



Approved Minutes

Paso del Norte Watershed Council Annual Meeting & Executive Committee meeting March 15, 2013 – 10:00 AM-noon US Bureau of Reclamation Offices 10737 Gateway West | Suite 350 | El Paso TX

Conrad Keyes, Chair
Hilary Brinegar, Asst Chair

Sue Watts, Secretary
Ari Michelsen, Treasurer

Present:

Ari Michelsen- Texas AgriLife Rsrch Ctr
Bert Cortez-USBR
Conrad Keyes, Jr.-Corps consultant
Elizabeth Verdecchia-USIBWC
Gill Sorg-City of Las Cruces
Gilbert Anaya-USIBWC
Hilary Brinegar-Marron & Assoc
Kevin Bixby-SWEC

Mike Landis-USBR
Ryan Ward-NMDA
Sue Watts-ecologist
Tiffany Rivera-NMDA
Wood Irving-USBR
Zhuping Sheng-Texas AgriLife Rsrch Ctr

1. The Executive Committee meeting of the Paso del Norte Watershed Council was called to order by Conrad Keyes at 10:10 AM. Quorum of Exec Committee members was met. All present introduced themselves.
2. The agenda was approved with no changes.
3. The minutes from Jan 18, 2013 Annual meeting were approved with no edits. The minutes of the Oct 2012 meeting will be sent out for an email vote.
4. Reports
 - a. PdNWC Financial Report-Ari Michelsen reported that the only active funds are from the Bureau of Reclamation. The cooperative agreement is in the process of being amended so that the proposed projects will meet the scope of work. Specific organizations, PI's, and projects need to be included. USIBWC could be a partner on restoration projects as long as project meets scope of existing projects.
 - b. Technical Committee Report-Zhuping Sheng reported that the committee has reviewed and provided comment on the current URGWOM model. They have asked USBR to provide maps.
 - c. Biological Committee-Kevin Bixby reported that he has drafted a proposal for an assessment of historic native fish species within

PdNWC's reach of interest. SWEC would undertake 2 tasks and contract for two others. USGS, TCEQ, and IBWC have done such work in the past and may have records.

- d. Clean water committee-Gilbert Anaya reported that Chris Canavan plans to have the WBP available for comment next week. NMED implementation funds will soon be available for this reach. Ryan will check with Julie Maitland about NMDA taking the lead on an E coli mitigation project. If this isn't possible, what other NM agency could do it? Who would write the proposal?
 - e. PdNWC Workplan-Sue to send out workplan for comment. Let Conrad know if you want your agency added or deleted by Mar 22.
 - f. PdNWC website- Ryan Ward will work with Hilary to discuss updating the Spanish portions of the website.
5. USIBWC Canalization restoration projects- Liz Verdecchia reported that she will now be responsible for the implementation of the restoration projects association with the ROD for the Canalization Project. They have utilized the USACE restoration plan to establish 53.5 acres of willow flycatcher habitat. They are eliminating grazing leases, establishing no-mow zones, and have identified 30 restoration sites. They are planting poles in Crow Canyon, Broad Canyon, and near Leasburg Dam. They have established an Environmental Water Rights Program to acquire 300-500 acre-feet of water to maintain the restoration projects. More information:
http://www.ibwc.gov/EMD/canalization_eis.html
6. Next EC Meeting – May 8, 2013 at 11AM at Southwest Environmental Center in Las Cruces.
 7. Meeting adjourned at 11:58 AM.