

Coordination Committee Meeting
November 10, 2010

Meeting Materials:

Meeting Agenda

Meeting Minutes

Middle Rio Grande Endangered Species Collaborative Program
Coordination Committee Meeting
November 10, 2010 Meeting – 1:00 – 4:00 pm
Bureau of Reclamation

Toll free number: 9-1-888-677-1684

Participant passcode: 80971#

(1st Committee member or contractor to arrive, please dial in)

Draft Meeting Agenda

- Introductions and Agenda* Approval
- **Decision** - Approval of 10/27/10 CC meeting summary*
- Action Item Review (see below)
- Review List of Workgroup Proposed Activities for FY11 Funding*
- **Decision** – Approve additional proposed activities for FY11 Funding*
- FY10 Final Budget Numbers*
- Cost Share Request*
- Significant Non-Decision Items to Brief EC

Next meeting – December 8 @ Reclamation

***denotes read ahead**

Upcoming meetings:

Nov 17 – pre-EC brief, EC and CC co-chairs, 10:30 am @ Reclamation

Nov 18 – EC meeting, 9 am – 1 pm @ Reclamation

Action Items:

- Stacey Kopitsch will make CC requested changes to the *Rio Grande Silvery Minnow Population Viability Analysis (PVA) Modeling* activity summary. ✓
- Yvette McKenna will make sure the proposed updated schedule for Adaptive Management coincides with the Adaptive management contract.
- The PMT will review both the flycatcher and minnow Recovery Plans for the legal and policy actions to determine which sections are relevant to the LTP and will report the findings back to the CC (*continued from October 4*). *Ongoing – will be discussed at the Dec 8 CC mtg*
- In October, Yvette McKenna will contact the EC co-chairs to elevate the CC concerns regarding misleading or erroneous statements at EC meetings and the desire to have the written record be as accurate as possible. (*continued from September 9*) ✓

- Lori Robertson will draft the (1) Competition and Predation (minnow) and (2) Predator/Non-native control (flycatcher) LTP narratives. *(continued from September 9)* will be discussed at the Dec 8 CC mtg
- Jim Wilber will work with Leann Towne to draft the Water Management LTP narrative *(continued from October 4)*.
- Grace Haggerty will check on the status of the “new” HR future summary regarding work group coordination (which used to be a ScW summary) that Anders Lundahl was to distribute to the Program Manager *(continued from October 4)*.
- Grace Haggerty and Anders Lundahl will re-write/rephrase the *Develop and Implement Streamlined Compliance Templates and Processes for HR Projects* summary and send to Kelly Allan (COE), Hector Garcia (BOR), Jim Wilber (BOR), Julie Alcon (COE) and Jen Bachus (FWS) for additional language, input, and review. The revised summary will be provided as a read ahead for the September 8th CC meeting. *(continued from August 25)*

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Actions

- Rick Billings will take the “new” HR future summary regarding work group coordination (which used to be a ScW summary) and the *Develop and Implement Streamlined Compliance Templates and Processes for HR Projects* summary to the HR work group to be reviewed.
- Yvette McKenna will make sure the proposed updated schedule for Adaptive Management coincides with the Adaptive management contract. – *Ongoing*
- The PMT will review both the flycatcher and minnow Recovery Plans for the legal and policy actions to determine which sections are relevant to the LTP and will report the findings back to the CC (*continued from October 4*). *Ongoing – will be discussed at the Dec 8 CC meeting*
- Jim Wilber will work with Leann Towne to draft the Water Management LTP narrative (*continued from October 4*).

Decision

- The October 27, 2010 meeting minutes were approved with the following correction (changes in bold) being made on pages 5 and 6, “The CC was unable to reach consensus on the funding of the *Conduct Studies recommended by the Phase I external peer review panel and Environmental Compliance Support Services for Fish Passage at San Acacia Diversion Dam (SADD)*, **and BOR: Continue Environmental Compliance and Design Data Collection for Fish Passage at San Acacia Diversion Dam (SADD)** projects and would like to elevate this decision to the EC.”

Meeting Summary

Introductions and Agenda* Approval – Susan Bittick brought the meeting to order and introductions were made around the table. A quorum was present. The agenda was approved with no changes.

Decision - Approval of 10/27/10 CC meeting summary* - The October 27, 2010 meeting minutes were approved with the following correction (changes in bold) being made on pages 5 and 6, “The CC was unable to reach consensus on the funding of the *Conduct Studies recommended by the Phase I external peer review panel and Environmental Compliance Support Services for Fish Passage at San Acacia Diversion Dam (SADD)*, **and BOR: Continue Environmental Compliance and Design Data Collection for Fish Passage at San Acacia Diversion Dam (SADD)** projects and would like to elevate this decision to the EC.”

Action Item Review:

- Stacey Kopitsch will make CC requested changes to the *Rio Grande Silvery Minnow Population Viability Analysis (PVA) Modeling activity summary*.
 - Complete.

