

Executive Committee Meeting
October 21, 2010

Meeting Materials:

Meeting Agenda

Meeting Minutes

Coordination Committee and Program Manager Update



**Middle Rio Grande Endangered Species
Collaborative Program
Executive Committee Meeting**

**MEETING AGENDA
October 21, 2010**

**LOCATION: Bureau of Reclamation, 555 Broadway Blvd NE, Albuquerque, NM
TIME: 9:00 am – 1:00 pm**

- 1. INTRODUCTIONS AND REVIEW OF PROPOSED AGENDA**
- 2. APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 16, 2010 MEETING SUMMARY***
- 3. ITEMS FOR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ACTION**
 - A. Adaptive Management Planning Process***
 - B. Adaptive Management Plan Development EC Interviews***
- 4. ITEMS FOR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION**
 - A. Adaptive Management Planning Schedule***
 - B. FY2011 Activity Funding (Spreadsheet)***
- 5. COORDINATION COMMITTEE REPORT**
- 6. PROGRAM MANAGER REPORT**
- 7. USFWS UPDATE**
- 8. USACE UPDATE**
- 9. PVA UPDATE**
- 10. PHVA UPDATE/WATER OPS PRESENTATION**
- 11. BA/BO ESA CONSULTATION TEAM UPDATE**
- 12. OTHER BUSINESS**
- 13. PUBLIC COMMENT**
- 14. NEXT EC MEETING – NOVEMBER 18, 2010**
- 15. CLOSED SESSION**

**Denotes read ahead material provided for this topic*

Members

ABCWUA
ISC
NMDA
Sandia Pueblo
UNM

APA
Isleta Pueblo
NMGF
Santa Ana Pueblo
USACE

CABQ
NMAGO
MRGCD
Santo Domingo Tribe
USFWS
Reclamation

Middle Rio Grande Endangered Species Collaborative Program
Executive Committee Meeting
October 21st, 2010, 9:00 am to 1:00 pm
Bureau of Reclamation, Albuquerque Area Office
555 Broadway Blvd. NE
Albuquerque, NM 87102

Decisions

- The single page EC Retreat Executive Summary decisions excerpt was approved with a typo correction under Item 3: “plan” should be “plans.” Finalization of the September 16th, 2010 Closed Session meeting notes was postponed to allow EC members additional time for review, correction, and comment.

Recommendations

- There was general agreement from EC attendees to proceed to the next step of the adaptive management process with the acknowledgment that there is no consensus on the details (i.e., the “how” and “what”) of the adaptive management process.
- In response to concerns regarding the SWM work group activities on forbearance – as described in the Program Manager’s report – it was recommended that the second sentence be replaced with “The SWM work group continues to develop a potential forbearance project for consideration.”
- Agencies were invited to have any key employees, staff, or representatives (even if the individuals are not regular Program participants) attend the signatory interviews with the adaptive management contractors. Contact information for anyone who should be included on the adaptive management “team” should be provided to Yvette McKenna.

Requests

- Volunteers to help man a booth for the National Congress of American Indians conference scheduled for November 14th -19th at the Albuquerque Convention Center (<http://www.ncai.org/Home.495.0.html>) should contact Mary Carlson (462-3576) or Rebecca Onchaga (462-3598).
- Please report any saltcedar leaf beetle sightings to debra_hill@fws.gov in order to assist the Service in tracking the beetle’s movements in the state.

Actions

- Yvette McKenna will contact and coordinate with the EC signatories who have not signed up for an Adaptive Management interview yet.
- Frank Chaves will send the Coalition of Rio Grande Pueblo information to Yvette McKenna.
- Yvette McKenna will work with Jericho Lewis and the adaptive management contractors to see about scheduling an adaptive management presentation at the Coalition of Rio Grande Pueblos on December 2nd, 2010.
- Yvette McKenna will change the October 21st Program Manager’s report on the SWM work group activities by omitting the second sentence and replacing it with “The SWM work group continues to develop a potential forbearance project for consideration.”
- Yvette McKenna will contact Hilary Brinegar with NMDA for input, information, and/or contacts NMDA might have regarding the USDA saltcedar leaf beetle releases.

- Yvette McKenna will have the saltcedar leaf beetle images scanned and posted to the Program's website.
- Susan Bittick will provide Lori Robertson and Yvette McKenna with information on a saltcedar leaf beetle study she visited near Presidio.
- Susan Bittick will let Yvette McKenna know how much time Dennis Garcia needs on the November EC agenda to present on the 2010 Cochiti Deviation.
- William DeRagon will send out a Consultation Team meeting reminder for the November 4th meeting.

