

Species Water Management Work Group Meeting
May 4, 2011

Meeting Materials:

Meeting Minutes

Program Updates

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

04 May 2011 Meeting

8:30 AM to 9:45 AM @ BIA

Actions

- Terina Perez will scan and/or otherwise email Chris Banet with a copy of the USGS groundwater/surface water interaction report for his review.
- Cyndie Abeyta will create references in her document on the history of the USGS GW/SW Interaction project for documents concerning the project and will put all information on a disc for distribution to SWM members. (*From 3/2*)
- Terina Perez will help Dagmar Llewellyn and Ed Kandl write an activity summary for hydrologic monitoring at habitat restoration sites. (*Ongoing from 3/2*)
- Matt Martinez will compile all of his available information on the USGS MOU for the GW/SW Interaction project onto a disc and provide to Terina Perez. (*Ongoing from 4/14*)
- Once Terina Perez receives the USGS MOU compiled information from Matt Martinez, she will work with Ali Saenz (Program administrative assistant) to post the information to the Program website for the SWM work group to access. (*Ongoing from 4/14*)
- Matt Martinez will confer with his supervisors on the recommended changes to the depletions issue in the SWM charter and inform the workgroup of MRGCD's position. (*Ongoing from 4/14*)
- Page Pegram will review the groundwater/surface water monitoring scope and revise the options as appropriate to "pare down" the document to a basic level for Ed Kandl to sign.
- Page Pegram will provide Ed Kandl with a copy of the data logger software disc, ISC SOPs, and anything else ISC has related to the operation and collection of data.
- Terina Perez will follow up with Jericho Lewis on the return of the data logger communication cable from USGS and will seek clarification on the software package that might have been purchased with the loggers.
- Matt Martinez will talk to the appropriate permitting staff at MRGCD about the USGS permits. (*Ongoing from 4/14*)
- Using the comment template provided last week, SWM work group members will review the USGS report and provide any comments to Terina Perez by Thursday May 5th and no later than Friday, May 6th.
- Terina Perez will email a June 1st meeting/field trip reminder to SWM members. The reminder will include instructions and directions to the site.
- Chris Banet, Terina Perez, and Christine Sanchez will coordinate on the June SWM agenda.
- When possible, Terina Perez will continue to provide the Program updates as a read ahead.
- Page Pegram will contact Cyndie Abeyta to determine who is the current point of contact for the USGS contract in order to confirm the type/brand of USGS equipment.

Meeting Summary

- Chris Banet brought the meeting order and introductions were made. The agenda was approved with the deletion of Item #5 (SADD Fish Passage Peer Review Recommendations) as it is a duplicate of Item #9. The approval of the April 14th, 2011 meeting notes was postponed until the June meeting to allow members sufficient time to review.

- Meeting attendees reviewed the April action items. Seven of the April actions items were of unknown status or ongoing; eight of the April action items were completed. The ongoing and incomplete actions items will be added to the May action items.
 - The work group agreed to pursue a written “agreement” with Reclamation staff on the transect data collection project. This project should be implementable once the appropriate Program approvals have been granted.
- The USGS report discussion was postponed because SWM members were not able to review the document and provide comments prior to the meeting.
- Attendees discussed the June 1st Atrisco Site Field trip details. Anyone interested in the site visit will meet at the MRGCD gate where the regular work group business will be discussed prior to caravanning to the site together.
- The work group discussed adopting the presentation of Program updates as a meeting read ahead. Members expressed appreciating updates on all Program groups.
- In their discussion on the CC directive for work groups to provide feedback on the San Acacia Diversion Dam Fish Passage Peer Review Recommendations, SWM members shared that neither of the current 2 SWM projects is expected to be impacted by fish passage issues. SWM members believe that the Program is addressing the “synthesis” of information recommendation through the development of the Program database. Members suggested the most efficient use of time and energy is to wait until the database is functional.

Next SWM Meeting: June 1st Field Trip to Atrisco Site

- Tentative Agenda Items include: (1) approval of the April 14th and May 4th, 2011 meeting notes; (2) SWM Charter discussion; (3) USGS groundwater/surface water interaction report comments/feedback discussion (if needed);

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

04 May 2011 Meeting

8:30 AM to 9:45 AM @ BIA

Meeting Minutes

Introductions & Announcements

- Chris Banet brought the meeting order.
- Curtis McFadden was congratulated on the birth of his new baby girl!
- It was shared that no one has had time to review the USGS groundwater/surface water report as originally scheduled by today. Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) cannot access any FTP sites due to security restrictions; Terina will provide Chris with a scanned/electronic copy for his review.

Action: Terina Perez will scan and/or otherwise email Chris Banet with a copy of the USGS groundwater/surface water interaction report for his review.

Agenda Approval

- The agenda was approved with deletion of Item #5 SADD Fish Passage Peer Review Recommendations as it is a repeat of Item #9.
- It was agreed that the SWM Charter discussion will be postponed until the June meeting in order for MRGCD representatives to contribute input.

Approval of the April 14th, 2011 meeting notes

- The approval of the April 14th, 2011 meeting notes was postponed until the June meeting in order to allow members more time to review the notes.

