

**Middle Rio Grande Endangered Species Act Collaborative Program
Species Water Management Standing Workgroup (SWM)**

03 February 2010 Meeting

10:00 AM to 12:00 PM @ BIA

Recommendations

By majority present, the Climate Change Scope of Work (SOW) was approved once revisions made during the meeting are incorporated.

The SWM workgroup prioritization of remaining FY09 activities as 1) Climate Change and 2) Riparian

The SWM workgroup annual work plan was approved with changes made during the meeting.

Actions

Amy Louise will incorporate verbal changes made to the Climate Change SOW and send it to meeting attendees to ensure she captured them accurately.

Amy Louise will incorporate verbal changes to the SWM work plan and submit it to the CC for approval.

Amy Louise will send the draft soil salinity SOW to Hilary Brinegar.

Hilary Brinegar will identify faculty at NMSU that may be able to assist SWM with the soil salinity project. She will send those faculty members the draft SOW and ask them to accompany her to the June 2, 2010 SWM meeting.

Amy Louise will address the comment regarding the Low Flow Conveyance Channel on the SWM Charter.

Amy Louise will send the workgroup current snowpack.

Amy Louise will review 2009 SWM meeting minutes and draft a workgroup accomplishments paragraph. She will send the paragraph to SWM members for discussion at the next meeting.

Amy Louise will send an email to the full SWM membership explaining that the LTP future activities development is the highest priority right now with SWM list due by February 17th; the email will request input and future SWM activity suggestions.

Meeting Summary

- Chris Banet called the meeting to order and introductions were made around the table. The Charter was referenced regarding attendance requirements for making recommendations. The SWM Charter states “Recommendations will be of the simple majority present.”
- The workgroup discussed the Climate Change SOW. The workgroup agreed to incorporate comments on the scope that were made prior to the meeting. A few additional changes were made to clarify the scope during working session.
- The workgroup prioritized the remaining FY09 activities. 1) Climate Change 2) Riparian
- The workgroup briefly discussed the soil salinity project. It was suggested that NMSU faculty may be able to provide insight into site selection and techniques. The workgroup agreed to invite an NMSU soil scientist to the June 2010 SWM meeting to discuss the project.
- The workgroup reviewed the draft annual workgroup work plan. Decision for peer review was taken off because the group has already decided to recommend the USGS Surface Water/Groundwater Transects report. The workgroup should review the draft Long Term Plan (LTP) in mid May rather than June, to allow time for comments to be compiled. It

- was suggested to add review the 2008-2009 annual report and participate in the annual symposium.
- SWM discussed future activities. The activities identified were: 1) Provide storage space for water to augment Streamflow, 2) Encourage conjunctive use of surface water and groundwater in the MRG, 3) Investigate bank storage opportunities, and 4) Aquifer Storage.
 - The workgroup reviewed their Charter. A comment regarding the Low Flow Conveyance Channel needs to be investigated.
 - SWM briefly discussed workgroup accomplishments for 2009. Some of the SWM accomplishments were the San Acacia Workshop, participating in the Open House, completing scopes of work, and reviewing the Riparian Groundwater models report, the DSS report, and the USGS Surfacewater/Groundwater Transects Report.
 - The workgroup tabled finalization of the January SWM minutes until revisions from Amy Louise have been sent to the workgroup.
 - An action item review was conducted. Actions were either completed or re-assigned.

Next SWM Meeting March 3, 2010 10:00 am to 12:00 pm at BIA

**Middle Rio Grande Endangered Species Act Collaborative Program
Species Water Management Standing Workgroup (SWM)**

03 February 2010 Meeting

10:00 AM to 12:00 PM @ BIA

MEETING NOTES

Introductions & Announcements

- The meeting was brought to order and introductions were made around the table.
- The SWM Charter was reviewed for quorum requirements. The Charter only specifies a “simple majority present.”

Agenda Approval

- The agenda was reviewed and approved with no changes.