Next EC Meeting: November 18th, 9:00am to 1:00pm

- Tentative Agenda Items: (1) 2010 Cochiti Deviation Report Out (Dennis Garcia, USACE); (2) Discussions on and approval of the September 16th Closed Session Meeting Notes;

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October 21st, 2010 Meeting Summary

- **Introductions and Agenda Approval:** Brent Rhees called the meeting to order and introductions were made around the room. A sign up sheet for scheduling interviews with the adaptive management contractor(s) was attached to the attendance sheet and distributed around the room. The agenda was reviewed and approved with no changes. There is a new agenda format – decision items and items for consideration are now “lumped” together under specific agenda items.
- **Approval of September 16th, 2010 EC Summary:** The single page EC Retreat Executive Summary decisions excerpt was approved with a typo correction under Item 3: “plan” should be “plans.” However, several members expressed concern that the September 16th EC summary does not accurately capture the discussion dialog. The approval of the September 16th summary will be postponed to allow EC members additional time for review, correction, and comment. Attendees briefly reviewed the closed session discussions regarding the 10(j)/reintroduction biologist position. Some members expressed concern that the Program will be paying for non-Program activities. It was clarified that the emphasis (between 80 and 90%) of the biologist position will be on the Middle Rio Grande (MRG) while the remaining 10 to 20% of the time, the biologist will explore broader reintroduction activities that may or may not be outside the MRG but are related to the overall recovery effort and support 10(j) activities. The position will be fully funded by the Program for 2 years.
 - Reclamation has identified non-Program dollars that can assist in additional reintroduction/reestablishment/recovery efforts outside the Program. There is extra work that needs to be accomplished and the year-end dollars can be made available to help the 10(j) effort.
- **Items for Executive Committee Action**
 - ***Adaptive management planning Process:*** A meeting with the adaptive management plan development contractor was held on Wednesday, October 13th, 2010. The contractor(s) introduced themselves and provided a good overview of their experience and expertise, including work with similar systems, issues, and players on the Platte River and Trinity River and facilitating large group collaborations and “real world” experience in application of adaptive management. Participants were able to inform the contractor(s) on specific adaptive management perceptions and concerns. The afternoon was spent discussing some of the models and adaptive management processes. The adaptive management development plan will be very open and depends on regular, active communication with the entire Program. Additional meetings and other workshops have been built into the schedule to help facilitate open communication and dialog.
 - ***Adaptive management development EC interview process:*** The next step will be individual EC member interviews with the contractor. The contractors will have a list of questions but the interviews will also be an opportunity for executives to voice concerns, express what tools are needed, what the common understanding of adaptive management is, etc. It was noted that agreement was not reached regarding the process for the adaptive management plan development (ex. using the CC and/or work group co-chairs, or formation of an ad hoc work group). There was a lot of discussion on process, sequencing, and timing; there were many questions regarding the draft plan outline and many concerns were expressed.

- There was general agreement from EC attendees to proceed to the next step of the adaptive management process with the acknowledgment that there is no consensus on the details (i.e., the “how” and “what”) of the adaptive management process.
- **Items for EC consideration:**
 - ***Adaptive Management Planning Schedule:*** The adaptive management planning schedule is being adjusted around the holidays. The facilitated planning sessions (Stage 2) will be scheduled after the contractor has been provided with a list of all the recurring Program meetings and general “busy” times of year. Once completed, the revised schedule will be provided.
 - ***FY11 Activity Funding:*** The federal government is in continuing resolution until December 2010 and cannot exceed FY10 first quarter spending amounts. The FY11 Activity Spreadsheet was provided as information only since approval authority was delegated to the CC. Please note that the second to last column records the date the CC recommended funding. There are 2 fish passage activities that have not been approved by the CC yet so the approval date has been left blank. The estimated cost for Criteria 1 and 2 activities (i.e., off-the-top or recurring activities needed for BA/BO development) is approximately \$3.7 million for FY11. Criteria 3 projects are still to be considered and approved by the CC.
 - The *Environmental Compliance and Design Data for Fish Passage (SADD)* summary will be revised and presented at the next CC meeting for approval. Should the San Acacia Diversion Dam (SADD) Peer Review Phase 1 indicate that more research or data is needed the *Fish Passage Studies* activity has been included as a place holder. Since it is unknown if the Phase I will warrant a Phase II, the recognized caveats have been included in the comments that these activities may not be needed but have to be planned for in the budget just in case.
- **Coordination Committee (CC) and Program Manager (PM) Report:** The CC has been working on the FY11 activity spreadsheet, reviewing activity summaries, and providing approval recommendations. Please let your CC member know if you have any concerns on the recommended FY11 activities. The 2 fish passage projects are the only Criteria 1 or 2 activities not approved yet. In the last 2 working meetings, the CC reviewed and finalized the peer review process paper, discussed the Program-wide Code of Conduct and suggestions on revisiting any misleading or erroneous statements that might come out of meetings, and discussed budgeting. The CC and PM report to the EC has been combined into one document. Due to several of the work groups meeting on the Tuesday prior to the EC meeting, providing the work group updates as a read ahead is difficult.
 - The adaptive management development workshop was held last week. Several sites were visited during the field visit but if there are any additional sites that the contractors should see (ex. pueblo lands, other restoration sites, Rio Grande Nature Center) please let Yvette McKenna know; the suggested sites will be considered for future site visits.
 - Jericho Lewis obligated in excess of 100% of the Program’s FY10 budget and drafted the FY11 activities spreadsheet. Awarded contracts included the Adaptive Management Plan development, a Pueblo of San Felipe habitat restoration project, a Santo Domingo Tribe habitat restoration project, and an

Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority (ABCWUA) habitat restoration project.

- The Habitat Restoration work group is still in need of a federal co-chair. Kelly Allen, USACE, will be the DBMS federal co-chair through FY11, Alison Hutson is the new Science work group co-chair and Amy Louise is the new Species Water Management (SWM) co-chair. In response to concerns regarding the SWM work group activities on forbearance – as described in the Program Manager’s report – it was recommended that the second sentence be replaced with “The SWM work group continues to develop a potential forbearance project for consideration.” Representatives of the District and APA will be specifically contacted for input on the revised version before it is presented to the CC.
- The co-chairs of the Monitoring Plan Team (MPT) ad hoc workgroup drafted a letter acknowledging the “in-house” joint monitoring efforts of MPT members and agencies for the spring 2010 season. The purpose of the letter is to inform the EC how many people and how much time has been invested in monitoring efforts. A similar effort is underway for the fall monitoring (low intensity vegetation, hydrology, and geomorphology). The data collected through these efforts will help develop a better monitoring plan.
- The San Acacia Reach (SAR) ad hoc work group will be hosting a joint meeting/field trip with the Public Information and Outreach (PIO) work group on November 4th. PIO is also planning a celebration event to commemorate the restoration of 1,000 acres. PIO participated in the NM Teacher’s conference and is preparing to participate in National Congress of American Indians conference scheduled for November 14th -19th and in the Festival of the Cranes.
- The Population Viability Analysis (PVA) ad hoc work group will meet next on December 6 for a full day and a half day on December 7. Currently, both modelers are working on finalizing the data that they will use and be able to parameterize for their model. They will present their results at the December meeting.
- **USFWS Update:** For the minnow, Lori Robertson reported updates on the river drying, salvage efforts, incidental take, population monitoring, captive propagation, stocking and augmentation, reintroduction work updates, and saltcedar leaf beetle updates.
 - As of September 30, 2010, the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office reported 27.9 unique miles of dry river (19.7 in San Acacia and 8.2 miles in Isleta). A total of 9,017 silvery minnow were salvaged and released at sites with flow, and 95 silvery minnow were identified as incidental take. On October 20, River Eyes reported 13 miles of dry river in the San Acacia reach and 7 miles in the Isleta reach.
 - The results of the September 7th – 9th sampling by ASIR indicate that silvery minnow were present at 15 of 20 sites with an overall average of 0.96 silvery minnow/100 m²; these results reflect a “10 fold” decrease in population as there were 10 silvery minnow per 100 m² last year. It is very hard to cite any one factor as the reason for the decrease. The absolute population numbers are not known, but these results are an indicator of how the population is doing. The reach specific breakdown is as follows:
 - Angostura = 0.3/ 100 m² – predominantly Age 1 fish
 - Isleta = 0.7/100 m² – mostly Age 0 with some Age 1
 - San Acacia = 1.5/100 m² – predominantly Age 0 fish

