

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

05 January 2011 Meeting

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

**Actions**

- Amy Louise will check to see if Warren Sharp (COTR) has a copy of the license for *USGS GW/SW Interaction*.
- Amy Louise will talk to Jericho Lewis (Reclamation Contracting Officer) about the contract transition for *USGS GW/SW Interaction*.
- Amy Louise will post the entire draft for the first for *USGS GW/SW Interaction* report to the Program website.
- Cyndie Abeyta will compile a summary of the *USGS GW/SW Interaction* project and its history for the workgroup.
- Amy Louise will verify with Jericho Lewis that Cyndie can contact Nathan Myers regarding the *USGS GW/SW Interaction*.
- Matt Martinez will check with David Gensler to see if there will be any issues with reducing the amount of transects for *USGS GW/SW Interaction*.
- Amy Louise will ask Jericho if representatives from SWM can be on the TPEC for *USGS GW/SW Interaction*.
- Amy Louise will ask the CC Co-Chairs and Yvette McKenna when the joint workgroup meeting for the SWFL will happen.
- Amy Louise will check to see when the SWM Charter needs to be updated.

**Decisions**

- The November 3<sup>rd</sup> and December 1<sup>st</sup> meeting minutes were approved with no changes.

**Meeting Summary**

**Introductions & Announcements** – Chris Banet brought the meeting to order and introductions were made around the table.

**Agenda Approval** – The agenda was approved with no changes.

**Approval of the November 3<sup>rd</sup> and December 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting notes** - The November 3<sup>rd</sup> and December 1<sup>st</sup> meeting minutes were approved with no changes. Matt Martinez contacted Janet Jarratt to see if she had any changes for the November 3<sup>rd</sup> minutes but has not received an answer; if she submits any changes in the next couple days the notes can be amended.

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

**USGS GW/SW Interaction –Transects**

- There has been general agreement from SWM that the *USGS GW/SW Interaction* project should go out for RFP. Meeting attendees discussed issues associated with the transition of the project should there be a new contractor. Language from the SOW and license will need to be reviewed in order to determine whether the license and land access permit will be transferable. Language from the license would also give information on longevity of the license and wells. Amy Louise will check to see if Warren Sharp (COTR) has a copy of the license. There was concern that a short contract extension may need to be made to the IA with USGS as a new contractor would need to be trained and shown well

locations; though the data loggers are pretty standard USGS has run into issues with data collection in the past. Amy Louise will talk to Jericho Lewis (Reclamation Contracting Officer) about the contract transition.

- Meeting attendees discussed continuation of data collection for the project. In addition to the analysis by USGS the monitoring data is also used to calibrate URGWOM. A member of the URGWOM technical team recommended the project continue for another 1 to 2 years to complete a 10-year cycle. There was general agreement from meeting attendees that data collection should continue to occur for at least 1 to 2 more years; once the reports have been received and reviewed it can be determined if data analysis and interpretation still need to continue. A draft of the first report was received and the text of the report was distributed via email. Amy Louise will post the entire draft report to the Program website.
- Cyndie Abeyta volunteered to compile a summary of the project and its history for the workgroup. Cyndie may need to contact Nathan Myers (USGS) with questions; Amy Louise will verify with Jericho Lewis that Cyndie can contact Nathan regarding the *USGS GW/SW Interaction*.
- Meeting attendees also discussed whether the current level of data collection is necessary. Double transects are being done and this level of detail is not needed. Five of the doubled transects could be cut but double transects should remain at Alameda, Paseo del Norte and Montano in order to monitor the affects of an “underground dam” created by 2 large pylons constructed for the Drinking Water Project. Matt Martinez will check with David Gensler to see if there will be any issues with reducing the amount of transects.
- Meeting attendees expressed the need to have a SWM representative participate on the TPEC in order to ensure that all workgroup concerns are considered when reviewing proposals. Amy Louise will ask Jericho if representatives from SWM can be on the TPEC.

**Recruitment Overbank Flows activity summary** – Meeting attendees were notified that this activity is no longer needed as it is uncertain who will have water or funds for deviations. This will likely be dealt with by the Corps on a year-to-year basis.

**SWFL activity summary** – Revisions to this activity summary will be put on hold as the CC wants there to be a joint workgroup meeting to focus on Program plans for the Southwestern Willow Flycatcher (SWFL). Amy Louise will ask the CC Co-Chairs and Yvette McKenna when this meeting will happen.

