

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

04 August 2010 Meeting

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

### **Actions**

- Amy Louise will redistribute the “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” summary for review and discussion at the September 1, 2010 SWM work group meeting.
- Amy Louise will call Matt Martinez to see if he will be able extend his term as SWM Co-Chair.
- Chris Banet will try to provide a revised “MRGCD threshold analysis” summary for discussion at the September 1, 2010 SWM work group meeting.
- Valda Terauds will email the USGS Quarterly Report to Tetra Tech to be distributed to the SWM work group with today’s meeting minutes.

### **Decisions**

- The May 5<sup>th</sup>, June 2<sup>nd</sup>, and July 7<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes were approved with no changes.

### **Meeting Summary**

- **Introductions & Announcements** – Chris Banet brought the meeting to order and introductions were made around the table.
- **Agenda Approval** - The agenda was approved with the addition of a USGS update by Valda Terauds.
- **Approval of May 5<sup>th</sup>, June 2<sup>nd</sup>, and July 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting notes** – All meeting minutes were approved with no changes.
- **July Action Item Review** –
  - The “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” summary was distributed to Species Water Management (SWM) work group members; Amy Louise did not receive any comments. Amy Louise will redistribute the summary for discussion at the September 1, 2010 SWM work group meeting.
  - 2010 NM Watershed Forum information has been emailed to Program members.
  - Amy Louise has emailed Matt Martinez to see if he will be able to extend his term as SWM Co-Chair and has not yet received a reply; Amy will call Matt Martinez.
  - Chris Banet has talked with Janet Jarratt about the “MRGCD threshold analysis” LTP Future Activity. A concern with the project is that a threshold would be used as an administrative tool and not as a management tool. Chris Banet would like to revise the summary so that it is taking a different approach; he will try to have the

- summary revised for discussion at the September 1, 2010 SWM work group meeting.
- **Program Coordination**
    - **PHVA/Hydrology Updates** – The Population Habitat Viability Assessment/Hydrology (PHVA) work group will be meeting on August 10, at 1:30 pm.
    - **PVA Updates** – The Population Viability Analysis (PVA) modelers met with representatives from the Service last week. There has not been an update of what was discussed at the meeting.
    - **PMT Liaison Needs** – Chris Banet will be updating the “MRGCD threshold analysis” summary; SWM work group members should comment on the “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” summary
    - **SWM Issues to be elevated** – If Matt Martinez cannot extend his term as Co-Chair SWM will need a non federal Co-Chair.
  - **LTP Update**
    - The Coordination Committee (CC) is having an all day working meeting today to review HRW priority 1 Future Activity summaries.
  - **Agency Updates**
    - Intel’s water rights agreement with Interstate Stream Commission (ISC) is on hold indefinitely. Some issues with the water rights agreement are the concern of relinquishment water and water right issues.
    - The USGS Quarterly Report is now available. Valda Terauds will email the report to Tetra Tech to be distributed to the SWM work group with today’s meeting minutes. The SIR report is still in review, it’s hoped that there will be a presentation before the end of the calendar year.
    - The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) is going through a staffing transition in its water group. April Fitzner is no longer the Chief of Reservoir Operations. Dennis Garcia has been appointed interim Chief of Reservoir Operations. Curtis McFadden will still be the primary attendee for the SWM work group; Dennis Garcia will be the alternate.
    - Steve Harris has been working on a partnership to optimize flow releases out of El Vado. The plan is to assemble stake holders to attempt to synthesize a hydrograph that would supplement the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) annual operations plan. Current partners are ISC and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Taos field office.
    - Terina Perez is the new PMT liaison for PHVA.
  - **D.B. Stephens to Present DBMS Data Model (60 min, 11:00 am)**

- Darcee Killpack from SWCA and Joseph Foster from D.B. Stephens presented the Database Management System (DBMS) data model. The data model is in draft form and is being reviewed by Program work groups for feedback. All Program agencies should have a hard copy of the data model and electronic copies are available on the Program website.
- The data model has been broken down into different disciplines. All the tables in the data model are related to datasets. Darcee gave a short tutorial on how to read the relationships between tables in the data model. Two key components of the data model are the Document Library and the Site Library. The Document Library will contain reports, photographs, and spreadsheets related to data. The Site Library will track the geographic location of projects and documents in order to spatially see where work has been done within a span of the river; projects and documents will be linked to the river by coordinates, river mile, or reach. In addition to verifying the relationships of the tables the SWM work group should see if there are attributes of sampling that are not captured in the data model. Some suggested changes are the addition of tables that capture information on diversions and waste water treatment, the addition of a list of available models, and differentiation between bottom sediment and suspended sediment. Additional comments and questions can be sent to Darcee (dkillpack@swca.com), Joseph (jfoster@dbstephens.com), or Kenny Calhoun (kcalhoun@dbstephens.com). A pilot of the DBMS is expected to become available in April of 2011.