- Stocking is now occurring in Big Bend. Approximately 125,000 silvery minnow will be placed at 4 sites for a total of approximately 500,000 (*please note during the meeting this total was misstated as 1 million; the notes have been corrected to reflect the true values*). Approximately 135,000 silvery minnow will be augmented to the Isleta and San Acacia reaches of the MRG in November.
- In an update on the reintroduction work, it was reported that Mark Brennan has been investigating the Cochiti Reach potential for silvery minnow including compiling existing data, reports, etc., consulting with expert scientists; evaluating habitat factors like reach length, fragmentation due to the Angostura Diversion Dam, temperature and other water quality parameters, substrate, etc. Correspondence seeking Pueblo participation in the planning efforts is being prepared and the communication plan on reintroduction and repatriation efforts is being drafted. [“Repatriation” in this context means augmenting the reach between Cochiti and Angostura.]
- In the flycatcher update it was shared that the saltcedar leaf beetle, *Diorhabda carinulata*, has spread further into New Mexico. It is in the Four Corners area and just north of Cuba. It is expected that over the next 2-3 years, the beetle may reach the MRG (either from the NW part of NM coming down the Puerco or from the beetles in the Big Bend, Texas region). The beetle was “introduced” in Colorado with USDA authorized releases. However the beetle is moving distances much farther than predicted and all authorized releases have ceased. The beetle defoliates the saltcedar which can potentially resprout eventually. The Service expressed support for any Program efforts to prepare for the potential loss of saltcedar nesting habitat. Deb Hill and Hira Walker will present to the Program in January.
 - Some suggested preparations included planting willows as soon as a possible in order to provide and replace the saltcedar habitat and any restoration efforts that could be accomplished near Elephant Butte to allow flycatcher movement or relocation.
- In an update on Applicant Status Under the ESA Section 7, it was clarified that an *applicant* refers to any person, as defined in section 3(13) of the Act, who requires formal approval or authorization from a Federal agency (Reclamation or USACE) as a prerequisite to conducting the action. It is the federal action agency (Reclamation or USACE) that makes the determination of who is an applicant. Benefits to being an applicant is the opportunity to review and comment on a draft biological opinion - the federal action agency receives an applicant’s comments and any extensions in the consultation timeframe of more than 60 days must be approved by the applicant. However, applicants also have some of the same responsibilities as the federal action agency:
 - *Incidental take* refers to takings that result from, but are not the purpose of, carrying out an otherwise lawful activity conducted by the Federal agency or applicant.
 - Section 7(d) of the Act prohibits Federal agencies and applicants from making any irreversible or irretrievable commitment of resources which has the effect of foreclosing the formulation or implementation of reasonable and prudent alternatives which would avoid jeopardizing the continued existence of listed species or resulting in the destruction or adverse modification of critical habitat.

- Attendees discussed the “applicant” issue and an example was provided. A pueblo could apply for applicant status if funds were received from Reclamation for work that could impact the species. The pueblo would then work with/through Reclamation who in turn reports to the Service for both entities. Applicant status is a more formal process than just participating. Reclamation stated the intent to provide BA review opportunity to the Program anyway, thus there does not appear to be the need for applicant status at this time. When the Service supplies the draft BO to Reclamation, Reclamation is then able to distribute it “at will” to Program participants.
- **USACE Update:** The Corps will be providing summaries on some of their civil works projects that contribute to or support the Program. The Corps will keep the Program briefed on expenditures and funded projects. Per the EC request, an “after-action” or lessons learned report on the Cochiti deviation will be presented at the November meeting. The presentation will briefing on the mechanics, the actual deviation, what worked or didn’t work, communications, Article VII storage issues, and follow up.
- **PHVA/Hydrology Update:** The PHVA/Hydrology work group will be meeting next week with the goal of setting the final version of the URGWOM model in order to redo the pre-ESA runs and the 2003 BiOp runs that are needed to inform the BAs.
 - In the operations update, it was shared that Heron is at approximately 257,000 ac-ft (out of 400,000 ac-ft); no releases out of Heron were done in September except for some small end-of-year letter water deliveries. El Vado is at 99,000 ac-ft and Abiquiu is at 180,000 ac-ft.
 - Supplemental water released is roughly 18,000 ac-ft. to date, but it is estimated that by end-of-year it will be closer to 21,500 ac-ft. In response to a District request, some operations were adjusted in October in the Albuquerque Reach allowing the District to reroute flows and deliver water to Isleta through the system and help with losses. The District worked with ABCWUA and Reclamation to make adjustments while maintaining the flow requirements. Flows were “split” so that the Central target was met and ABCWUA was able to keep diverting. This one-time action has been ongoing since the beginning of October and will only continue for the month. Once completed, Reclamation, the District, ABCWUA and possibly the State will report back on the results/lessons learned of this one-time action to report on what occurred and the overall effects.
- **BA/BO Consultation Update:** In response to a request from the PVA work group, the consultation team has spent time with the Service putting together a summary of expected analytical needs. The consultation team met with the PVA group at their last meeting and emphasized that the consultation needs (metrics, parameters) be a priority. In an iterative process, the consultation team continues work with the non-federal agencies on the non-federal actions and coverage. There are on-going conversations regarding how all the pieces, parts, and timings will fit together (ex. BAs/BOs, LTP, adaptive management plan, annual implementation, etc.). The next meeting has been scheduled for November 4th.
- **Other Business:** Brent Rhees, the new EC federal co-chair, extended an invitation to contact him at any time: (cell) 801-633-5020; (office) 801-524-3600; (email) brhees@usgr.gov. The EC meetings are very important in providing executive leadership and guidance to the rest of the Program and he expressed looking forward to the opportunities of working with everyone in the challenge to recovery the species.
- **Public Comment:** There was no public comment.

