

**Middle Rio Grande Endangered Species Collaborative Program
Public Information and Outreach (PIO) Workgroup Meeting
9 September 2010, Thursday
9:00 – 11:00 am at Bureau of Reclamation**

Actions:

- Mary Carlson will draft the press release announcing the new federal co-chair of the Program and will distribute to the EC co-chairs for review/approval.
- Mary Carlson will coordinate with Lance Cherry and/or Ross Morgan to have the Program items (posters, display, photo opp board, handouts) picked up and set up at the State Fair.
- Mary Carlson will send the update Program video distribution list to Julie Maas.
- Mary Carlson will distribute and email the PIO/PMT to coordinate staffing on the NM Science Teachers Association meeting and will include the link to the information.
- Julie Maas will cover a shift at the NM Science Teachers Association meeting on Friday, October 8th.
- Ronnie Schelby will determine who from the Corps is going to participate in the National Congress of American Indians conference.
- Julie Maas will let Myron Armijo from OSE/ISC know about the National Congress of American Indians conference.

Opening: Mary Carlson brought the meeting to order.

Announcements:

- The San Acacia Reach (SAR) Habitat Restoration Tour originally scheduled for September 23rd has been postponed until October 28th to accommodate the October 1st scope of work deadline (not to mention the mosquitoes!). This is an internal tour for just the SAR work group and PIO. It is assumed that the group will be visiting several sites that pertain to the issues and concerns identified by the stakeholders at the February 2009 San Acacia workshop (ex. San Acacia Diversion Dam, wasteways, etc.). Gina Dello Russo is the co-chair for the SAR work group and is probably the point of contact for questions on this tour.
- Ronnie Schelby will be out of state and unable to attend PIO for the months of January through March for an 8-week Corps training course.

Outdoor Expo Update: Tom Buckley, Rebecca Onchaga, and Mary Carlson of PIO participated in the NM Outdoor Expo on Saturday only; no one was available to staff Sunday. The expo wasn't as busy compared to last year, but Sunday tends to be the busiest day. Only a fraction of the handouts were distributed this year compared to last year. PIO members would be curious to know the official event attendance for both days compared to last year.

New Mexico Science Teachers Association (NMSTA) meeting (PIO attendance/staffing):

PIO has not registered for the teaching ideas and practices sharing, but there is still time to register as an exhibitor. The conference is October 7th - 9th at the Bosque School, 4000 Learning Rd. NW. The exhibitor hours are: 8:00am to 6:30pm on the 8th and 8:30am to 12:30pm on the 9th. Setup is scheduled on Thursday the 7th from 3:00pm to 5pm. The information packet doesn't specify whether the event is indoors or outdoors. The NMSTA mission is to provide a

network for educators throughout the state to work collaboratively towards improving science education from pre-kindergarten through college. The NMSTA assists classroom teachers by providing guidance and strategies through professional development opportunities to enhance science education. <http://www.nmsta.org/>

Action: Mary Carlson will distribute and email the PIO/PMT to coordinate staffing on the NM Science Teachers Association meeting and will include the link to the information.

Action: Julie Maas will cover a shift at the NM Science Teachers Association meeting on Friday, October 8 and set up on Thursday, October 7.

National Congress of American Indians conference (PIO attendance/staffing): The National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) conference is scheduled for November 14th -19th at the Albuquerque Convention Center. <http://www.ncai.org/Home.495.0.html>

- The Corps will have a booth and invited the PIO to have an adjoining Program booth. The Corps' tribal liaison will be there. OSE/ISC could possibly have a booth and the Collaborative Program display/booth could go in the middle of those. At a minimum, the posters and display should be visible even if a booth cannot be staffed. It was suggested that a sign up list be created and distributed to the PIO and PMT to determine potential staffing.
- Unfortunately, the Festival of the Cranes from the PIO annual work plan is scheduled for the same time, November 16th - 21st. PIO members discussed attending the Congress of American Indians early in the week and then attending the Festival of the Cranes later in the week. The PMT or PIO members from other signatories not presently represented are really needed to help staff booths/cover shifts this week.
- Topics on the agenda include a women's caucus with discussion on violence and suicide task force; healthy living; tribal leader discussions; congressional messages; general assemblies; trade show networking reception; and break out sessions.