- **Yvette McKenna will make sure the proposed updated schedule for Adaptive Management coincides with the Adaptive management contract.**
 - Ongoing.
- **The PMT will review both the flycatcher and minnow Recovery Plans for the legal and policy actions to determine which sections are relevant to the LTP and will report the findings back to the CC (*continued from October 4*). Ongoing – will be discussed at the Dec 8 CC mtg**
 - Ongoing; this will be discussed at the December 8th, Coordination Committee (CC) meeting.
- **Lori Robertson will draft the (1) Competition and Predation (minnow) and (2) Predator/Non-native control (flycatcher) LTP narratives. (*continued from September 9*)**
 - Complete; this will be discussed at the December 8th CC meeting.
- **Jim Wilber will work with Leann Towne to draft the Water Management LTP narrative (*continued from October 4*).**
 - Tabled for the December 8th CC meeting as Jim was unable to attend today's meeting.
- **Grace Haggerty will check on the status of the “new” HR future summary regarding work group coordination (which used to be a ScW summary) that Anders Lundahl was to distribute to the Program Manager (*continued from October 4*).**
 - Complete. Rick Billings will take the “new” Habitat Restoration (HR) future summary regarding work group coordination (which used to be a ScW summary) and the *Develop and Implement Streamlined Compliance Templates and Processes for HR Projects* summary to the Habitat Restoration Workgroup (HRW) to be reviewed. Reviewing the summaries will be added to the HR workgroup December agenda as their November agenda is already full; the revised summaries will be reviewed at the January 2011 CC meeting.
- **Grace Haggerty and Anders Lundahl will re-write/rephrase the *Develop and Implement Streamlined Compliance Templates and Processes for HR Projects* summary and send to Kelly Allan (COE), Hector Garcia (BOR), Jim Wilber (BOR), Julie Alcon (COE) and Jen Bachus (FWS) for additional language, input, and review. The revised summary will be provided as a read ahead for the September 8th CC meeting. (*continued from August 25*)**
 - Complete; see above action item.

Review List of Workgroup Proposed Activities - Meeting attendees reviewed workgroup proposed activities from the HRW, Science Workgroup (ScW), San Acacia Reach (SAR) ad hoc workgroup, and Species Water Management (SWM) workgroup. It was clarified that the CC is not providing final approval of these activities for FY11 funding. Rather, CC is recommending the activities as worthwhile projects for planning purposes should additional FY2011 funds arise.

- **HRW-1: HR Design and Compliance Support**
 - The intent of this project is to streamline the design and compliance components of habitat restoration projects through an IDIQ contract which would provide flexibility to the Program. There was debate as to whether any changes should be made to the current process.

- This project would not affect habitat restoration projects that have been awarded and are already in place.
- Southwestern Willow Flycatcher (Flycatcher) survey work for 2011 needs to be added back to the budget spreadsheet in the amount of \$280K.
- CC members in attendance agreed to have Reclamation move forward with issuing a RFP for an IDIQ with no dollar amount.
- *HRW-2: Implementation (Construction)*
 - This project is for financial assistance on non-federal lands and would be open to any project that would qualify to a pre-solicitation proposal.
 - HRW location priorities were San Acacia Reach Flycatcher Habitat adjacent to territories, Cochiti Reach floodplain connection, and Albuquerque Reach flood plain connection. An RFP for this project would be reach-wide with these priorities.
 - A \$500,000 to \$2,000,000 range was added so that the activity will not be precluded if less than \$2,000,000 of funding was available.
 - The CC approves of this project.
 - Jericho Lewis would like to issue this RFP in December 2010; proposals will be rendered non-responsive from prospective recipients that currently have \$200,000 or more in active grant funds from the Collaborative Program. This is an attempt to reduce the significant amount of the Albuquerque Area Office's (AAO) unexpended funds. The AAO is constantly under scrutiny by the Regional Office for the large sum of unexpended funds that the Collaborative Program has in the books.
- *HRW-3: System-Wide Monitoring and Trend Analysis*
 - This project is monitoring for adaptive management purposes.
 - The CC approves of this project.
- *HRW-4: HR Planning & Design*
 - The intent of this project is to look specifically at Isleta Reach refugial habitat for the Rio Grande Silvery Minnow (Silvery Minnow).
 - The CC approves of this project.
- *HRW-5: HR Planning & Design*
 - Due to Elephant Butte being lower, the slope of the riverbed is adjusting which may have a negative impact on Flycatcher or Silvery Minnow habitat. This activity would look at experimental projects to help slow the degradation process so there can be a gradual slope adjustment.
 - The estimated cost for the project was changed to \$250,000.
 - The CC approves of this project.
- There was brief discussion on the boundary between Albuquerque Reach and Isleta Reach; the boundary is the diversion dam.
- *ScW 1 – Evaluate water quality in the MRG in relation to the RGSM – objective #1 and #2*
 - The intent of this activity is to compile and synthesize all available water quality data. Evaluating existing data could potentially answer other ScW questions. A concern from

meeting attendees was that compiling data might be a duplication of efforts for the Database Management System (DBMS). It was pointed out that though data will be collected for the DBMS it will not be evaluated. CC member attendees were not able to reach consensus on the precedence of water quality as an issue. One opinion was that water quality is not as high of a priority as other issues. The converse opinion was that water quality is of extreme importance to the Silvery Minnow.