- **Next Meeting: November 18th, 2010 from 9:00am to 1:00pm at Reclamation**
- **Facilitator's Meeting Recap:** In a meeting recap, Reese Fullerton summarized some key points of today's meeting. The single page EC Retreat Decision Items document was approved. The EC agreed to move forward on the adaptive management plan development process with acknowledgement that there is no consensus on the "how" or "what." Please let Yvette McKenna know who should be included/invited to participate in the adaptive management plan process. It was requested that the adaptive management contractors present at the Coalition of Rio Grande Pueblos on December 2nd, 2010. The HR work group is in need of a federal co-chair – please remember how important functioning work groups are and make sure they are properly supported. The PM report on the SWM forbearance activities will be changed to reflect ongoing project development.
- **Closed Session:** There was no need for a closed session today so the meeting adjourned.

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**Executive Committee (EC) Meeting Attendees
October 21st, 2010, 9:00 am to 1:00 pm**

Attendees:

<i>Representative</i>	<i>Organization</i>	<i>Seat</i>
Brent Rhees (P)	Dept. of the Interior	Federal co-chair, non-voting
Estevan Lopez (P)	NM Interstate Stream Commission	Non-federal co-chair
Mike Hammon (A)	Bureau of Reclamation	Bureau of Reclamation
Susan Bittick (A)	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	USACE
Bob Jenks (P)	NM Department of Game and Fish	NMDGF
Subhas Shah (P)	MRGCD	MRGCD
Janet Jarratt (P)	Assessment Payers Association Of the MRGCD	APA
Rick Billings (A)	ABCWUA	ABCWUA
Wally Murphy (A)	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	USFWS
Steve Farris (P)	NMAGO	NMAGO
Nathan Schroeder (P)	Pueblo of Santa Ana	Santa Ana
Ann Watson (P)	Pueblo of Santo Domingo	Santo Domingo
Frank Chaves (P)	Pueblo of Sandia	Sandia Pueblo

Others

Yvette McKenna – PM	Bureau of Reclamation
Jim Wilber	Bureau of Reclamation
Leann Towne	Bureau of Reclamation
Terina Perez	Bureau of Reclamation
LeAnn Summer	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
William DeRagon	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Lori Robertson	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Jennifer Bachus	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Christopher Shaw	NM Interstate Stream Commission
Grace Haggerty	NM Interstate Stream Commission
Amy Louise	NM Interstate Stream Commission
Rolf Schmidt-Petersen	NM Interstate Stream Commission
Brooke Wyman	MRGCD
Stephanie Russo	Congressman Martin Heinrich
Joe Jojola	BIA
Ann Moore	NMAGO
Patricia Dominguez	Senator Bingaman
Reese Fullerton	SPO
Jenae Maestas	GenQuest
Marta Wood	Tetra Tech

**Coordination Committee and Program Manager Update
Middle Rio Grande Endangered Species Collaborative Program
Executive Committee Meeting
October 21, 2010**

Coordination Committee

The CC held a working meeting on September 8. Cody Walker, Isleta Pueblo, introduced David Lente as his CC alternate and stated that Isleta will be more involved at the CC level in the future. The CC approved the finalization of the Collaborative Program FY10 Peer Review Process paper, and the draft Principles for Inclusion of Future Activity Summaries in LTP. The CC discussed the Program approved Code of Conduct and the need to correct misleading or erroneous information discussed at committee meetings. The CC also began reviewing the draft FY11 activities spreadsheet for funding annually recurring projects: required by the 2003 Biological Opinion (BO) or the Program (criteria 1); or needed for the new Biological Assessment (BA)/BO development (criteria 2).

The CC also met on October 6 to review the FY11 criteria 1 and 2 activity summaries, and the revised FY11 activities spreadsheet. The EC delegated authority to the CC to approve budgets as long as consensus was reached. With a quorum present and no objections, the CC approved the FY11 Criteria 1 & 2 activities with the exception of the San Acacia Diversion Dam (SADD) Fish Passage environmental compliance and SADD Fish Passage studies. These summaries have been revised and will be presented for further consideration at the CC meeting on October 27.

San Acacia Fish Passage Peer Review

A site visit and kick off meeting with the selected contractor was held on September 9. Paul Callahan, PBS&J, is the phase I peer review facilitator to the panelists including: Jim Garvey (Southern Illinois University-Carbondale), a fisheries biologist; George Cairo (George Cairo Engineering, Inc.), an engineering/irrigation systems consultant; and Robb Leary (Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks), a fish conservation geneticist. All panelists have experience working on fish passage projects. Approximately 25 Program participants attended this meeting.

