

**Minutes**  
**Paso del Norte Watershed Council**  
**Executive Committee Meeting**  
**July 1, 2011 – 9:00-11:00 AM**  
Texas AgriLife Research Center, 1380 A&M Circle  
El Paso, TX 79927



**Conrad Keyes, Chair**  
**Hilary Brinegar, Asst Chair**

**Sue Watts, Secretary**  
**Ari Michelsen, Treasurer**

**Present:**

Ari Michelsen- TX AgriLife  
Bill Hargrove-UTEP  
Chris Canavan-NMED  
Conrad Keyes, Jr.-Corps consultant  
Elizabeth Verdecchia-USIBWC  
Girisha Ganjegunte-TX AgriLife  
Gill Sorg-City of LC  
Heather Glaze-NMWRRRI  
Hilary Brinegar-NMDA  
Kevin Von Finger-El Paso Open Space  
Michael Ada-RGCOG  
Mike Landis-USBR

Oswaldo Broesicke-UTEP  
Rebecca Little Owl-USIBWC  
Shane Walker-UTEP  
Stephen Kissock-USACE  
Steven Lyell-USIBWC  
Sue Watts-ecologist  
Violet Gilson-League of Women  
Voters  
Woody Irving-USBR  
Zach Edwards-NMSU  
Zhuping Sheng-TX AgriLife Rsrch Ctr

1. Introductions - The meeting of the Paso del Norte Watershed Council was called to order by Chair, Conrad Keyes, at 9:05 AM. All present introduced themselves.
2. Agenda Approval – The agenda was approved with the addition of Hilary Brinegar as an additional speaker for item 6B.
3. Decisions
  - a. Minutes from the May 3, 2011 meeting were approved with no revisions. The approved version will be posted on the website.
4. Rio Grande Council of Governments overview-Michael Ada described the organizational structure and responsibilities of the Rio Grande Council of Governments which has their office in El Paso. He also provided an update on the status of the Far West Regional Water Planning Group (Region E). See handout on PdNWC website for further details.  
<http://smiley.nmsu.edu/pdnwc/docs/presentations/RGCOG%20presentatio n%20to%20Council%20July%201,%202011.pdf>
5. PdNWC website update and demonstration-Zach Edwards reported that that data transferred from the server at NMWRRRI are being updated and a newer version GIS software is being installed which will greatly improve the functionality of the interactive database. Similarly, data from new

sources are also being added and new layers are being incorporated. Hilary continues to be point person for maintaining up to date PdNWC documents and information. Further information at: [http://smiley.nmsu.edu/pdnwc/docs/presentations/SpARC\\_PdNWC\\_Update\\_Status\\_07\\_01\\_2011.pdf](http://smiley.nmsu.edu/pdnwc/docs/presentations/SpARC_PdNWC_Update_Status_07_01_2011.pdf)

## 6. Reports

- a. Tech Team draft report on 2011 activities-Zhuping Sheng reported that for the Lower Rio Grande Water Operations Model Alfredo Granados will be leading Mexico watershed modeling efforts and that other partners in Texas are also providing data. Model calibrations in the Rincon and Mesilla Valleys now include drain flows. For the lower El Paso Valley modeling effort, data gaps are being identified and existing data are being incorporated. Drainages and irrigation diversions are to be added and a MODFLOW model is being evaluated for groundwater/surface water interactions. Collection of transboundary aquifer data continues as funding becomes available.
- b. 319(h) Project Update – Chris Canavan reported that the monthly working group meetings continue to attract a core group of interested stakeholders. Brian Hanson has put together a newsletter to keep interested parties informed. Analysis of water samples collected to date indicate that exceedances north of Las Cruces appear to be related to stormwater flows while those around Anthony do not. The south central NM stormwater coalition has expressed the desire to develop a watershed plan so coordination with them is being explored. Hilary Brinegar reported that almost half of the 319(h) grant funds have been expended. Vista volunteers are being interviewed for a position that would support the 319(h) project and the PdNWC.
- c. Sunland Park Constructed Wetland study-Bill Hargrove and Mike Landis reported that 3 students have been hired for the summer to work on the project. An engineering student will be supervised by engineering faculty Shane Walker, a 2<sup>nd</sup> student will work with Dr. Vanessa Lougheed to identify appropriate plants, and a communications student will be developing fact sheets that will be distributed to Sunland Park stakeholders.
- d. PdNWC Financial Report – Ari Michelsen reported that USBR has provided another \$15,000 that has to be spent by Sept 30, 2011. They could be used to support existing projects. A motion passed which allows the officers to approve contract extensions and addition of funds to existing projects while new projects would need to be reviewed by the full EC.

7. Next EC meeting-- Sept 19, 2011, 2-4PM, Las Cruces City Hall
8. Meeting adjourned at 11:20AM