April 14th Action Item Review

- Cyndie Abeyta will create references in her document on the history of the USGS GW/SW Interaction project for documents concerning the project and will put all information on a disc for distribution to SWM members. (*From 3/2*) – *unknown status; this action will be carried over to next month*
- Terina Perez will help Dagmar Llewellyn and Ed Kandl write an activity summary for hydrologic monitoring at habitat restoration sites. (*Ongoing from 3/2*) – *ongoing; this action will be carried over to next month*
 - Due to Biological Assessment (BA) activities within Reclamation, neither Dagmar nor Ed have time to address this action. It is highly likely that this action will not be addressed until the draft BA is in the review stages.
- ✓ Terina Perez will follow up with Susan Kelly about a UNM representative in the SWM work group. (*Ongoing from 2/11*) – *complete;*
 - There have been several email communications which indicate that Bruce Thompson (UNM EC representative) has forwarded the request for SWM participation but there have been no responses yet.

- Matt Martinez will compile all of his available information on the USGS MOU for the GW/SW Interaction project onto a disc and provide to Terina Perez. – *unknown status; this action will be carried over to next month*
 - Email communications indicate that Matt has made progress on this action but it is unknown if the action has been completed.
- Once Terina Perez receives the USGS MOU compiled information from Matt Martinez, she will work with Ali Saenz (Program administrative assistant) to post the information to the Program website for the SWM work group to access. – *ongoing; this action will be carried over to next month. See the above action item.*
- ✓ Terina will resend copies of the draft GW/SW Interaction SOW to Hilary Brinegar and Matt Martinez. – *completed;*
- ✓ Curtis McFadden will discuss filling the SWM co-chair position with his superiors. – *completed;*
 - Due to his current and expected (future) work load, Curtis was not authorized by his supervisors to volunteer for the co-chair position.
- ✓ Terina Perez will email the summary of the peer reviewers' prioritized recommendations to the SWM work group. – *completed;*
- ✓ Terina Perez will communicate the proposed date of June 1st for the ISC Atrisco Site field trip to Grace Haggerty. – *completed;*
 - Several weeks ago, Grace Haggerty verified that she would schedule the field trip for June 1st. A reminder email was sent to ISC yesterday but no confirmation has been received yet.
- Matt Martinez will confer with his supervisors on the recommended changes to the depletions issue in the SWM charter and inform the workgroup of MRGCD's position. – *unknown status; this action will be carried over to next month*
- ✓ Terina Perez will confer with Jericho Lewis on the GW/SW Interaction contract, the data loggers, and other details of contract close-out. – *complete;*
 - Through email communications, it was verified that there should not be much cost for this work beyond cost of monitoring – the loggers are already deployed so there is no expected equipment costs, only potentially minor field costs.
 - Members discussed the contracting situation and it was shared that from a federal contracting standpoint, Jericho would not issue a contract to Reclamation staff. However, if desired, the work group could arrange for an "agreement" with the Water Operations department/staff. One reason to have a written agreement between the work group and Reclamation staff is to have more commitment and assurance with the expected deliverables.
 - The work group discussed adjusting the current draft scope and providing to Ed to sign. The last version of the scope was distributed via email in early March.
 - Ed has expressed that he will be able to cover all transects so there shouldn't be the need to "cut back" the scope of work at this time.

- Regarding the ownership of the equipment, Jericho replied that Reclamation purchased everything with the exception of the computers and possible exception of the software. The equipment (data loggers) will stay and remain employed.
 - It was shared that the software should be free. In fact, ISC has the software program(s) and standard operating procedures (SOP) on a disc.
 - However, one piece of equipment – the interface cable or optical cable reader – needs to be given back to Reclamation. It is assumed that this communication cable was part of the equipment purchased by Reclamation and therefore should be returned.
- Regarding the lapse in time and the question on how soon the work could begin, it was shared that the Program already approved the funding requirement under Criteria 2 (*please see the FY11 Budget spreadsheet for details*) so it is expected that this work could be resumed promptly upon CC approval. Terina has proposed adding this discussion with the CC at today's work meeting.
- BIA expressed the desire to have their new hydrologist accompany Ed into the field.

Action: Page Pegram will review the groundwater/surface water monitoring scope and revise the options as appropriate to “pare down” the document to a basic level for Ed Kandl to sign.

Action: Page Pegram will provide Ed Kandl with a copy of the data logger software disc, ISC SOPs, and anything else ISC has related to the operation and collection of data.

Action: Terina Perez will follow up with Jericho Lewis on the return of the data logger communication cable from USGS and will seek clarification on the software package that might have been purchased with the loggers.

Action: Chris Banet will have BIA's hydrologist contact Ed Kandl to arrange going into the field.

- ✓ Terina Perez will then contact Yvette McKenna to set up a meeting with Ed Kandl and the CC Co-Chairs; and Jericho Lewis to get CC approval via email. – *completed; see above discussion;*
- Matt Martinez will talk to the appropriate permitting staff at MRGCD about the USGS permits. – *unknown status; this action will be carried over to next month*
- SWM work group members will review the USGS report and provide any comments to Terina Perez by May 4th. – *not completed; in process.*
 - Unfortunately, SWM members were not able to review the USGS report by today's deadline. There is a very small window of opportunity for comments to be provided to Terina.
 - SWM members will be able to submit comments on the USGS report preferably by tomorrow (Thursday, May 5th) but no later than Friday, May 6th in order for comments to be compiled and submitted to the USGS on May 9th. A comment form was distributed to work group about a week ago.
 - It was commented that there were a surprising amount of typos in the executive summary alone, given the extensive review that USGS reports go through.

