



Minutes

**Paso del Norte Watershed Council
Executive Committee meeting
July 23, 2015 | 3:00-5:00PM
USIBWC Headquarters
1471 N. Mesa, Suite C-100 | El Paso, TX 79902**

Present:

Conrad Keyes, Jr.-USACE
Liz Verdecchia-USIBWC
Gill Sorg-City of Las Cruces
Mike Landis-USBR
Sue Watts-ecologist

Zhuping Sheng-TX Agrilife
Ari Michelsen-TX Agrilife
Zack Libbin
Leslie Grijalva-USIBWC
Woody Irving-USBR

1. The Executive Committee meeting of the Paso del Norte Watershed Council was called to order by Conrad Keyes at 3:09PM. All participants introduced themselves. Quorum was not attained.
2. There were no changes to the agenda.
3. Announcements- 1) Border 2020 meeting in Sept. 2) final EA for infrastructure maintenance project available. Draft EA for border fence drainage issues in Anapra available. 3) URGWOM advisory and tech team meetings Aug 18.
4. Decisions
 - a. Quorum not attained, so February 4 & April 16, 2015 minutes to be sent out for email approval.
5. Update on USIBWC Canalization Project restoration activities and River Management Plan—Liz Verdecchia. Liz described the planting projects that have been undertaken on 11 sites. They have planted 20,000 trees since 2011, treated 366 acres of salt cedar, and installed 55 groundwater monitoring sites. A water rights purchase program was finalized in March 2015 with the Federal government becoming a constituent of the irrigation district. Regarding the River Management Plan: includes parts of both NM and TX. A draft of the channel maintenance plan will be available for review in spring of 2016. An alternatives study is underway involving 9 areas between Percha Dam and American Dam.
6. USDA project-Bill Hargorve, Zhuping Sheng. ~\$5M project between agriculture, urban and environmental stakeholders. Climate change is adversely affecting water supply and increasing the competing demands. Goal is to improve the situation by implementing innovative technologies, collaborative decision-making, and improved policies.
7. Reports
 - a. PdNWC Financial Report –no new funds. Still working with NMSU to get funds released for proposed projects. New MOU with NMSU/NMWRRI required before task orders can be issued. Dept of Geography will approach VP for research if contracts and grants department cannot help.
 - b. Technical Committee Report – Mike Landis. Rainfall good so far this year.
 - c. Biological Committee – They are investigating the possibility of applying for 319 funds to projects not on IBWC land. Kevin is working on establishing a wetland on Bowden land and at the LC WWTP outfall. IBWC could be possible partners?
 - d. Website update-Hilary. Not present.
 - e. Clean Water Committee –Leslie Grijalva. No report.
8. Next EC Meeting –Oct 22 in Las Cruces. 3-5 PM. Location TBD.
9. Meeting adjourned at 4:46PM.