

**Middle Rio Grande Endangered Species Collaborative Program**  
**San Acacia Ad Hoc Work Group Meeting**

27 May 2010 – 12:30 PM - 3:30 PM

Albuquerque – Reclamation, Pecos Room

**Requests**

- The SAR workgroup would like more information on River Dry/Wetting Studies in order to determine if they are a potential POC for data.

**Actions**

- Gina Dello Russo will verify through email to the workgroup if she has any changes to the April 22, 2010 meeting minutes.
- Page Pegram will email the SAR workgroup's POC assignments/suggestions to Amy Louise.
- Amy Louise will convey the workgroup's POC assignments/suggestions to the DBMS or Mark Doles.
- Steve Harris will contact Mark Doles with the list of documents that were suggested to be added to the Program database.
- SAR workgroup members will fill in the template for their assigned agency.
- Page Pegram will email Yasmeen Najmi to tell her she has tentatively been assigned to fill in the template for MRGCD.
- Dominique Zuni will convey assigned action items and tasks to Gina Dello Russo.
- Page Pegram will convey assigned action items and tasks to Amy Louise.
- Robert Padilla will reserve a room at Reclamation for the next SAR meeting on June 24, 2010.

**Meeting Summary**

- Page Pegram brought the meeting to order and introductions were made around the table. Agency updates were added to the agenda.
- The April 22, 2010 meeting minutes were approved pending approval from Gina Dello Russo. Gina Dello Russo will verify through email to the workgroup if she has any changes to the April 22, 2010 meeting minutes.
- All April action items were completed.
- The San Acacia Reach (SAR) workgroup reviewed the spreadsheet that was sent with the Database Management System (DBMS) workgroup's request for needed information.
  - The workgroup was able to establish a Point of Contact (POC) for some of the needed data; they also suggested people who may be a POC for needed data and suggested data that may need to be in the Program database:
    - Hector Garcia may be a potential POC for data related to Southwestern Willow Flycatcher.

- Gary Dean may be a potential POC for data related to the Rio Grande Silvery Minnow.
- Robert Padilla will be a POC for Cross Section Survey Geomorphology Aggradation Degradation Studies, Cross Section Surveys (SO lines)(2008), and Island Bar Location Studies.
- Ryan Gronewold will be a POC for River Mile Locations.
- Page Pegram will be a POC for NMISC MRG Habitat Restoration Phase I Data Recordings – All Reaches and Water Heights.
- Ayesha Burdett will be a POC for Water Quality data-monthly and synoptic; and Water Quality data – sonde @ 15 minute increments.
- It was suggested that the Update to Bosque Biological Management Plan, WAM white papers, Conceptual Floodplain Restoration Plan, and BBMP Update (2004) be added to the database.
- The SAR workgroup would like more information on River Dry/Wetting Studies in order to determine if they are a potential POC for data. Page Pegram will email the workgroup's POC assignments/suggestions to Amy Louise. Amy Louise will convey the workgroup's POC assignments/suggestions to the DBMS or Mark Doles. Steve Harris will contact Mark Doles with the list of documents that were suggested to be added to the Program database.
- The SAR Workgroup Objectives were finalized after a couple of minor corrections.
- Most of the responses for the Agency Response to Themes have not yet been approved by Agencies; a discussion on the Agency Response to Themes will be tabled for a later SAR meeting.
- A discussion on a SAR Field Trip will be tabled for the June 24, 2010 meeting.
- The SAR workgroup had a brainstorming session for ideas for white paper topics.
  - The following are topics that resulted from the brainstorming session:
    - Agencies' mission, authority, concerns, and interests
    - Geomorphic management
    - Flood management
    - Water delivery management
    - Ecological resource management
    - River biological management
    - List of agency projects
  - The SAR workgroup will work on a white paper(s) that conveys Agencies' mission, authority, concerns, interests, and projects. The workgroup created a template for recording this information.