- ✓ Hilary Brinegar will confirm if she can attend the SAR float trip next month as the SWM representative. – *completed*;
 - Hilary was not able to attend, but as a SAR member Page Pegram did participate.

USGS Groundwater/Surface Water Interaction Report Review

- This discussion was postponed because SWM members were not able to review the document and provide comments prior to the meeting.

Atrisco Field Trip Arrangements

- The June SWM meeting will actually be a field trip to the Atrisco Site on June 1st. Grace Haggerty (ISC) has arranged the tour for June 1st.
- The Atrisco Site is located at Bridge Street (where it crosses the river), on the northwest side.
- Attendees will convene at the MRGCD gate, which is locked, before proceeding to the site together.
- Regular work group business will take place at the cars while the group convenes; the June agenda will be kept as simple as possible.

Action: Terina Perez will email a June 1st meeting/field trip reminder to SWM members. The reminder will include instructions and directions to the site.

Action: Chris Banet, Terina Perez, and Christine Sanchez will coordinate on the June SWM agenda.

Program Coordination

- Due to the abbreviated meeting times for today, the Program Coordination updates were provided as read aheads. For convenience, this read ahead has been attached at end of these notes.
- The work group discussed whether or not to adopt this new presentation of Program updates. Members expressed appreciating updates on all of the Program groups. It was agreed to have the Program updates provided as a read ahead from now on. This saves time during the actual meetings and allows members to follow groups that may be more important to them.

Action: When possible, Terina Perez will continue to provide the Program updates as a read ahead.

Discussion of San Acacia Diversion Dam (SADD) Fish Passage Peer Review Recommendations

- The peer review panel for the SADD fish passage peer review provided the Program with several recommendations for moving forward. The EC subsequently tasked the CC with following up with those recommendations. Ultimately, the Program needs to decide how much time and funding to allocate to the recommendations. The top prioritized recommendations were to: (1) synthesize results from the considerable literature on silvery minnow to document what factors have major detrimental effects on the species; and (2) determine what factors are imposing the major controlling constraints on silvery minnow populations. After discussing the EC directive at their 4/13/11 meeting, the CC subsequently tasked the work groups with the following:
 - “The CC requested that the work groups review the listed San Acacia Diversion Dam (SADD) Fish Passage Peer Review recommendations (as found in the *Recommendations for Implementing Fish Passage* read ahead

document) in the context of their proposed activities for the Long-term Plan (LTP). The work groups were asked to provide a summary report back to the CC that addresses: (1) where the fish passage recommendations might fit into the LTP; (2) if any of their current/future LTP activities would help address the recommended actions; (3) how the recommendations might impact the work group activity prioritizations; (4) if any current/future activity could be easily modified or updated to address the recommendations; and (5) any recommendations the work group might have on how to effectively and efficiently address the “synthesis of data” issue. The summary should also include the work group’s opinion on the “relevancy” of the recommendations in line with the work group’s paths forward (ex. same idea discussed but is still 10 years away; or partially addressed in this specific action; or this idea was never discussed/though of before, etc). In order for the CC to make realistic implementation recommendations, it would be useful to have the work groups complete the LTP fields for the recommendations (category, lead agency, suggested rank in priority, assumed time line, etc.). These recommendations should be considered in both the fish passage and general minnow life history context. The work groups will have several months to address this request.”

- Attendees discussed that the SWM work group doesn’t have that many activities since the PHVA group is actually dealing with the hydrology issues. Of the activities that SWM has included in the LTP, none of them are expected to be affected by fish passage. The one possible exception is the Climate Change project(s) but climate change affects the system as a whole and is probably more of a joint issue than limited to SWM.
 - Current SWM activities include: USGS MRG River Gage O&M and USGS GW/SW Interaction.
 - Future SWM LTP activities include (*note: PHVA is an ad hoc group so SWM is listed as lead work group in some cases*): Isleta SWFL Studies; Geomorphic Rehabilitation Projects; Investigate Potential Impacts of Climate Change on Water management; MRGCD Threshold Analysis; Investigate Aquifer Storage; Investigate Bank Storage; DSS; Design studies that can be ready to implement when we have a particular type of water year (decision tree on water management side based on status of species); Determine feasibility of keeping daily ramping rates and daily fluctuations for dam releases as gradual as possible to prevent bank erosion and loss of riparian vegetation, except when mimicking flood flows; Evaluate reach-wide sediment management; Develop adaptive strategies for sediment management within each reach, including the population at San Marcial; Use urban waste water outfall and rural irrigation delivery and tail waters for habitat restoration to expand habitat, favor native over exotic plants, and reduce fire potential; Develop tools which support analysis of potential future water management strategies over a 40- to 50- year period and which incorporate climate change predictions; continue USGS MRG River Gage O&M; continue USGS Transect; Review and modify flow recommendations; Continue URGWOM Modeling Efforts to support ongoing Program Needs - FY11 and annually in future years; Study trade-off between pumping from LFCC for minnow vs. flycatcher needs; Soil Moisture Monitoring; Riparian Modeling; Investigate opportunities for main stem water management options; Insert WQ elements into URGWOM; Investigate potential impacts

of "Human" population growth on water management; Investigate potential impacts of Climate Change on water management; and Identify legal impediments to water management that benefits listed species.