### **Program Coordination**

- **LTP & AM Updates** – The LTP is still in process. The adaptive management contractor met with the executives in December to openly discuss Program issues. The schedule for adaptive management has been extended and workshops for the contractor to present what they have so far will be scheduled for April.
- **PHVA/Hydrology & PVA Updates** – The PVA met in December 2010. They had planned to have a joint meeting with PHVA at the end of January but it has been indicated that that meeting might not occur until possibly February. PVA will have some initial model runs completed.
- **Joint Workgroup Activities** – There will be a database pilot for the Database Management System (DBMS) available in April. The Monitoring Plan Team (MPT) had a joint meeting with Science Workgroup (ScW) last month to develop questions for high intensity monitoring. The MPT hopes to have the first draft of the report for the low intensity monitoring that was done internally completed to use for the SOW for the high

intensity monitoring. It has not been determined whether high intensity monitoring will occur this year but the Corps may be doing some on their own and the MPT will have input on the approach the Corps takes.

- **PMT Liaison Needs** – The Program Management Team (PMT) is reviewing the Annual Report for 2008 and 2009. Work group Co-Chairs will be reviewing the Annual Report.
- **SWM Issues to be elevated** – A SWM Charter update should be coming up; Amy Louise will check to see when the Charter needs to be updated.

#### **Agency Updates**

- Frank Lujan was announced as the new Governor for Pueblo of Isleta and Eddy Paul Torrez was named as First Lieutenant Governor. Governor Robert Benavides was actively involved with the communities around Isleta and is now on New Mexico Governor Martinez's transition team in helping to select her staff and cabinet positions. There are also 8 new Council members for Pueblo of Isleta.
- John D'Antonio and Estevan Lopez were asked to stay through the transition. It is not known at this time if they will remain as State Engineer and Director, respectively. Tom Bagwell, Deputy Director at NMDA, was appointed by the NMSU Board of Regents to serve as interim Director/Secretary starting January 2011. A national search will be conducted and the NMSU Board of Regents will select this cabinet position.

#### **Next Meeting: February 2, 2011 at BIA**

Possible agenda items: USGS GW/SW Interaction –Transects

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

05 January 2011 Meeting

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

**Meeting Minutes**

**Introductions & Announcements**

- Chris Banet brought the meeting to order and introductions were made around the table.

**Agenda Approval**

- The agenda was approved with no changes.

**Approval of the November 3<sup>rd</sup> and December 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting notes**

- Matt Martinez contacted Janet Jarratt to see if she had any changes for the November 3<sup>rd</sup> minutes but has not received an answer; if she submits any changes in the next couple days the notes can be amended.

**Decision:** The November 3<sup>rd</sup> and December 1<sup>st</sup> meeting minutes were approved with no changes.

**December Action Item Review**

- **Matt Martinez will verify that Janet Jarrett has reviewed the November SWM meeting minutes.**
  - Complete.
- **Matt Martinez will check to see if the permit for *USGS Groundwater/Surface water Interaction* is through Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District (MRGCD).**
  - Complete.
  - There is a license through MRGCD and Matt has been trying to obtain the license because its language may dictate where the project will go. This will be discussed further during agenda item “**USGS GW/SW Interaction –Transects**”.
- **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.**
  - Complete.
  - The consensus from the workgroup has been for the project to go out for RFP. This will be further discussed during agenda item “**USGS GW/SW Interaction – Transects**”.
- **SWM work group members should review the *USGS Groundwater/Surface water Interaction* SOW and send any comments to Amy Louise by December 6, 2010.**
  - Complete.
- **Revisions to the work group proposed activities should be completed by December 15<sup>th</sup>.**
  - Complete.
  - USGS will need to be removed from the *USGS Groundwater/Surface water Interaction* activity summary; it is not too late to make this change.

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

#### **USGS GW/SW Interaction –Transects**

- Meeting attendees discussed issues with the license for this project being transferrable if the project was awarded to a contractor. Matt Martinez had distributed several informative documents concerning the project to the SWM workgroup, including a permit request going back to 2003. Matt has been talking to Ray Gomez at MRGCD regarding transfer of the license. Ray will need to see the SOW and license before he can comment on whether the license is transferrable. A possible issue is that USGS approval may be needed for the license to be transferred and Ray would not want to issue a new license for just a year. Matt has attempted to get a copy of the license but due to the holidays the appropriate people have been unavailable.
  - It was suggested that the license could be transferred to the Program.
  - An option that Ray gave was to keep the license with USGS and then have a land access permit issued to the contractor. If USGS is reluctant to have the license transferred then the license would have to be revoked and then reissued.
  - It was guessed that the license was issued specifically for this project and that it would include drilling and land access for “x” amount of years. The licenses are temporary and have a time limit.
  - Language from the license could also say the wells will be abandoned after a period of time and then the contractor would have to drill new wells.
  - Warren Sharp (COTR) may have a copy of the license.