Agency/entity:  
Mission:  
Authority:  
Agency History in San Acacia Reach:  
Projects/studies/RMPs –  
    Current:  
    Planned (3-5 years):

## Completed:

- The SAR workgroup came up with a list of agencies that this information should be drafted for and tasked workgroup members to complete the template for their assigned agency.
  - ISC – Page Pegram
  - Reclamation – Robert Padilla
  - FWS – Gina Dello Russo
  - USACE – Ryan Gronewold
  - MRGCD – Yasmeen Najmi
  - UNM – Ayesha Burdett
  - NM Forestry
  - Save Our Bosque Task Force – Gina Dello Russo
  - Bosque del Apache – Gina Dello Russo
  - NM Tech – Steve Harris
  - NMSU – Steve Harris
  - Collaborative Program – Amy Louise/Page Pegram
  - Socorro Soil and Water – Steve Harris
- SAR workgroup members will fill in the template for their assigned agency. Dominique Zuni will convey assigned action items and tasks to Gina Dello Russo. Page Pegram will convey assigned action items and tasks to Amy Louise.
- The SAR workgroup was given a Program/Agency update.
  - The CC had a working meeting yesterday (5/26/10) that was centered on the Long Term Plan (LTP). There will be a new revision of the LTP text after June 4, 2010. The CC looked at the SAR and Species Water Management (SWM) LTP Future Activity summaries; the CC liked how the SAR LTP Future Activity summaries made sense sequentially. The River Mile 83 report will no longer be going out for peer review; an estimate on the cost of additional analyses to expand the project area will be requested from the contractor.
  - The San Acacia Levee project is now in the feasibility phase and is in agency technical review. Several alternatives are being considered. The project area is from the San Acacia diversion dam to the San Marcial Railroad Bridge.
  - The Interstate Stream Commission (ISC) has a water rights agreement with Intel; Intel will turn over 740 acre-feet of water rights to ISC and in exchange ISC will offset impacts to the Rio Grande for Intel. The water rights will go to Strategic Water Reserve.
  - Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) is working on maintaining the Rio Grande river channel to the reservoir delta. The concern is that with the reservoir level going down there will be new habitat and sediment moving into the delta; these effects may go upstream. Reclamation is monitoring the sediment plug and the narrowing of the river.
- The next SAR meeting will be June 24, 2010 from 12:30 pm – 3:30 pm in Albuquerque. Robert Padilla will reserve a room at Reclamation. At the meeting the workgroup will discuss rescheduling SAR meetings to occur on the same days as SWM meetings.

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San Acacia Ad Hoc Work Group Meeting**

27 May 2010 – 12:30 PM - 3:30 PM

Albuquerque – Reclamation, Pecos Room

**Meeting Minutes**

**Introductions and Agenda Approval**

- Page Pegram brought the meeting to order and introductions were made around the table.
- Agency updates were added to the agenda.

**Approval of 04/22/10 SAR Meeting Minutes**

- The April 22, 2010 meeting minutes were tentatively approved, pending review from Gina.

**Action:** Gina Dello Russo will verify through email to the SAR workgroup if she has any changes to the April 22, 2010 meeting minutes.

**Action Item Review**

- Amy Louise will send out the LTP text to SAR workgroup members.
  - complete
- Tetra Tech will email the workgroup's revision of the draft Strawman Objectives to SAR workgroup members.
  - complete
- Robert Padilla will reserve a room at Bureau of Reclamation for the May 27 SAR meeting
  - complete

**DBMS Request for Needed Information**

- The Database Management System workgroup (DBMS) has requested that the workgroup look at a spreadsheet of Program data and fill in the blanks.
- The spreadsheet was generated by D. B. Stevens; they have some of the data but not all of it and there is probably more data than is on the list. The data is going into a giant database for everything made by the program. The database will be accessible for program members and the public. There are going to be tiers, school children will be able to access some of the information and then there will be a more secure portion of that database that's only available to Program members. Everything in the spreadsheet was listed by different workgroups as being important pieces of data that should be put into the database. If there is not a Point of Contact (POC) for a piece of data workgroups need to see if they can provide it.
- Theoretically this will be the definitive database for the Program.
- Once completed the database should have an interface and the user will be able to build their own queries.

- The workgroup reviewed the data spreadsheet to see if they could establish a POC for missing data.
  - Hector Garcia may be a potential POC for data related to Southwestern Willow Flycatcher.
  - Gary Dean may be a potential POC for data related to the Rio Grande Silvery Minnow.
  - Robert Padilla will be a POC for Cross Section Survey Geomorphology Aggradation Degradation Studies, Cross Section Surveys (SO lines)(2008), and Island Bar Location Studies.
  - Ryan Gronewold will be a POC for River Mile Locations.
  - Page Pegram will be a POC for NMISC MRG Habitat Restoration Phase I Data Recordings – All Reaches and Water Heights.
  - Ayesha Burdett will be a POC for Water Quality data-monthly and synoptic; and Water Quality data – sonde @ 15 minute increments.