Update on Climate Change Input into URGWOM SOW (decision; 30 min)

- Matt Martinez provided his comments and ISC responded to those comments based on the known concerns.
- The work group revised the suggested changes and comments.
 - Attendees discussed how it needs to be made clear that in the scope the first item is to determine the best approach to “downscale output from dynamic GCN’s...” but while developing the time series is the third item, it is no less important.
 - The ultimate product is the time series - which will be derived from doing the downscaling.
 - The downscaled output is the meteorological.
 - It was suggested that the word “to” be changed to “and”:
 - “Determine the best approach *to* downscale output from the GCN’s used by the IDDC *and* generate meteorological scale time series over decades.”
 - While it was suggested that there should be more specific information regarding how many decades, it will all depend on the timescale that will be developed.
 - The timescales for the actual BO period is 10 years. The PVA models will be looking at longer periods (40+ years). At this point, we don’t have a clear idea of what will be asking in terms of decades but it is hoped that it can be clarified in the workplan development stage.
 - The concern is that bidders will require the specific requested decades before they propose on the work but the work group is cautious to limit themselves at this point in the BA/BO process.
 - Suggested compromises included: (1) changing the language from “many” to “multiple”; (2) putting in a maximum – such as 50 years; and (3) setting the prescribed time period instead.
 - The work group agreed on “time period to be developed” or “specific time period to be finalized during workplan.”
 - Under Task 1, it was recommended that the work plan be approved or at least developed with input from the SWM work group and the URGWOM technical team.
 - The work group discussed whether or not to omit the IPCC (so it won’t be a limiting factor). However, there was agreement to expand scope to include other GCM’s besides the IPCC.

- There are multiple models and it was not recommended narrowing down that list to the IPCC data set. The criteria and other's successes can be discussed (ex. what extremes are done best, if they do some snowmelt, or temperature, etc.).
 - "It was suggested, since it is possible that there will be more than one time series and it is unknown how many models fit the criteria, that the phrasing "and generate" be added: "Determine the best approach to downscale output from the dynamic GCMs from global land systems including those used by IPCC and over many decades (specific time period to be finalized during workplan), and generate a regional and local scale..."
 - It was suggested that the above sentence could be separated into 2 items because it is getting lengthy: (1) to determine and (2) to generate.
 - Part of the workplan is determining what screening criteria best fits the situation. It is anticipated that there could be more than one meteorological time series. Remember that this project will support the BA/BO process and it may evolve along the way.
- An additional suggested change was to strike "estimated" under the Period of Performance section.
 - The work group discussed how that cannot be done because it is unknown when the funding and contractual agreements will be in place.
 - A suggested compromise was to rephrase to "one year from date of award."

Decision: By majority present, the Climate Change Input to URGWOM Scope of Work was approved once revisions made during the meeting are incorporated.

Action: Amy Louise will incorporate verbal changes made to the Climate Change Input to URGWOM SOW and send it to meeting attendees to ensure she captured them accurately.

Soil Salinity SOW

- The work group voted on this project several meetings ago and it did not make the FY10 funding list.
 - As discussed at the last meeting, several people were going to form a subgroup to discuss the Soil Salinity SOW but there has been no chance for them to meet.
 - Since it needs to be discussed as a future activity and it is not at the front of the work load, there is no reason to rush through these discussions.
 - It could be helpful to include/invite the soil scientists at NMSU.
- Even though Isleta got really good results from their soil salinity survey, the project cannot be sole sourced out to a particular contractor. However, the work group could determine if that type of approach has value and then specify it in the scope, letting the vendors indicate which technology they will implement.
 - Attendees were reminded that the group tried to use Isleta's approach but there were objections.
 - There are still issues with identifying specific sites and landowner information.
 - While landowner permission is not something that a soil scientist can address, the District may be able to identify existing landowners or sites as a starting point.
 - The faculty members might be able to advise on land or site criteria that could then be used to reduce the potential site list.
 - Faculty members could be provided with a copy of the draft scope as long as they were not potential bidders.

- There is lingering concern with finding sites that are representative of a larger area.

Action: Amy Louise will send the draft soil salinity SOW to Hilary Brinegar.

Action: Hilary Brinegar will identify faculty at NMSU that may be able to assist SWM with the soil salinity project. She will send those faculty members the draft SOW and ask them to accompany her to the June 2, 2010 SWM meeting.

Reprioritization of SWM FY10 Projects (30 min)

- Now that the Climate Change Input to URGWOM scope was approved, the work group discussed the need to reprioritize the FY10 recommended activities.
 - SWM only has two projects: (1) Riparian modeling and (2) the Climate Change Input to URGWOM.

Decision: By majority present, the SWM work group prioritized the remaining FY09 activities as 1) Climate Change and 2) Riparian.

