

Middle Rio Grande Endangered Species Collaborative Program

SAR WORK GROUP MEETING

26 May 2011 Meeting – 12:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

1) Introductions and agenda approval – Approved

Terina provided copies of the Program update, including information regarding peer review and LTP development. The June meeting will include a discussion of the priority 2 future activity summaries for the workgroup. Terina will send the activity summaries as read aheads for the next meeting. The CC (Coordination Committee) section of the Program update that includes peer review and LTP development information should be read before the next meeting.

2) Approval of 3/24/11 Meeting Minutes

- Jericho was working with GenQuest to ensure sufficient notes; Marta will take notes with Carl Boaz as a quality control check. A suggestion was made if the March 24th minutes were too brief it is important to forward that to Jericho.
- Last month's meeting was the float trip and notes were not taken. Read aheads were sent with the contact information of those who attended.

3) Discussion of Van Tour, highlights and suggestions

- a. The field trip attendees present reported that the tour went well and was very informative. A brief discussion regarding the purpose of the field trip (beyond getting a good look at the reach while discussing reach-specific issues) and the next steps followed. The group discussed inviting the FEMA representative to the roundtable to give an update on the mapping status.

4) Action Item Review

- ✓ Gina Dello Russo will send an invitation to Delilah Walsh, the Socorro County Manager, to participate in the SAR workgroup's meetings in Socorro- **Completed**.
- ✓ Gina will resend the draft paper on the floodplain encroachment- **Completed**
- Gina will follow up with Ryan Grunewald on the SAR workgroup request to include specific reference to evaluating levee vulnerabilities in the Corp's Floodplain Encroachment Project-
 - The original scope will be modified to reflect that USACE is covering tasks 5-7 in their portion of the Floodplain encroachment project.
- Gina will organize a roundtable discussion on floodplain encroachment on June 23rd in Socorro
- Gina will draft a list of invitees for this roundtable discussion and send- **Status unknown**
 - Ideas of who should attend should be sent to Gina-

- Terina Perez will assist Robert Padilla in completing Reclamation's response in the Agency Response to Themes table – **Pending meeting June 3**
 - Met March 23rd for two hours but hasn't had a chance to update the table
- Another meeting is set for Friday, June 3; the process will take a couple of meetings and should be completed by the next meeting
- Terina Perez will talk with Robert Padilla about the specific locations of the vulnerable levee sites- **Pending- the June 3 meeting.**
 - This will be discussed at the same time the SOW is discussed
 - Terina will discuss the RFP process and vulnerable levee sites when she meets with Robert Padilla for the Agency response to themes table. It was questioned if this was along the same lines as Gina following up with Ryan on evaluating levee vulnerabilities in the Floodplain Encroachment Project. The idea behind it was unclear.
- ✓ Terina Perez will review the February 9th CC notes for pertinent information pertaining to the 2010 low intensity monitoring that should be relayed to the SAR work group (or for inclusion in the SAR work group notes.) – **Discussed.**
 - This was not completed because the report came out and was distributed
- ✓ Terina Perez will find out when the Adaptive Management technical session notes will be made available to work group members.
 - Yvette sent out a statement that the participant list is updated and additional information is available on the website- **Completed**
- Terina Perez and Robert Padilla will discuss the RFP process/schedule- **Pending discussion June 3**
 - This will also be discussed at the June 3rd meeting.
 - The time frame was discussed. An assumption was the USACE portion needs to be finished in July but it was unclear why the RFP couldn't go forward.
 - The USACE was to take some of the tasks and Terina was told since money isn't available now, there was no rush. The USACE portion should be done when the RFP goes out or shortly thereafter and wouldn't be before June and no earlier than mid July.
- ✓ Robert Padilla will forward the URGWOM predicted hydrographs for 2011. -**Completed**
 - The peak runoff hasn't been seen; it would be off the Chama when El Vado fills around this weekend.
- ✓ Terina will discuss the SAR list with Yvette; in particular, whether or not everyone on the SAR list should receive all communication, including sensitive topics- **Completed**
 - This was discussed and would err on the side of people not being excluded; sensitive topics would be sent only to the actual group involved.
- Yasmeen will make sure the authorities are clear regarding the agency response to themes from MRGCD- **Status unknown-This action item is continued from February.**

