

Middle Rio Grande Endangered Species Collaborative Program
Habitat Restoration Workgroup Meeting
17 August 2010 –12:30pm - 3:30pm
Interstate Stream Commission

Actions

Tetra Tech will check with Monika Mann to see if there is a pre-existing spreadsheet listing documents to be read and summarized.

Terina Perez will find out when the PMT plans to call for SOWs.

Terina Perez will ask Yvette McKenna if she would like HRW to organize habitat restoration presentation for the River Restoration workshop.

Terina Perez will convey the need for visuals from contractors and the need for administrative support for the “State of the HR” workshop to Yvette McKenna.

Decisions

The July 20, 2010 Habitat Restoration Workgroup (HRW) meeting minutes were approved with no changes.

Recommendations

The HRW would like to have a working session with Kenny Calhoun present to answer questions about the DBMS data model.

Meeting Summary

- **Introductions and Changes to Proposed Agenda** – Rick Billings brought the meeting to order and introductions were made around the table. Robert Padilla was welcomed to the Habitat Restoration Workgroup (HRW); he is the new Primary member for Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation). The agenda was approved with the addition of a closed discussion on the Velarde Reach A&R.
- **Approve July 20, 2010 Meeting Minutes** – The July 20, 2010 HRW meeting minutes were approved with no changes.
- **HR Project for Sept. 21 River Restoration workshop** – Reclamation is hosting a River Restoration workshop to share techniques used in river restoration. HRW has been invited to show pictures of habitat restoration projects during a working lunch. There was the question of whether or not HRW would be organizing the presentation; Terina Perez will ask Yvette McKenna if she would like HRW to organize the presentation.
- **“Annual Report for the City of Albuquerque’s Rio Bravo North and Rio Bravo South Habitat Restoration Projects: 2007-2008”** – Copies of a synopsis of the “Annual Report for the City of Albuquerque’s Rio Bravo North and Rio Bravo South Habitat Restoration Projects: 2007-2008” were distributed. The format for the synopses was updated by Rick Billings and Colin Lee. A short presentation of the Population Estimation synopsis will be given by Rick, Sarah Beck, and Peter Wilkinson at the next regularly scheduled HRW meeting. There was brief discussion on whether the synopses should be captured by the Database Management System (DBMS); it was thought that the Executive Summaries of the documents would contain similar information and would be captured by the DBMS. It was thought that a list of documents would be helpful in choosing which documents should be summarized. Tetra Tech will check with Monika Mann to see if there is a pre-existing spreadsheet listing documents to be read and summarized.

- **Discussion of future short and long term direction for HRW** – The HRW discussed future short and long term direction.
 - The HRW will need to begin working on Scopes of Work (SOWs) soon. It was not known when the Program Management Team (PMT) would be calling for SOWs; Terina Perez will find out when the PMT plans to call for SOWs.
 - The HRW planned a “State of the HR” workshop to evaluate previous projects and focus on SOWs. The “State of the HR” workshop will take place on September 22, 2010 from 8:30 am to 3:30 pm at ISC and will replace the regularly scheduled HRW meeting. Rick Billings and Gina Dello Russo will develop an agenda. Shapefiles, River Reach maps, and visuals of work that has been done would be beneficial for the workshop; contractors may be able to supply some of these visuals. Terina Perez will convey the need for visuals from contractors and the need for administrative support for the “State of the HR” workshop to Yvette McKenna.
 - It was thought there should be a stronger working relationship between HRW and other workgroups in the future; joint workgroup meetings should be focused and productive.
- **DBMS Data Model Discussion** – This portion of the meeting was used as a working session where meeting attendees reviewed the DBMS data model and the DBMS spreadsheet of data; comments were written directly on to hard copies of the data model. The HRW voiced that in order to make more valuable comments on the DBMS data model it would helpful to have a working session with Kenny Calhoun present to answer questions.
- **HRW Co-Chair Discussion** – Volunteers for HRW Co-Chair should notify Rick Billings.
- **Long Term Plan Update** – The CC is still reviewing Future Activity Summaries. HRW and Science Workgroup (ScW) overlapping Future Activities were discussed at this morning’s ScW meeting.
- **Announcements**
 - A flyer for the New Mexico Outdoor Expo was passed around.
 - The 2010 NM Watershed Forum will take place on September 28-30. Early registration ends September 6, 2010.
 - A biologist position is open with Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). The position is stationed out of Socorro, NM to work on private lands restoration; application submission closes on September 3, 2010.
 - The Pueblo of Sandia Monitoring Plan update is tentatively scheduled for the October 2010 HRW meeting.
- **Program Update** – Monika Mann provided a Program Update through email prior to the meeting. (See attachment).
- **Next Meeting – September 22, 2010 from 8:30 to 3:30 at ISC.**
- **Closed Session** - Meeting attendees discussed the Velarde Reach A&R under closed session. For details contact HRW Co-Chair.

