

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

11 February 2011 Meeting

10:00 AM to 12:00 PM @ BIA

Actions

- Terina Perez will follow up on Amy Louise's January 2011 actions to make sure they all get completed.
- Matt Martinez will circulate the documentation he has on the *USGS GW/SW Interaction* license to the SWM work group.
- Terina Perez will follow up with Jericho Lewis regarding the posting of the *USGS GW/SW Interaction* report with attachments to the Program's website.
- Terina Perez will research the tentative dates for the joint work group meeting for the SWFL.
- Curtis McFadden will check with Marc Sidlow and Steven Kissock to determine whether or not the Corps is interested in continuing the USGS GW/SW Interaction data collection for URGWOM. He will also confirm the Corps funding contributions to the project.
- Matt Martinez will recirculate the USGS GW/SW Interaction emails, consolidate all the information on the project, and will put all the information on a disc for distribution to SWM members.
- Terina Perez will find out when the next monthly URGWOM tech team meeting is scheduled.
- Curtis McFadden will contact Dennis Garcia to facilitate a meeting between key URGWOM individuals (Nabil Shafike, Steven Kissock, Marc Sidlow) and SWM representatives (Chris Banet and Cyndie Abeyta).
- Terina Perez will follow up with Susan Kelly about a UNM representative in the SWM work group.
- Comments on the Larval Food Availability study project scope are due by February 22nd

Decisions

- With no objections, the January 5th 2011 meeting notes were approved with no changes.
- With no objections, the work group elected Chris Banet as federal co-chair of SWM for a second year.
- It was agreed that Chris Banet and Cyndie Abeyta will meet with URGWOM representatives to determine the data needs and recommendations for changes to the USGS GW/SW Interaction project.

Meeting Summary

- Chris Banet brought the meeting to order and introductions were made around the table and the signature sheet was passed around. Terina Perez was welcomed as the new PMT liaison, replacing Amy Louise. The agenda was approved with no changes.
- With no objections, the January 5th 2011 meeting notes were approved with no changes.
- The work group reviewed the January 2011 Action Items. Unfortunately, most of the actions were assigned to Amy Louise. Most of the actions were completed as assigned; however, Terina Perez will follow up on Amy's action to make sure they all get completed.

- Attendees then discussed the USGS Groundwater/Surface Water (GW/SW) Interaction – Transects Scope of Work (SOW). Cyndie Abeyta distributed a draft summary (spreadsheet format) on the USGS GW/SW project to attendees. Please note that the summary document is not complete and is still being developed. Cyndie then briefly shared the project history and background as reported in the summary. In the most recent project update it was shared that Dale Rankin, the principal investigator on the project retired in December. Nathan Meyers was Dale's supervisor and is now overseeing the project. Nathan is currently reviewing the first report. The report will have a few additional stages of internal USGS review before the final version is made available to Jericho Lewis. The target date for the second report to be in the "colleague review stage" is March 9th; this is when Jericho will also receive a copy. Nathan Meyers is working with Jericho Lewis and Warren Sharp to schedule a meeting in early March to discuss the project.
 - Attendees then discussed options for this project. There were 4 main options discussed: (1) stop the project entirely; (2) continue the project with reduced transects/data collection – funded by the Program; (3) continue the project with reduced transects/data collection – funded by the Corps; or (4) continue the project with reduced transects/data collection – funded jointly by the Program and the Corps.
 - Attendees agreed that more information is needed on the intended use of the data before any decisions could be made. If the data is still useful and needed (at least to some extent) then the project will most likely be continued but at a reduced effort.
 - Attendees agreed to schedule a meeting with Dennis Garcia and other key individuals (Nabil Shafike, Marc Sidlow, Steven Kisson) to determine URGWOM's need of the data.
 - The writing of the SOW will be postponed until feedback from the meeting with the URGWOM representatives is available.
- The work group then briefly discussed the SWM Work Group Charter. The charter is to be reviewed by the work group annually. If the work group has any recommended changes to their charter, those changes are to be elevated to the CC for consensus recommendation to the EC. If the work group does not have any changes to the charter than nothing has to be done. The charter has to be reviewed by April 2011. Charter review will be added to the March meeting agenda in order to allow Hilary Brinegar to participate in the review.
- Attendees elected Chris Banet as the federal co-chair for a second year and discussed the need for a non-federal co-chair.
- In the Program Update, it was shared that the CC continues to work on narratives in the Long-term Plan (LTP) and remains on schedule. Editorial review of the activity summaries will be completed by GenQuest. There was a 3-day adaptive management working session on February 1st, 2nd, and 3rd. The purpose was to display and discuss what has been done in the work process so far, collect additional feedback, and determine next steps. It is information gathering at this point; the plan is at the conceptual stage. All of the URGWOM rulesets were finished/approved at the last PHVA meeting. There was also a presentation on the results of the first model runs. PHVA will meet again at the end of March. The PVA just met at the end of January. Their next meeting is Tuesday, March 29th for the model debuts. This meeting is open to anyone interested in attending the model debuts; the CC and EC will be encouraged to attend. The issue of the integration of the URGWOM outputs with the PVA models remains a concern for the PVA work group.

