



Coordinator's Watershed Corner

July 2011

**A note to the Clean Water Committee, Paso del Norte Watershed Council
From the 319(h) Grant Watershed Coordinator, Brian Hanson**

Hello all,

We are continuing to develop outreach materials that will educate the public concerning good watershed practices, and actions that will protect and improve the water quality in the Rio Grande and it's watershed. We have developed draft materials for posters that will be suitable for younger students. In July we received our EnviroScape model (see below). The model can be used to demonstrate how water pollution occurs and how you can prevent it. The EnviroScape can demonstrate 10 pollution sources and bmps: construction site, streambanks/lake shore, forest, plowed fields, crops, driveways and highways, cows and other domestic animals, manure containment, lawns and golf courses, and household activities. By spraying water, participants can see how pollutants move through the watershed to the river. We also now have a smaller table top display that can hold posters or other outreach material. It has 4 panels that be folded to take advantage of available space at outreach events.

July Event

*July 12
Stakeholder meeting for
the 319 project*

August Event

*August 9
Stakeholder meeting
Mesilla Park Recreation
Center, 9 am*



Watershed Pollution Prevention:

Municipal Point Source Discharges such as effluent from waste water treatment plants and industrial facilities are regulated by the Environmental Protection Agency. To control point source discharges, the Clean Water Act established the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program. Before any effluent is discharged back into a water body it must be treated to reduce the level of pollutants to an acceptable level. The City of Las Cruces' Jacob Hands Wastewater Treatment Plant processes and treats approximately 4 billion gallons of sewage a year before it is discharged into the Rio Grande.

<http://www.las-cruces.org/Departments/Utilities/Services/Water%20Resources.aspx>

Information provided by Peter Bennett, City of Las Cruces (including photo below).



Stakeholder Meeting July 12

Twenty one attended the meeting in July. Lead my Chris Canavan, New Mexico Environment Department, the group discussed the Vision 2040 document that addresses Dona Ana county and more. Conversations also began concerning the Watershed Based Plan that will be written next year. The next meeting is planned for August 9.

Other Watershed Plans

In Texas, the Plum Creek Watershed completed a plan titled "Plum Creek Watershed Protection Plan" in February 2008. That plan contains the elements that we will be including in our Watershed Based Plan. You can find that plan at <http://pcwp.tamu.edu/>.

319(h) Grant Team

Brian Hanson: 575-646-2642

www.pdnwc.org