**Action:** Page Pegram will email the SAR workgroup's POC assignments/suggestions to Amy Louise.

- The workgroup was also able to identify data that should be added to the Program database. It was thought that the Update to Bosque Biological Management Plan, WAM white papers, Conceptual Floodplain Restoration Plan, and BBMP Update (2004) should be added to the Program database.

**Action:** Steve Harris will contact Mark Doles with the list of documents that were suggested to be added to the Program database.

**Request:** The SAR workgroup would like more information on River Dry/Wetting Studies in order to determine if they are a potential POC for data.

- It was asked what format these data should be submitted in.
  - It was not known what format the data should be submitted in. It was thought that the DBMS would be contacting POCs with more information when it was time for the data to be collected.
- The database will be linking to other databases, like USGS, but it will be blatant that the Program doesn't own that data.

### **Finalize Objectives of Work Group**

- The Workgroup objectives were finalized after the following changes were made
  - Change the date at the top of the page to May 27, 2010.
  - Under Objective 2, Task 4: Product 1 was switched with Product 2
- It was explained that the Objectives are what the workgroup is planning to accomplish.

### **Agency Response to Themes Update**

- Responses for U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), Interstate Stream Commission (ISC), and U.S. Army Corp of Engineers (USACE) have not yet been approved by their agencies. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) has had staffing duty issues and has not yet completed their responses. Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District (MRGCD) responses are thought to be complete and approved by the agency.

- An update on Agency Response to Themes will be tabled for another SAR meeting.
- It was explained that the point of the Agency Response to Themes was to create discussion points internally and then turn the points into white papers. It was suggested that it might be best to make the white papers without filling in agency responses.

### **Work Group Field Trip**

- The SAR workgroup discussed the possibility of taking a river trip. After June 15 a river trip would not be possible. It was agreed that there would not be time to schedule a river trip before June 15. A van tour was suggested as an alternative.
- This agenda item will be tabled for the next SAR meeting where the workgroup will discuss a field trip to potentially take place in fall of 2010 and a river trip to take place in spring of 2011.

### **White Paper Topics**

- This portion of the meeting was a working session to brainstorm for ideas for white paper topics.
  - One suggestion was a white paper that stated agencies' mission, authorities, and interests.
    - It was thought that stakeholders should be included on this white paper.
    - It was pointed out that it might be difficult for a stakeholder to generate these types of information, as opposed to an agency where they can call through the agency and see what is planned out.
  - White papers on hydrologic issues was another suggestion
  - One thought was that white papers would tackle technical issues instead of agency missions.
  - Other ideas for white paper topics were engineering and biology.
  - A white paper summarizing the San Acacia Reach workshop was another white paper topic idea.
  - One thought was that having social science input would be beneficial.
    - Social analyses could take a long time. It was thought that incorporating feedback from the workshop would be sufficient.
  - It was asked how long a white paper is and what is the definition of a white paper.
    - White papers are usually 1-3 pages
    - A white paper is a condensed summary of an issue, a concise but thorough examination of an issue
  - More ideas for white paper topics were geomorphic management, flood management, water delivery management, ecological resource management, and river biological management.

- The workgroup decided to work on a white paper that stated agencies' mission, authorities, and interests. Depending on the length of the information from each agency this may be several white papers.
- It was suggested that a list of ongoing projects from each agency be included.
- The SAR workgroup decided to create a template that each agency should use when filling in information. The following is the template that the workgroup created.

**Agency/entity:**

**Mission:**

**Authority:**

**Agency History in San Acacia Reach:**

**Projects/studies/RMPs –**

**Current:**

**Planned (3-5 years):**

**Completed:**

- The SAR workgroup then created a list of agencies whose information should be included and workgroup members were tasked to complete the template for their assigned agency.
  - ISC - Page Pegram
  - Reclamation – Robert Padilla
  - FWS – Gina Dello Russo
  - USACE – Ryan Gronewold
  - MRGCD – Yasmeen Najmi
  - UNM – Ayesha Burdett
  - NM Forestry -
  - Save Our Bosque Task Force – Gina Dello Russo
  - Bosque del apache – Gina Dello Russo
  - NM Tech – Steve Harris
  - NMSU – Steve Harris
  - Collaborative Program - Amy Louise/Page Pegram
  - Socorro Soil and Water – Steve Harris

**Action:** SAR workgroup members will fill in the template for their assigned agency.

**Action:** Page Pegram will email Yasmeen Najmi to tell her she has tentatively been assigned to fill in the template for MRGCD.

