

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

05 May 2010 Meeting

**10:00 AM to 12:00 PM @ BIA**

**Actions**

Amy Louise will forward DBMS meeting date and location information to Curtis McFadden. Amy will also elevate the DBMS attendance concern to the Coordination Committee (CC).

Amy Louise will ask Valda Terauds for the status of the USGS Transect Study Report.

Amy Louise will bring copies of the Program video to the June SWM meeting.

Tetra Tech will locate the WAM plan on the Program website and send the link to Page Pegram.

Amy Louise will get the report that Steve Harris referenced regarding specific project guidance for his future SWM activity suggestion of Geomorphic Rehabilitation Projects

Chris Banet will write an activity summary for future LTP activity on page 15, line 63 “review existing geomorphic studies and groundwater monitoring sites and connect to habitat maps project” after receiving additional information on the activity from Amy Louise.

Cyndie Abeyta will send the SWM workgroup information regarding an upcoming presentation on the FWS/MRG Bosque Initiative funded study “Effects of climate change on MRG species” conducted by the U.S. Forest Service.

Amy Louise will send the SWM activity summary table with those activities that are still in need of prioritization called out by Friday, May 7, 2010. SWM members will assign a one, two, or three ranking to each activity and return to Amy by Friday, May 14, 2010.

Hilary Brinegar will revise the soil moisture future activity summary and return to Amy Louise by May 21.

**Decisions**

The April 7, 2010 Species Water Management (SWM) meeting minutes were approved with no changes.

**Summary**

- Matt Martinez called the meeting to order and introductions were made around the table. The DBMS workgroup is requesting a SWM member attend their meetings. A concern is that the DBMS ad hoc workgroup is not reaching quorum at its meetings. It was suggested that SWM members rotate DBMS meeting attendance responsibilities. Curtis McFadden may be able to attend if he has information on meeting dates/locations. The USGS would like to present on the transect study at the July SWM meeting; it was unknown if the report for this study is available. It was confirmed that the Climate Change Presentation will be held at 11:00 am during the June SWM meeting.

- The Program video was tabled. A suggestion was to distribute dvd's at the next SWM meeting for those who would like a copy.
- An email was recently sent to SWM members with a draft IDIQ for PHVA modeling. Comments on the IDIQ are due to Valda Terauds by May 12, 2010.
- The May 5, 2010 SWM agenda was approved with the deletion of watching the Program video and the addition of discussing the Soil Moisture Scope.
- The April 7, 2010 SWM meeting minutes were approved with no changes
- The workgroup conducted an action item review. All April 7, 2010 action items were either completed or are ongoing.
- The workgroup heard an update on Long Term Plan (LTP) progress. All future activity summaries are due by May 21, 2010. An all day working meeting is scheduled for May 26, 2010 from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm at Reclamation. Workgroup members are invited to attend. Amy Louise will send the SWM activity summary table with those activities that are still in need of prioritization called out by Friday, May 7, 2010. SWM members will assign a one, two, or three ranking to each activity and return to Amy by Friday, May 14, 2010. There was a question regarding the conceptual framework of activity "Use urban wastewater outfall and rural irrigation delivery and tailwater for Habitat Restoration, to expand habitat, and favor native over exotic plants and reduce fire potential" as it seems that using urban wastewater to favor native over exotic plants and reducing fire potential could be difficult. The workgroup agreed that a scope should still be written for the activity, but as a study to look at all the possible locations, the water quality in those locations, and the physical properties.
- A discussion was held regarding the soil moisture scope of work. Dr. Bill Lindemann is a top soil scientist at NMSU and is available to present to SWM regarding the scope; however there is a concern regarding the scale of the proposed activity. It was suggested that the scale of the activity be downsized to one reach of the river rather than the entire MRG. Another concern regarding the activity is that not all Program signatories are in agreement that it should be completed. SWM members agreed that an activity summary being written does not necessarily mean that the activity will happen, only that it has the potential to happen if circumstance change in the future. The activity should be left as a future LTP activity, and that a revised activity summary should be written for it.
- The workgroup was updated on Program activities. The EC is meeting May 20, 2010. The PVA-biology workgroup met on 5/4/10 and 5/5/10; the PHVA-Hydrology workgroup is meeting May 18. The Monitoring Plan Team (MPT) is asking for volunteers to help with monitoring fieldwork this spring/summer.
- The new Program Manager is Yvette McKenna. Yvette was the acting Program Manager and has been awarded the official position.

