

Environmental Committee Meeting, Paso del Norte Watershed Council

December 9, 2016 10:30 AM at International and Boundary Commission, El Paso

Chairs are: Brian Hanson, Gill Sorg, Leslie Grijalva

Attendees –

Brian Hanson bhanson5@comcast.net

Pam Homer Interstate Stream Commission pamela.homer@state.nm.us on phone

Chris Canavan NMED chris.canavan@state.nm.us

Gary Esslinger EBID gesslinger@ebid-nm.org

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Yvette McKenna Bureau of Reclamation yrmckenna@usbr.gov

Bert Cortez Bureau of Reclamation FCortez@usbr.gov

Zach Libbin EBID zlibbin@ebid-nm.org

Conrad Keyes Chair PDNWC cgkeyesjr@q.com

Because of an accident on I10, many were late. The meeting began at 10:45 AM.

Elephant Butte Irrigation District and Drain Health

Gary Esslinger described EBID's proposal for drain health using funds from NM Environment Department. They will submit a proposal to NMED.

There are many individuals that dump their trash and sometimes manure into or next to drains along the Rio Grande. Some individuals have been caught and they have moved the waste out. It is thought that many do not know that the drains are not theirs, they are owned by EBID.

Individuals also may not know that drains can be impaired and eventually go back to the river. EBID proposes to develop brochures and mail them to all residents; and hold public meetings about drain health. Chris Canavan discussed that this project was a potential project in Chapter 6 (p43) of the Council's Watershed Based Plan. The proposal must be to NMED by December 22. EBID wants the PDNWC to endorse the proposal. EBID said match would be Council's in-kind support, including Council meetings and technical review. I said the Environmental Committee does endorse the project and will participate with them.

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