**Action:** Dominique Zuni will convey assigned action items and tasks to Gina Dello Russo.

**Action:** Page Pegram will convey assigned action items and tasks to Amy Louise.

- It was pointed out that projects completed could probably be their own white paper.
- It was asked if the information provided in the template should focus on river and floodplain?
  - It was thought that upstream contributors should be taken into consideration. It was thought that NM Tech may have some of that information.
  - The issue of irrigated agriculture was mentioned.

- It was suggested that someone from NM Tech should participate in SAR workgroup meetings.

### **Program update**

- **EC update**

- There was not an EC update

- **CC update**

- The last CC meeting was mostly about the Long Term Plan (LTP). There will be a new revision of the LTP Text after June 4, 2010.
- The CC looked at priority 1 LTP Future Activity summaries from SAR and Species Water Management workgroups. The CC commented that the SAR LTP Future Activity summaries made sense sequentially
- One of the topics of the CC meeting was the River Mile 83 (RM 83) project. RM 83 was going to be peer reviewed, but it was decided that the project area should be expanded; an estimation to do more analyses will be requested from the contractor.
  - It was commented that the RM 83 project should be written about somewhere in the templates.

- **San Acacia Levees update**

- The San Acacia Levees project has had funding for 10 years and is now in the feasibility stage.
- It was asked if the funding was 100% federal.
  - Yes
- The project is in agency technical review. Several different alternatives are being reviewed. The original project area was from the San Acacia diversion dam to Elephant Butte, but the area is now from the San Acacia diversion dam to the San Marcial railroad bridge; all on the west side of the river.
- It was stated that a concise summary of this project in the templates would be appreciated.

- **ISC Water Rights Agreement with Intel**

- The workgroup was told that ISC is in the process of a water rights agreement with Intel.
- In the mid 1990's Intel got a ground water permit to pump 32 acre-feet of ground water. Intel pumps ground water; ultra purifies it, uses it, and then returns almost 85% to the river in Rio Rancho. When Intel got the water permit the State Engineer required that they offset all impacts to the Rio Grande. After Intel stops pumping there will still be residual effects and Intel will need to purchase water rights for a few years after they have stopped pumping in order to offset pumping. Intel will turn over 740 acre-feet of water rights to ISC and in exchange ISC will offset impacts to the Rio Grande for Intel.
- The water rights will go to the Strategic Water Reserve. This water is used for environmental purposes or water compact.
- The water agreement was thought to be a good thing all around.



- ISC proposes putting aside relinquishment water in order to deal with the 3,000 acre-foot demand for offsets once Intel stops pumping.
- It was mentioned that this agreement may be beneficial to Price's Dairy property, which may turn into a combination urban preserve and education center.
- **Reclamation Update**
  - Reclamation is investigating how to move forward with Fish Passage. The project will be on hold until next year.
  - There have been no sediments plugs since last week. Reclamation is continuing to monitor the sediment plug and look for long term solutions.
  - Reclamation is working on maintaining the Rio Grande river channel to the reservoir delta; drought has caused the channel to narrow. The concern is that with the reservoir level going down there will be new habitat and sediment moving into the delta; these effects may go upstream.

### Next Meeting

- The next SAR workgroup meeting will be Thursday, June 24<sup>th</sup> from 12:30 pm – 3:30 pm in Albuquerque
- Robert Padilla will reserve a room at Reclamation.
- A discussion to reschedule regular SAR meetings to be on the same day as SWM meetings was proposed for the next meeting.

### San Acacia Reach Ad Hoc Work group 27 May 2010 Meeting Attendees

NAME	AFFILIATION	PHONE NUMBER	EMAIL ADDRESS
Page Pegram	ISC	505-383-4051	<a href="mailto:page.peggram@state.nm.us">page.peggram@state.nm.us</a>
Robert Padilla	USBR	505-462-3626	<a href="mailto:rpadilla@usbr.gov">rpadilla@usbr.gov</a>
Ayesha Burdett	UNM	505-277-0964	<a href="mailto:aburdett@unm.edu">aburdett@unm.edu</a>
Dominique Zuni	FWS	505-401-5694	<a href="mailto:deez0721@gmail.com">deez0721@gmail.com</a>
Ryan Gronewold	USACE	505-342-3340	<a href="mailto:Ryan.P.Gronewold@usace.army.mil">Ryan.P.Gronewold@usace.army.mil</a>
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