

Paso del Norte Watershed Council

June 11, 2001 Meeting Summary

Meeting notes by agenda item:

1. Review new applications received for Council Membership

Nine new applications were reviewed and five new members were selected for the Executive Committee. The current composition of the Executive Committee is as follows:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Representing</u>
Rosemary Staley	Municipal
Ed Fierro	Municipal
Kevin Bixby	Environmental
John Sproul	Environmental
Tony Garcia	Agriculture
Julie Maitland	Agriculture
Keith Landreth	Fed. Govt.
Brian Hanson	Fed. Govt.
Jim Stefanov	Fed. Govt. (Acting Chair)
Ed Hamlyn	Public
Inga Groff	Public
Sue Watts	Public (Acting Assistant Chair)
Conrad Keyes	Public
Ari Michelson	University

Assignments: Jim Stefanov and Sue Watts with help from other Council members will continue efforts to enlist representation from the irrigation districts, U.S. Bureau of Land Management, City of Las Cruces and additional representation from Universities.

2. Discuss selection of Council Executive Committee

Jim Stefanov indicated that he cannot remain as Council Chair due to potential conflicts of interest. He agreed to stay on as Chair until the Council actually votes on something or an official Chair is elected, whichever comes first. It was suggested that the chair be rotating at this time. Conrad indicated that he could take over in OCT. It was agreed that Ex Comm members may select a designated alternate who will vote for them if they can not attend a meeting

3. Make work assignments for the EPWU and USBR grant applications

EPWU indicated at the last MAC meeting that they do not plan to expend funds for mitigation or environmental enhancements until construction actually starts on the Sustainable Water Project. Ed Fierro provided information from the Federal Register to the Chair and Assistant Chair describing an EPA program that may be able to support the Watershed Council, unfortunately, proposals for the current round of funding are due June 28, 2001. USBR grant applications must have associated matching funds, consequently, so you cannot submit a proposal unless you have a source for matching funds. Beth Bardwell indicated that WWF may be able to provide a small grant to the Watershed Council

Assignments: Mike Landis and Gilbert Anaya will look further into potential EPA funding sources. Sue Watts and Mike Landis will research the USBR grant requirements; Sue will also look into the Watershed Assistance Grants (WAG) from River Network. Kevin Bixby will draft a letter from the Watershed Council to EPWU indicating Council disagreement with the EPWU decision to withhold funds for environmental enhancements including the Watershed Council until project construction. Jim Stefanov will contact Kris Schaefer with the Corps of Engineers regarding potential WRDA Section 729 funding for Watershed Studies. Mike will contact Darrin about 319 money from EPA?

4. Discuss restoration plan being prepared for Alliance for the Rio Grande Heritage.

Kevin Bixby gave a brief overview of a restoration plan being prepared by Tetra Tech. The plan will provide a restoration framework for the Rio Grande from Candelaria upstream. It does not include options such as dam and people removal. The draft report should be ready in October, 2001, and there will be a workshop scheduled to review the draft.

5. Discuss Canalization EIS and restoration opportunities.

River Park Task Force has raised (applied for?) \$600,000 for trails along the river. Plans also include restoration projects like expanding drainage areas to provide more bird habitat.

6. Discuss how items 3 and 4 and other efforts relate to the Watershed Council.

Items 4 & 5 will provide a lot of information about restoration projects in our region that biologically/physically possible and feasible.

7. Other business.

Next meeting July 20?