5) Update from COE on Floodplain Encroachment Study

- Matthew Bonner was introduced. He is currently working on the hydraulic model for the Corps part of the Floodplain Encroachment project. The output of the model consists of water depth and velocity in backwater areas and how that intersects with existing , berms, ditches, etc.
- He will synthesize the information in GIS. Some work still has to be done and a report has to be written but should be completed in July.
 - It was asked if high resolution topography was used. Matthew said yes, there was some error with vegetation but otherwise the flood plain was clearly mapped.
 - Ryan clarified that this is a Flo2D model based on previous topography. Hydraulic output is based on a 250 x 250 foot grid cell and looks at average depth and velocity.
 - Grid cells are placed spatially and mapped with velocity and depth. The gradient has to be found to show the different depths because variance can be from a tenth of a foot to six feet. Areas are mapped to show where the water is deeper. Another map shows changes for velocity.
 - The work is funded from USACE's collaborative program money.
 - The model is complete and the report is being worked on.
 - The Flo2D model ranges from 1000 cfs to 10,000 cfs in a thousand CFS increments.
 - Robyn said Delilah Walsh was the County Manager and there is no planner. Bear (?) Albrecht is in charge of floodplain mapping. A planner would be decided after mapping.
 - FEMA mapping should be completed this summer.
 - The analysis would serve two purposes: habitat characteristics and possible encroachment of land use (such as areas that would be bad to build on because they might get flooded at higher flows and therefore higher flows would not be allowed.)
- Matt was invited to come to the next meeting when Gina was present.
 - Robert said FEMA sometimes hired consultants to do flood plain mapping and modeling and others were paid for Flo2D for a more robust model that had less impact on the footprint.
 - The delay in Socorro was discussed. It was noted that USACE built the project in the 1950's. FEMA certification of levees is required and possibly Socorro was trying to get certification that the levee is safe.
 - The Arroyo floodplain wasn't an issue; the flood plain encroachment is not looking at arroyos.
- Robert mentioned under the ES Collaborative Program they looked at species. He said more encroachment limited the opportunity for habitat; but it was still tied to the floodplain. He thought Gina wanted more on the effect of encroachment of habitat.
- After the initial modeling is finished, the rest of the project will involve examining the intersection of the flow output with private lands. This work would be done by Ryan and a couple of others.

- Ryan said most of the work would be finished by the next meeting (June 23) and the next scope of work could be defined.
- 6) Discussion of Floodplain Land Use Roundtable (July or August?) *Revised Order*
Date, location, who should be invited- **This item was deferred until June**
- This would happen in July or August. Decisions on scope of work, roundtable discussions and who to invite would be made in June.
 - Terina could schedule an interim meeting if necessary.
 - White paper mapping would be done in 2011. Ryan thought FEMA would have enough to present in July but thought the USACE wouldn't.
 - A note was to be made to ensure FEMA was included on the roundtable invitation.
- 7) Floodplain Land Use White Paper discussion (attached)
- The 2011 Work Plan was amended to have the white papers completed in 2012 instead because it couldn't be completed before the end of this year.
 - The Floodplain Land Use white paper should be written after the floodplain studies. It was noted that the potential floodplain encroachment impact to priorities was being analyzed and the white paper was preliminary. It would have more relevance once results were received.
 - Part of the intent with the white papers was to capture general themes pertaining to the SA reach, including specific issues or concerns and to provide status updates. . As an example, when USACE or FEMA had more information, that could be updated.
 - One item was to include the position of interested parties/stakeholders. It was discussed that if the parties attend the roundtable their official positions regarding floodplain encroachment in Socorro County could be identified. The six white papers that were discussed include Agriculture, Sustainability, Education and Outreach, Land Use and Zoning, Sediment Transfer and HR and Water Rights.
 - It was discussed that it would be better to get stakeholder positions at the Roundtable rather than calling the interested parties beforehand.
 - A decision paper could show if more work should be done or action should be taken once decisions were made. The goal was to have some level of information in the white paper.
 - The white paper assignments were discussed and confirmed:
 - Low flow Conveyance Channel/ levee issues (Ryan, Steve and Robert)
 - Sediment Transfer (Ryan and Robert)
 - Floodplain Encroachment and Land Use and Zoning is combined (Gina and Page)
 - Agriculture / Sustainability (Robyn and Yasmeen)
 - Water Rights and Adjudication (Page; Terina may assist)
 - Habitat Restoration (Gina)

