

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

01 December 2010 Meeting

**10:00 AM to 12:00 PM @ BIA**

**Actions**

- Matt Martinez will verify that Janet Jarrett has reviewed the November SWM meeting minutes.
- Matt Martinez will check to see if the permit for *USGS Groundwater/Surface water Interaction* is through Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District (MRGCD).
- Amy Louise will check on the status of the RFP for the *USGS Groundwater/Surface water Interaction* monitoring and will see if the reports will be received by the end of the interagency agreement.
- SWM work group members should review the *USGS Groundwater/Surface water Interaction SOW* and send any comments to Amy Louise by December 6, 2010.
- Amy Louise will send the *Decision Tree Hydrologic Conditions* activity to the adaptive management contractors.
- Revisions to the work group proposed activities should be completed by December 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Amy Louise will revise the 2011 Work Plan and email to the SWM work group.

**Meeting Summary**

**Introductions & Announcements** – Amy Louise brought the meeting order. Rick Billings was introduced as the new Species Water Management (SWM) meeting attendee for Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority (the Authority).

**Agenda Approval** – The agenda was approved with the addition of discussions on *USGS Groundwater/Surface water Interaction* project and the work group proposed activities.

**Approval of the November 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting notes** – Several corrections to minor typos were made to the November 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting minutes. Approval of the November minutes will be tabled to ensure that all of the November meeting attendees have reviewed them. Matt Martinez will verify that Janet Jarrett has reviewed the November SWM meeting minutes.

**November Action Item Review** – All November action items were completed.

***USGS Groundwater/Surface water Interaction*** – Meeting attendees discussed the issue of untimely receipt of reports for this project. Since the monitoring is through an interagency agreement with USGS there isn't much that can be done to ensure that reports are received in a timely manner. Because it's believed that work of the same quality can be obtained in a more timely fashion, an RFP will be released to continue monitoring after the interagency agreement ends in March 2011; Amy Louise will check on the status of the RFP for the monitoring and will see if all reports will be received by the end of the interagency agreement. All of the wells are located in the Bosque so an access permit through City of Albuquerque Open Space is required; Matt Martinez will check to see if there is an existing License through Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District (MRGCD). Attendees discussed continuation of the *USGS Groundwater/Surface water Interaction* project. There was general agreement with the meeting attendees that the project should continue for at least another year to allow time to receive and review two pending USGS report contents in order to determine if the project is still needed. SWM work group members should review the *USGS Groundwater/Surface water Interaction SOW* and send any comments to Amy Louise by December 6, 2010.

**Work Group Proposed Activities** – The Coordination Committee (CC) reviewed SWM proposed activities at their last meeting and have requested that some of the summaries be revised. Curtis McFadden volunteered to revise the *Provide recruitment/overbank flows* summary. The *Decision Tree Hydrologic Conditions* summary will be sent to the adaptive management contractors. Amy Louise will talk with the new SWFL expert at Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) to revise the *Water requirements for Southwestern Willow Flycatcher habitat and nesting* summary. Amy will update the estimated costs for *Application of Rio Grande Riparian Groundwater Models to Support the Program and Water Operations Assessments*. Ed Kandl will revise the *Use FLO-2D Modeling tools to estimate frequency and extent of overbank inundation* activity to ensure that it is building upon the 2004 report from Tetra Tech. Revisions to the work group proposed activities should be completed by December 15<sup>th</sup>.

**2010 Work Group Accomplishments** – Meeting attendees reviewed the 2010 Work Group Accomplishments. No changes were made to the document.

**2011 Work Plan** – Attendees reviewed the 2011 Work Plan. Projects that will produce deliverables should be listed under the Task “Review Deliverables”. Small corrections will be made to the document header and Rick Billings will be added as a work group member. Meeting with new contractors and field trips to tour MRGCD weather stations, Authority facilities, and the Interstate Stream Commission (ISC) site at Atrisco were added to the Work Plan. Amy Louise will revise the 2011 Work Plan and email to the SWM work group.