**Next Meeting: September 1, 2010 from 10:00 am to 12 noon at BIA**

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

04 August 2010 Meeting

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

**Meeting Minutes**

**Introductions & Announcements**

- Chris Banet brought the meeting to order and introductions were made around the table.

**Agenda Approval**

- The agenda was approved with the addition of a USGS Update by Valda Terauds.

**Approval of May 5<sup>th</sup>, June 2<sup>nd</sup>, and July 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting notes**

- All meeting minutes were approved with no changes.

**July Action Item Review**

- The Species Water Management (SWM) work group performed an action item review.

- Tetra Tech will redistribute the revised “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” summary to the SWM work group for review. Comments should be sent to Amy Louise (amy.louise@state.nm.us) by COB Monday July 12<sup>th</sup>.
  - Complete; no comments were received.

**Action:** Amy Louise will redistribute the summary to the SWM work group.

- The SWM work group will review this summary at the September 1, 2010 SWM work group meeting.
- Tetra Tech will check to see if 2010 NM Watershed Forum information has been emailed to Program members.
  - Complete.
- Amy Louise will ask Matt Martinez if he will be able extend his term as SWM Co-Chair.
  - Amy has emailed Matt but has not yet received a reply.

**Action:** Amy Louise will call Matt to see if he will be able to extend his term as SWM Co-Chair.

- Chris Banet will talk to Subhas Shah and Janet Jarratt about the “MRGCD threshold analysis” LTP Future Activity.
  - Chris Banet talked to Janet Jarratt about her concerns with the “MRGCD threshold analysis” LTP Future Activity.
  - The SWM workgroup was reminded that the proposed activity was to identify a threshold beyond which the irrigators would not be able to be served if water rights on the ditch were leased out or forborne. The concern with the project is that a threshold would be used as an administrative tool and not as a management tool as it is intended to be used. Chris Banet would like to revise the summary so that it is taking a different approach; he will try to have the summary revised for discussion at the September 1, 2010 SWM work group meeting.

## **Program Coordination**

### **• PHVA/Hydrology Updates**

- The Population Habitat Viability Assessment/Hydrology (PHVA) work group will be meeting on August 10, at 1:30 pm. Decisions need to be made before modeling can begin. Previously the SWM work group was asked to review an IDIQ but contracting is behind so the timeline will not be accomplished. There will be a simple SOW that will be a revision against the URGWOM modeling SOW that was previously done. Hopefully the SOW will be out by the end of the FY 2010.
- It was asked what the conditions are that will be modeled.

- The conditions that will be modeled will be determined by information that is needed for the Biological Opinion (BO).
- It was asked if there is a public document yet for the Biological Assessment (BA).
  - Public documents concerning the BA were not thought to be available.
- **PVA Updates**
  - The Population Viability Analysis (PVA) modelers met with representatives from the Service last week. There has not been an update of what was discussed at the meeting.
- **Joint Workgroup Activities (DBMS updates; MPT updates)**
  - There were no Joint Workgroup updates.
- **PMT Liaison Needs**
  - Chris Banet will be updating the “MRGCD threshold analysis” summary; SWM work group members should comment on the “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” summary
- **SWM Issues to be elevated**
  - SWM will need a non federal Co-Chair if Matt Martinez cannot extend his term.

### **LTP Update**

- The Coordination Committee (CC) is having an all day working meeting today (8/4/10) to review HRW priority 1 Future Activity summaries.
- SWM Future Activity Summaries for priorities 2 and 3 need to be completed.

### **Agency Updates (5 min)**

- The water rights agreement between Intel and Interstate Stream Commission (ISC) is on hold indefinitely. There were several issues with the agreement.
  - Some issues with the water rights agreement are the concern of relinquishment water and water right issues.
  - The SWM work group was reminded that as part of the water rights agreement, Intel would transfer 740 acre-feet of water rights to ISC and ISC would offset Intel’s depletion effects with relinquishment water and the acquired water rights. More information is posted on the ISC website.
- USGS Update
  - The USGS Quarterly Report is now available. Valda Terauds will email the report to Tetra Tech to be distributed to the SWM work group with today’s meeting minutes. The SIR report is still in review, it’s hoped that there will be a presentation before the end of the calendar year.
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) Update

