

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

01 September 2010 Meeting
10:00 AM to 12:00 PM @ BIA

Actions

- Hilary Brinegar will contact Matt Martinez and Janet Jarratt about the *Irrigated Farm Soil Moisture Monitoring* Future Activity Summary. Hilary will also ask Amy Louise about the priority (start date) of the *Irrigated Farm Soil Moisture Monitoring* activity.
- Amy Louise will ask Jericho Lewis if her writing the SOW for the *Riparian model* activity would prevent ISC from bidding.
- Page Pegram will contact Jericho Lewis to find out what needs to be done to extend the *USGS MRG River Gage O&M* and *USGS Ground Water/Surface Water – transects* contracts.
- Chris Banet will contact Cody Walker to see if the Pueblo of Isleta will allow for an open competitive process for the *SWFL Water Needs* activity.
- Page Pegram will ask Amy Louise why *Investigate potential impacts of human population growth on water management* is no longer listed as an FY11 activity on SWM's annual work plan.
- Page Pegram and Amy Louise will make sure there will not be issues with Amy Louise being SWM Co-Chair.
- Hilary Brinegar will revise 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 and ask Amy Louise what its start date is.
- Chris Banet will try to provide a revised "MRGCD threshold analysis" summary for discussion at the October 6, 2010 SWM work group meeting.
- Hilary Brinegar will ask Amy Louise for the date of the PHVA refresher.

Decisions

- The August 4, 2010 SWM workgroup 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 no changes.
- **Approval of the August 4th Meeting notes** – The August 4, 2010 Species Water Management (SWM) workgroup meeting minutes were approved with no changes.
- **SWM Scopes of Work FY11** – Amy Louise had provided (via email) SWM workgroup members with a list of Fiscal Year (FY) 2011 activities that need Scopes of Work (SOWs). Meeting attendees volunteered to write SOWs and discussed SWM Future Activities. All SOWs for FY 2011 should be submitted to the PMT by October 1, 2010. All SWM SOWs will be reviewed via email.

- It was asked if the *Irrigated Farm Soil Moisture Monitoring* Future Activity was still a Future Activity and if the SWM workgroup would be interested in having it funded in FY 2011. The *Irrigated Farm Soil Moisture Monitoring* Future Activity was planned to support the *Decision Support System*; since the *Decision Support System* Future Activity is no longer on the list it is not known if the *Irrigated Farm Soil Moisture Monitoring* activity is still on the list. Even though the *Decision Support System* will no longer be implemented information from the *Irrigated Farm Soil Moisture Monitoring* could still be valuable. It was said that one of the issues with the *Irrigated Farm Soil Moisture Monitoring* activity would be finding farmers willing to have the monitors installed on their fields; if those arrangements can be made this activity could potentially be funded in FY 2012 if it remains as a priority 2 for SWM. Hilary Brinegar will contact Matt Martinez and Janet Jarratt about the *Irrigated Farm Soil Moisture Monitoring*. Hilary will also ask Amy Louise about the priority (start date) of the *Irrigated Farm Soil Moisture Monitoring* activity.
- The *Continue URGWOM Modeling Efforts to support ongoing Program Needs* SOW has already been drafted and reviewed by the PHVA work group.
- The *Decision Tree Hydrologic Conditions* Future Activity cannot yet be written, the activity is dependent upon the Adaptive Management Plan and the new Biological Opinion.
- The SOW for *Investigate potential impacts of Climate Change on water management* has been written. It was said that Lisa Croft is checking to see if this activity can be funded with Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) SECURE Water Act funding.
- It was thought that Amy Louise could write the SOW for the *Riparian model* activity since she wrote the activity summary. It was pointed out that Interstate Stream Commission (ISC) may not be able to put in a bid for this SOW if ISC staff writes the SOW; Amy Louise will ask Jericho Lewis if her writing the SOW for this activity would prevent ISC from bidding.
- It was thought that only contract modifications may be needed to extend contracts for the *USGS MRG River Gage O&M* and *USGS Ground Water/Surface Water – transects* activities; Page Pegram will contact Jericho Lewis to find out what needs to be done to extend these contracts.
- It was thought that the Habitat Restoration Workgroup (HRW) had written the SOW for *Use FLO-2D modeling tools to estimate frequency and extent of overbank inundation*. The SWM workgroup will have to review the SOW; it's likely that the review will be completed via email.
- A SOW for the *SWFL water needs* activity cannot be written yet. The activity is dependent on the Pueblo of Isleta allowing for the activity to be advertised competitively. If the Pueblo of Isleta will not allow for the activity to be awarded competitively then SWM workgroup will need to find other acceptable locations for data collection. Chris Banet will contact Cody Walker to see if the Pueblo of Isleta will allow for an open competitive process.
- The SWM workgroup discussed the *Investigate potential impacts of human population growth on water management* activity. This activity was removed as a Future Activity but several workgroup members thought this would be a valuable study. It was thought that there may not have been approval on the Coordination Committee (CC) level. Page Pegram will ask Amy Louise why the activity is no longer a FY 2011 activity on SWM's annual work plan.