### **Program Coordination**

- **LTP & AM Updates** –LTP development is still in progress. ESSA will be meeting with Program agencies this week for the Adaptive Management Plan.
- **PHVA/Hydrology & PVA Updates** – The Population Viability Analysis (PVA) work group will be meeting on December 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>. The Population Habitat Viability Assessment (PHVA) is finishing model runs.
- **Joint Workgroup Activities** – The Database Management System (DBMS) pilot will become available in April 2011. The Monitoring Plan Team (MPT) completed monitoring in October and is working on the report; they will be having a joint work group meeting with Science work group (ScW) and Habitat Restoration work group (HRW) to discuss monitoring questions.
- **PMT Liaison Needs** – SWM members should complete summary revisions and review the *USGS Groundwater/Surface water Interaction SOW*.
- **SWM Issues to be elevated** – Due to high cost and the length of time it would take to get results from the *Investigate potential impacts of human population growth on water management* Future Activity should be ranked as a priority 3 for the LTP and tabled until the new Biological Opinion is released.

**Agency Updates** – No agency updates were reported.

**Next Meeting: January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2011 from 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM at BIA**

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

01 December 2010 Meeting

**10:00 AM to 12:00 PM @ BIA**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Introductions & Announcements**

- Amy Louise brought the meeting order.
- Rick Billings was introduced as the new Species Water Management (SWM) meeting attendee for the Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority (the Authority).

**Agenda Approval**

- The agenda was approved with the addition of discussions on *USGS Groundwater/Surface water Interaction* project and the work group proposed activities.

**Approval of the November 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting notes**

- Several corrections to minor typos were made to the November 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting minutes.
- Approval of the November minutes will be tabled to ensure that all of the November meeting attendees have reviewed them.

**Action:** Matt Martinez will verify that Janet Jarrett has reviewed the November SWM meeting minutes.

**November Action Item Review**

- **Hilary Brinegar will incorporate discussed changes to the *Irrigated Farm Soil Moisture Monitoring Future Activity Summary* and email to the SWM work group.**
  - Complete. The summary with incorporated changes was sent out to the SWM work group.
  - The revised summary will be presented to the Coordination Committee (CC). Because the next CC meeting will be a full day meeting the summary might not be reviewed until the following CC meeting.
- **Amy Louise will address the issue of untimely receipt of reports with Jericho Lewis and the COTR for the *USGS Groundwater/Surface water Interaction* project.**
  - Amy found out from Jericho (Bureau of Reclamation Contracting Officer) that because the monitoring is through an Interagency Agreement (IA) with USGS he doesn't have much control about receipt of reports. An RFP will be issued to see if there are other contractors who would propose on the monitoring.
  - Amy will check to see where the status of the RFP is because the IA with USGS ends in March 2011.

**Action:** Amy Louise will check on the status of the RFP for the *USGS Groundwater/Surface water Interaction* monitoring.

- Having a new contractor doing the monitoring would solve the problem for future reports but there is not much that can be done about the 2 reports that are still in internal review at USGS.
- Since the Program owns the wells, database, and the equipment there should not be issues with changing contractors. All the wells are in the Bosque so there

must be an access permit through an agency. It was thought the existing permit might be through the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District (MRGCD).

**Action:** Matt Martinez will check to see if the permit for *USGS Groundwater/Surface water Interaction* is through MRGCD.

- It was thought that what that takes longer with receiving the USGS reports is their level of quality assurance. It's believed that work of the same quality can be obtained in a more timely fashion elsewhere. Switching to a contractor could also be less costly.
- Data will have to be uploaded to the contractor's website; this will be included in the contract.
- The portions of the Program website that overlap with the database are planned to be removed from the website.
- The timeframe of the RFP needs to be "ASAP" as data collection needs to be taken over right away in order to avoid data gaps.
- Though the SOW for *USGS Groundwater/Surface water Interaction* has already been submitted to Jericho it was asked that SWM members review it again. Any comments should be sent to Amy by December 6, 2010.

**Action:** SWM work group members should review the *USGS Groundwater/Surface water Interaction* SOW and send any comments to Amy Louise by December 6, 2010.

- The conversation progressed into the *USGS Groundwater/Surface water Interaction* discussion below.