- Regarding the request to address the “synthesis of information” recommendation, SWM members discussed the status of the Program database. The SWM work group believes that the DBMS is the starting place to begin synthesis of information for several reasons. To efficiently synthesize such a copious amount of information, the first step is to gather all the pertinent information into one repository – the database is already pursuing that. The next step would be to “reformat” all the available data into compatible forms and the database is already addressing this issue as well. The database will also have query and analysis tools that could be implemented. The SWM work group cautioned against spending too much time and energy on the synthesis issue at this point but recommends that the Program wait until the database is functional and then address how the database could be adapted, adjusted or otherwise modified to better address the synthesis issue.

Action: Page Pegram will contact Cyndie Abeyta to determine who is the current point of contact for the USGS contract in order to confirm the type/brand of USGS equipment.

Program Updates

- PMT Liaison Needs – Terina needs any comments on the USGS report preferably by tomorrow (Thursday, May 5th) but no later than Friday, May 6th. Please use the comment template provided last week.
- SWM Issues to be elevated – SWM continues to have a vacant co-chair position.

Other Upcoming Meetings

- CC Meeting May 4th from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM at Reclamation
- DBMS Meeting May 9th
- HRW Meeting May 17th
- ScW Meeting May 17th
- Adaptive Management Planning Workshop May 18th and May 19th
- EC Meeting May 19th from 8:30 AM to 12:00 PM at Reclamation
- PVA full day meeting May 24th

Next Meeting: Next SWM Meeting: June 1st Field Trip to Atrisco Site

- Tentative Agenda Items include: (1) approval of the April 14th and May 4th, 2011 meeting notes; (2) SWM Charter discussion; (3) USGS groundwater/surface water interaction report comments/feedback discussion (if needed);

Species Water Management Work Group 04 May 2011 Meeting Attendees					
Name	POSITION	AFFILIATION	PHONE NUMBER	EMAIL ADDRESS	PRIMARY, ALTERNATE, OTHER
Page Pegram	SWM Member	ISC	383-4041	page.pegram@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
Hilary Brinegar via phone	SWM Member	NMSU	575-646- 2642	hbrinegar@nmda.nmsu.edu	P
Chris Banet	SWM Member Co-Chair	BIA	563-3403	chris.banet@BIA.gov	P
Marta Wood	Admin Support	Tetra Tech	259-6098	marta.wood@tetrattech.com	O

Program Updates for SWM meeting May 4th 2011

Adaptive Management

The **Adaptive Management (AM) Planning Workshop** is scheduled for May 18-19, 2011. **Executive Committee (EC) representatives are expected to participate for half the day (8:30 am – 12:00 pm) on May 19.** Additional information on adaptive management planning has been posted on the Program website (www.middlerigrande.com) under “Library >> Adaptive Management.” No logins or passwords are required to access this information.

The panelists for the **San Acacia Diversion Dam (SADD) Fish Passage Peer Review** recommended that additional studies and modeling be conducted to reduce the current level of uncertainty about which management actions will most benefit the Rio Grande silvery minnow (silvery minnow) population. The Collaborative Program needs to decide how much time and funding to allocate to this research. These activities can be included in the revised Long Term Plan (LTP) in a phased approach. The priority activity recommended by the panelists was to synthesize results from the considerable literature on silvery minnow to document what factors have major detrimental effects on the species. (please see next section below re LTP)

Coordination Committee

Revised Long Term Plan Development

In furtherance of the EC directive that the CC continue the “synthesis of all existing data” discussions and brainstorm how to accomplish the actual synthesis work, the CC discussed this topic at length during their April 13, 2011 meeting. The CC requested that the workgroups review the listed SADD Fish Passage Peer Review recommendations (as found in the *Recommendations for Implementing Fish Passage* read ahead document) in the context of their proposed activities for the LTP. The workgroups will be asked to provide a summary report back to the CC that addresses: (1) where the fish passage recommendations might fit into the LTP; (2) if any of their current/future LTP activities would help address the recommended actions; (3) how the recommendations might impact the workgroup activity prioritizations; (4) if any current/future activity could be easily modified or updated to address the recommendations; and (5) any recommendations the workgroup might have on how to effectively and efficiently address the “synthesis of data” issue. The summary should also include the workgroup’s opinion on the “relevancy” of the recommendations in line with the workgroup’s path forward (ex. same idea discussed but is still 10 years away; or partially addressed in this specific action; or this idea was never discussed/thought of before, etc). In order for the CC to make realistic implementation recommendations and when able to, the workgroups will complete the LTP fields for the recommended activities (category, lead agency, suggested rank in priority, assumed time line, etc.). These recommendations should be considered in both the fish passage and general silvery minnow life history context. The workgroups will have several months to address this request. (*this was sent to the workgroup April 22nd*)

In their discussion about recommending a targeted silvery minnow study based on the panelists’ recommendations, the CC requested that the Science workgroup (ScW) write a scope of work (SOW) to *Determine the Impact That Augmentation has had on Silvery Minnow Genetic Variability Over Time (SADD Fish Passage Peer Review recommendation #5)*. The scope should include a specific task(s) to compare the reach-specific pre-stocking and post-stocking genetic data; this is to determine what the reach genetic differences were and why in order to provide

information on what the future genetics might be if the augmentation program were to be discontinued. In order to have the FY11 funds obligated, the SOW will be written by May 15, 2011 to allow for a 2 week review period and still be provided to Jericho Lewis by June 1. Upon learning that only the PVA co-chairs might attend, the CC requested that the PVA/PHVA joint meeting originally scheduled for April 22, 2011 be postponed to a future date in order to accommodate the PVA modelers' schedules and contracting issues.