- **Co-Chair Nominations/Volunteers** – It was said that Amy Louise has volunteered to be the non-federal Co-Chair for the SWM workgroup. If Amy will be the Co-Chair for SWM then she will be the primary SWM representative for ISC and Page Pegram will be the alternate. It was pointed out that there may be issues with Amy Louise being the SWM Program Management Team (PMT) liaison and the SWM Co-Chair. Page Pegram and Amy Louise will make sure there will no issues with Amy Louise being SWM Co-Chair.
- **Discuss “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” Future Activity Summary** – Meeting attendees reviewed the summary and track changes that had been made. There was general agreement from meeting attendees that the title and project description were too long. It was thought that a lot of the background information could be removed. It was felt that the sentence “Ongoing monitoring of fire characteristics and occurrence will be needed to document whether habitat restoration actions result in fire potential” needs to remain in the project description. There was confusion as to what the priority/planned start date of this project was. Hilary Brinegar volunteered to revise the summary and ask Amy Louise what the planned start date for this project is.
- **Discuss “MRGCD threshold analysis” Future Activity Summary** – This agenda item will be tabled for the October 6, 2010 SWM workgroup meeting; the revised summary is not yet completed. Janet Jarratt would like this SOW to include investigating potential legal issues associated with forbearance. Chris Banet will try to provide a revised “MRGCD threshold analysis” summary for discussion at the October 6, 2010 SWM work group meeting.
- **Program Coordination**
 - **PHVA/Hydrology Updates** – There will be a Population Habitat Viability Analysis (PHVA) refresher for new workgroup members. Minor corrections are being made to the URGWOM model. The Pre-ESA Water Management Scenario will be re-run through the updated model. The next PHVA meeting is scheduled for October 26, 2010 from 1:30 to 3:30 pm at Reclamation. The date of the refresher is not known; Hilary Brinegar will ask Amy Louise for the date of the PHVA refresher.
 - **PVA Updates** – The Population Viability Analysis (PVA) workgroup met on August 25 and 26. The meeting focused on the use of the PVA models for the programmatic consultation. The next PVA meeting will be December 6 and 7, 2010.
 - **Joint Workgroup Activities**
 - **DBMS** – The new deadline for comments and additions to the Database Management System (DBMS) Data Model and Needs Assessment is September 3, 2010. Terina Perez is the new primary member for Reclamation; Terina is also the new PMT liaison to the PHVA workgroup.
 - **MPT** – The Monitoring Plan Team (MPT) continues to discuss the effectiveness monitoring. Their next regularly scheduled meeting is September 21, 2010.
 - **PMT Liaison Needs**
 - SWM workgroup members will work on SOWs for FY 2011.
- **LTP Update**
 - The CC continues to work on reviewing Future Activity summaries; they are believed to be almost finished. It is also thought that Gen Quest is almost finished with the Past Activity Summaries. The Past Activity summaries will need further review before they can be finalized.

- **Agency Updates**

- The Kickoff meeting with contractors for the San Acacia Diversion Dam Fish Passage peer review process will be on September 9th starting at 12:30 pm at Reclamation. Questions from the contractors will be answered and the peer review questions that the panel of reviewers will be looking at will be finalized. The first phase of the peer review will be looking at the science behind the fish passage and the second phase will be looking at the current design and potential alternatives.
- Reclamation will also be having a “River Restoration” workshop on September 21, 2010. The workshop will focus on different habitat restoration techniques and discussing what works and what doesn’t work.
- There is a recent (August 30) article in the Albuquerque Journal on the Kirtland Air Force Base jet fuel spill. A more sensitive test has been added that will allow detections of much lower concentrations of ethylene dibromide (EDB) in the groundwater.

Next Meeting: October 6, 2010 from 10:00 am to 12 noon at BIA

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

01 September 2010 Meeting
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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 no changes.

Approval of the August 4th Meeting notes

Decision: The August 4, 2010 SWM workgroup meeting minutes were approved with no changes.