#### ***USGS Groundwater/Surface water Interaction***

- The Executive Committee (EC) would like justification for continuation of the *USGS Groundwater/Surface water Interaction* project.
- Stream flow and gauge monitoring needs to continue to occur for the Biological Opinion (BO) but the interaction part may not need to continue. It was one opinion that the interaction would be worth continuing for another year to see if the report provides valuable and useful information on GW-SW interactions.
- The interaction data has been put into URGWOM. There was agreement that the interaction activity should continue to be studied as questions of what the nature of the interaction is and its importance have not been answered.
- There was general agreement from attendees that study of the interaction should continue but may not need to occur indefinitely. The final report will either show a trend or it will be scattered and more work will need to be done.
- The 1<sup>st</sup> report from USGS is a year overdue. It's not known if the reports have to be done before the interagency agreement ends; Amy will ask Jericho.

**Action:** Amy Louise will ask Jericho if the USGS reports have to be done before the interagency agreement ends.

- Attendees would like to propose to the CC and EC that monitoring continue for another year in order to review the reports to determine if the project should be continued.

#### **Work Group Proposed Activities**

- The Coordination Committee (CC) reviewed SWM proposed activities at their last meeting and have requested that some of the summaries be revised to include more detail before they are approved.
  - *Provide recruitment/overbank flows*
    - The summary should indicate why this should be done.

- It was thought that this summary was for the Cochiti deviation. If the activity is to create overbank flows then the only thing it can be for is Cochiti deviation.
- Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) paid for depletions in 2010, this activity will be for the Program to pay for the depletions.
- It was asked how the Program would fund depletions if it's not known ahead of time how much it will be.
  - Calculations are done to estimate but it's true that the Program wouldn't know the costs ahead of time.
- Curtis McFadden volunteered to revise the *Provide recruitment/overbank flows* summary.
- *Decision Tree Hydrologic Conditions*
  - This activity will be sent to the adaptive management contractors.

**Action:** Amy Louise will send the *Decision Tree Hydrologic Conditions* activity to the adaptive management contractors.

- *Water requirements for Southwestern Willow Flycatcher habitat and nesting*
  - SWM was directed by the CC to work with Science Workgroup (ScW) for this summary but ScW said that SWM should talk to the SWFL expert with Reclamation as they do not currently have a SWFL expert. Amy Louise volunteered to talk with the SWFL expert at Reclamation in order to revise the summary.
- *Application of Rio Grande Riparian Groundwater Models to Support the Program and Water Operations Assessments*
  - The CC approved this activity. The costs need to be updated with estimates based on previous years.
  - Amy Louise volunteered to update the costs for this summary.
- *Use FLO-2D Modeling tools to estimate frequency and extent of overbank inundation*
  - This activity should be revised so that it is building upon the 2004 report from Tetra Tech. Ed Kandl volunteered to revise this summary.

**Action:** Revisions to the work group proposed activities should be completed by December 15<sup>th</sup>.

### 2010 Work Group Accomplishments

- Meeting attendees reviewed the 2010 Work Group Accomplishments.
- The accomplishments were created from the old work plan with completed tasks noted.
- No changes were made to the document.

### 2011 Work Plan

- Attendees reviewed the 2011 Work Plan. Meeting with new contractors and field trips were added to the Work Plan. Amy Louise will revise the 2011 Work Plan and email to the SWM work group.
- Projects that will produce deliverables will be listed under the Task "Review Deliverables". The projects that will be included are USGS, Groundwater/Surface water, Gages, and Riparian ground water models.
- Small corrections will be made to the document header and Rick Billings will be added as a work group member.
- If there is a new transect contractor there will be a meeting with them. "Meeting with new contractors" will be added for April of 2011.

- It was asked if Jericho has had any talks with USGS about renewing the interagency agreement. It was not known but Jericho has said that he will talk to USGS.
- Work group field trips were added to the work plan.
  - A tour of the MRGCD weather station sites, potential soil moisture sites, and MRGCD infrastructure. This could occur in April or May.
  - A tour of Authority facilities, the surface water diversion, and the water treatment plant could occur in March.
    - It was shared that an article was written noting the potential impacts of declining available water supplies out of the Colorado basin on New Mexico.
  - The Interstate Stream Commission (ISC) Atrisco project will be finished at the end of December. There will be a directional drill 20 ft under the levee in order to get electrical wiring from the pole to the well. . This site should be toured when there is runoff. It could be added as a stop for the MRGCD field trip.
    - Seepage tests will occur in winter, spring, and summer.

