

Middle Rio Grande Endangered Species Collaborative Program
Habitat Restoration Workgroup Meeting
20 April 2010 – 1:00pm-4:00pm
ISC

Meeting Summary

Recommendations and Decisions

- The March 16, 2010 Habitat Restoration (HR) meeting minutes were approved with several minor changes.
- The HR workgroup recommends the draft River Mile 83 (RM 83) report and the draft Albuquerque Reach A&R report for peer review.
- The HR workgroup recommends that the Velarde Reach A&R Report remain draft and that additional, unaddressed comments be included as an appendix at the end of the document
- The HR workgroup decided that all future meetings will be at ISC from 12:30 pm to 3:30 pm. The first hour of meetings will be for workgroup members only, no contractors.

Actions

- Ondrea Hummel will email an updated spreadsheet of comments from the Velarde Reach A&R to Jericho Lewis.
- Monika Mann will look to see if a spreadsheet listing volunteers to read and summarize reports is in existence.
- Anders Lundahl will send his summary of the Los Lunas Snags report to the HR workgroup for review of content and structure.
- Rick Billings will obtain information about the Legislation and Regulation of E flows in New Mexico. He will also find out if Susan Kelly would like to make a presentation on E flows at a future HR meeting.
- Rick Billings will email a copy of the handouts and agenda from the E flow workshop to Jenae Maestas to post to the Program website.
- Rick Billings and Monika Mann will combine and revise LTP Future Activity summaries and send to the HR workgroup for review.
- Review teams for RM83 and Albuquerque Reach A&R will provide a list of peer review questions to Monika Mann by May 5, 2010.

Meeting Summary

- Rick billings called the meeting to order and introductions were made around the table. The agenda was approved with no changes.
- The March 16, 2010 meeting minutes were approved with minor changes.
- The HR workgroup is still looking for volunteers for co-chair.
- The HR workgroup discussed the possibility of having a RM 83 Workshop. The workgroup thought that a workshop open to all Program members for meeting and brainstorming with contractors would be a good idea. The workgroup would like to wait for peer review of RM 83 to further discuss the workshop.
- The HR workgroup discussed whether or not the draft RM 83 report should be finalized before undergoing peer review. It was said that the due date for finalization is July 30, 2010. The workgroup

would like the draft RM 83 to undergo peer review before finalization; the July 30, 2010 deadline may need to be extended.

- It was thought that peer reviewers may suggest that RM 83 be bundled with other River Mile reports. It was pointed out that peer reviewers can look at the 3 options proposed in RM 83 without looking at other River Mile reports. It was suggested that if RM 83 should go for peer review that supplemental documentation should be included.
- It was thought that a good set of questions for peer review would be critical.
- The HR workgroup Review Team will meet May 3, 2010 to decide on questions for peer review.
- The RM 83 Report will be brought to the point that it meets task order before undergoing peer review.
- The HR workgroup voiced that they would also like to have a long term panel for peer review.
- HR was briefly given an update on the Velarde Reach A&R. The workgroup was updated that comments were received from Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) after the due date and that there was a request for additional funds to incorporate these comments. The workgroup was then told that the FWS comments were incorporated and that there are now additional comments from the same reviewers. A handout of the new set of comments was dispersed and a discussion followed about what to do with these additional comments.
 - It was recognized that some of the new comments were duplicates from the first set of comments, which could mean that they were not addressed. It may be helpful to ask Science workgroup (ScW) to review the Velarde Reach A&R if these comments are going to be incorporated.
 - In order for contractors to implement these new comments, the workgroup would have to request for additional funding. A brief discussion occurred regarding whether or not more money should be spent on implementing comments.
 - The HR workgroup recommends the Velarde Reach A&R remain draft and that additional, unaddressed comments be included as an appendix at the end of the document.
 - Ondrea Hummel will email an updated spreadsheet of comments to Jericho Lewis.
- Anders Lundahl shared a summary he wrote on the Los Lunas Snags report. Anders pointed out that information from the Los Lunas Snags and other monitoring reports would be beneficial for HR workgroup members to receive, but that they may not have the time to read the report themselves.
 - It was thought that the HR workgroup should create a spreadsheet of volunteers to read and summarize reports or other beneficial materials.
 - It was pointed out that a spreadsheet for this purpose may have already been created.
 - Monika Mann will look to see if a spreadsheet of volunteers to read and summarize reports is in existence.
 - It was thought that multiple people should read a report and create a summary to be distributed to workgroup members. It was also thought that an official format for report summaries should be developed.
 - Anders Lundahl will send his summary of the Los Lunas Snags report to the HR workgroup for review on content and structure.
- Rick Billings briefed the HR workgroup on the Environmental flow (E flow) workshop he attended last month.

