



Approved Minutes

Paso del Norte Watershed Council Executive Committee meeting May 8, 2013 – 11:00 AM-1PM Southwest Environmental Center 275 N Main | Las Cruces NM

Conrad Keyes, Chair

Hilary Brinegar, Asst Chair

Present:

Ari Michelsen- Texas AgriLife Rsrch Ctr

Christopher Brown-NMSU (by phone)

Chris Canavan-NMED

Conrad Keyes, Jr.-Corps consultant

Deidre Price-citizen

Elizabeth Verdecchia-USIBWC

Gill Sorg-City of Las Cruces

Gilbert Anaya-USIBWC

Hilary Brinegar-Marron & Assoc

Sue Watts, Secretary

Ari Michelsen, Treasurer

Jack Kirby-NMSU

Kevin Bixby-SWEC

Merideth Hildreth-citizen

Mike Landis-USBR

Peter Bennett- City of LC

Sue Watts-ecologist

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 11:10 AM. A quorum of Exec Committee members were present. All participants introduced themselves.
2. The agenda was approved with no changes.
3. The minutes from Mar 15, 2013 meeting were approved with several edits recommended. The minutes of the Oct 2012 meeting were also approved because a quorum had not been met on the email vote. Sue will send final versions of both to Hilary for posting on the website.
4. Reports
 - a. PdNWC Financial Report-Ari Michelsen reported that there were no new funds. The cooperative agreement for the Bureau of Reclamation funds was still in the process of being approved, so no projects had begun yet. A progress report is due however.
 - b. Technical Committee Report-Mike Landis reported that there will be only 170,000 acre-feet of water available for the irrigation season. Releases will begin on June 1 and continue until July 15. The allocation is only 3 inches/acre. Zhuping Sheng reported that he had attended the Tech Team meeting. Zhuping and Conrad submitted comments on the current URGWOM model but they were not implemented. They have asked USBR to provide maps. Water

quality parameters including salinity are being tested in the Riverware model in the reach between Bernardo and San Acacia. The Rio Grande Salinity Coalition is awaiting a consultant's report about the economic impacts of salinity between Elephant Butte and Ft Quitman.

- c. Biological Committee-Kevin Bixby wanted to propose a constructed wetland at Montoya Drain using 319 implementation funds. It would benefit fish populations and is a good site because the river stays wet in that area during the winter. It would involve putting structures in the streambed that would trap water and sediment, thereby providing fish habitat. Perhaps USBR funds could be used to develop conceptual plan. (it was suggested that Mike Hatch at NMSU would be a good resource.) Gilbert Anaya said that IBWC might be interested in including this idea as a project for the Canalization ROD.
 - d. Clean water committee-Gilbert Anaya reported that the committee had not met.
 - e. PdNWC website-Chris Brown reported that Hilary is still the point of contact for website issues.
5. Review of Watershed-based Plan. Chris Canavan has completed a draft that includes all comments received to date. He would like as many of us as possible to review the document and submit final comments and recommended edits, especially for chaps 7 and 9. Based on the data from water quality analysis conducted as part of the project, it appears that there is no *E. coli* impairment between Percha Dam and Picacho Bridge because fewer than 10% of samples exceeded the maximum limit. A motion was made, seconded, and approved that the Council supports the concept of delisting this reach should NMED recommend that
 6. Next EC Meeting – Aug 2, 2013 at USIBWC headquarters in El Paso
 7. Meeting adjourned at 1:00 PM.