**Action:** Amy Louise will revise the 2011 Work Plan and email to the SWM work group.

### **Program Coordination**

- **LTP & AM Updates**
  - LTP development is still in progress.
  - ESSA will be meeting with Program agencies this week for the Adaptive Management Plan. ESSA has provided agencies with questions in preparation. It was noted that some of the questions seemed similar to the questions that were answered for Public Information and Outreach (PIO). ESSA are the adaptive management contractors that will develop the Program's Adaptive Management Plan. ESSA developed the Adaptive Management Plan for the Platte River.
- **PHVA/Hydrology & PVA Updates**
  - The Population Viability Analysis (PVA) work group will be meeting on December 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>.
  - The Population Habitat Viability Assessment (PHVA) is finishing model runs.
- **Joint Workgroup Activities –**
  - The Database Management System (DBMS) pilot will become available in April 2011.
  - The Monitoring Plan Team (MPT) completed monitoring in October and is working on the report. The monitoring was done “in-house” and has not been contracted to anyone. The MPT will be having a joint work group meeting with Science work group (ScW) and Habitat Restoration work group (HRW) to discuss monitoring questions. The first report is being done “in-house” and they are trying to get a contract out for next year.
- **PMT Liaison Needs**
  - SWM members should complete summary revisions and review the *USGS Groundwater/Surface water Interaction SOW*.
- **SWM Issues to be elevated**

- Attendees discussed the *Investigate potential impacts of human population growth on water management* Future Activity. SWM workgroup put forward this activity and it was not approved by the CC because they felt it did not relate to the Program. Further discussion with a CC member did not reveal any further details about why the CC felt that it did not relate other than what was stated in the CC meeting notes.
- Attendees further discussed how the activity would be done and how it would relate to the Program.
  - It was previously discussed that population growth affects land use trends and how that affects the Program.
  - This is something that the water rights system would need to address. It was asked how this would provide more water for the minnow. The Program would still have to find or lease water to put into a reservoir. Is this something SWM wants to look at?
  - Looking at the affect of population growth on the minnow and flycatcher might not benefit the species in a reasonable amount of time.
  - The Authority has not seen much population growth in Albuquerque, most of the growth is occurring in rural areas.
  - The population trends might affect the species by raising the price of water.
  - It was thought that tackling these issues might be too much for the SWM work group and the Program to handle. It would be expensive and it would take a long time before there would be results.
  - Page Pegram did talk with people concerning the state and regional water plans. Population projections were done for the state and regional water plans but the MRG regional plan didn't address endangered species.
  - Attendees determined that due to the high cost and the length of time it would take to get results the *Investigate potential impacts of human population growth on water management* Future Activity should be ranked as a priority 3 for the LTP and tabled until the new Biological Opinion is released.

### Agency Updates

- No agency updates were reported.

**Next Meeting: January 5<sup>th</sup>, 20011 from 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM at BIA**

<b>Species Water Management Work Group 01 December 2010 Meeting Attendees</b>					
<b>Name</b>	<b>POSITION</b>	<b>AFFILIATION</b>	<b>PHONE NUMBER</b>	<b>EMAIL ADDRESS</b>	<b>PRIMARY, ALTERNATE, OTHER</b>
Page Pegram	SWM Member	ISC	383-4041	page.pegram@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
Matt Martinez	SWM Member	MRGCD	247-0234	mmartinez@mrgcd.us	P
Amy Louise	SWM Member Co-Chair/PMT	ISC	383-4057	Amy.louise@state.nm.us	P
Ed Kandl	SWM Member	Reclamation	462-3586	ekandl@usbr.gov	P
Rick Billings	SWM Member	ABCWUA	796-2527	<a href="mailto:rbillings@abcwua.org">rbillings@abcwua.org</a>	P
Christine Sanchez	Admin Support	Tetra Tech	881-3188 ext. 139	christine.sanchez@tetrattech.com	O