**Action:** Amy Louise will check to see if Warren Sharp (COTR) has a copy of the license.

- Meeting attendees discussed the history of the project.
  - The project was believed to have started with the ScW; they may also have more information.
  - Dave Wilkins, Dave Gensler, and Dale Rankin were all originally involved with the project.
  - In addition to MRGCD access there is also land access with City of Albuquerque Open Space and Rio Grande State Park.
  - The current IA with USGS will end in March. There is continuous recording with the data being downloaded twice a year. The last data download under the IA will be in February-March 2011. There was concern that USGS may not process the last bit of data if the project goes out for RFP.
    - Amy has met with Dale, Nathan, and Jericho and it was said that SWM is interested in an RFP. USGS will be able to put in a proposal for the RFP.
- Meeting attendees discussed continuing the monitoring for a couple more years and cutting back on the number of wells. Double transects are being done in some areas and it was thought that data on that fine a scale is not needed.
  - It was thought that double transects were used in order to get a 3-D perspective.
  - The monitoring data is also used to calibrate URGWOM. A member of the URGWOM technical team recommended the project continue for another 1 to 2 years to complete a 10-year cycle.
  - It was recommended that the double transects should remain at Alameda, Paseo del Norte and Montano in order to monitor the affects of an “underground dam” created by 2 large pylons constructed for the Drinking Water Project.

Monitoring this area is a good reason for monitoring to continue for a least another year.

- Five of the doubled transects could be cut with double transects remaining at Alameda, Paseo del Norte, and Montano.

**Action:** Matt Martinez will check with David Gensler to see if there will be any issues with reducing the amount of transects.

- There was general agreement from meeting attendees that data collection should continue for at least a year or two and once the reports have been received and reviewed it can be determined if data analysis and interpretation still need to continue. A draft of the first report was received and the text of the report was distributed via email; figures and tables were also received but were too large to be distributed via email.

**Action:** Amy Louise will post the entire draft report to the Program website.

- It was briefly discussed that there may be a need to contact someone higher than the USGS District Chief in order to receive the reports that are due. This would ensure that the reports that are owed are received but USGS is not needed for data collection.
- Cyndie Abeyta volunteered to compile a summary of the project and its history for the workgroup. Cyndie may need to contact Nathan Myers (USGS) with questions.

**Action:** Amy Louise will verify with Jericho Lewis that Cyndie can contact Nathan regarding the *USGS GW/SW Interaction*.

- It's very important for data collection to not be missed during the transfer and there was concern that a short contract extension may need to be made to the IA with USGS as a new contractor would need to be trained and shown well locations. Though the data loggers are pretty standard USGS has run into issues with data collection in the past.

**Action:** Amy Louise will talk to Jericho Lewis (Reclamation Contracting Officer) about the contract transition.

- Meeting attendees discussed whether the new SOW should be revised to include putting all existing data into a more usable format.
  - The current issues with the existing data are that the date format is difficult to deal with in Excel and the depth from ground surface.
  - Due to the cost and amount of time it would take to go back through the large amounts of existing data it might be best to keep the data as it is and address this issue if there is a need for the data to be reformatted.
- The SOW will be revised once information obtained from the action items has been received.
- Meeting attendees expressed the need to have a SWM representative participate on the TPEC in order to ensure that all workgroup concerns are considered when reviewing proposals.

**Action:** Amy Louise will ask Jericho if representatives from SWM can be on the TPEC.

#### **Recruitment Overbank Flows activity summary**

- Amy Louise had sent out an email thanking Curtis McFadden for revising the summary and informing the SWM work group that after discussion with a Coordination Committee (CC) member and the Program Manager this activity will no longer be needed. Last year Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) had paid for the water but this year it is uncertain who will have water or funds for deviations.

- The deviations will not take place if there is not funding. Though Reclamation had provided funding for deviations last year they have said at an Executive Committee (EC) meeting that they will not fund deviations in the future.
- The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) has sent out a letter saying that they are working on a way to find funding.
- There was one opinion that deviations are something that the Program would have an interest in funding.
- This will likely be dealt with by the Corps on a year-to-year basis.

### **SWFL activity summary**

- Revisions to this activity summary will be put on hold as the CC wants there to be a joint workgroup meeting to focus on “big picture” Program plans for the Southwestern Willow Flycatcher (SWFL).

**Action:** Amy Louise will ask the CC Co-Chairs and Yvette McKenna when this meeting will happen.

### **Program Coordination**

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  - The LTP is still in process.
  - A couple of people from the adaptive management contractor met with Executive Committee (EC) members in December to openly discuss Program issues. The schedule for adaptive management has been extended and workshops for the contractor to present what they have so far will be scheduled for April 2011.
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<b>Species Water Management Work Group 05 January 2011 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.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
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
Chris Banet	SWM Member Co-Chair	BIA	563-3403	chris.banet@bia.gov	P
Cyndie Abeyta	SWM Member	USFWS	761-4738	Cyndie_Abeyta@fws.gov	P
Cody Walker	SWM Member	Pueblo of Isleta	869-9623	poi36004@isletapueblo.com	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	christine.sanchez@tetrattech.com	O