



Approved Minutes

Paso del Norte Watershed Council Executive Committee meeting

February 14, 2014; 1PM – 4PM

Las Cruces City Hall | 700 North Main Street | Rm 2007
Las Cruces, NM

Conrad Keyes, Chair
Hilary Brinegar, Asst Chair

Sue Watts, Secretary
Ari Michelsen, Treasurer

Present:

Angela Brannigan-NMDA
Brian Hanson-citizen
Christopher Brown-NMSU (phone)
Chris Canavan-NMED
Conrad Keyes, Jr.-Corps consultant
Dorian Alcantar-City of LC
Gill Sorg-City of Las Cruces
Janet Kirwin-NM State Parks
Kevin Bixby-SWEC

Lacy Levine-NMDA
Mike Landis-USBR
Osvaldo Browsicke-UTEP
Peter Bennett- City of LC
Ryan Ward-NMDA
Sue Watts-ecologist
Tiffany Rivera-NMDA
Weikang Zhang-TX Agrilife
Zhuping Sheng-TX Agrilife

1. The Executive Committee meeting of the Paso del Norte Watershed Council was called to order by Conrad Keyes at 1:10PM. All participants introduced themselves. Quorum was attained.
2. There were no changes to the agenda.
3. The minutes of the Dec 6, 2013 meeting were approved.
4. Reports
 - a. PdNWC Financial Report – Zhuping Sheng reported that they are still working on a cooperative agreement with USBR. No other new funding.
 - b. Technical Committee Report – Mike Landis. URGWOM contract for lower Rio Grande finishes in September. Once the modeling is complete they will merge several sections into the planning model. Mike also reported that there has been no progress on the wetland in Sunland Park. However there are plans to expand the opening of the Montoya Drain near the electric company power plant which could improve riparian habitat. USBR says there may be a foot of

water released for irrigation this season. Peter Bennett reported that the City of LC has a draft plan for arroyo preservation that will be sent out for comment.

- c. Biological Committee –Brian Hanson reported that he and Kevin Bixby looked at the Montoya Drain site and plan to develop a proposal. USIBWC is a potential partner. There will be TMDL funds available for Texas this year, but not for anything in EP County. Proposals for 319 funds in NM are due at the end of April. Kevin will meet with Chris Canavan. He will need in-kind support from the WC. The WC is willing to provide a letter of support, oversight, and comment. Will expect regular project updates.
 - d. Clean Water Committee – no report.
5. Review of EPA comments on the Watershed Based Plan-Chris Canavan reviewed the comments EPA had provided on our Watershed Based Plan and explained how he planned to respond to each of them.
 6. Next EC Meeting – April 3; Las Cruces—City Hall or SWEC; 3:30, before Citizens Forum
 7. Meeting adjourned at 3:25PM.