### **Meeting Minutes**

#### **Introductions and Announcements**

- Matt Martinez called the meeting to order and introductions were made around the table.

- The DataBase Management System (DBMS) workgroup is requesting a SWM representative begin attending their meetings. Matt Martinez initially volunteered but has since been pulled away due to internal workload.
  - The workgroup is an ad hoc, meaning it has an end date.
  - There was a suggestion that SWM members rotate attendance of the DBMS meetings.
  - Curtis McFadden may be able to attend, depending on meeting times and locations. Amy Louise will forward the information along to him so that he may check with his agency.
  - One opinion was that if DBMS is not reaching quorum then agency representatives are needed more than workgroup representatives.
  - There was a suggestion that the issue be elevated to the CC level, to determine a course for the DBMS to operate without a quorum.
- The USGS has requested time to present on the Transect Study at the July meeting. The report for the study was delayed; the CC decided that it will not be peer reviewed because reports are thoroughly reviewed internally at USGS. The current status of the report is unknown.
- It was confirmed that the Climate Change Presentation will be at 11:00 am during the June SWM meeting.
- An email was recently sent to SWM members with a draft IDIQ for PHVA modeling. Comments on the IDIQ are due to Valda Terauds by May 12, 2010.
  - The draft IDIQ was intentionally written to be broad so that it could be used for many things.
  - There was a suggestion to split the IDIQ up so that smaller firms with capabilities for parts of the requirements, but not all, are still encouraged to bid on it. Otherwise one entity will have to be able to provide all of the required services.
  - IDIQ's can be set up so that more than one contractor is on it. For example, the DBMS has at least two contractors.
- A presentation on orthophotography will be at the May 12<sup>th</sup> CC meeting.

***Action:** Amy Louise will forward DBMS meeting date and location information to Curtis McFadden. Amy will also elevate the DBMS attendance concern to the Coordination Committee (CC).*

***Action:** Amy Louise will ask Valda Terauds for the status of the USGS Transect Study Report.*

### **Agenda Approval**

- Viewing of the Program video was tabled; it was suggested that several copies of the video be brought to the next SWM meeting so members can take them.
- A discussion on the Soil Moisture Scope was added to the agenda.

***Action:** Amy Louise will bring copies of the Program video to the June SWM meeting.*

### **Approval April 17<sup>th</sup> Meeting Minutes**

- The 04/17/10 SWM meeting minutes were approved with no changes.