SWM 2010 Work Plan – change due to LTP schedule

- Due to recent changes in the Long-Term Plan (LTP) schedule, the work groups are being asked to provide their finalized workplans (with any adjustments needed to accommodate the LTP schedule).
- Topics for discussion include: (1) review deliverables; (2) discuss peer review; and (3) discuss future activities.
 - *Review Deliverables*
 - The work group had previously discussed recommending the USGS surface water/groundwater transects report/project for the FY10 peer review process.
 - The report is still in the USGS internal review process pending the comments/input from one of the reviewers. The draft report is expected sometime during the month of February.
 - *LTP Future Activities*
 - The CC has scheduled 3 all-day joint meetings with the work groups to discuss LTP future activities: February 17th, March 4th, and April 14th from 10:00am to 4:00pm each day.
 - The work groups have been asked to identify and supply a list of potential future activities for the February 17th meeting.
 - Concern was raised that it is difficult to determine future activities when the revised minnow recovery plan is not available yet.
 - Tom Pitts has created a table for the LTP that includes past and future activities. He included categories and subcategories of activities based on the draft recovery plan as he was assured by FWS that the 2007 version of the recovery plan would be more than adequate to use in the LTP development process.
 - The work group reviewed the current draft LTP version and identified several that would pertain/be appropriate to SWM:
 - *Provide storage space for water to augment Streamflow*
 - *Encourage conjunctive use of surface water and groundwater in the MRG.*
 - The work group discussed a potential future project focusing on possibly spreading out some of the winter releases that occur for compact delivery.

- Checking the drains and trying to increase bank storage might be a nice addition to what is being done with Albuquerque transects in place.
- The riparian groundwater models might be a good tool to help determine how to operate something like that.
- This might be an FY11 project as well: what depletions might cause, how much water gets down to Elephant Butte for compact deliveries, etc.
- A suggested project title was: *investigate bank storage opportunities*.
 - If we do it in the winter then don't have evaporation losses.
 - Piezometers would not have to be added as the infrastructure is already in place.
 - The challenge will be to make sure that required deliveries are still being made; although there will generally be less losses in the winter than in the summer.
- *Investigate legal, institutional and technical feasibility to investigate injunctive use of surface water/groundwater*
 - ABCWUA is already considering using some San Juan/Chama water to recharge the aquifer. (You have to have excess water rights to be able to store.)
 - It is hoped that the Bear Canyon project will provide interesting and useful information.
 - An “*aquifer storage*” project could be a possible separate project from the bank storage activities.
- *SWFL Water Needs at Isleta*
 - While it can't be sole sourced and it hasn't been funded for FY10 yet, the work group suggested keeping this project as a placeholder.
 - The work group discussed referring to the old WAM plan to see what was identified then that might still be applicable to including in the potential future activities list.
 - Attendees discussed the need to review the SWFL recovery plan to determine if there are any SWM appropriate activities that could be derived.
 - The work group suggested the following changes to the SWM FY10 Work Plan:
 - April 7th due date for activity summaries;
 - Review the draft recovery plan with due date of May 15th;
 - Scopes deadline of July 30th;
 - Add a place holder for review of the Program's 2008-2009 annual report;

Decision: The SWM workgroup approved the FY10 annual work plan with the incorporation of the changes made during the meeting.

Action: Amy Louise will incorporate the verbal changes discussed at the meeting to the SWM work plan and submit it to the CC for approval.

SWM Charter – Annual Review

- **Question:** Was the 2009 language on the low flow pumping issues ever followed up?
 - **Response:** It hasn't been done yet.
 - The work group would like to be able to quote the actual language.

- Previously, it didn't reference the LFCC explicitly and it is unknown who put the phrase in. It needs to be checked if it's now law.
- The SWM responsibilities and scope of work is fairly general so members didn't think it required any changes at this time.
 - **Question:** The charter does mention that we oversee any ad hoc groups that we create – but how does that work? Is it directly to SWM or to the EC?
 - **Response:** Think it is the EC.
 - The understanding is that it depends on the actual ad hoc workgroups – the term or duration – whether or not it would require a separate charter. If the group would need to issue projects or activities requiring contracts then it would fall to the PMT, CC and EC.

Action: Amy Louise will address the comment regarding the Low Flow Conveyance Channel on the SWM Charter.

Work Group Accomplishments

- The CC is requesting updates on what the work groups accomplished for FY09 (like a status update). This topic was tabled until the next SWM meeting in order to allow Amy Louise time to draft an initial response for the work group to review.
 - Attendees briefly reviewed the FY09 activities:
 - The SAR workshop was completed;
 - SWM participated in the Open House;
 - Scopes of work were completed;
 - The Riparian Groundwater models were presented;
 - The DSS report was reviewed as was the USGS surface water/groundwater transects.

