



Accepted Final Draft MINUTES

Paso del Norte Watershed Council Executive Committee
Wooten Hall (aka Jornada ARS Bldg)
2995 Knox St
New Mexico State University
Las Cruces, NM 88003
June 1, 2007
Immediately following GIS demonstration (~11:00 AM)

Sue Watts, Chair
Jennifer Montoya, Secretary

Julie Maitland, Assistant Chair
Ari Michelsen, Treasurer

1. Convene meeting and welcome (Watts): 11:30 a.m.

Introduction of attendees (all):

Hilary Brinegar
Zhuping Sheng
Girisha Ganjengunte
Fernando Cadena
Bobby Creel
Peter Bennett
Chris Canavan
Cynthia Campo
Alfredo Granados
Sergio Solis

Joe Groff
Inga Groff
Vanessa Lougheed
Jeff Dunsworth
Ed Hamlyn
Woody Irving
Mike Landis
Mark Dubin

Mike Fies
Kevin Bixby
Sue Watts, Chair
Julie Maitland, Asst Chair
Jennifer Montoya,
Secretary
Ari Michelsen, Treasurer

2. Approval of minutes from April 9, 2007.
 - Comments from Deb Hibbard and group should be sent via email by Wednesday June 6th to Jennifer Montoya and Jennifer will circulate minutes with comments and changes for approval.
3. 319 grant update (Julie, Hilary):
 - Stakeholder field trip was well attended. The Best Management Practices Meeting was postponed until June 19th.
 - The 319 subcommittee will split Geri's responsibilities now that she is leaving the PdNWC for the Peace Corps; Geri's last day was May 31st.
 - Hilary will be asking for matching reports to include meeting, travel and subcommittee time.
 - Sue provided an overview of the 319 WRAS document. Discussed the consultant, Phil King, and the various processes, such as the technical writer and Ken Boykin, the Wildlife Consultant. Council needs to have a preliminary draft for WRAS in August.
4. Technical Committee update:
 - Zhuping: The Coordinated Water Resources Database and GIS Workshop held before this meeting was part of the Bureau of Reclamation Water 2025 Challenge project deliverables. The workshop is also supported by U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. A total of 34 people attended the workshop. Attendees represent local and regional stakeholders, state and federal agencies. The Technical Committee should have a draft project report in July since the project will be completed in August.
 - Mike Fies: Last month there was a summit meeting for an MOU signing for URGWOM. The Corps wants to reenergize everyone with a five-year plan moving forward. Goal is to get all the parties to sign an MOU to develop enhancements of the URGWOM. Groundwater/surface water interaction is a critical component for enhancement of the model. Corps wants to know that it is going in the right direction. They are looking for financial and human resources support. Expect that six lead federal agencies will have the human resources and funding. Other organizations can review outputs, sit on steering committee. The PdNWC was invited to sign on as a signatory party. The PdNWC Technical Committee is currently developing the flow model for the Rio Grande below Elephant Butte for flood control as part of the URGWOM project and is expected to continue its work for the upcoming planning period.
 - Various members ask-How can the model work for us? Mike Fies is working on a draft and will have a revised draft in a week or two. Goal is to have MOU signed by end of fiscal year. Technical Committee will review the MOU and provide comments.
5. Treasurer's report (Ari): Reviewed financial report. Bureau and Corp show larger balance than where they should be due to lags in invoicing.

6. Beth Bardwell: cancelled
7. Other updates
 - WWF (Jennifer): Report on the Rio Grande Watershed Field Coordinating Committee, which hosted a meeting in El Paso on May 17. This was a general meeting for information exchange among resource agencies basinwide, hosted by Congressman Sylvestre Reyes of El Paso.
 - Border 2012 Conference- Landis reports. Held in Juarez at Civic Center. Discussions on desalinization for Anapra (Juarez), BECC projects. Juarez is providing a larger percentage of clean drinking water than the rest of Mexico.
 - Ari?: Salinity Conference- Limited to Rio Grande project. Joint between NM entities and TX entities but dominated by NM. Largely invited meeting to keep numbers down. Topics included: Research on sources of salinity. How do you value the damage or impacts of salinity? Are there management techniques to reduce salinity? Disagreement on who should take the lead. Should it be State Engineer driven? Should it go through Watershed Task Force?
 - Lorenzo Arriaga will be moving to the BOR Elephant Butte office.
 - Ari?: Pecos River salinity issues discussed at the Salinity meeting. This will be done in part between the Pecos Compact Commissioners.
8. New business
 - All the Committees to review strategic plan (Sue): Sue to send out strategic plan and wants the subcommittees to convene and review. Business Plan needs updating.
9. Upcoming projects/issues
 - Water Re-Use Conference in El Paso next week. NMSU, BOR, American Water Works Research Foundation (research for large water utilities across the country). June 4th and 5th.
 - Jornada Long Term Ecological Research Annual Meeting in this room on July 17.
 - \$2.5 million from the governor for large scale river restoration projects. Information is on our website.
 - June 16, Saturday Raft the Rio 10th Annual on the Rio Grande.
 - Alfredo Granados to invite new District 9 irrigation manager in Juarez to come to our next meeting.
10. Date and Location of next meeting
 - 9:00 a.m. July 20, 2007, BOR conference room in El Paso
11. Meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.