SWM Scopes of Work FY11

- Meeting attendees went over a list of Fiscal Year (FY) 2011 activities that need Scopes of Work (SOWs). The list was provided via email by Amy Louise.
 - It was asked if the *Irrigated Farm Soil Moisture Monitoring* Future Activity was still a Future Activity and if the SWM workgroup would be interested in having it funded in FY 2011.
 - It was asked when the *Irrigated Farm Soil Moisture Monitoring* activity was supposed to start.
 - The *Irrigated Farm Soil Moisture Monitoring* project was supposed to lead into the *Decision Support System* activity.
 - Though the *Decision Support System* activity will no longer be carried out it was thought that the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District (District) might still have an interest in the *Irrigated Farm Soil Moisture Monitoring* activity. There may still be value in doing soil moisture monitoring aside from *Decision Support System* to help improve efficiency.
 - An issue with the *Irrigated Farm Soil Moisture Monitoring* activity would be finding farmers that would be willing to have the monitors installed on their fields; this is something that would be helpful to have assistance from the District with.
 - For the SOW the number of monitors that will need to be installed and the location of their installation would need to be known.
 - There have been suggestions from New Mexico State University to scale the project differently by looking at the Conservancy District on a reach by reach basis instead of the whole Conservancy District at one time.
 - It would not be too late for the *Irrigated Farm Soil Moisture Monitoring* activity to be funded in FY 2011 if all the issues are resolved.

Action: Hilary Brinegar will contact Matt Martinez and Janet Jarratt about the *Irrigated Farm Soil Moisture Monitoring* Future Activity Summary. Hilary will also ask Amy Louise about the priority (start date) of the *Irrigated Farm Soil Moisture Monitoring* activity.

- The deadline for SOWs for FY 2011 is October 1, 2010. The work group will review SOWs via email.
- The *Continue URGWOM Modeling Efforts to support ongoing Program Needs* SOW has already been drafted and reviewed by the PHVA work group.
- The *Decision Tree Hydrologic Conditions* activity will not be timely in FY 2011; the activity is dependent upon the Adaptive Management Plan and the new Biological Opinion (BO).
- The SOW for *Investigate potential impacts of Climate Change on water management* has been written. It was said that Lisa Croft is checking to see if this activity can be funded with Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) SECURE Water Act funding.
- It was thought that Amy Louise could write the SOW for the *Riparian model* activity since she wrote its activity summary.
 - It was pointed out that Interstate Stream Commission (ISC) may not be able to put in a bid for this SOW if Amy were to write it.

Action: Amy Louise will ask Jericho Lewis if her writing the SOW for the *Riparian model* activity would prevent ISC from bidding.

- It was not known if the SOW for the *USGS MRG River Gage O&M* activity had been written.
 - Page Pegram volunteered to write the SOW if it still needs to be developed.
 - It was thought that this activity might just need a contract modification.
- It was said that the *USGS Ground Water/Surface Water – transects* activity might just need a contract modification as well.

Action: Page Pegram will contact Jericho Lewis to find out what needs to be done to extend the *USGS MRG River Gage O&M* and *USGS Ground Water/Surface Water – transects* contracts.

- It was thought that the Habitat Restoration Workgroup (HRW) had written the SOW for *Use FLO-2D modeling tools to estimate frequency and extent of overbank inundation*. The SWM workgroup will have to review the SOW.
 - It's likely that the review will be completed via email.
- It was said that the SWM work group has been waiting to hear from the Pueblo of Isleta about the *SWFL water needs* activity.
 - The issue concerning the Pueblo of Isleta is they do not wish for the SOW to be advertised competitively and Jericho Lewis cannot sole source the contract, the SOW must be advertised competitively.
 - Either the Pueblo of Isleta needs to be willing to have an open competitive process or SWM will need to find other acceptable locations for data collection.

Action: Chris Banet will contact Cody Walker to see if the Pueblo of Isleta will allow for an open competitive process for the *SWFL Water Needs* activity.

- The SWM workgroup discussed the *Investigate potential impacts of human population growth on water management* activity.
 - It was said that regional water plans include population growth estimates and how that affects the water supply. It was thought that this activity could be worked into that.
 - This activity had been removed as a Future Activity but several workgroup members thought this would be a valuable study. It was thought that there may not have been approval on the Coordination Committee (CC) level.

Action: Page Pegram will ask Amy Louise why *Investigate potential impacts of human population growth on water management* is no longer listed as an FY11 activity on SWM's annual work plan.

Co-Chair Nominations/Volunteers

- Meeting attendees were informed that since Matt Martinez is unable to extend his term as SWM Co-Chair Amy Louise has volunteered to be the non federal Co-Chair for the SWM work group.
- Page Pegram is currently the primary SWM representative for ISC; if Amy were to become Co-Chair then she could be the primary SWM representative for ISC and Page could be the alternate.
- It was pointed out that there may be issues with Amy being the Program Management Team (PMT) liaison to SWM and the SWM Co-Chair.
 - It was thought that Amy Louise may have already discussed this with Yvette McKenna (Program Manager).

Action: Page Pegram and Amy Louise will make sure there will not be issues with Amy Louise being SWM Co-Chair.