It was clarified that the review of key documents and other relevant information is intended to determine if implementing fish passage at San Acacia is based on sound science; it is a review of the science and not necessarily a document review. Peer reviews conducted under the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) IDIQ are intended to ensure quality and credibility of information. Thanks to Kathy Dickinson for coordinating this effort.

Revised Long Term Plan Development

On September 8, the CC reviewed the draft LTP narratives and the proposed U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) future activity summaries. Ondrea Hummel and other participants assisted with this review.

During the recent CC working meetings and upon reviewing the 10(j) related future activity summaries, the CC recognized the need for EC clarification/direction on reintroduction activities and priorities. There are work plans and future activity summaries regarding reintroduction activities within the historic range and the CC needs clarification for the purposes of the LTP. Guidance was brought back to the CC from the September 16 EC retreat discussions on where to “draw the line” on the reintroduction efforts. The Service’s described action to “implement habitat restoration projects throughout the middle Rio

Grande and the historic range where appropriate” [page 107, action 2.1.1 of the 2010 RGSM revised Recovery Plan] lists the Service as the lead agency for reintroduction areas and the Program for the middle Rio Grande (MRG). Using this as guidance, the EC directed that the Program should not be looked at as the only responsible party for related projects (like habitat restoration) outside of the MRG area. Other activities outside of the Program area such as transporting, stocking, releasing, monitoring etc. will continue to be supported by the Program as funding is available.

The EC provided a new target date of March 2011 for the Program review of the complete draft LTP. They recognized that certain LTP sections are not yet populated. In the case of the Water Management future activities, it was explained that none of the workgroups felt it was their charge to issue recommendations to the action agencies; the EC recognized these types of activities would have to be filled in at the Executive level.

The next CC meeting is scheduled on October 27 and will include discussions on the LTP, FY11 activities, adaptive management, and development of scopes of work (SOWs).

Adaptive Management Planning

Kick off meetings and site tours related to the adaptive management (AM) planning process were conducted from October 12-14. The selected contractors include Carol Murray, David Marmorek, and Loren Greig from ESSA Technologies Ltd, and Chad Smith and Bridget Barron from Headwaters Corporation. On October 13, they gave a very informative presentation on the AM plan development to approximately 25 Program participants. On the afternoon of October 12 and all day on October 14, the contractors participated in a site tour of the MRG from Cochiti Dam to the Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge which they found extremely informative. Many thanks to the following individuals who assisted in the site tours: Susan Bittick, Ronnie Schelby and Tim Beauchene (USACE), Rick Billings (ABCWUA), Carolyn Donnelly, Jed Parker and Terina Perez (Reclamation), Amy Louise, Alison Hutson, Anders Lundahl and Grace Haggerty (NMISC), Brooke Wyman (MRGCD), Weston Furr and Gina Dello Russo (Service). There were other sites that we did not get to visit, however, we hope to take the contractors out to additional habitat restoration areas, including on the Pueblos, in the future.

The next critical task for the contractors is to conduct individual interviews with EC members during the week of November 29. As we've stated before, this will be a long-term effort requiring a multi-disciplinary team of Program members and EC participation is key to the success of the process.

Project Management Team

The PMT continues to meet frequently to follow up on action items from the CC and the EC, and to discuss and implement improvements to the Program.

The PMT revised over 20 ongoing future activity summaries for the CC to use during their review and approval of proposed FY11 activities on October 6. The PMT liaisons [Monika Mann for the Database Management System (DBMS) ad hoc workgroup and the Habitat Restoration (HR) workgroup, Amy Louise for the San Acacia Reach (SAR) ad hoc workgroup and the Species Water Management (SWM) workgroup, Stacey Kopitsch for the Science Workgroup (ScW) and Population Viability Analysis (PVA)/Biology ad hoc workgroup, and Terina Perez for the Population Habitat Viability Assessment (PHVA)/Hydrology and the Monitoring Plan Team (MPT) ad hoc workgroups] have been working on the FY11 activities summaries and supporting their monthly workgroup meetings. The PMT liaisons will let their respective workgroups know that the CC has requested a list of prioritized future activities so that the CC can review and approve which activity SOWs should be developed for funding consideration in FY11.

Jericho Lewis obligated in excess of 100% of the Program's FY10 budget and drafted the FY11 activities spreadsheet. Jericho awarded contracts for AM Plan development, a Pueblo of San Felipe habitat restoration project, a Santo Domingo Tribe habitat restoration project, and an Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority (ABCWUA) habitat restoration project. The federal government is in continuing resolution until December 2010 and cannot exceed FY10 first quarter spending amounts. Diana Herrera has been working on: updates on FY10 funding obligations and cost share requirements; water leasing obligations; and FY2012 and FY2013 Program budgets.