Action: Ronnie Schelby will determine who from the Corps is going to participate in the Nation Congress of American Indians conference.

Action: Julie Maas will let Myron Armijo from OSE/ISC know about the National Congress of American Indians conference.

HR River Restoration workshop: A *River Habitat Restoration Workshop* has been scheduled for Tuesday September 21st, 8:30am to 4:00pm at COE. The regular Habitat Restoration (HR) work group has been postponed by a day (September 22nd) in order to allow for maximum participation at the workshop. Reclamation's Denver office was paid by the Program (FY09 funds) to host this workshop. The Technical Services division does a lot of dam removal and fish passage restoration work. The focus of this all day workshop is on river restoration techniques, methods, and treatments and an overview of the state of practices with an emphasis on the Program's active restoration in the Middle Rio Grande. It will provide an opportunity to talk about uncertainties, project longevity, functionalities, and confidence in performance of restoration techniques and to share case studies and experiences. PIO assistance with the workshop is not needed.

Program video distribution update: Most of the Program videos have already been mailed out. The effort is very close to completion – there is approximately 1 page of address labels left to print. The original distribution list was “cleaned up”, corrected, and duplications omitted. There are about 30 extra videos that could be hand distributed to any additional agencies/offices as identified. PIO members were encouraged to let Mary know if they have any suggestions for distributing the remaining videos. (Julie has already spoken for them to give to Katie Babuska of

Experiential EE) Due to file size or format, there have been delays in getting the video posted to the Program website. Reclamation is working with IceTech to get the video on the website. Once the link is available, a press release announcing the video and providing the link will be distributed.

Action: Mary Carlson will send the updated Program video distribution list to Julie Maas.

Festival of the Cranes booth (PIO attendance/staffing): The Festival of the Cranes is scheduled for November 16th through 21st. The link to their website is: <http://www.friendsofthebosque.org/crane/>. The PIO work group discussed the importance of attending this event to raise awareness about the Program in the San Acacia Reach especially as a first step in supporting the SAR work group's intended public outreach. As previously discussed, this event conflicts with the NCAI conference the same week. PIO attendees discussed the possibility of attend the NCAI conference early in the week and then the Festival of the Cranes later. Any assistance from the PMT in staffing booths would help alleviate the conflict.

News Release for new Co-Chair of the MRGESCP: The Department of the Interior (DOI) has appointed Brent Rhees as the new federal co-chair for the EC starting October 1st, at the beginning of the next fiscal year. A letter of notice of the new appointment has been distributed to Program signatories.

Action: Mary Carlson will draft the press release announcing the new federal co-chair of the Program and will distribute to the EC co-chairs for review/approval.

Presence at State Fair: The Program will not have a booth/table at the State Fair again this year so this will be an unstaffed event. However, NMDGF will be able to set up the Program display and possibly the minnow/flycatcher photo opportunity board.

Action: Mary Carlson will coordinate with Lance Cherry and/or Ross Morgan to have the Program items (posters, display, photo opp board, handouts) picked up and set up at the State Fair.

Next PIO Meeting: October 14th at Reclamation from 9:00am to 11:00am

- Tentative agenda items: coordinate/finalize staffing for upcoming events;

**Public Information and Outreach Workgroup
September 9th 2010 Meeting Attendees**

| NAME | POSITION | AFFILIATION | PHONE NUMBER | EMAIL ADDRESS | PRIMARY, ALTERANATE, OTHER |
|----------------|---------------|-----------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Julie Maas | Co-chair | OSE/ISC | O: 765-2011 C: 294-2767 | julie.maas@state.nm.us | P |
| Mary Carlson | PMT Co-Chair | Reclamation | 462-3576 | mcarlson@usbr.gov | P |
| Ronnie Schelby | PIO Member | COE | 342-3353 | Ronna.t.schelby@usace.army.mil | P |
| Marta Wood | Admin support | Tetra Tech, EMI | 259-6098 | marta.wood@tetrattech.com | O |