Discuss *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* Future Activity Summary

- Meeting attendees reviewed the draft summary and the tracked changes that had been made before today's meeting.
 - There was general agreement from meeting attendees that the title and project description were too long.
 - It was thought that a lot of the background information could be removed.
 - It was felt that the sentence "Ongoing monitoring of fire characteristics and occurrence will be needed to document whether habitat restoration actions result in fire potential" needs to remain in the project description.
 - It was asked how additional depletions would be an offset.
 - It was thought that the feasibility study would look into that. Maybe it could be a quantification offset.
 - There was discussion on the first sentence "The goal of this project is to expand Southwestern Willow Flycatcher habitat, promote growth of native plants over exotic plants, and to reduce fire potential in the middle Rio Grande bosque."

- It was pointed out that it needs to be clarified that the goal is to expand habitat within the Program area. There is critical habitat in a much larger area than Program boundaries.
- There was concern about limiting expansion to critical habitat; there may be a want to enhance other habitat.
- It was asked if it should be noted that these are habitat restoration issues.
- It was said that there is a column in the spreadsheet of Future Activities where it could be noted that this is both a SWM and Habitat Restoration Workgroup (HRW) project.
- Hilary Brinegar volunteered to revise the project description.
- The SOWs for the second and third phases of the project will need to be developed jointly with the HRW.
- There was confusion on the start date/priority of this project. It was thought to be a priority 2.

Action: Hilary Brinegar will revise 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 and ask Amy Louise what its start date is.

Discuss “MRGCD threshold analysis” Future Activity Summary (if available)

- Chris Banet was not able to revise the “MRGCD threshold analysis” Future Activity summary; this discussion will be tabled for the October SWM work group meeting.
- The goal was to rewrite the summary with some of the comments from Janet Jarrat incorporated. Her comments included investigating potential legal issues associated with forbearance. It is not known if it would be possible to gain water to store upstream based on forborne lands. There may be laws that say that the water needed to serve the remaining people on the ditch cannot be reduced. If this is the case, the leased water would not be able to be used to store upstream.
- This project is a priority 2, so there is time to work on the summary.

Action: Chris Banet will try to provide a revised “MRGCD threshold analysis” summary for discussion at the October 6, 2010 SWM work group meeting.

Program Coordination

- **PHVA/Hydrology Updates** – There will be a Population Habitat Viability Analysis (PHVA) refresher for new PHVA work group members. Minor corrections are being made to the URGWOM model. The Pre-ESA Water Management Scenario will be re-run through the updated model. The next PHVA meeting is scheduled for October 26, 2010 from 1:30 to 3:30 pm at Reclamation. The date of the refresher is not known

Action: Hilary Brinegar will ask Amy Louise for the date of the PHVA refresher.

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- **Joint Workgroup Activities (DBM updates; MPT updates)**
 - **DBMS** – The new deadline for comments and additions to the Database Management System (DBMS) Data Model and Needs Assessment is September 3, 2010. Terina Perez

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 - It was asked if the peer review was meant to answer whether a fish passage was needed or if it was meant to review the design of the structure.
 - The peer review will be looking at the science behind it. If the review supports that the passage is needed the second phase would be looking at the different design alternatives that have been considered; the review would see if there is a design that would work better than the current one.
 - It was asked how the first phase of the peer review would mesh with a fish passage being a requirement of the 2003 BO.
 - The peer review is not intended to change that requirement. It is intended to inform for the next BO.
 - Reclamation will also be having a “River Restoration” workshop on September 21, 2010. The workshop will focus on different habitat restoration techniques and discussing what works and what doesn’t work.
 - There is a recent (August 30) article in the Albuquerque Journal on the Kirtland Air Force Base jet fuel spill. A more sensitive test has been added that will allow detections of much lower concentrations of ethylene dibromide (EDB) in the groundwater.

Next Meeting: October 6, 2010 from 10:00 am to 12 noon at BIA

**Species Water Management Work Group
01 September 2010 Meeting Attendees**

Name	POSITION	AFFILIATION	PHONE NUMBER	EMAIL ADDRESS	PRIMARY, ALTERNATE, OTHER
Cyndie Abeyta	SWM Member	FWS	761-4738	cyndie_abyeta@fws.gov	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.peggram@state.nm.us	P
Hilary Brinegar via phone	SWM Member	NMDA	(575) 646-2642	hbrinegar@nmda.nmsu.edu	P
Curtis McFadden	SWM Member	USACE	342-3351	Curtis.M.Mcfadden@usace.army.mil	P
Kathy Dickinson		Reclamation	462-3555	kdickinson@usbr.gov	A
Christine Sanchez	Admin Support	Tetra Tech	881-3188	christine.sanchez@tetrattech.com	O