- In the agency updates it was shared that Amy Louise will start with the Corps on February 28th; she will be the new URGWOM project manager. The federal agencies are all expecting budget cuts for 2011 and 2012. There may be a Continuing Resolution (CR) for the remainder of FY 11. This would fund the Program at the FY10 level of approximately \$3.6 million.

Next Meeting: March 2, 2011 at BIA

- Possible agenda items: (1) non-federal co-chair elections; (2) charter review (due before April 2011); (3) updates and recommendations from the URGWOM meeting regarding the USGS GW/SW data needs; (4) USGS GW/SW Integration project scope of work;

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

11 February 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 and the signature sheet was passed around.
- It was announced that Amy Louise, who was the non-federal co-chair and PMT liaison for SWM, has accepted a new job with the Corps. Today was her last day with ISC. Terina Perez is the new PMT liaison for the work group but the non-federal co-chair position is still vacant. Amy was thanked for all her contributions to the SWM work group – she will be missed!

Agenda Approval

- Today's agenda is the same as the original February 2nd meeting; the agenda was approved with no changes.

Approval of the January 5th Meeting notes

- With no objections, the January 5th, 2011 meeting notes were approved with no changes.

Decision: The January 5th, 2011 meeting minutes were approved with no changes.

January Action Item Review

- Amy Louise will check to see if Warren Sharp (COTR) has a copy of the license for *USGS GW/SW Interaction*. – *unknown*;
 - Matt Martinez explained that he found and emailed a license to Amy; it is not remembered if all SWM members were copied on the email. The license itself was vague (ex. didn't specify the number of wells, etc.) and didn't provide specific locations. It also appears that the license lumped other projects under the same contract number.
 - Some attendees recall that in the past, the application actually became part of the license.

- The piezometers are in the “right of way” for the District. If the contract were to be turned over, the District would require a land access permit (which is different than a license) to get access to the same piezometers.

Action: Matt Martinez will circulate the documentation he has on the *USGS GW/SW Interaction* license to the SWM work group.

- Amy Louise will talk to Jericho Lewis (Reclamation Contracting Officer) about the contract transition for *USGS GW/SW Interaction*. – *complete*;
 - Amy sent out an email a while ago explaining that it would be impractical to write an Interagency Agreement (IA) for such a transition period as it is too short of a time span. This means there may be a bit of a data gap although the data loggers should continue to collect data.
- Amy Louise will post the entire draft for the first for *USGS GW/SW Interaction* report to the Program website. – *in progress*;
 - Amy provided a disc with the report and all the attachments to Jericho Lewis for posting to the website. As far as is known, it has not been posted yet although Amy followed up with Jericho several times.

Action: Terina Perez will follow up with Jericho Lewis regarding the posting of the *USGS GW/SW Interaction* report with attachments to the Program’s website.

- Cyndie Abeyta will compile a summary of the *USGS GW/SW Interaction* project and its history for the workgroup. – *in progress*;
 - Cyndie will present the draft summary today; the summary is only partially completed. Cyndie talked with Nathan Meyers just this morning and will report on the project updates they discussed.
- ✓ Amy Louise will verify with Jericho Lewis that Cyndie can contact Nathan Myers regarding the *USGS GW/SW Interaction*. – *complete*;
- 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*. – *complete*;
 - The District does not have a problem or concerns with reducing the number of transects if that is what the SWM work group decides.
- Amy Louise will ask Jericho if representatives from SWM can be on the TPEC for *USGS GW/SW Interaction*. – *complete*;
 - Not only can SWM representatives participate in the TPEC for the *USGS GW/SW Interaction* project, it is highly encouraged. Amy distributed this information in an email.
- Amy Louise will ask the CC Co-Chairs and Yvette McKenna when the joint workgroup meeting for the SWFL will happen. – *complete*;
 - This joint work group meeting is still pending as a date has not been selected yet.