- Rick Billings will find out about the Legislation and Regulation of E flows in New Mexico. He will also find out if Susan Kelly would like to make a presentation on E flows at a future HR meeting.
- Rick Billings will email a copy of the handouts and agenda from the E flow workshop to post to the Program website.
- The HR workgroup was briefed that the Sandia River Project is moving along and construction may begin in the fall.
- On Thursday April 22, 2010 the American Waterworks Association will have a meeting from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm. Anyone who would like more information should contact Rick Billings (rbillings@abcwua.org).
- There will be a tour of the Save Our Bosque Task Force Project at the Rhodes Property (funded through MERES, Capital Outlay, and NRCS) on May 4, 2010. The focus will be on the Southwestern Willow Flycatcher habitat improvements and Pecos Sunflower seeding. Those interested should contact Gina Dello Russo (gina_dellorusso@fws.gov).
- The HR workgroup was updated that the EC had an Adaptive Management 101 presentation at their last meeting. Copies of the presentation were handed out. They were also updated that the EC approved the Scientific Code of Conduct and it will be placed on the Program website.
- Rick Billings and Monika Mann will combine and revise LTP Future Activity summaries and send to the HR workgroup for review.
- The HR workgroup was shown a presentation by Tetra Tech called Channel Realignment at River Mile 83 phase 1. This presentation updated the HR workgroup on channel realignment alternatives.
 - Tetra Tech stated that an option would be to extend the realignment farther south of the current project site to a point where the channel is no longer perched
- The HR workgroup was briefed by Martin Martinez on the Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) Plan for the Bosque fires that took place a couple of weeks ago.
 - There was 100% mortality on 21 acres.
 - The plan is for immediate restoration.
 - Suggestions and comments on swales or wildlife in the burn area should be sent to Martin Martinez (mamartinez@cabq.gov).
- HR workgroup has decided that all future meetings will be at ISC from 12:30 pm to 3:30 pm. The first hour of meetings will be for workgroup members only, no contractors

Next Meeting: May 18, 2010 at ISC from 12:30 pm to 3:30 pm

**Middle Rio Grande Endangered Species Collaborative Program
Habitat Restoration Workgroup Meeting**
20 April 2010 – 1:00pm-4:00pm
ISC

Meeting Notes

Introductions and Changes to Proposed Agenda

- The meeting was brought to order and introductions were made around the table.
- It was announced that SWCA will not present today.
- It was announced that Tetra Tech will be coming to present at 2:00 pm.
- Please note that the first hour of HRW meetings are reserved for work group business with no contractors present.

Approve March 16th, 2010 meeting minutes

- The March 16, 2010 meeting minutes were approved with minor changes.

Volunteers for co-chair

- HRW is still looking for volunteers for co-chair.

RM 83 Workshop Cost Justification (Cheryl Rolland)

- Attendees briefly discussed the possibility of doing a RM 83 Workshop. The attendees agreed that this project would benefit from a workshop; it would get more people up to speed, and be a time for brainstorming with contractors. The workshop would be open to all Program members. The attendees thought that it would be best to wait until after the peer review of RM 83 to further discuss the workshop.

Draft RM83 peer review scope of work (Cheryl Rolland)

- The meeting attendees discussed whether or not the draft RM 83 report should be finalized before undergoing peer review.
 - It was asked if it was alright to do a peer review on a final product.
 - The San Acacia A&R underwent peer review in its final form. But, ideally peer review is done before finalization.
 - It was said that the due date for finalization is July 30, 2010.
 - It was it was said that it might be better to push back the finalization date as opposed to finalizing before peer review.
 - Peer reviewers might suggest that RM 83 be bundled with other River Mile reports.
 - Reviewers can look at the 3 options proposed in RM 83 without looking at other River Mile reports.
 - It was suggested that if RM 83 should go for peer review in its present form, that supplemental documents should be provided.
 - It was agreed that a good set of questions for peer review would be critical.
 - The HR workgroup Review Team will meet May 3, 2010 to decide on questions for peer review.