The next CC meeting will be on May 4, 2011 from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm at Reclamation. This will be an all-day LTP working meeting. Interested participants are encouraged to review the LTP activity summaries (past and future) found on the Program website in preparation for this meeting: Library > Revised LTP Development (you must be logged in to view content on this page).

Program Management Team

Annual Report

The PMT reviewed the Collaborative Program Annual Report for 2008 and 2009 and provided comments to GenQuest. The draft report is expected to be available for CC review by the end of April 2011. Work on the 2010 Annual Report will begin soon after the 2008 and 2009 report is finalized.

PMT liaison support for workgroups is as follows: Monika Mann for the Database Management System (DBMS) ad hoc workgroup and the Habitat Restoration workgroup (HRW); Stacey Kopitsch for the ScW, Population Viability Assessment (PVA)/Biology and Monitoring Plan Team (MPT) ad hoc workgroups; Terina Perez for the Species Water Management (SWM) workgroup, the Population Habitat Viability Assessment (PHVA)/Hydrology and the San Acacia Reach (SAR) ad hoc workgroups; and Ali Saenz for the Public Information and Outreach (PIO) workgroup. The PMT liaisons have revised the 2011 work plans for their respective workgroups and are busy assisting their co-chairs with meeting coordination and fulfilling action items.

Jericho Lewis has been assisting with Albuquerque Area Office (AAO) obligations and training new staff. The Continuing Resolutions (CRs) and potential furlough have required a tremendous amount of reporting, notification to contractors, and determination of essential financial assistance agreements. Diana Herrera continues to work on: Program cost share updates, expenditure reports, water leasing obligations, and FY2012 and FY2013 Program budgets. Chip Martin, Edward McCorkindale, Lisa Freitas, Carl Boaz, and Charmaine Clair, GenQuest, and Christine Sanchez and Marta Wood, Tetra Tech, continue to assist the Program in the revised LTP development, annual report preparation, and meeting support and summaries.

Habitat Restoration Workgroup

The HRW met on April 19 where topics were presented on: the Tamarisk Leaf beetle in relation to the flycatcher; and SRH-2D Modeling. The San Acacia Reach (SAR) Analysis and Recommendations (A&R) Peer Review Report continues to be analyzed by the workgroup as well as other habitat restoration aspects such as compliance and maintenance monitoring, and ranking criteria for construction projects. With no funding for HR construction projects, the group continues to review HR related reports. A white paper is written by group members and a summary is presented to the workgroup at each meeting. The next HRW meeting will be held on May 17 at the New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission (NMISC) where topics such as the

development of the HR physical model and the Bosque Farms Entrapment Alleviation project will be discussed.

Monitoring Plan Team ad hoc Workgroup

The MPT met on March 7 to discuss coordination and scheduling of this spring's low-intensity monitoring. The MPT members are leading this effort and are aiming to be out on the river beginning next week (April 27 and April 29), and then for three days a week during the month of May, and possibly the first week in June. The MPT is putting out a request for volunteers from the Program to help with monitoring during this year's spring run-off. A draft SOW has been developed for the high-intensity portion of the Effectiveness Monitoring, with a focus on habitat food availability. This SOW is currently undergoing revision and a final draft should be available by mid-May, with the intention that a contract will be awarded this summer.

Science Workgroup

The ScW held a regular meeting on April 18. A presentation of the Rio Grande Silvery Minnow Fish Health Study results was given by Joel Lusk of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service). The workgroup recommends that this presentation be given to the CC at a future date. Following the fish health presentation, the workgroup discussed developing a SOW for one of the SADD Fish Passage Peer Review Report recommendations. Specifically, the CC directed the ScW to draft a SOW for the recommendation, "Determine the impact that augmentation has had on silvery minnow genetic variability over time." A smaller subset of the ScW will be meeting in the near future to draft this SOW by May 15. The next regularly scheduled ScW meeting will be held on May 17 at the NMISC.

Species Water Management Workgroup

The SWM workgroup is still in need of a non-federal co-chair. After discussion at several SWM meetings, it was determined that none of the non-federal participants are able to fill that role at this time. Although the SWM charter indicates that having one Federal and one non-federal co-chair is *preferred*, the CC concurred that it would be appropriate to have two federal co-chairs given the circumstances.

The workgroup is in the process of reviewing the most recent USGS GW/SW Interaction report and continues to discuss options regarding the continuation of the project. SWM is recommending that Reclamation staff take over this project. SWM is also coordinating with the HR workgroup on concepts for the development of fine-scale hydraulic modeling capabilities to track the impact of habitat restoration projects. The workgroup is still planning a spring MRGCD/NMISC Atrisco Project Fieldtrip, which will most likely take place on June 1. The next regularly scheduled SWM meeting will be held on May 4 from 8:30-9:45 am at the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA).