Action: Terina Perez will research the tentative dates for the joint work group meeting for the SWFL.

- Amy Louise will check to see when the SWM Charter needs to be updated. – *complete*;
 - The last paragraph of the charter specifies an annual review. If the work group has any recommended changes to their charter, those changes are to be elevated

to the CC for consensus recommendation to the EC. If the work group does not have any changes to the charter than nothing has to be done. The last approval date was April 10, 2010 which means that the charter has to be reviewed by April 2011.

- Hilary Brinegar was unable to participate in today's meeting but she had some recommends/comments on the charter. Charter review will be briefly discussed today, but will also be carried over to the March agenda to accommodate Hilary and any other members who were unable to attend the rescheduled meeting.

USGS GW/SW Interaction –Transects SOW

- Cyndie Abeyta distributed the draft summary (spreadsheet format) on the USGS GW/SW project to attendees. The majority of documents pertaining to this project are in the District's library. The handout is a summary based on those documents. Please note that the summary document is not complete and is still being developed.
- The first document on this project is the original USGS proposal from 2002. This initial 5-year proposal was not funded. There were 7 transects proposed from Alameda to Rio Bravo bridges. The subsequent years of the project were to expand from Rio Bravo to Bernardo (in FY05) and Bernardo to San Acacia (FY06). The primary purpose was to get a better handle on the losses from drains and groundwater interactions with the end user being URGWOM. There was quite a budget request for completion. Remember, however, that these were only for single transects.
 - The proposal was then cut to a single year (document 2) with option years for the Alameda to Rio Bravo reach with 7 cross sections and 1 transect per cross section. At that time, the maximum grant from the Bosque Initiative was \$50,000 so they would have to find other source to match the funds. The purpose remained the same with the same goals as the first big proposal – determine how water usage was going to affect the hydraulics of the river.
 - The first Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) through the Program was in 2003. A lot occurred between 2003 and when the Program had fluctuations, the project was switched to double transects, and the USGS didn't propose beyond Rio Bravo.
- The current draft RFP is included in the summary on the second page. Dale Rankin, the principal investigator on the project retired in December so his supervisor, Nathan Meyers is now overseeing the project. He has the draft first report and is preparing to send it for the regional review/approval. The USGS has a severe review process – from the author to a supervisory review then through a colleague review (the Program first receives a copy when a report is in the colleague review) then through a specialist review then through an EPN (technical edit) review then to the regional office for approval. Approved reports are published electronically for a period of time and then the paper copies are printed. Nathan was hoping to have the report the region next week.
 - Gretchen Olsen is the new part-time project chief and there is 2 other technical staff (field techs). The target date for the second report to be in the "colleague review stage" is March 9th; this is when Jericho will also receive a copy. Nathan Meyers is working with Jericho Lewis and Warren Sharp to schedule a meeting in early March to discuss the project.
- It was pointed out that completing the summary is a tedious effort and it is difficult to fill in the "in-betweens" that occurred after 2003 because not all the documents are dated. In making decisions on this project, it as suggested the work group consider how this project actually benefits the minnow. The data can be used in URGWOM and thus inform the

PVA/PHVA modeling process, but they may have sufficient information already. However, the Corps may have interesting in continuing the data collection in which case they may be able to continue funding. It was also pointed out that if the project is not continued, then all the wells and equipment will be turned over and Reclamation will be responsible and liable for them.

- Also, if the work group agrees to eliminate some of the transects then Reclamation will also be responsible for plugging and abandoning of any of the transect wells.
- If the work group decides to go with another contractor, now would be the time to do so but remember there will be a learning curve. Gretchen and at least 1 of the field techs may be somewhat familiar with the locations so this may have to be considered when deciding to stay with the USGS or open the project for bid.
- There is technical interpretation and analysis included in the first report. The original SOW was just for the data collection but around 2008 funding was increased to add SIR interpretation and analysis. The SWM work group did agree to this addition.
- Attendees discussed that there is not a current need for continued data analysis at this point and it may be there is no need for data collection either – unless URGWOM need the data.
- It is unknown if the Corps contributed funds and if so how much.

