



Draft Minutes

Paso del Norte Watershed Council Executive Committee Meeting October 12, 2017 – 2:30PM-5:00PM Las Cruces City Hall, Room 2104 700 N. Main St/Las Cruces NM Call in number: 575-528-3103

Conrad Keyes, Chair
Zhuping Sheng, Treasurer

Sue Watts, Secretary

Present:

Conrad Keyes, Jr.-Corps consultant
Christopher Brown-NMSU
Elizabeth Verdecchia-USIBWC
Peter Bennett-City of Las Cruces
Hugo Rojas-NMSU
Samantha Salopek-EBID

Phil King NMSU/EBID
Delbert Humbertson-USGS
Kevin Bixby-SWEC
Woody Irving-USBR
Chris Canavan-NMED
Leslie Grijalva, call in
Zhuping Sheng-TX Agrilife

1. The Executive Committee Meeting of the Paso del Norte Watershed Council was called to order by Conrad Keyes at 2:30. Everyone introduced themselves. Two short of a Quorum at the beginning of the meeting. Congratulations to Zhuping Sheng for new position as Director at TX Agrilife office.
2. There were no changes to the agenda.
3. Announcements:
 - a. **Woody Irving**- Water Conservation Field Services Coordinator's Meeting, pertains to watersheds; Regional coordinators will be present on November 7 in El Paso? He will forward information to Conrad/Sue. Would like to have at least two representatives from PdNWC present to be in the stakeholder's portion of the meeting. Interest in applying for grants. FOA-Grant structures, criteria for ranking the grants. Still putting agenda together.
 - b. **Kevin Bixby** SWEC- Proposed transfer of the Mesilla Valley State Park to the New Mexico Game & Fish Dept. State Park says it has no money to manage the park but Game & Fish has lots of money and staff because they get funding through licenses. Recent 2-hour open house. A lot of opposition to the transfer including SWEC. The agencies did not consult with the community enough about the transfer. New 1-month public comment period started October 10th. Can submit comments on the agencies websites. Game & Fish already hired a contractor to put together a management plan. SWEC is having its annual fundraiser 20th Gala Saturday and he has tickets. It's at the downtown plaza.
 - c. **Peter CLC**- Watershed books and stormwater citizen brochures are available to those interested. Great for public outreach and education.
 - d. **Delbert Humbertson**, USGS- Last few months the USGS has published an investigative report about Mesilla Basin characterized geophysical analysis, 200-page report. Will provide report through email.
 - e. **Ari's memorial services**- January 2018, no exact date was set.

4. Decisions
 - a. Give Sue comments on minutes in 1 week and approve by email.
5. Reports
 - a. PdNWC Financial Report –**Zhuping** gave handout. Expenditures and one more invoice expected on the USBR funds.
 - b. Technical Committee Report – nothing new to report.
 - c. Environmental Committee – **Leslie Grijalva**- (Environmental Committee)- Brian, Gill and Leslie received the fish study documents from Kevin. Chris asked them to review the study to see if it's in line with the MOU. Deadline to submit comments back to him is October 27th. After it has been reviewed and it's consistent with the MOU he can approve invoice and pay for the study. Liz asked to look at the study as well too. The fish study/report will be on SWEC's website. Chris is reviewing and comments are welcome.
 - d. Website update— **Chris Brown**- (Website) Handouts provided. Developed an outline for goals of website. Created blended English/Spanish website instead of 2 separate, 1 English and 1 Spanish. Linked docs were not translated. Hugo Rojas developed site and Liz was on the Advisory Committee. Website was strictly designed using NMSU web standard guidelines. Hugo and Sarah overhauled website making it bilingual. Coordinated dabatase website now runs on ArcGIS Online. A new link will be available in summary minutes. Chris and Hugo provided a presentation which will be available online. He invites any input that anyone may have. There are a list of broken links that they want help fixing. Comments due 10/27.
6. Presentations
 - a. EBID- Samantha Barncastle discussed the status of ongoing water litigation. Supreme Court Special Master filed Feb 2017. Oral arguments in 2018. Lower Rio Grande water users have come together to discuss resolutions and maybe this is the path to eventual settlement negotiations.
 - b. EBID- Dr. Phil King presented on Depletion Reduction and Offset Program, which is a controlled fallowing program paid by municipal/industrial users.
 - c. SWEC- Kevin Bixby discussed the fish study, which recommends four locations for possible aquatic habitat (Broad Canyon, Las Cruces effluent, La Mancha, and Mesilla Valley Bosque).
7. Next Annual Meeting –TBD in early December 2017 at Great American steakhouse in Vinton. Will send Doodle poll.
8. Meeting adjourned 5:30PM.

EBID Lower Rio Grande Litigation & Water Rights Administration Presentation:
http://smiley.nmsu.edu/pdnwc/Library_Page_Council.html