San Acacia Reach ad hoc Workgroup

If possible, the SAR workgroup will be hosting a float trip on April 29 in order to get a good look at the reach and to discuss some key issues/concerns. Because space is limited and workgroup members wanted to invite some people outside of the SAR workgroup who are familiar with the issues in the reach, it was requested that other Program workgroup co-chairs nominate one volunteer from each workgroup to participate. The float trip will provide an educational opportunity and highlight some issues in the SAR, such as Floodplain Land Use,

Geomorphology/Sediment Transport, Water Availability/Water Delivery, Habitat Restoration, and River Infrastructure/Flood-risk Management. In order to maximize the efficiency and educational benefit of the trip, read ahead materials will be prepared and distributed prior to the trip. If rafting is not possible due to unfavorable river conditions, a river tour in vehicles will take the place of the float trip.

The workgroup also continues to work on drafting a series of white papers on the LFCC/Levee System, Agricultural Sustainability, Sediment Transport, Water rights/Adjudication, Floodplain Land Development, and Habitat Restoration. Although the white papers may not be ready to incorporate into a public document before the end of the year, SAR may still attempt to put together a workshop on one of the key topics.

Population Viability Analysis (PVA)/Biology ad hoc Workgroup

The PVA workgroup met on March 29, during which time PVA model presentations from both modelers were provided to the EC. The EC tasked the workgroup with reaching a consensus data set and having future discussions to compare and contrast the analysis conducted in each model. The EC also directed the PVA and PHVA workgroups to reach resolution at their upcoming joint meeting regarding the incorporation of hydrology scenarios into the PVA models. The joint PVA/PHVA meeting scheduled for April 22, however, has been postponed until a later date due to the unavailability of the modelers and contracting issues. In the interim, the PVA workgroup is drafting a letter to the PHVA workgroup, detailing the PVA needs from URGWOM. The next regularly scheduled PVA meeting will be held for a full day on May 24 at Reclamation.

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

As stated above, the CC requested that the PHVA/PVA joint meeting originally scheduled for April 22 be postponed to a future date. The EC directed both the PVA and PHVA workgroups to reach a timely resolution regarding the incorporation of hydrology scenarios into the PVA models, with a written product explaining the resolution and expected schedule of completion. Also, the PHVA workgroup is awaiting a letter from the PVA workgroup documenting, in detail, the PVA needs from URGWOM.

The URGWOM tech team continues to work on model calibration in support of the Biological Assessment (BA) process. The PHVA Hydrology refresher will be postponed until after the Reclamation BA is released. The PHVA workgroup will schedule their next meeting as needed via email.

Database Management System ad hoc Workgroup

The DBMS workgroup met on April 11 to discuss the last few remaining data sets that the workgroup is incorporating into the DBMS. There continues to be discussion and coordination on the possibility of data being incorporated from the Cochiti Reach and most of the aquatic, surface water and water quality data are expected to be incorporated by the end of April. The next DBMS meeting is May 9 from 1:00-2:30 pm where D.B. Stephens will present on the current status and provide the workgroup a very basic look at the current development.

Public Information and Outreach Workgroup

The PIO workgroup met April 14 to discuss upcoming events. PIO is laying the groundwork for a large Open House with Science workshops which has been tentatively scheduled for October 7

and 8, 2011. These dates were discussed as they coincide with the Congressional recess and the final days of balloon fiesta; a location for the workshops and the 10th Anniversary Open House have not been confirmed. The Collaborative Program video has been mailed to ICE Tech and should be uploaded and available on the Collaborative Program website within the next few weeks. Water facts and frequently asked questions and answers related to the drought are being drafted and will be posted onto the collaborative website; this is an effort address/anticipate public concern. The Collaborative Program has registered to participate in the Santa Ana Pueblo Environmental Fair taking place June 4, 2011. The booth will feature the newly acquired display and fact sheets for the public. The next PIO meeting is scheduled for May 12, 2011, however, it may be postpone as planning for the Open House has actively engaged members in communication.

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- a. CC Meeting May 4th from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM at Reclamation
- b. DBMS Meeting May 9th
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- d. HRW Meeting May 17th (following the science meeting)
- e. Adaptive Management Planning Workshop May 18th and May 19th
- f. EC Meeting May 19th from 8:30 AM to 12:00 PM at Reclamation
- g. PVA full day meeting May 24th

Program Updates for SWM meeting May 4th 2011

Adaptive Management

The **Adaptive Management (AM) Planning Workshop** is scheduled for May 18-19, 2011. **Executive Committee (EC) representatives are expected to participate for half the day (8:30 am – 12:00 pm) on May 19.** Additional information on adaptive management planning has been posted on the Program website (www.middlerigrande.com) under “Library >> Adaptive Management.” No logins or passwords are required to access this information.