Action: Curtis McFadden will check with Marc Sidlow and Steven Kissock to determine whether or not the Corps is interested in continuing the USGS GW/SW Interaction data collection for URGWOM. He will also confirm the Corps funding contributions to the project.

Action: Matt Martinez will recirculate the USGS GW/SW Interaction emails, consolidate all the information on the project, and will put all the information on a disc for distribution to SWM members.

- The main question is: do we need to continue collecting the data? And the answer depends if URGWOM needs/uses it. The first report which should be available soon should answer all the original questions on flow directions, gradients, etc. It is assumed that URGWOM would be the only users of the data right now.

Action: Terina Perez will find out when the next monthly URGWOM tech team meeting is scheduled.

- There are 6 or 7 years worth of data for some but not all sites. It has been previously discussed that there could be benefit to continuing limited data collection on the transects adjacent to the drinking water project to record information on any resulting affects or changes.
- There is not a clear, direct benefit to the minnow. The options can be summarized as (1) if the Corps wants to keep all sites, then they will be responsible for the funding burden; (2) reduce the project, keeping the USGS; (3) reduce the project, with a new contractor; or (4) expire the project altogether.
 - Some members did not think that turning the project over to a new contractor would be an issue. The pressure-induced data loggers should continue to collect the data while a new contractor “got up to speed.” Plus, it would probably be cheaper to have someone else plug and abandon the other wells instead of the USGS.
 - It was cautioned that the plugging and abandoning wells not be rushed into – but to leave any discontinued wells for at least a year-long evaluation period. This would allow for reinitiating data collection should the need become apparent.

- Members of the URGWOM tech team have stated that they use the data to some extent but would probably agree with cutting back the project effort.
- The recommended next steps was for SWM representatives to meet with the URGWOM tech team to determine actual data needs and based on their feedback, then decide what kind of project scope would be needed.
 - Cyndie Abeyta and Chris Banet are both on the URGWOM steering committee and agreed to represent SWM at a meeting with the tech team.
 - It was cautioned that the contract is up at the end of March and Jericho has a deadline for the SOW.
 - The only danger in letting the contract run out would be leaving the data loggers sitting in the wells. Something would have to be done with the data loggers immediately – it could be a new contractor, or Reclamation, or someone else assigned the responsibility.
 - The equipment transfer will happen between Jericho and Nathan once the IA runs out. The transfer is assumed to be a simple memo action to turn over the keys.
- It makes sense to have the URGWOM management involved in the decision especially if the Corps would need to contribute funds.

Action: Curtis McFadden will contact Dennis Garcia to facilitate a meeting between key URGWOM individuals (Nabil Shafike, Steven Kissock, Marc Sidlow) and SWM representatives (Chris Banet and Cyndie Abeyta).

- The feedback from the SWM/URGWOM meeting will inform whether or not a SOW will be needed. Hopefully the feedback will include enough specifics that could inform the refining of the RFP to incorporate specific details and transect phase outs.
 - The work group agreed that this project will either be eliminated altogether or reduced. If the project is to be reduced, the funding issue will need to be worked out. The options are: (1) continue the project with reduced transects/data collection – funded by the Program; (2) continue the project with reduced transects/data collection – funded by the Corps; or (3) continue the project with reduced transects/data collection – funded jointly by the Program and the Corps.
 - The analysis from the first USGS report will be valuable and it should be available soon.

SWM Charter Review

- The work group then briefly discussed the SWM Work Group Charter.
- The charter is to be reviewed by the work group annually. If the work group has any recommended changes to their charter, those changes are to be elevated to the CC for consensus recommendation to the EC. If the work group does not have any changes to the charter than nothing has to be done.
- The charter has to be reviewed by April 2011. Charter review will be added to the March meeting agenda in order to allow Hilary Brinegar to participate in the review.
- According to the charter, the co-chair's are to serve a 1-year term with no more than 2 consecutive terms. Chris Banet has been the federal co-chair for approximately 16 months. The work group has the opportunity to reelect Christ as the federal co-chair or elect a new co-chair.
 - Considering Amy Louise is no longer the non-federal co-chair (leaving a vacancy) the work group adamantly requested Chris continue for his second year.
 - Unfortunately, ISC is not able to provide a non-federal chair at this time; Matt Martinez was the previous non-federal co-chair; ABCWUA's representative is

very active in several work groups as well as the CC; NMDA's representative has to travel in from Las Cruces; and there is not a representative from UNM. Cody Walker from Isleta and Steve Harris (Rio Grande Restoration) used to attend but have not participated recently.

