sumer Guffy-NMDA  
Violet Gilson-League of Women Voters  
Zhuping Sheng-TX Agrilife Rsrch Ctr

1. The meeting of the Paso del Norte Watershed Council was called to order by Chair, Conrad Keyes, at 9:08 AM. All present in person and by phone introduced themselves.
2. The agenda was approved with no changes.
3. Decisions
  - a. Minutes from the January 14, 2011 meeting were approved with 2 revisions. The approved version will be posted on the website.
  - b. Hilary Brinegar requested that all recommendations for changes on the PdNWC website go through her. Ari Michelsen recommended that the officers review the website and make further recommendations.
  - c. Conrad Keyes will write a letter of appreciation to the Groff's and Marc Sidlow expressing the Council's appreciation of their years of service to the organization.
4. EPA's Elements of Watershed Based Planning – presented by Chris Canavan and Hilary Brinegar. Link to powerpoint available on PdNWC website.

## 5. Reports

- a. USACE Rio Grande Basin meeting – Zhuping Sheng and Conrad Keyes reported that this meeting involved many organizations who are currently working within the Rio Grande Basin. Although it is primarily project-oriented, they are also looking toward future projects and future funding. Is the PdNWC interested in hosting the next meeting?
  - b. Rio Grande Watershed Alliance, Regional Advisory Committee— Elizabeth Verdecchia reported that this organization is also concerned with the whole Rio Grande basin and is looking to partner with other watershed groups to consider issues and develop policy. It was moved and seconded that the Council become active with this group as it fits with our mission.
  - c. PdNWC Financial Report – Ari Michelsen reported on current funding levels. He made a strong case for getting the remaining USBR funds committed within the next month. All projects have to be funded and have all expenses invoiced by Sept 30, 2011. Bill Hargrove has submitted an idea for a feasibility project involving a constructed wetland in Sunland Park for polishing WWTP effluent. He was encouraged to develop a full proposal to submit to the Executive Committee for approval within 2 weeks.
  - d. 319(h) Project Report – Hilary Brinegar and Brian Hanson reported on meetings they've attended where they've gotten good ideas for watershed management. They will be holding a Stakeholder Working Group meeting on April 7 in Mesilla.
  - e. Technical Committee – Zhuping Sheng will report at Tech Comm meeting.
  - f. Biological Committee-Jennifer Montoya, Kevin Bixby. Not present.
6. Next EC Meeting – Las Cruces City Hall, May 3, 1PM.
7. Meeting adjourned at 11:15AM.