



Approved Minutes

Paso del Norte Watershed Council Annual Meeting & Executive Committee meeting January 18, 2013 – 10:00 to noon Southwest Environmental Center 275 Main | Las Cruces NM

Conrad Keyes, Chair
Hilary Brinegar, Asst Chair

Sue Watts, Secretary
Ari Michelsen, Treasurer

Present:

Albert Flores-USIBWC
Chris Canavan-NMED
Christopher Brown-NMSU
Conrad Keyes, Jr.-Corps consultant
Gill Sorg-City of Las Cruces
Gilbert Anaya-USIBWC
Hilary Brinegar-NMDA
Jan Kirwin-NM Parks

Kevin Bixby-SWEC
Mike Landis-USBR
Ryan Ward-NMDA
Sue Watts-ecologist
Tiffany Rivera-NMDA
Zhuping Sheng-Texas AgriLife Rsrch Ctr

1. The Annual Meeting of the Paso del Norte Watershed Council was called to order by Conrad Keyes at 10:10 AM. Quorum of Exec Committee members not attained. All present introduced themselves.
2. The agenda was approved with addition of item 4d- IBWC ROD report.
3. 319(h) Project report. Chris Canavan presented a summary report of the watershed-based plan that will be the final product of the project. The final draft is due June 2013. Observed E. coli exceedances appeared to be storm-related at many sites but was not true at southernmost sites. The biologic source tracking indicated that the majority of E.coli cultured were non-human. The plan will propose potential management practices to address both storm- and non-storm related exceedances of E. coli. The complete powerpoint presentation can be accessed on the PdNWC website.
4. Reports
 - a. PdNWC Financial Report-Zhuping Sheng reported that the only new funds are from the Bureau of Reclamation to be used for small projects that must be completed by Sept 2013. Zhuping will send a reminder to WC committee chairs reminding them that proposals for projects must be ready by the end of March.
 - b. Technical Committee Report-Zhuping Sheng reported that the committee has submitted data and a report to Army Corps of

Engineers regarding a conceptual model that will incorporate all 3 previous models. The Corps also has a separate initiative that is addressing salinity issues in the Rio Grande.

- c. PdNWC website-Chris Brown reported that his group will continue to support the PdNWC website. All edits should still go through Hilary.
 - d. IBWC ROD report- Gilbert Anaya reported on a meeting held in Nov 2012. FWS made no critical habitat designations between Leasburg and ? FWS and Audubon Society have contracts to prepare restoration sites. Liz Verdecchia is working on maps for the sites. IBWC has been seeding levee slopes but without much success due to dry conditions.
5. Decisions
- a. Election of new Executive Committee members (2013-2015 terms). Motion to re-elect Mike Ada, Christopher Brown, Alfredo Granados, and Bill Hargrove was approved by acclamation. Ryan Ward (NMDA), Jan Kirwin (NM Parks), and Gill Sorg (City of LC) were elected to replace Evaristo Cruz, Violet Gilson, and Kevin Von finger.
 - b. Minutes from the Oct 16, 2012 meeting were NOT approved due to lack of quorum. Approval will be done by email.
 - c. Conrad asked a few people if they would help co-chair some of the committees. Mike Landis indicated he could help with the Technical committee since USBR has funding for some of the projects. Gilbert Anaya indicated he could help with the Clean Water Committee since they do a lot of work in the TX Clean Rivers Program. Hilary indicated she could continue to help with the PdNWC web site. Kevin Bixby indicated he could definitely help Brian Hanson with the Biological Committee.
6. Next EC Meeting – March 15, 2013 at 10AM at the USBR headquarters in El Paso.
7. Meeting adjourned at 12:09 PM.