### April Action Item Review

- ✓ Tetra Tech will make sure an attendee list is on the March 3, 2010 SWM meeting notes *Complete*
- ✓ Amy Louise will continue to elevate SWM's concern that if storm water is contributing to the Rio Grande Silvery Minnow (RGSM) viability in the basin, the storm water entities need to be invited into the Program to be actively involved. *Complete. It would appear that the only position not filled on the Executive Committee (EC) is the one reserved for an entity that represents a significant portion of the environmental community. It is unknown if stormwater entities fit into that category*
- Page Pegram will forward the WAM plan and white papers to the entire SWM group. *Partially complete. Page sent the white papers to the SWM workgroup but was unable to locate the WAM plan on the Program website. Action: Tetra Tech will locate the WAM plan on the Program website and send the link to Page Pegram.*
- Amy Louise will get the report that Steve Harris referenced regarding specific project guidance for his future SWM activity suggestion of Geomorphic Rehabilitation Projects. *Standing Action Item*
- ✓ Amy Louise will send out the San Acacia Reach A&R Peer Review Presentation to SWM members. *Complete*
- ✓ Amy Louise will ask Kathy Dickinson if the mapping project that RESPEC just finished is an overlap to future LTP activity "review existing geomorphic studies and groundwater monitoring sites and connect to habitat maps project" (p. 15, line 63). *Complete. The mapping project does not include geomorphic studies; so an activity summary still needs to be written for the activity. Action: Chris Banet will write an activity summary for future LTP activity on page 15, line 63 "review existing geomorphic studies and groundwater monitoring sites and connect to habitat maps project" after receiving additional information on the activity from Amy Louise.*
- ✓ Valda Terauds will write a summary of LTP Future Activity: Design studies that can be ready to implement when we have a particular type of water year (p. 14, line 53). *Complete*
- Matt Martinez will write a summary of LTP Future Activity: Use urban waste water outfall and rural irrigation delivery and tail waters for habitat restoration to expand habitat, favor native over exotic plants and reduce fire potential (p. 16, line 88). *Incomplete; workgroup will discuss under "LTP Update"*
- ✓ Page Pegram will reaffirm the Program area and if LTP Future Activity: Determine feasibility of managing reservoir levels to establish and maintain lake fringe and inflow habitat (p. 15, line 75) is within Program boundaries she will write a summary. *Complete*
- ✓ Amy Louise will track changes made to the LTP Future Activities and send to SWM members and Yvette McKenna. *Complete*
- Cyndie Abeyta will send the SWM workgroup information regarding an upcoming presentation on the FWS/MRG Bosque Initiative funded study "Effects of climate

change on MRG species” conducted by the U.S. Forest Service. *Ongoing; Cyndie will send the information once it becomes available*

### LTP Update

- LTP future activity summaries are due to the PMT by May 21, 2010. An all day meeting has been scheduled for May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2010 from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm at Reclamation; workgroup members are invited to participate.
  - The URGWOM water quality activity was given a priority two, is it possible for the workgroup to elevate it to a priority one? It will take a while to build the water quality model, we already have all the flow information through URGWOM; interesting things have been found through the oxygen sags. There seems to be an immediate need to get better info on how, when, and why that happens, then to assess the need for further data collection. We have continuous monitoring now in the Albuquerque Reach; the Program should now see the need in other reaches where it may be necessary.
    - If the workgroup reaches consensus then it could be moved to a priority one.
    - The workgroup will not be putting the activities in order of importance against each other, but will be prioritizing based on when they expect the activity to be completed. A priority one is something that should be done in the next 3 fiscal years, a priority two in the three after that, and so on.
    - It was suggested to prioritize via email so that SWM members that aren't present can be included.
- It was asked if the conceptual framework of activity “Use urban wastewater outfall and rural irrigation delivery and tailwater for Habitat Restoration, to expand habitat, and favor native over exotic plants and reduce fire potential” should be housed in the Habitat Restoration Workgroup (HRW) rather than the SWM workgroup. Also, it seems that using urban wastewater to favor native over exotic plants and reducing fire potential could be difficult.
  - One opinion that since the activity discusses water, it should stay with SWM.
  - Another opinion was that the activity seems to benefit the Southwestern Willow Flycatcher (SWFL) more than the Rio Grande Silvery Minnow (RGSM). Although wastewater outflows have been mentioned for use in habitat restoration projects for the RGSM, there have been events of releases of chlorine and ammonia that could prove harmful for the RGSM.
    - Is it possible to spread urban wastewater in the Bosque instead of in the river?
    - A pilot study was conducted at the south side waste water treatment plant. It was a wetland, it's not in use but we should be able to find out if it worked.
  - The activity sounds as if it is directed a ways to find additional water resources for the RGSM and SWFL. It is unknown if it is feasible. There are a limited number of places where there is urban runoff and tailwater; the activity could be drafted as a study to determine all the possible locations, the water quality in those locations, and the physical properties.

**Action:** Amy Louise will send the SWM activity summary table with those activities that are still in need of prioritization called out by Friday, May 7, 2010. SWM members will assign a one, two, or three ranking to each activity and return to Amy by Friday, May 14, 2010.