**Middle Rio Grande Endangered Species Collaborative Program
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17 August 2010 –12:30pm - 3:30pm
Interstate Stream Commission**

Meeting Minutes

Introductions and Changes to Proposed Agenda

- Rick brought the meeting to order and introductions were made around the table. Robert Padilla will be the Primary attendant of Habitat Restoration Workgroup (HRW) meetings for Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation).
- The agenda was approved with the addition of a closed discussion on the Velarde Reach A&R.

Approve July 20, 2010 Meeting Minutes

- The July 20, 2010 HRW meeting minutes were approved with no changes.

“Annual Report for the City of Albuquerque’s Rio Bravo North and Rio Bravo South Habitat Restoration Projects: 2007-2008” (Rick and Colin)

- Copies of a synopsis of the “Annual Report for the City of Albuquerque’s Rio Bravo North and Rio Bravo South Habitat Restoration Projects: 2007-2008” were distributed. The HRW was reminded that this is part of an effort to keep HRW aware of ongoing projects.
- A short presentation on the “Annual Report for the City of Albuquerque’s Rio Bravo North and Rio Bravo South Habitat Restoration Projects: 2007-2008” has been given at a previous HRW meeting. The formatting for synopses has been updated by Rick Billings and Colin Lee; this synopsis should be used as a template.
- A synopsis on Population Estimation will be presented at the next regularly scheduled HRW meeting. Rick Billings, Sarah Beck, and Peter Wilkinson will summarize Population Estimation.
- There was short discussion on whether the synopses written by the HRW should be captured in the Database Management System (DBMS). The consulting team working on the DBMS has called for data; if this is something that the HRW would want added to the DBMS now is the time to put it forward for inclusion.
 - One thought was that the synopsis highlighting key points may be useful to have in the DBMS.
 - It was determined that the information in the HRW synopses would contain similar information to the Executive Summaries of the documents. The Executive Summaries should be captured in the DBMS.
- There is a pre-existing list of projects, it would helpful to this list when determining which reports to summarize.

Action: Tetra Tech will check with Monika Mann to see if there is a pre-existing spreadsheet listing documents to be read and summarized.

HR Project for Sept. 21 “River Restoration” workshop

- Reclamation is hosting a River Restoration workshop to share techniques used in river restoration. The idea is to share information on techniques, treatments, and lessons learned with others doing work on the river system. A flier for the workshop was distributed to meeting attendees. There will be a working lunch at the workshop where HRW has been invited to show pictures of habitat restoration projects.

- There was concern that the “River Restoration” workshop would be used to replace a HRW and EMP proposed “State of the HR” workshop to evaluate and review past habitat restoration projects; a working lunch would not give enough time to evaluate and review habitat restoration projects. It was determined that the River Restoration workshop was not meant to replace the “State of the HR” workshop; the “River Restoration” workshop is meant to share techniques and the intent of the working lunch is to show very picture oriented results of habitat restoration pictures, not getting into depth on project design.
- The “River Restoration” workshop could broaden the HRW’s toolbox and trigger thoughts regarding issues such as sustainability; the “State of the HR” workshop should take place shortly after the “River Restoration” workshop while ideas are still fresh in the workgroup’s minds.
- There was question as to whether or not the HRW is expected to organize the lunch time presentation.

Action: Terina Perez will ask Yvette McKenna if she would like HRW to organize habitat restoration presentation for the River Restoration workshop.

Discussion of future short and long term direction for HRW

- The question of where HRW members would like to see the HRW in the short and long term future was posed for discussion.
 - The HRW needs to begin developing Scopes of Work (SOWs) for FY 2011.
 - A good place to start working on SOWs would be to review work that has been done with the “State of the HR” workshop. An hour or two at the end of the workshop can be used to work on SOWs.
 - The workshop could be used to compare and contrast different reaches and applications of techniques. The workshop would be for information purposes because it is not known if enough information exists for all projects to do a decent evaluation of the techniques. Coming up with good evaluation criteria for techniques would be useful for the future.
 - Maybe take some guidance from the recovery plans in terms of priority projects for each species.
 - It would be interesting to discuss how much of the current population’s stability is due to habitat restoration projects versus other factors.
 - It was not known when the Program Management Team will call for SOWs for FY 2011.