- The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (the Corps) may be able to extend this as a task order within the existing IDIQ for the database. The CC would like the ScW to refocus the project. The ISC would like to be kept informed of any SOW development for this project.
- ScW 2 – *Increase understanding of RGSM life history and habitat needs – objective #1 and #2*
 - The intent of this activity is to determine life cycle requirements by evaluating the habitat in regards to the Silvery Minnow. The study will consist of multiple phases with the earliest phases being conducted in a closed environment and later phases being conducted in the field. To assess different water year types it will be a multiple year study; study years may not be sequential in order to capture repetitions of water years. ScW will be developing the hypotheses for this activity. Information needs from the Population Viability Analysis (PVA) were used to help focus ScW activities; any information from ScW activities will be used to inform the PVA.
 - The CC approves this project.
 - ScW projects that the CC has approved should only come back for CC review if the ScW cannot reach consensus on the hypotheses.
- ScW 3 – *Increase understanding of RGSM life history and habitat needs – objective #3*
 - The intention of this study is to synthesize existing data regarding physical habitat characteristics. The SOW for this project will further clarify the studies and evaluations to be done.
 - Line item 3 of the project description was changed to read “...to produce stable population numbers sufficient to meet recovery in the Middle Rio Grande”.
 - The CC approves this project.
- ScW 4 – *RGSM fecundity study.*
 - The purpose of the study is to determine if the number of eggs and hatching success changes throughout the age of the fish. There will also be tests to see if there are differences in fecundity of non hormonal and hormone induced fish. There may be difficulties in finding larger fish. As required by the ESA, contractors implementing the study would need to be permitted to conduct the work.
 - Meeting attendees were updated that a draft report from the Age and Growth study should be available this winter.
 - The CC approves this project.
- SAR 1 – *Floodplain Encroachment: Analysis of encroachment problem areas in the San Acacia Reach*
 - Meeting attendees were unsure of what the goals for this activity were as the Program would not have authority over building or zoning. This activity would be beneficial if it

- would provide information on species requirements in order to create better building codes and land use ordinances.
- The project description for this activity should be revised to be more specific. Suggested verbiage for the project description was “The Program encourages good land use to ensure that species habitats are preserved.”
 - *SAR 2 – Develop White Papers on each agency/entity’s current authorizations and strategies to address resource management issues in the San Acacia Reach.*
 - White Papers will be written by each agency to communicate their authorizations and strategies in the San Acacia reach; the White Papers will be provided for public information. The estimated costs for this project are for formatting and publishing costs.
 - This summary will go back to the workgroup with the suggestion that its priority be reordered as it is believed that this activity should occur before the Floodplain Encroachment: Analysis of encroachment problem areas in the San Acacia Reach activity.
 - *SWM 1 – Water requirements for Southwestern Willow Flycatcher habitat and nesting.*
 - The purpose of this activity is to fill information gaps that were found in a literature review. Since the magnitude of information still needed is large it will be more manageable to focus on data gaps in a phased manner. Because a lot of the information that is missing is very technical SWM should work with the ScW in revising this summary.
 - *SWM 2 – Application of Rio Grande Riparian Groundwater Models to Support the Program and Water Operations Assessments*
 - The CC approves this activity.
 - The estimated cost could be updated with costs from previous years.
 - *SWM 3 – Use FLO-2D Modeling tools to estimate frequency and extent of overbank inundation*
 - This activity should be revised so that it is updating or building upon the work from the 2004 report from Tetra Tech.
 - *SWM 4 – Provide recruitment/overbank flows*
 - The Corps will provide recruitment/overbank flows if the situation presents itself.
 - The CC approves this project.
 - *SWM 5 – Decision Tree Hydrologic Conditions*
 - This summary will be provided to the Adaptive Management consultants when SWM work group meets with them.
 - The CC approves this project.

ESA Section 7 Consultation Presentation – The ESA Section 7 Consultation presentation to the Program will be on December 15th from 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM at Reclamation. The CC supports the Program wide presentation and supports briefing the EC to see if they would to have a shortened version presented at an upcoming EC meeting.

It was said that at the 10/27/10 meeting the “*BOR: Continue Environmental Compliance and Design Data Collection for Fish Passage at San Acacia Diversion Dam (SADD)*” activity was meant to be provided for informational purposes only and was accidentally lumped with the other San Acacia Diversion

Dam activities for approval. The CC did not need to approve the activity as it will be funded by Reclamation. Approval of the “*BOR: Continue Environmental Compliance and Design Data Collection for Fish Passage at San Acacia Diversion Dam (SADD)*” activity will not be elevated to the EC.

Next meeting – December 8 @ Reclamation

- All day working meeting from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM – Bring your lunch

**Coordination Committee
10 November 2010 Meeting Attendees**

NAME	AFFILIATION	PHONE NUMBER	PRIMARY (P) ALTERNATE (A) OTHERS (O)	EMAIL ADDRESS
Susan Bittick	USACE	342-3397	P – Vice-Chair	susan.m.bittick@usace.army.mil
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