Recommendation: The HR workgroup recommends the draft River Mile 83 (RM 83) report for peer review.

- The RM 83 Report will be brought to the point that it meets task order, then it will go to peer review.
- The workgroup would like to have RM 83 peer reviewed with a similar standing panel review to the San Acacia review; a new draft version of RM 83 will go to external peer review.

Velarde Procedure Explanation (Jericho Lewis)/Comment discussion (Ondrea Hummel & reviewers)

- HR was briefly given an update on the status of the Velarde Reach A&R. The workgroup was updated that comments were received on the report after the due date; subsequently there was a request for additional funds to incorporate these comments. The workgroup was then informed that the comments were incorporated and that there are now additional comments from the same reviewers. A handout of the new set of comments was dispersed and a discussion followed about what to do with these additional comments.
 - It was stated that the Velarde Reach A&R is still in draft form.
 - It was recognized that some of the new comments were duplicates from the first set of comments, which could mean that they were not addressed. It was suggested that if these comments were going to be incorporated that Science workgroup (ScW) should review the Velarde Reach A&R and submit comments.
 - It was pointed out that reopening the review process may not be fair. If the protocol is going to be changed there needs to be consistency.
 - It was said that COTR admitted that the Velarde Reach A&R was not sent out to the workgroups for review.
 - It was pointed out that in order for contractors to implement these new comments, the workgroup would have to request for additional funding.
 - There was general consensus that the workgroup would not like to spend additional funds for comments and changes to be implemented into the Velarde Reach A&R.

Recommendation: The HR workgroup recommends the Velarde Reach A&R remain a draft and that additional, unaddressed comments be included as an appendix at the end of the document.

Action: Ondrea Hummel will email an updated spreadsheet of comments to Jericho Lewis.

Los Lunas Snags report out (Anders Lundahl)

- Anders Lundahl shared a summary he wrote on the Los Lunas Snags report with meeting attendees. Anders pointed out that information from the Los Lunas Snags and other monitoring reports would be beneficial for HR workgroup members to receive. For example, in the Los Lunas Snags report a series of large debris was installed into a channel; debris was spaced out twice the length of the preceding debris, the report found that this was not efficient.
 - The meeting attendees thought that since most workgroup members would not have time to read entire project reports a list of volunteers to read a report and write a summary should be developed.
 - It was thought that a list for this purpose might already exist.

Action: Monika Mann will look to see if a spreadsheet of volunteers to read and summarize reports is in existence.

- The meeting attendees thought that writing these summaries was a good step towards adaptive management.
- The meeting attendees would like to have 3 people read each report and then work together to write a summary. At the next meeting the summary could then be discussed.

- It was suggested that in the future this process be taken a step further by pulling out specific subjects from HR projects (i.e. overbank habitat) and summarizing relevant reports.
- Anders would like workgroup members to give feedback on the content and structure of his summary. The intent is to come up with an official format for report summaries.

Action: Anders Lundahl will send his summary of the Los Lunas Snags report to the HR workgroup for review on content and structure.

- It was mentioned that it would be beneficial for other workgroups to participate in these summaries.
- Jericho Lewis mentioned that in the future there may be a spreadsheet for all Program workgroups where critical dates, and project updates could be shared with all Program members.

Environmental flow (E flow) workshop report out (Rick Billings)

- Meeting attendees were given a brief report out on the E flow workshop that Rick Billings attended last month. It was pointed out that there needs to be a lot of regulatory and legislative changes before New Mexico can start using E flows.

Action: Rick Billings will obtain information about the Legislation and Regulation of E flows in New Mexico. He will also find out if Susan Kelly would like to make a presentation on E flows at a future HR meeting.

- It was asked how E flows would potentially interface with the Program.
 - It was thought that it was still too early to be able to tell, but that E flows would become relevant soon. It was also pointed out that the Program already has things that resemble E flows.
- The meeting attendees then discussed the importance of having reviews about other Program projects. The meeting attendees were in favor of having the first half of HR workgroup meetings reserved to core workgroup members for presentation/discussion of relevant and interesting projects. Contractors could then join the HR workgroup meetings at 2:00 pm.

