

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

06 October 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 (*This action item was carried over from September*).
- 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 (*This action item was carried over from September*).
- Hilary Brinegar will look at CC meeting notes for specifics on why the *Investigate potential impacts of human population growth on water management* activity was not approved.
- Valda Terauds will put together a list of issues framing a potential look at practical forbearance at the lateral scale.
- Amy Louise will look for the 2005 King and Oad Forbearance Study to distribute to the SWM work group. Valda Terauds will look for an electronic copy of the comments made to the report to be distributed as well.

Decisions

- The September 1, 2010 SWM Meeting Minutes were approved with no changes.
- Amy Louise is the new SWM non federal Co-Chair.

Meeting Summary

- **Introductions & Announcements** – Chris Banet brought the meeting to order. Valda Terauds announced that she will be taking a Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) position in Loveland, Colorado at the end of October. For the time being Kathy Dickinson will be interim Reclamation representative for the Species Water Management (SWM) work group.
- **Agenda Approval** – An update on COTR assignments for Reclamation will be added to agenda item Agency Updates.
- **Approval of the September 1st Meeting notes** – The September 1, 2010 SWM Meeting Minutes were approved with no changes.
- **September Action Items** - All but two of the September Actions were completed; those that were not completed will be carried over to October. As follow up to action item **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**, Hilary Brinegar will look at Coordination Committee (CC) meeting notes for specifics on why the *Investigate potential impacts of human population growth on water management* activity was not approved.

- **New Co-Chair** – The SWM work group elected Amy Louise as its new non federal Co-Chair and Amy accepted. Amy Louise is the new SWM non federal Co-Chair.
- **Discuss “Lateral Delivery Requirement Analysis” Future Activity Summary (formerly “MRGCD threshold analysis”)** – The *MRGCD Threshold Analysis* summary was revised and renamed to accommodate concerns that the project would be used in administrative hearings to determine a threshold for when it is acceptable to transfer water rights. The project will determine if a checkerboard pattern of water forbearance is an effective way of providing water to the Silvery Minnow or Flycatcher by establishing the amount of water that could be stored based on varying amounts of land not being irrigated.
 - There was general consensus from meeting attendees that lateral scale forbearance (not checkerboard) would be most practical and should be the focus of the study; as suggested in the 2005 King and Oad Forbearance Study.
 - In the past projects intended to determine willingness to forbear on an entire lateral have not been approved. It was suggested that Chris Banet work on this project summary with Matt Martinez and Janet Jarratt.
 - A suggested way to proceed with the project was to look at it on a lateral scale seeing if rotations of fallow could be encompassed and to determine willingness to forebear on a couple of small candidate laterals. The amount of water that would be available and the cost to modify the delivery system to service those who still want to irrigate could then be determined. Valda Terauds will put together a list of issues framing a potential look at practical forbearance at the lateral scale.
 - Amy Louise will look for the 2005 King and Oad Forbearance Study to distribute to the SWM work group. Valda Terauds will look for an electronic copy of the comments made to the report to be distributed as well.
- **Program Coordination**
 - **PHVA/Hydrology Updates** – The Population Habitat Viability Assessment/Hydrology (PHVA) work group will meet on October 26th. The meeting may change from the afternoon to the morning.
 - **PVA Updates** – The Population Viability Analysis (PVA) work group had a 2 day meeting in August. The modelers will begin running data through the models. The next PVA meeting is scheduled for December.
 - **Joint Workgroup Activities -**
 - There will be a Kickoff meeting for Adaptive Management on October 12, 13, and 14. The 12th and 14th will consist of site visits and the 13th will be an all day meeting from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. The purpose is for the Adaptive Management Consultants to get an overall view of the ESA issues in the middle Rio Grande.
 - Raw data is being collected for the Database Management System (DBMS). A pilot of the database is expected to become available in April 2011.
 - The Monitoring Plan Team completed monitoring for the spring runoff and may perform the monitoring for next year’s spring runoff. A 2 year pilot monitoring contract will be awarded in late summer.

- **PMT Liaison Needs**
 - SWM members should try to attend the Adaptive Management meeting.
 - Program members have been requested to volunteer to staff booths at the Festival of Cranes, National Congress of American Indians Conference, and the New Mexico Science Teachers Association Conference.
- **SWM Issues to be elevated** – Pending review of CC meeting notes SWM may determine to revisit the *Investigate potential impacts of human population growth on water management* activity.
- **LTP Update** – The LTP is still in the process of being reviewed. The CC continues to review Future Activities Summaries.
- **Agency Updates**
 - Reclamation – SWM was updated on several COTR changes; Warren Sharp will be the new COTR for *USGS Ground Water/Surface Water – transects* and *PHVA Modeling*, Ed Kandle will be the new COTR for *DSS*. Hector Garcia will still be the COTR for *USGS MRG River Gage O&M*. The COTR for *Riparian model* is unknown at this time.
- **Next Meeting: November 3 from 10:00 am to 12 noon at BIA** – Potential agenda items are discussion on revised summaries, SOWs for FY 2011, and prioritization of the *Lateral Delivery Requirement Analysis* activity for the LTP..