### **Soil Moisture Scope**

- A discussion was held regarding the soil moisture scope of work. Dr. Bill Lindemann is a top soil scientist at NMSU and is available to present to SWM regarding the scope; however during preliminary discussion with him he expressed concern regarding the scale of the proposed activity. There are 20 sites within the proposed project boundary from Cochiti down to the Bosque, which is approximately 150 miles of land. 150 miles of riparian area and 20 sites is such a large scale that the project most likely will not yield results that would be helpful. If the project is to be done, it is recommended that the activity be downscaled to one reach of the river, or even to one drain. A representation of dominant soil types, textures, crops in production are integral to the study as well as hydrologic information such as return flows, and timing and duration of water applications.
  - There was a concern that the soil moisture activity is not something that all Program signatories are in agreement should be completed. The activity was written to improve the Decision Support System (DSS); the Program is not currently pursuing the DSS after receiving feedback from Signatories.
  - An opinion was that it is unknown whether the Program will ever return to DSS and soil moisture monitoring. An LTP future activity summary does not infer that the activity is guaranteed to occur; only that it has the possibility to occur. If the activity summary is revised to reflect the downsized scale but stays as a potential activity, it leaves the Program with an option.
  - SWM members were in general agreement that the activity should be left as a future LTP activity, and that a revised activity summary be written for it.

**Action:** Hilary Brinegar will revise the soil moisture future activity summary and return to Amy Louise by May 21.

### **Program Coordination**

#### **PHVA/Hydro**

- The next PHVA/Hydrology meeting is May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2010. They have not met since the last time SWM met, more information will be available at the June SWM meeting.

#### **PVA Updates**

- The PVA meeting is May 4 and May 5, 2010; an update on PVA activities will be given at the June SWM meeting.

#### **Joint Workgroup Activities**

- The Monitoring Plan Team (MPT) is asking Program participants for help with spring/summer monitoring. Only those who are permitted may handle the fish, but help is still needed for data logging and carrying equipment.

#### **PMT Liaison Needs**

- Amy Louise will bring Program videos for distribution at the June SWM meeting.

#### **SWM issues to be elevated**

- The DBMS issue discussed previously in the meeting will be elevated.

#### **Agency Updates**

- Yvette McKenna is now the official Program Manager. Yvette was the interim Program Manager while Lisa Croft was the interim Area Manager at Reclamation.
- The Route 66 Grande Opening is taking place on May 25. Ribbon cutting at 10:00 am.

#### **Next Meeting June 2, 2010 from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon at BIA**

*It was requested that a copy of any presentations be distributed prior to the meeting in which they are given, so that those calling in to meetings can follow along.*

<b>Species Water Management Work Group 07 April 2010 Meeting Attendees</b>					
<b>Name</b>	<b>POSITION</b>	<b>AFFILIATION</b>	<b>PHONE NUMBER</b>	<b>EMAIL ADDRESS</b>	<b>PRIMARY, ALTERNATE, OTHER</b>
Cyndie Abeyta	SWM Member	FWS	761-4738	cyndie_abyeta@fws.gov	P
Amy Louise	PMT	ISC	383-4057	amy.louise@state.nm.us	O
Matt Martinez	SWM Member	MRGCD	730-6474	mmartinez@mrgcd.us	P
Andrew Lieuwen	SWM member	ABCWUA	768-2570	alieuwen@abcwua.org	P
Chris Banet	SWM Member	BIA	563-3403	chris.banet@bia.gov	P
Page Pegram	SWM Member	ISC	383-4041	Page.pegram@state.nm.us	P
Hilary Brinegar, via phone	SWM Member	NMDA	(575) 646-2642	hbrinegar@nmda.nmsu.edu	P
Curtis McFadden	SWM Member	USACE		Curtis.m.mcfadden@usace.army.mil	P
Cassie Brown	Admin Support	Tetra Tech	237-8440	cassandre.brown@tetrattech.com	O