Action: Terina Perez will find out when the PMT plans to call for SOWs.

- There should be a stronger working relationship between HRW and other workgroups in the future.
 - It was agreed that a stronger working relationship with other workgroups would be beneficial but there should be focused and productive discussions. Working on SOWs with other workgroups would help goals become more consistent and would give the opportunity for review.
 - It was said that there should be Program open houses for workgroups to be updated on Program projects from other workgroups.
- It was asked if there are elements in the RPA that address restorations. It might be beneficial to have the RPA discuss some type of habitat.
 - The goals of the Biological Opinion (BO) will need to be taken into consideration.
 - The best point to check if there are elements to address restoration is when the BO is in draft form and out for public comment.
- Looking at A&Rs comprehensively would help guide restoration. Anders Lundahl and Gina Dello Russo have started looking at the San Acacia A&R for future discussion points. Recommendations from the peer review include “next steps” and suggestions on incorporations to make a better product.

- The HRW planned the “State of the HR” workshop.
 - The workshop will be on Wednesday, September 22, 2010 from 8:30 am to 3:30 pm; meeting attendees should bring a lunch.
 - Rick Billings and Gina Dello Russo will work on an agenda.
 - Shapefiles, River Reach maps, and visuals of work that has been done would be beneficial for the workshop. Projects in the area have been done contractors; it was not known if contractors would be able to supply these visuals.

Action: Terina Perez will convey the need for visuals from contractors and the need for administrative support for the “State of the HR” workshop to Yvette McKenna.

- Due to the “River Restoration” workshop on September 21, 2010, the regularly scheduled HRW meeting for September 21, 2010 will be cancelled.

DBMS Data Model Discussion

- This portion of the meeting was used as a working session where meeting attendees reviewed the DBMS data model and the DBMS spreadsheet of data.
- The HRW went through examples as a group. Comments were written directly on to hard copies of the data model.
- The HRW voiced that in order to make more valuable comments on the data model it would helpful to have a working session with Kenny Calhoun present to answer questions.

HRW Co-Chair Discussion

- HRW is in need of a Co-Chair; volunteers should notify Rick Billings.

Long Term Plan Update

- The Coordination Committee (CC) continues to review Future Activity summaries. The HRW Future Activity summaries have been condensed from 48 to 5 or 6. HRW and Science Workgroup (ScW) overlapping Future Activities were discussed at this morning’s ScW meeting.

Announcements

- A flyer for the New Mexico Outdoor Expo was passed around.
- The 2010 NM Watershed Forum will take place on September 28-30. Early registration ends September 6, 2010. The Watershed Forum takes place biannually. The last forum had 250 people attendants. This year’s forum will focus on collaboration in watershed restoration. The forum agenda is available on the website (www.watershedforum.org). There will be 2 days of presentations and workshops with a field trip on the 3rd day of the forum.
- A biologist position is open with Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). The position is stationed out of Socorro, NM to work on private lands restoration; application submission closes on September 3, 2010.
- The Pueblo of Sandia Monitoring Plan update is tentatively scheduled for the October 2010 HRW meeting.

Program Update

- Monika Mann provided a Program Update through email prior to the meeting. (See attachment).

Next Meeting and Agenda Items

- September 22, 2010 from 8:30 to 3:30 at ISC.
- “State of the HR” workshop.

Velarde Reach A&R - CLOSED SESSION

- Meeting attendees discussed the Velarde Reach A&R under closed session. For details contact HRW Co-Chair.

Next Meeting – September 22, 2010 from 8:30 to 3:30 at ISC.

**Habitat Restoration Work Group Meeting
17 August 2010 Meeting Attendees**

NAME	POSITION	AFFILIATION	PHONE NUMBER	EMAIL ADDRESS
Colin Lee	HR Member	KeWa (Santo Domingo) Tribe	465-0055	clee@sutilities.com
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
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Brian Bader		SWCA	254-1115	bbader@swca.com
Gina Dello Russo	HR Member	FWS	835-1828	gina_dellorusso@fws.gov
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Terina Perez		Reclamation	462-3614	tlperez@usbr.gov
Robert Padilla	HR Member	Reclamation	462-3626	rpadilla@usbr.gov
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