**Middle Rio Grande Endangered Species Act Collaborative Program
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06 October 2010 Meeting

10:00 AM to 12:00 PM @ BIA

Meeting Minutes

Introductions & Announcements

- Chris Banet brought the meeting to order.
- Valda Terauds announced that she will be taking a Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) position in Loveland, Colorado at the end of October. For the time being Kathy Dickinson will be interim Reclamation representative for the Species Water Management (SWM) work group.

Agenda Approval

- The agenda was approved with the addition of an update on COTR assignments for Reclamation.

Approval of the September 1st Meeting notes

Decision: The September 1, 2010 SWM Meeting Minutes were approved with no changes.

September Action Item Review

- **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.**
 - Incomplete; due to technical difficulties this action item will be carried over to October.
- **Amy Louise will ask Jericho Lewis if her writing the SOW for the *Riparian model* activity would prevent ISC from bidding.**
 - Complete.
 - The SOW for *Riparian Model* has already been written. A SOW cannot be written by staff members of an agency that may potentially bid on a project.
- **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.**
 - Complete.
 - The SOWs for these projects have already been written. The SWM workgroup has put these projects forward for Fiscal Year (FY) 2011 funding. The Coordination Committee (CC) will be approving the FY 2011 budget at their meeting this afternoon.
 - FY 2010 bridge funding has been reserved for *USGS Ground Water/Surface Water – transects* to extend funding to the end of the calendar year. Reclamation will be meeting with USGS tomorrow (10/07/10) to discuss the continuation of data gathering.

- **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.**
 - Complete.
 - The Pueblo of Isleta does not plan to allow for the continuation of research on Pueblo of Isleta land. This project will need to be made into a new activity with new locations if SWM would like to continue data gathering.
 - This project should be left as a future activity; there is the possibility that the Pueblo will have plans for continuation in the future.
- **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.**
 - Complete.
 - This activity was discussed by the CC in May and it was determined that human population growth should not be a focus of the Program.
 - There was general consensus from meeting attendees that this would be a valuable project. Population estimations may already be available and the project could be revised to consist of using those estimates in the context of the Program. A suggestion for what the project title could be changed to was "Impacts of land use changes".
 - It was suggested that the summary be revisited and brought back to the CC.

Action: Hilary Brinegar will look at CC meeting notes for specifics on why the *Investigate potential impacts of human population growth on water management* activity was not approved.

- **Page Pegram and Amy Louise will make sure there will not be issues with Amy Louise being SWM Co-Chair.**
 - Complete.
 - Amy spoke with Page and Grace, Amy's supervisor, and the Program Manager and also looked at the By-laws; there are no issues with Amy being SWM Co-Chair and SWM Program Management Team (PMT) liaison.
- **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 the start date.**
 - Incomplete; due to technical difficulties this action item will be carried over to October.
- **Chris Banet will try to provide a revised "MRGCD threshold analysis" summary for discussion at the October 6, 2010 SWM work group meeting.**
 - Complete; the summary was sent out as a read ahead and is scheduled for discussion.
- **Hilary Brinegar will ask Amy Louise for the date of the PHVA refresher.**
 - Complete.
 - Meeting attendees were updated that the refresher has currently been put on hold.

New Co-Chair

- Amy Louise had been nominated as non federal Co-Chair for SWM. Meeting attendees voted and elected Amy as Co-Chair and Amy accepted the position. Amy was thanked for taking on the responsibilities of Co-Chair.

Decision: Amy Louise was elected as SWM non federal Co-Chair.