Action: Amy Louise will review 2009 SWM meeting minutes and draft a workgroup accomplishments paragraph. She will send the paragraph to SWM members for discussion at the next meeting.

Approval January 6th Meeting notes (10 min)

- The revised January 6th notes will be distributed with the March SWM meeting read aheads in order for members to view Amy Louise's comments.

Action Item Review (20 min)

January 6th 2010 Action Items

- ✓ Chris Banet will email Tetra Tech an electronic copy of the January 6th attendance sheet. – *complete;*
- ✓ Tetra Tech will make sure that Hilary Brinegar is included on the SWM email lists to receive SWM meeting notices and conference call-in information to BIA. - *complete;*
- ✓ Tetra Tech will make sure that Dennis Garcia and Curtis McFadden are on the SWM email distribution list. - *complete;*
- ✓ Marta Wood will send email to Cassie Brown, Page Pegram, and Amy Louise regarding Steve Harris calling into the SAR meeting on Friday, January 8th at ISC. - *complete;*
- ✓ Amy Louise will forward the SWM work group request that the CC consider Matt Martinez's comments on the Climate Change SOW and the fact that the added uncertainty would be difficult to validate. - *complete;*

- John Sorrell (Isleta), Cody Walker (Isleta), Janet Jarratt (APA), Chris Banet (BIA), and Matt Martinez (MRGCD) will revise the Soil Salinity scope of work before the next SWM meeting, scheduled for Wednesday, February 3rd. – *incomplete; on-going;*
 - Hilary Brinegar (NMDA) will be added to the participant list for this group.
- Comments from work groups on the Riparian Model draft scope are due by January 27th. - *incomplete; on-going;*
 - The work group discussed trying to get this on next year's list.
- ✓ Tetra Tech will correct the November action items and then finalize the November 4th and December 2nd SWM notes. - *complete;*
- Janet Jarratt will send SWM members the bullet list on miles denuded and needing reconstruction.- *incomplete; on-going;*
- ✓ Amy Louise was requested to electronically circulate the draft LTP to the SWM work group members. - *complete;*
- ✓ Amy Louise will electronically distribute the most current SWM charter to work group members before the February 3rd SWM meeting. - *complete;*
- ✓ Chris Banet will schedule a meeting room at BIA for the February 3rd SWM meeting and will inform Tetra Tech of the details, including possible conference call information. - *complete;*

December 7th 2009 Action Items

- Cody Walker will schedule with Chris Banet and Jericho Lewis to discuss using a 638 as a mechanism for continued SWFL water needs work at Isleta. – *ongoing;*
 - Chris Banet will follow up on the possible funding mechanism including using other procedures to acquire services.
- John Sorrel will contact the USGS regarding data from the Bosque Farms river gage. – *unknown;*

Program Coordination (10 min)

Joint Workgroup Activities (DBM updates; MPT updates)

- The Monitoring Plan Team (MPT) is continuing to make progress. There is a scope of work that has been developed for the 2 year Effectiveness Monitoring Plan (EMP).

PMT Liaison Needs

- Developing future SWM activities for the LTP is the highest priority right now. While the group discussed some ideas today, the CC has requested a list be supplied by February 17th. It was suggested that an email request be sent to the full SWM membership to include those who couldn't attend today's meeting.

SWM Issues to be elevated – ?

- The Climate Change Input to URGWOM Scope will be presented to the CC to inform them of the decisions made today.

Agency Updates (5 min)

- April Sanders (COE) will return next week from her 6 months in Afghanistan.

Action: Amy Louise will send the workgroup current snowpack.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, March 3rd from 10:00 am to 12 noon at BIA

Species Water Management Work Group 03 February 2010 Meeting Attendees					
NAME	POSITION	AFFILIATION	PHONE NUMBER	EMAIL ADDRESS	Primary, Alternate, Other
Amy Louise	PMT	ISC	383-4057	amy.louise@state.nm.us	P
Chris Banet	SWM Member	BIA	563-3403	chris.banet@bia.gov	P
Andrew Lieuwen	SWM member	ABCWUA	768-2570	alieuwen@abcwua.org	P
Valda Terauds	SWM Member	Reclamation	462-3584	vteradus@usbr.gov	P
Hilary Brinegar (by phone)	SWM Member	NMDA	575-646- 2642	hbrinegar@nmda.nmsu.edu	P
Curtis McFadden	SWM Member	COE	342-3351	curtis.m.mcfadden@usace.army.mil	P
Cassie Brown	Admin Support	Tetra Tech	881-3188 ext. 106	Cassandra.brown@tetrattech.com	O