GenQuest continues to compile the past activities summaries from 2000-2010 with the assistance of Kathy Dickinson and Marta Wood. This information will also be used to draft the Program Annual Reports for 2008-2009. The Program has contracted additional administrative and technical support, and Jenae Maestas, Jean Burt, Edward McCorkindale and Amy Lahti, GenQuest, and Rachelle Schlupe, Christine Sanchez and Marta Wood, Tetra Tech, continue to assist the Program in the revised LTP development, meeting support and summaries, and other critical areas.

Habitat Restoration Workgroup

A MRG River Habitat Restoration workshop was conducted on September 21 and hosted by USACE. This workshop focused on methods and practices and the state of local knowledge with respect to habitat restoration and management. Many workgroup members attended the workshop and their feedback will be incorporated into a report which will be available in December 2010.

On September 22, the HR workgroup held a special working meeting to evaluate previous projects and focus on developing SOWs for future projects for FY11. The workgroup met on October 19 to discuss development of HR SOWs and the Annual Plan for FY11. Updates on adaptive management and the LTP, and a presentation on Population Estimation were also discussed. The next HR workgroup meeting will be held on November 16 at ISC, from 12:30-3:30 where updates on the development of SOWs, the FY11 Annual Plan and FY10 Accomplishments will be discussed.

Monitoring Plan Team ad hoc Workgroup

The co-chairs of the MPT ad hoc workgroup (Ondrea Hummel and Anders Lundahl) drafted a letter acknowledging the joint monitoring efforts of MPT members and agencies this past season (Spring 2010) (see attached). The purpose of the letter is to inform the EC how many people and how much time has been invested in monitoring efforts. A similar effort is underway for Fall monitoring (low intensity vegetation, hydrology, and geomorphology). A report will be prepared in the next couple of months that will include the Spring and Fall 2010 monitoring results. The MPT is currently working on developing a SOW that will include elements of the high intensity and/or system-wide monitoring for FY11. A joint workgroup meeting between ScW and MPT is scheduled for December.

Science Workgroup

The Science Workgroup (ScW) held a regular meeting on September 28. Alison Hutson of the Interstate Stream Commission (ISC) was elected as the new non-Federal co-chair. The focus of the meeting was for ScW members to review the workgroup's Priority 1 LTP activity summaries and determine which additional projects should be recommended to receive FY11 funding. The work group will begin developing SOWs for these projects over the next few months. The next regularly scheduled ScW meeting is on October 19 at the ISC.

Species Water Management Workgroup

The SWM workgroup met on October 6 and discussed a potential LTP future activity *Lateral Delivery Requirement Analysis* (formerly *MRGCD Threshold Analysis*). There is general consensus from the workgroup 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. Amy Louise was elected as non-federal co-chair for the workgroup. Valda Terauds will be missed since she will be taking a Reclamation position in Loveland, Colorado at the end of October. For the time being, Kathy Dickinson will be the interim Reclamation representative for SWM. The next meeting is scheduled for November 3 at BIA from 10:00 am – 12:00 pm.

San Acacia Reach ad hoc Workgroup

The SAR workgroup met on September 23 at MRGCD to discuss FY11 SOWs, a November 4 field trip and Agency Response to Themes. Due to her workload, Ayesha Burnet, UNM, will no longer participate in the workgroup.

The Agency Response to the Themes table is a “first step” to understanding what abilities and/or responsibilities agencies have to address certain issues. The table is a good internal tool for the workgroup but has great potential as a Program and public outreach tool – as long as it can be developed for release to the public. Review of the workshop actions will be the next step.

The next two meetings will be November 4 at Bosque del Apache Refuge Visitors Center for the field trip of the SAR from 9:00 am – 4:00 pm, and December 2 at Reclamation from 12:30 – 3:30 pm. The workgroup will return to the regular schedule of the 4th Thursday of every month in the New Year.

Population Viability Analysis (PVA)/Biology ad hoc Workgroup

The next PVA ad hoc workgroup meeting is scheduled for a full day on December 6 and a half day on December 7. Currently, both modelers are working on finalizing the data that they will use and be able to parameterize for their model. They will present their results at the December meeting. A workshop will be scheduled in March of 2011 to view PVA model output from both models using a pre-Endangered Species Act (ESA) water management scenario.

