



Minutes
Paso del Norte Watershed Council
Executive Committee Meeting
May 3, 2011 – 1:00-3:00 PM
Las Cruces City Hall, Rm 2007B
Las Cruces, NM

Conrad Keyes, Chair
Hilary Brinegar, Asst Chair

Sue Watts, Secretary
Ari Michelsen, Treasurer

Present:

Amy Louise-USACE
Christopher Brown-NMSU
Conrad Keyes, Jr.-Corps consultant
Corey Durr-Bureau of Land Mgmt
Fernando Cadena-EBID
Girisha Ganjegunte-TX AgriLife
Gill Sorg-City of LC
Hilary Brinegar-NMDA
Jennifer Smith-NMSU
Kevin Bixby-SW Environmental Ctr

Luzma Nava-NMSU
Michael Ada-RGCOG
Mike Landis-USBR
Peter Bennett-City of Las Cruces
Rebecca Little Owl-USIBWC
Stephen Kissock-USACE
Sue Watts-ecologist
Sumer Guffey-NMDA
Violet Gilson-League of Women Voters
Zhuping Sheng-TX AgriLife Rsrch Ctr

1. Introductions - The meeting of the Paso del Norte Watershed Council was called to order by Chair, Conrad Keyes, at 1:05 AM. All present introduced themselves.
2. Agenda Approval – The agenda was approved with no changes once a quorum of Executive Committee members was present.
3. Decisions
 - a. Minutes from the March 31, 2011 meeting were approved with no revisions. The approved version will be posted on the website.
4. Burn Lake Project-Peter Bennett from the City of Las Cruces gave a presentation about Burn Lake beginning with the history of the construction of the lake. It currently has no outlet, so the water quality is deteriorating due to the accumulation of heavy metals and *E. coli*. A planning project has been completed to address the water quality issues. In addition, new park facilities and landscaping have been completed for the upland areas around the lake.

5. Present and future work for URGWOM-Amy Louise, USACE reported on the Upper Rio Grande and Zhuping Sheng reported on the Lower Rio Grande. The presentations described the various individual components of the URGWOM projects and the progress to date on each of them. Future plans include efforts to refine all the current modeling efforts keeping in mind the ultimate goal of being able to model the entire basin.
6. Reports
 - a. Rio Grande Watershed Alliance, Regional Advisory Committee meeting—A motion was passed approving PdNWC participation in the organization, as long as there was no financial commitment.
 - b. PdNWC Financial Report – Zhuping Sheng reported that the USBR funds have been committed and that a new grant from the Army Corps of Engineers is expected for the upcoming fiscal year.
 - c. 319(h) Project Update – Hilary Brinegar reported that there will be a stakeholder working group meeting May 12 in Mesilla Park. They will also participate in Earth Day activities in Las Cruces as well as Raft the Rio on June 11. Brian and Sumer Guffey are working on outreach materials with the City of Las Cruces and Dona Ana County. Sumer is also working on public education materials for children. Water sampling has been conducted by EBID Jan through March during low flow months but acceptable bacterial counts have been obtained. Dr. Phil King, NMSU, is populating and calibrating the water quality model with data collected by EBID. Half of the source tracking water samples collected by NMSU have been sent to the Seattle-based laboratory for analysis.
 - d. Web Site – Chris Brown reported that the transfer of PdNWC files and maps from the server at NMWRRRI has been completed and data are being updated. The PdNWC website is being edited and broken web links are being fixed.
 - e. Biological Committee-Kevin Bixby reported that the Border Patrol has requested that IBWC increase their frequency of mowing in the Rectification Project area and parts of the Canalization Project area.
7. Next EC Meeting – Texas A&M AgriLife Research Center; July 1; 9AM
8. Meeting adjourned at 3:15 PM.