The panelists for the **San Acacia Diversion Dam (SADD) Fish Passage Peer Review** recommended that additional studies and modeling be conducted to reduce the current level of uncertainty about which management actions will most benefit the Rio Grande silvery minnow (silvery minnow) population. The Collaborative Program needs to decide how much time and funding to allocate to this research. These activities can be included in the revised Long Term Plan (LTP) in a phased approach. The priority activity recommended by the panelists was to synthesize results from the considerable literature on silvery minnow to document what factors have major detrimental effects on the species. (please see next section below re LTP)

Coordination Committee

Revised Long Term Plan Development

In furtherance of the EC directive that the CC continue the “synthesis of all existing data” discussions and brainstorm how to accomplish the actual synthesis work, the CC discussed this topic at length during their April 13, 2011 meeting. The CC requested that the workgroups review the listed SADD Fish Passage Peer Review recommendations (as found in the *Recommendations for Implementing Fish Passage* read ahead document) in the context of their proposed activities for the LTP. The workgroups will be asked to provide a summary report back to the CC that addresses: (1) where the fish passage recommendations might fit into the LTP; (2) if any of their current/future LTP activities would help address the recommended actions; (3) how the recommendations might impact the workgroup activity prioritizations; (4) if any current/future activity could be easily modified or updated to address the recommendations; and (5) any recommendations the workgroup might have on how to effectively and efficiently address the “synthesis of data” issue. The summary should also include the workgroup’s opinion on the “relevancy” of the recommendations in line with the workgroup’s path forward (ex. same idea discussed but is still 10 years away; or partially addressed in this specific action; or this idea was never discussed/thought of before, etc). In order for the CC to make realistic implementation recommendations and when able to, the workgroups will complete the LTP fields for the recommended activities (category, lead agency, suggested rank in priority, assumed time line, etc.). These recommendations should be considered in both the fish passage and general silvery minnow life history context. The workgroups will have several months to address this request. (*this was sent to the workgroup April 22nd*)

In their discussion about recommending a targeted silvery minnow study based on the panelists’ recommendations, the CC requested that the Science workgroup (ScW) write a scope of work (SOW) to *Determine the Impact That Augmentation has had on Silvery Minnow Genetic Variability Over Time (SADD Fish Passage Peer Review recommendation #5)*. The scope should include a specific task(s) to compare the reach-specific pre-stocking and post-stocking genetic data; this is to determine what the reach genetic differences were and why in order to provide

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information on what the future genetics might be if the augmentation program were to be discontinued. In order to have the FY11 funds obligated, the SOW will be written by May 15, 2011 to allow for a 2 week review period and still be provided to Jericho Lewis by June 1. Upon learning that only the PVA co-chairs might attend, the CC requested that the PVA/PHVA joint meeting originally scheduled for April 22, 2011 be postponed to a future date in order to accommodate the PVA modelers' schedules and contracting issues.

The next CC meeting will be on May 4, 2011 from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm at Reclamation. This will be an all-day LTP working meeting. Interested participants are encouraged to review the LTP activity summaries (past and future) found on the Program website in preparation for this meeting: Library > Revised LTP Development (you must be logged in to view content on this page).

Program Management Team

Annual Report

The PMT reviewed the Collaborative Program Annual Report for 2008 and 2009 and provided comments to GenQuest. The draft report is expected to be available for CC review by the end of April 2011. Work on the 2010 Annual Report will begin soon after the 2008 and 2009 report is finalized.

PMT liaison support for workgroups is as follows: Monika Mann for the Database Management System (DBMS) ad hoc workgroup and the Habitat Restoration workgroup (HRW); Stacey Kopitsch for the ScW, Population Viability Assessment (PVA)/Biology and Monitoring Plan Team (MPT) ad hoc workgroups; Terina Perez for the Species Water Management (SWM) workgroup, the Population Habitat Viability Assessment (PHVA)/Hydrology and the San Acacia Reach (SAR) ad hoc workgroups; and Ali Saenz for the Public Information and Outreach (PIO) workgroup. The PMT liaisons have revised the 2011 work plans for their respective workgroups and are busy assisting their co-chairs with meeting coordination and fulfilling action items.

Jericho Lewis has been assisting with Albuquerque Area Office (AAO) obligations and training new staff. The Continuing Resolutions (CRs) and potential furlough have required a tremendous amount of reporting, notification to contractors, and determination of essential financial assistance agreements. Diana Herrera continues to work on: Program cost share updates, expenditure reports, water leasing obligations, and FY2012 and FY2013 Program budgets. Chip Martin, Edward McCorkindale, Lisa Freitas, Carl Boaz, and Charmaine Clair, GenQuest, and Christine Sanchez and Marta Wood, Tetra Tech, continue to assist the Program in the revised LTP development, annual report preparation, and meeting support and summaries.

Habitat Restoration Workgroup

The HRW met on April 19 where topics were presented on: the Tamarisk Leaf beetle in relation to the flycatcher; and SRH-2D Modeling. The San Acacia Reach (SAR) Analysis and Recommendations (A&R) Peer Review Report continues to be analyzed by the workgroup as well as other habitat restoration aspects such as compliance and maintenance monitoring, and ranking criteria for construction projects. With no funding for HR construction projects, the group continues to review HR related reports. A white paper is written by group members and a summary is presented to the workgroup at each meeting. The next HRW meeting will be held on May 17 at the New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission (NMISC) where topics such as the

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development of the HR physical model and the Bosque Farms Entrapment Alleviation project will be discussed.

