

New Mexico NGO Wetlands Roundtable - Santa Fe, New Mexico May 2, 2011

Attended by Brian Hanson, representing Paso del Norte Watershed Council

The meeting was an opportunity to let everyone know about the Watershed Council; discuss strategies for increasing wetlands statewide; and gain information on funding opportunities and planting techniques. 15 in audience and 7 presenters, 22 total

The meeting was jointly sponsored by the New Mexico Environment Department Surface Water Quality Bureau Wetlands Program and the New Mexico Riparian Council. This meeting is for non-governmental organizations and personnel that are involved in wetlands restoration, protection, monitoring and management, and for sharing information, project reports and successes, updates and for networking. Lead agencies were Maryann McGraw, Surface Water Quality Bureau, Wetlands Program Coordinator and Adrian Oglesby, President, New Mexico Riparian Council. The afternoon training session focused on wetland and riparian plantings, planting techniques, and planting issues.

The New Mexico Environment Department, Surface Water Quality Bureau, has a full time position that addresses wetlands in New Mexico. Maryann McGraw wanted the opinions of NGOs on what they felt was important, especially concerning monitoring. She presented goals of her program for review.

- Overall goals are to protect and restore New Mexico's wetlands and riparian areas and to increase self-sustaining and naturally functioning wetlands and riparian areas.
 - Create sustainable ways to fund and accomplish wetlands restoration and protection
 - In the next 5 years complete inventory and baseline assessment of NM wetland resources.
- Concerning monitoring the group mentioned three good reasons for monitoring – 1. Help to improve success in the future 2. Monitor the status and trends of wetlands and riparian over time 3. Get groups involved and gain their support by having simple, voluntary monitoring.

It could benefit the Watershed Council if we keep those goals in mind as we move forward with good watershed health. Wetlands are an excellent way to “treat” water that has E. coli.

Wildlife Action Plan, NM Department of Game and Fish

Barbara Coulter explained that the Department gets 1 million each year in Federal State Wildlife Grants (requires a 50% match). It is primarily used to fund positions but smaller projects could be considered (only 10% can be directed at outreach). It is more likely to be successful if you link up with an employee and work directly with them on a specific project and reference the Wildlife Action Plan. The Plan has tons of information with the overall goal of keeping common species common in New Mexico. www.state.nm.us/conservation/comp_wildlife_cons_strategy/index.htm

North American Wetlands Conservation Act, New Mexico Wildlife Federation (Federation)

The Federation wrote a proposal and got it to create wetlands, from Pilar, NM to Texas, mainly upstream of Bosque del Apache NWR. They applied for a 1 million grant and had 2 million of match. The Rio Grande Agricultural Trust and Whitfield Natural Area were included. **Chris Cudia (NMED) mentioned that part of the area was within the Watershed Council area. I mentioned later that if restoration or protection projects were proposed, that the Watershed Council could endorse them if they were within the Council area.**

Planting suggestions

Stock should be gathered from local sources if possible. There are several private plant nurseries that can grow stock for you. You can purchase trees and shrubs from the state (Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department, Forestry) and they can help you decide the correct species and suggest planting techniques.

**New Mexico NGO Wetlands Roundtable
Room 2027, State Library
Santa Fe, New Mexico
May 2, 2011
Agenda**

**8:45 – 9:00 Introductions
Julia Barnes, Meeting Facilitator**

**9:00- 9:40 Conversations about the Wildlife Action Plan – Focus on Wetlands
Barbara Coulter, New Mexico Department of Game and Fish
Adrian Oglesby, New Mexico Riparian Council**

**9:40 – 10:15 In-Lieu Fee in 9 Months Time? – What it would take in Taos/Santa Fe Area,
Albuquerque or Farmington, NM. (Tentative)
Deanna Cummings and Leslie McWherter, USACOE
Julia Barnes, Discussion Facilitator (This talk did not happen)**

10:15 – 10:30 Break

**10:30 – 11:00 SWQB Wetlands Program Plan Review – Input from the NGO Roundtable
Maryann McGraw and Julia Barnes, Discussion Facilitators**

**11:00– 11:45 NGO Spotlight
NAWCA Grant Proposal for the Middle Rio Grande – Preparing for Future Phases
Alan Hamilton, New Mexico Wildlife Federation**

11:45 – 1 p.m. Lunch

1:00 – 3:50 NGO Training Session – Focus on Wetland and Riparian Vegetation

**1:00 - 1:40 Carol Bada – EMNRD – Forestry Seedling Program – Riparian Plants
and Planting Methods**

**1:40 – 2:20 Greg Fenchel, Los Lunas Plant Materials Center – Deep Planting and
New Methods from the Plant Materials Center**

2:20 – 2:30 Break

**2:30 – 3:10 Ross Coleman, Hydra Inc. – Planting Issues – Soils, Salinity, Weeds and
Timing**

**3:10 - 3:50 Dave Morgan, La Calandria Associates – Open Discussion-Monitoring
for a Healthy Bosque, Citizen and Landowner Involvement Techniques**

**3:50 - 4:00– Julia Barnes, Meeting Facilitator - Wrap Up and Next Meeting
Adjourn**

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Sent: Monday, April 25, 2011 6:35 PM

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Subject: Agenda! You are invited to the New Mexico Wetlands NGO Roundtable May 2, 2011 at the New Mexico State Library in Santa Fe