- The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) is going through a staffing transition in its water group. April Fitzner is no longer the Chief of Reservoir Operations. Dennis Garcia has been appointed interim Chief of Reservoir Operations. Curtis McFadden will still be the primary attendee for the SWM work group and Dennis Garcia will be the alternate.
- Steve Harris has been working on a partnership to optimize flow releases out of El Vado. The plan is to assemble stake holders to attempt to synthesize a hydrograph that would supplement the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) annual operations plan; items to be considered in the hydrograph are environment flow determinations, recreational water use, water storage, legal constraints, and deliveries. Current partners are ISC and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Taos field office; Reclamation, Corps, and Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) have been contacted. Plans include benthic studies with BLM funding and comprehensive stake holder workshops to include all affected parties. The purpose of the workshops would be to propose operating rules and come to an agreement of operations to integrate into the 2013 Annual Operating Plan. Steve plans to begin discussion with Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District (MRGCD) and City of Albuquerque (COA). Steve has applied for a grant and may know in September it will be received.
  - It was said that it would be important to address downstream issues.
  - The whole concept would rely heavily upon adaptive management; adaptive management training for stakeholders could also potentially provide training to the Program if there is a partnership.
- Terina Perez is the new PMT liaison for PHVA.
  - Kathy Dickinson is no longer doing Program work, but will still be assisting with Long Term Plan (LTP) development.

#### **D.B. Stephens to Present DBMS Data Model**

- Darcee Killpack from SWCA and Joseph Foster from D.B. Stephens presented the Database Management System (DBMS) data model.
- Darcee began by giving SWM an update on the DBMS. The team creating the DBMS has been working for the past 3-4 months on the draft data model; the data model is at a point for getting feedback. The DBMS itself is still in testing phase. The data model shows how data is collected and the level of detail it is being collected. All Program agencies should have a hard copy of the data model and electronic copies are available on the Program website.
- The data model is conceptual and has been broken down into different themes so that different disciplines can be focused on. The SWM work group should focus on Water Data, but should also look at other disciplines that they are familiar with. All the tables are related to the datasets in the center; datasets can be reports or raw data.
- Darcee used the Water Data section to give a tutorial on how to read the relationships between tables in the data model. Some of the items that are included in the tables are bar inventory surveys, bed material surveys, water quality sampling, cross section surveys, river flow measurements, ground water measurements, and water operations;

information for what is being done and where it is being done will be documented. Some of the tables refer to other tables where more detail is documented. If surveys are related it should be verified that a link between the surveys has been made. The List items are not comprehensive, people can add to them now or later when working with the database. The SWM workgroup was given a handout that explains the table relationships and how the model is broken up. The handout also gives examples of calculations that can be done in the database; most of the current calculations are for fish analyses. Once completed the DBMS will have different levels of permissions for security. Two key components of the DBMS are the Document Library and the Site Library. The Document Library will contain reports, photographs, and spreadsheets related to data. The Site Library will track the geographic location of projects and documents in order to spatially see where work has been done within a span of the river; projects and documents will be linked to the river by coordinates, river mile, or reach. In addition to verifying the relationships of the tables the SWM work group should see if there are attributes of sampling that are not captured in the data model.

- Darcee and Joseph answered questions and received comments about the DBMS/data model.
  - Question: Does the data model have a way of identifying funding agencies?
    - The Program Data section captures information about projects such as contributing agencies.
  - It was pointed out that information on diversions is not currently captured in the data model.
  - Question: Will real-time information available by the MRGCD and the ET toolbox be incorporated into the DBMS?
    - Those tools will not internally be in the system but they will be linked or referred to. For example, information on a stream gauge such as name, number, owner, height, and location will be recorded in the DBMS but there will be a link to the USGS to find the flow for that gauge.
  - Information on waste water treatment and flood control should be included in the data model.
  - It was commented that there needs to be differentiation between bottom sediment and suspended sediment.
  - It was said that a reference list of available decision support, water, and hydrology models should be included.
  - It was asked what the process is for populating the database.
    - There is a short term process and a long term process. In the short term D.B. Stephens will be populating the database initially with data received in the data collection period; per contract, all data received before October will be added to the database. For the long term, a user interface will be developed for data to be manually added to the database and tools will be created for data to be directly imported.

- Additional comments and questions can be sent to Darcee (dkillpack@swca.com), Joseph (jfooster@dbstephens.com), or Kenny Calhoun (kcalhoun@dbstephens.com).
- A pilot of the DBMS is expected to become available in April of 2011.

**Next Meeting: from 10:00 am to 12 noon at BIA**

- September 1, 2010; discussions on the revised LTP Future Activity summaries are tentative agenda items.

<b>Species Water Management Work Group 04 August 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
Chris Banet	SWM Member Co-Chair	BIA	563-3403	chris.banet@bia.gov	P
Valda Terauds	SWM Member	Reclamation	462-3584	vterauds@usbr.gov	P
Steve Harris	SWM Member	Rio Grande Restoration	575-751- 1269	steve.harris39@gmail.com	P
Dennis E. Garcia	SWM Member	USACE	342-3380	dennis.e.garcia@usace.army.mil	A
Darcee Killpack	Presenter	SWCA	303-945- 6704	dkillpack@swca.com	O
Joseph Foster	Presenter	D.B. Stephens	353-9044	jfooster@dbstephens.com	O
Christine Sanchez	Admin Support	Tetra Tech	881-3188	christine.sanchez@tetrattech.com	O