Monitoring Plan Team ad hoc Workgroup

The MPT met on March 7 to discuss coordination and scheduling of this spring's low-intensity monitoring. The MPT members are leading this effort and are aiming to be out on the river beginning next week (April 27 and April 29), and then for three days a week during the month of May, and possibly the first week in June. The MPT is putting out a request for volunteers from the Program to help with monitoring during this year's spring run-off. A draft SOW has been developed for the high-intensity portion of the Effectiveness Monitoring, with a focus on habitat food availability. This SOW is currently undergoing revision and a final draft should be available by mid-May, with the intention that a contract will be awarded this summer.

Science Workgroup

The ScW held a regular meeting on April 18. A presentation of the Rio Grande Silvery Minnow Fish Health Study results was given by Joel Lusk of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service). The workgroup recommends that this presentation be given to the CC at a future date. Following the fish health presentation, the workgroup discussed developing a SOW for one of the SADD Fish Passage Peer Review Report recommendations. Specifically, the CC directed the ScW to draft a SOW for the recommendation, "Determine the impact that augmentation has had on silvery minnow genetic variability over time." A smaller subset of the ScW will be meeting in the near future to draft this SOW by May 15. The next regularly scheduled ScW meeting will be held on May 17 at the NMISC.

Species Water Management Workgroup

The SWM workgroup is still in need of a non-federal co-chair. After discussion at several SWM meetings, it was determined that none of the non-federal participants are able to fill that role at this time. Although the SWM charter indicates that having one Federal and one non-federal co-chair is *preferred*, the CC concurred that it would be appropriate to have two federal co-chairs given the circumstances.

The workgroup is in the process of reviewing the most recent USGS GW/SW Interaction report and continues to discuss options regarding the continuation of the project. SWM is recommending that Reclamation staff take over this project. SWM is also coordinating with the HR workgroup on concepts for the development of fine-scale hydraulic modeling capabilities to track the impact of habitat restoration projects. The workgroup is still planning a spring MRGCD/NMISC Atrisco Project Fieldtrip, which will most likely take place on June 1. The next regularly scheduled SWM meeting will be held on May 4 from 8:30-9:45 am at the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA).

San Acacia Reach ad hoc Workgroup

If possible, the SAR workgroup will be hosting a float trip on April 29 in order to get a good look at the reach and to discuss some key issues/concerns. Because space is limited and workgroup members wanted to invite some people outside of the SAR workgroup who are familiar with the issues in the reach, it was requested that other Program workgroup co-chairs nominate one volunteer from each workgroup to participate. The float trip will provide an educational opportunity and highlight some issues in the SAR, such as Floodplain Land Use,

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Geomorphology/Sediment Transport, Water Availability/Water Delivery, Habitat Restoration, and River Infrastructure/Flood-risk Management. In order to maximize the efficiency and educational benefit of the trip, read ahead materials will be prepared and distributed prior to the trip. If rafting is not possible due to unfavorable river conditions, a river tour in vehicles will take the place of the float trip.

The workgroup also continues to work on drafting a series of white papers on the LFCC/Levee System, Agricultural Sustainability, Sediment Transport, Water rights/Adjudication, Floodplain Land Development, and Habitat Restoration. Although the white papers may not be ready to incorporate into a public document before the end of the year, SAR may still attempt to put together a workshop on one of the key topics.

Population Viability Analysis (PVA)/Biology ad hoc Workgroup

The PVA workgroup met on March 29, during which time PVA model presentations from both modelers were provided to the EC. The EC tasked the workgroup with reaching a consensus data set and having future discussions to compare and contrast the analysis conducted in each model. The EC also directed the PVA and PHVA workgroups to reach resolution at their upcoming joint meeting regarding the incorporation of hydrology scenarios into the PVA models. The joint PVA/PHVA meeting scheduled for April 22, however, has been postponed until a later date due to the unavailability of the modelers and contracting issues. In the interim, the PVA workgroup is drafting a letter to the PHVA workgroup, detailing the PVA needs from URGWOM. The next regularly scheduled PVA meeting will be held for a full day on May 24 at Reclamation.

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

As stated above, the CC requested that the PHVA/PVA joint meeting originally scheduled for April 22 be postponed to a future date. The EC directed both the PVA and PHVA workgroups to reach a timely resolution regarding the incorporation of hydrology scenarios into the PVA models, with a written product explaining the resolution and expected schedule of completion. Also, the PHVA workgroup is awaiting a letter from the PVA workgroup documenting, in detail, the PVA needs from URGWOM.

The URGWOM tech team continues to work on model calibration in support of the Biological Assessment (BA) process. The PHVA Hydrology refresher will be postponed until after the Reclamation BA is released. The PHVA workgroup will schedule their next meeting as needed via email.

Database Management System ad hoc Workgroup

The DBMS workgroup met on April 11 to discuss the last few remaining data sets that the workgroup is incorporating into the DBMS. There continues to be discussion and coordination on the possibility of data being incorporated from the Cochiti Reach and most of the aquatic, surface water and water quality data are expected to be incorporated by the end of April. The next DBMS meeting is May 9 from 1:00-2:30 pm where D.B. Stephens will present on the current status and provide the workgroup a very basic look at the current development.

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