- However, this position will eventually have to be filled.
- With this abbreviated discussion, the charter review was tabled until the next meeting to allow for Hilary's input.

Decision: With no objections, the work group elected Chris Banet as federal co-chair of SWM for a second year.

Action: Terina Perez will follow up with Susan Kelly about a UNM representative in the SWM work group.

Program Coordination

• LTP & AM Updates

- The CC continues to work on narratives in the Long-term Plan (LTP) and remains on schedule. Editorial review of the activity summaries will be completed by GenQuest.
- There was a 3-day adaptive management working session on February 1st, 2nd, and 3rd. The purpose was to display and discuss what has been done in the work process so far, collect additional feedback, and determine next steps. It is information gathering at this point; the plan is at the conceptual stage.

• PHVA/Hydrology & PVA Updates

- All of the URGWOM rulesets were finished/approved at the last PHVA meeting on January 24th. There was also a presentation on the results of the first model runs. PHVA will meet again at the end of March.
- The PVA just met at the end of January. Their next meeting is Tuesday, March 29th for the model debuts. This meeting is open to anyone interested in attending the model debuts; the CC and EC will be encouraged to attend. The issue of the integration of the URGWOM outputs with the PVA models remains a concern for the PVA work group.

• Joint Workgroup Activities

- The Monitoring Plan Team (MPT) presented the monitoring results from last year to the CC. Paul Hook's report on the effectiveness monitoring is finished and was provided in December 2010. The group has been discussing the monitoring for this year. Based on last year's bids for the high-intensity monitoring work (bids from the contractors had such a range it was obvious that the intended work wasn't clear) the group has decided to recommend a larval food availability study be issued instead.
- The Database Management System (DBMS) work group will meet next Monday. The pilot database is expected to be finished in March. SWM members are encouraged to provide feedback on the pilot database once it is available – is necessary data available and easy to find? Does the pilot database have the reports, information, and tools SWM needs? Et cetera.

Action: Comments on the Larval Food Availability study project scope are due by February 22nd.

• PMT Liaison Needs

- The work group shared that Amy Louise used to use this standing agenda item to inform the work group of upcoming needs and deadlines.
- It was commented that the SWM work group appears to be really relying on their PMT liaison(s) and following the original plan/intent for the PMT.

- SWM members commented that they've been very fortunate to have had good co-chairs and PMTs and note takers.
- **SWM Issues to be elevated**
 - SWM as a need for a new non-federal co-chair.

Agency Updates

- Matt Martinez will probably not be able to attend the March meeting as irrigation season commences. He excitedly shared that the District will be purchasing a small acoustic Doppler current profiler (ADCP) boat to measure channel discharge.
- Amy Louise's first day with the Corps is February 28th – she will be the new URGWOM project manager.
- The federal agencies are all expecting budget cuts for 2011 and 2012. The Service and the Corps both have salary freezes but no hiring freezes at this time.
 - There may be a Continuing Resolution (CR) for the remainder of FY 11. This would fund the Program at the FY10 level of approximately \$3.6 million.
 - BIA is hoping to hire a new hydrologist; the intent is for this person to also attend the PHVA group.

Next Meeting: March 2, 2011 at BIA

- Possible agenda items: (1) non-federal co-chair elections; (2) charter review (due before April 2011); (3) updates and recommendations from the URGWOM meeting regarding the USGS GW/SW data needs; (4) USGS GW/SW Integration project scope of work;

Species Water Management Work Group 11 February 2011 Meeting Attendees					
Name	POSITION	AFFILIATION	PHONE NUMBER	EMAIL ADDRESS	PRIMARY, ALTERNATE, OTHER
Page Pegram	SWM Member	ISC	383-4041	page.peggram@state.nm.us	P
Terina Perez	PMT Member	Reclamation	462-3614	tlperez@usbr.gov	O
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
Kathy Dickinson (via phone)	SWM Member	Reclamation	462-3555	kdickinson@usbr.gov	A
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
Rick Billings	SWM Member	ABCWUA	796-2527	rbillings@abcwua.org	P
Marta Wood	Admin Support	Tetra Tech	259-6098	marta.wood@tetrattech.com	O