



Minutes

Paso del Norte Watershed Council Executive Committee meeting

January 14, 2011 – 10:00-noon

Dona Ana County Government Building
845 N. Motel Blvd, Las Cruces, NM 88007

Conrad Keyes, Chair
Hilary Brinegar, Asst Chair

Sue Watts, Secretary
Ari Michelsen, Treasurer

Present: Alfredo Granados-UACJ
Brian Hanson-319 grant coordinator
Christopher Brown-NMSU
Chris Canavan-NMED
Conrad Keyes, Jr.-Corps consultant
Gil Sorg-City of Las Cruces
Hilary Brinegar-NMDA
Jennifer Montoya-BLM
Kevin Bixby-SW Environmental Ctr
Peter Bennett-City of Las Cruces
Mike Landis-USBR
Rene Molina-Dona Ana County
Robert Armijo-Dona Ana County
Katrina Martich-Martich Prof Svcs

Sue Watts-ecologist
Zhuping Sheng-Texas AgriLife Rsrch Ctr
Marc Sidlow-USACE
Stephen Kissock-USACE
Paul Dugie-Dona Ana County
Lorenzo Arriaga-USBR
Kaitlin Florey-Texas AgriLife
Violet Gilson-League of Women Voters
Debbie Lujan-Town of Mesilla
Corey Durr-BLM
Ken Boykin-NMSU
Patricia Depner-NMDA

1. Meeting of the Paso del Norte Watershed Council was called to order by Conrad Keyes at 10:02 AM.
2. The agenda was approved with the addition of a discussion about Executive Committee positions as item 6e.
3. Decisions: The minutes of the Nov. 9, 2010 meeting were approved with no corrections.
4. Website update--Christopher Brown. Materials have been moved from the WRRRI server to Brown's server. The next task is to update and improve the data sets with new versions of software. All recommended website updates are to go through Hilary. Council documents will be updated also. Need additional \$2,000 to complete tasks. A motion was made to consider approval of extension of contract after a review of detailed budget. Approval will be done by an email vote of Executive Committee members.

5. Stormwater control solutions for Dona Ana county--Paul Dugie. There are 70-100 dam structures in Dona Ana county that have reached the end of their lives. The stormwater coalition has scaled back their originally proposed legislation. They are now recruiting input from interested parties. They are interested in non- structural methods for alternative management of flood flows. A flood commission has been established by Dona Ana county with an inadequate budget for rebuilding structures. The City of Las Cruces has some tax revenue.
6. Reports
 - a. PdNWC Financial Report – Zhuping Sheng reported that we have ~\$32,000 in USBR funds that must be spent by Sept 30. There will be new funding coming from the USACE.
 - b. 319(h) project report- Hilary Brinegar reported that ~\$62,000 of grant funds have been expended which have been matched with ~\$78,000. A part-time graduate student should be starting soon and Hilary is exploring the possibility of getting a VISTA volunteer. Brian Hanson reported that IBWC has created an *E. coli* factsheet that will be available to us in print and electronic formats. The PdNWC website now has a link on the EPA website. Brian also presented upcoming events where Council participation is needed.
 - c. Biological Committee—Jennifer Montoya. The committee has been working on a proposal to be supported by USBR funds which would develop an integrated biological plan for the watershed. CERM cannot take the lead as hoped so there is a search for another lead organization or person and/or a strategy for dividing tasks that could be accomplished by different people.
 - d. Technical Committee—Zhuping Sheng reported that a contract has been signed with the USACE for the next phase. Alfredo Granados will be giving a presentation about water resources in the Juarez Valley.
 - e. Executive committee representatives—Joe and Inga Groff have resigned their positions. Violet Gilson has been asked by the League of Women Voters to replace Inga. Kevin von Finger has expressed interest in being on the EC in the past, so he will be asked to fill Joe’s position.
7. Next meeting will be on March 29 at the USIBWC headquarters before Citizens Forum (*Note: date subsequently changed to March 31 due to scheduling conflicts.*)
8. Adjourned at 12:15PM