Announcements (ALL)

- The HR workgroup was briefed that the Sandia River Project is moving along and construction may begin in the fall.
- On Thursday April 22, 2010 the American Waterworks Association will have a meeting from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm. Anyone who would like more information should contact Rick Billings (rbillings@abcwua.org).
- There will be a tour of the Save Our Bosque Task Force Project at the Rhodes Property (funded through MERES, Capital Outlay, and NRCS) on May 4, 2010. The focus will be on the Southwestern Willow Flycatcher habitat improvements and Pecos Sunflower seeding. Those interested should contact Gina Dello Russo (gina_dellorusso@fws.gov).
- It was announced that as part of sediment plug maintenance the sediment plug area will be monitored. This may have benefits to RM 83 project, Cheryl Rolland will keep the workgroup updated.

Program Update (Monika Mann)

- The EC had an Adaptive Management 101 presentation at their April 15, 2010 meeting. The presentation went over what adaptive management is and when it should be used. Copies of the presentation were handed out to meeting attendees.
- The Scientific Code of Conduct was approved and will be placed on the Program website.

- All of the LTP Future Activity Summaries have been submitted. They are in the process of going through PMT review. The LTP Future Activity Summaries will then be reviewed by the CC.
- There is an updated Table 7.0 on the Program website.

Collaborative Program video

- The Program video was viewed between the MPT and HR meetings.

Long Term Plan update (Rick Billings)

- LTP Future Activity summaries that are duplicate or overlapping need to be combined.
- It was asked that workgroup members keep in mind that the LTP is a plan and that this is just a first pass. Future Activities can be added or subtracted in the future.
- It was requested that 15 – 20 minutes in next month's meeting be allotted to review Table 7.0 of the LTP.

Action: Rick Billings and Monika Mann will combine and revise LTP Future Activity summaries and send to the HR workgroup for review.

Next Meeting and Agenda Items

- The meeting attendees decided that all future HR meetings will be at ISC from 12:30 to 3:30 pm.

Tetra Tech presentation: channel realignment alternatives

- The HR workgroup was shown a presentation by Tetra Tech called Channel Realignment at River Mile 83 phase 1. This presentation updated the HR workgroup on channel realignment alternatives.
 - The presentation showed the benefits and liabilities of plug removal and for the plug staying in place.
 - The sediment plug area will be monitored.
 - Tetra Tech stated that an option would be to extend the realignment farther south of the current project site to a point where the channel is no longer perched.
 - However since this would be out of the Program area it was not analyzed as an alternative.

Burned Area Response Plan

- The HR workgroup was briefed by Martin Martinez on the Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) Plan for the Bosque fires that took place a couple of weeks ago. The damage from the fire and suppression tactics was assessed.
 - There was 100% mortality on 21 acres.
 - 4.89 acres suffered from moderate burn severity.
 - The plan is for immediate restoration.
 - Suggestions and comments on swales or wildlife in the burn area should be sent to Martin Martinez (mamartinez@cabq.gov).

**Habitat Restoration Work Group Meeting
20 April 2010 Meeting Attendees**

NAME	POSITION	AFFILIATION	PHONE NUMBER	EMAIL ADDRESS
Colin Lee	---	KeWa (Santo Domingo) Tribe	465-0055	clee@sdutilities.com
Monika Mann	PMT	USACE	342-3250	monika.mann@usace.army.mil
Ondrea Hummel	HR Member	USACE	342-3375	ondrea.c.hummel@usace.army.mil
Jill Wick	HR Member	NMDGF	476-8091	jill.wick@state.nm.us
Rick Billings	HR Chair	ABCWUA	796-2527	rbillings@abcwua.org
Anders Lundahl	HR Member	ISC	383-4047	anders.lundahl@state.nm.us
Peter Wilkinson	HR Member	ISC	827-5801	peter.wilkinson@state.nm.us
Gina Dello Russo	HR Member	FWS	575-835-1828	gina_dellorusso@fws.gov
Sarah Beck	---	USACE	342-3333	sarah.e.beck@usace.army.mil
Cheryl Rolland	HR Member	USBR	462-3631	crolland@usbr.gov
Martin Martinez	---	OSD	452-5211	mamartinez@cabq.gov
Leif Bang	---	BEAR Environmental	496-4508	lbang@bear.environmental.com
Yasmeen Najmi	HR Member	MRGCD	247-0234	yasmeen@mrgcd.us
Jericho Lewis	---	USBR	462-3622	jlewis@usbr.gov
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Christine Sanchez	Admin support	Tetra Tech, EMI	881-3188 x 139	marta.wood@tetrattech.com