Population Habitat Viability Assessment (PHVA)/Hydrology ad hoc Workgroup

The next PHVA/Hydro ad hoc workgroup meeting has been scheduled for October 26 from 9:00 - 11:00 am at Reclamation. The workgroup will review their action items from the August 10 meeting, schedule the PHVA/Hydrology refresher, finalize the Operations Calendar, and discuss the status of: the model; Prior & Paramount (P&P) potential changes for URGWOM; and the modeling contract. Timeframes for the model runs and next steps will also be discussed.

Public Information and Outreach Workgroup

At their meeting on October 14, the PIO welcomed Kristen Skopeck, USACE, to the PIO workgroup. Kristen will be assisting Ronnie Schelby with PIO meetings. The workgroup would like to coordinate an event to celebrate the restoration of 1000 acres of land. It was thought that the celebration should be planned for early spring of 2011. Suggested locations for the celebration are the Nature Center and the Albuquerque Biopark. The PIO workgroup will coordinate this effort with the PMT.

The Program staffed a booth at the New Mexico Science Teachers Association (NMSTA) Annual Fall Conference on October 7-9. Teachers showed a lot of interest in using Program handouts as teaching

tools. PIO is interested in hosting a workshop instead of staffing a booth in next year's NMSTA Annual Fall Conference.

PIO has been invited to attend the November 4 San Acacia Reach (SAR) workgroup field trip at Bosque del Apache. This joint field trip with SAR will replace the regularly scheduled November PIO meeting.

PIO has also been coordinating volunteer staffing for the following events:

November 16-18, National Congress of American Indians Conference (Albuquerque Convention Center)
There are a couple of slots still open for booth staffing. Those interested should contact Mary Carlson or Rebecca Onchaga.

November 19-21, Festival of the Cranes (Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge)
The Program booth is fully staffed for this festival in November. A Program booth here will help to increase Program outreach in the San Acacia Reach.

The next regularly scheduled PIO meeting will be on December 9 at Reclamation from 9:00 – 11:00 am.

Database Management System ad hoc Workgroup

The DBMS ad hoc workgroup met on October 18 to discuss finishing up the Needs Assessment and Data Model member participation efforts. Points of Contact (POCs) are still being identified and data set locations are still trying to be located. Data Model comment responses from the contractor were sent out to the Program for informational purposes so the participants can see incorporation of their comments into the model. Members are also still working on finishing up edits to the DBMS Future Activity Summaries for the LTP. The Data Model exercise took about 4-6 weeks longer to complete than expected. However, the workgroup and contractor (D.B. Stephens) are not sure if this will affect future milestones at this point; the next milestone being the Data Standardization.

Starting this month Kelly Allen, USACE, is taking over as the Federal Co-chair for Mark Doles through FY11. The next DBMS meeting will be on November 8 from 1:00 – 2:30 pm where action items and next steps from the last meeting will be discussed.



MEMORANDUM

TO: Executive Committee and Coordination Committee

FROM: Ondrea Hummel, USACE and Anders Lundahl, NMISC
Monitoring Plan Team Co-Chairs

DATE: October 7, 2010

SUBJECT: 2010 Spring and Fall Habitat Restoration Monitoring Activities

The co-chairs of the Monitoring Plan Team (MPT) would like to take a moment to bring to your attention and recognize the efforts of our colleagues for their contribution to habitat restoration (HR) effectiveness monitoring activities during the 2010 spring snowmelt runoff. As you know the MPT, a joint Science and HR ad hoc workgroup, has been in the process of developing and contracting out a program-wide monitoring activity for post-construction effectiveness monitoring. However, a contract award was not able to be completed in sufficient time to allow for fisheries and hydrologic monitoring of the 2010 spring runoff season. The MPT, as well as volunteers from both the Science and HR workgroups, after approval from the Coordination Committee, took it upon themselves to perform these monitoring activities. Substantial effort went into planning and coordinating the monitoring as well as long hours conducting the field activities. All parties involved made significant contributions to this effort. The following staff provided their time and expertise to conduct monitoring:

Anders Lundahl (NMISC)	Michelle Mann (USACE)	Jason Remshardt (USFWS)
Ondrea Hummel (USACE)	Dana Price (USACE)	James Sandoval (USFWS)
Mickey Porter (USACE)	Danielle Galloway (USACE)	Dominique Zuni (USFWS)
Sarah Beck (USACE)	Yvette Paroz (BOR)	Rick Billings (ABCWUA)
Justin Reale (USACE)	Jill Wick (NMDGF)	Brooke Wyman (MRGCD)
Daniel Garcia (USACE)	Jen Bachus (USFWS)	
Chris Grosso (USACE)	Stacy Kopitsch (USFWS)	

The MPT is planning on performing vegetation, hydrology and geomorphology measurements during the month of October and looks forward to formally presenting the results to you once the data have been reviewed and analyzed.