Discuss “Lateral Delivery Requirement Analysis” Future Activity Summary (formerly “MRGCD threshold analysis”)

- The *MRGCD Threshold Analysis* summary was revised and renamed to *Lateral Delivery Requirement Analysis*. The revisions were made to accommodate concerns that results of a threshold analysis would be used in administrative hearings to determine a threshold for when it would be acceptable to transfer water rights. The project will determine if a checkerboard pattern of water forbearance is an effective way of providing water to the Silvery Minnow or Flycatcher by determining the amount of water that could be stored based on varying amounts of forbearance in a checkerboard pattern.
- Meeting attendees discussed the revised summary.
 - An issue with the summary was that a study by King and Oad warned that forbearance in a checkerboard fashion would not be effective and that it would be best if there was forbearance on an entire lateral.
 - Another opinion was that since forbearance is more likely to occur in a checkerboard pattern than on an entire lateral it would be worthwhile to determine the amount of water that could be stored in that scenario.
 - It was said that in the past projects to determine willingness to forbear on an entire lateral were not approved. It was believed that this could be due to assumptions that laterals and canals will need to be filled in order to serve those who still wish to irrigate. Pipes can be put into the channel to restrict flows and losses so that laterals and canals may not need to be filled. There are new types of temporary piping used in other areas of the country that might be referred to in the King and Oad study.
- There was general consensus from meeting attendees that, in accordance with the King and Oad study, focusing on lateral scale forbearance would be most practical. In order to expand support of this project and increase its feasibility it was generally agreed that the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District should be worked with in writing the project summary. It was suggested that Chris Banet work on this project summary with Matt Martinez and Janet Jarratt.
- A suggested way to proceed with the project was to look at forbearance on a lateral scale, seeing if rotations of fallow could be encompassed. The project should determine willingness to forebear on a couple of small candidate laterals then the amount of water that would be available and the cost to modify the delivery system to service those who still want to irrigate could then be determined. It was suggested that these ideas be compiled to assist in revising the summary.

Action: Valda Terauds will put together a list of issues framing a potential look at practical forbearance at the lateral scale.

- It may be helpful to review the King and Oad Forbearance Study along with the comments .

Action: Amy Louise will look for the 2005 King and Oad Forbearance Study to distribute to the SWM work group. Valda Terauds will look for an electronic copy of the comments made in response to the report to be distributed as well.

Program Coordination

- **PHVA/Hydrology Updates**

- The Population Habitat Viability Assessment/Hydrology (PHVA) work group will meet on October 26th. The meeting may change from the afternoon to the morning.
- There was a change in storage calculation at El Vado in 2005 that has not been accounted for in the URGWOM modeling. There are concerns that if the model is not updated there will not be as much water as originally thought to be available for the silvery minnow or other uses.

- **PVA Updates**

- The Population Viability Analysis (PVA) work group had a 2 day meeting in August. It's thought that the modelers will begin running data through the models. The next PVA meeting is scheduled for December.

- **Joint Workgroup Activities**

- There will be a Kickoff meeting for Adaptive Management on October 12, 13, and 14. The 12th and 14th will consist of site visits and the 13th will be an all day meeting from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. The purpose of the meeting is for the Adaptive Management Consultants to get an overall view of the ESDA issues in the middle Rio Grande.
 - The consultants are ESSA from Canada. They have prior experience and have worked on adaptive management plans for similar programs.
- Raw data is being collected for the Database Management System (DBMS). A pilot of the database is expected to become available in April 2011.
- The Monitoring Plan Team completed monitoring for the spring runoff and may perform the monitoring for next year's spring runoff. A 2 year pilot monitoring contract will be awarded in late summer.

- **PMT Liaison Needs**

- SWM members should try to attend the Adaptive Management meeting.
- Program members have been requested to volunteer to staff booths at the Festival of Cranes, National Congress of American Indians Conference, and the New Mexico Science Teachers Association Conference.

- **SWM Issues to be elevated**

- Pending review of CC meeting notes SWM may determine to revisit the *Investigate potential impacts of human population growth on water management* activity.

LTP Update

- The LTP is still in the process of being reviewed. The CC continues to review Future Activities Summaries.

Agency Updates

- Reclamation – SWM was updated on several COTR changes; Warren Sharp will be the new COTR for *USGS Ground Water/Surface Water – transects* and *PHVA Modeling*, Ed Kandle will be the new COTR for *DSS*. Hector Garcia will still be the COTR for *USGS MRG River Gage O&M*. The COTR for *Riparian model* is unknown at this time.
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Species Water Management Work Group 06 October 2010 Meeting Attendees					
Name	POSITION	AFFILIATION	PHONE NUMBER	EMAIL ADDRESS	PRIMARY, ALTERNATE, OTHER
Andrew Lieuwen	SWM member	ABCWUA	768-2570	alieuwen@abcwua.org	P
Chris Banet	SWM Member Co-Chair	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
Valda Terauds	SWM Member	Reclamation	462-3584	vterauds@usbr.gov	P
Amy Louise	SWM Member Co-Chair/PMT	ISC	383-4057	Amy.louise@state.nm.us	P
Christine Sanchez	Admin Support	Tetra Tech	881-3188	christine.sanchez@tetrattech.com	O