The original intent with the white papers was to highlight San Acacia reach issues/concerns/projects and other information about the reach that could be incorporated into a brochure for program participants and the public.

8) *Agency Response to themes*- It was discussed that even if SAR is subsumed into another workgroup through the CP workgroup consolidation process, it would still be worth the effort to finish the table because the intent was to use it as a tool for identifying the appropriate agencies for questions related to the different theme topics. Terina has attempted to set up another meeting at Reclamation to work on that portion of the table, and will continue to work on getting the section completed soon.

9) Program update –this was sent as a read ahead.

- The group was asked to read the Peer review and LTP sections of the Program Update, under Coordination Committee. The CC will have the workgroups look at the activity summaries again to ensure that the priority 2's and 3's are accurate. This will be discussed at the June meeting. Terina will forward the most recent version of SAR priorities from Yvette and Ali to the workgroup.
- It was suggested a SAR member should be involved in the Adaptive Management sessions;
 - At the last EC meeting PMT was directed to look at the organization of other adaptive management and recovery programs in an effort to determine how some of the CP workgroups may be consolidated. It was discussed whether all of the workgroups were still needed and how workgroup decisions would fit under the Adaptive Management “umbrella”.
- In a discussion about the SAR field trip, attendees noted that it was very informational and that no workgroup decisions were made. An update including the compiled field trip read aheads and a list of attendees was sent to the workgroup the week following the field trip. The Roundtable could be a good place for a short follow up discussion of the field trip.
- In a short discussion regarding the importance of the SA reach, it was noted that Dan Goodman, one of the the PVA modelers, has suggested that RGSM appear to have a greater response (in terms of recruitment) to flow in the reach.
- The Roundtable discussion will be held in Socorro, and will most likely take place in July or August.
- There was some uncertainty regarding the intent of the following March 24th action items:
 - *Gina Dello Russo will follow up with Ryan Gronewold on the SAR workgroup's request to include specific reference to evaluating levee vulnerabilities in the Corp's Floodplain Encroachment Project*
 - *Terina Perez will talk with Robert Padilla about the specific locations of the vulnerable levee sites*

Levee vulnerabilities will be a consideration when the modified floodplain encroachment SOW is discussed, and this action items will be discussed further at the June meeting. In the meantime, Robert Padilla will send a list of the locations to Ryan Gronewald.

The meeting adjourned at 2:10 p.m.

NEXT SAR MEETING: June 23, 2011 from 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 pm – Albuquerque

- Agenda to include an update from USACE as part of the Floodplain Encroachment, a discussion on the modified floodplain encroachment SOW, the Floodplain Land Use Roundtable, and the SAR future activity summaries.

San Acacia Reach (SAR) Work Group Meeting -May 26, 2011 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.**List of Attendees**

Name	Agency	Email
Page Pegram	State of New Mexico	page.pegram@state.nm.us
Robert Padilla	USBR	rpadilla@usbr.gov
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Ryan Gronewald	Army Corps of Engineers	ryan.p.gronewald@usace.army.mil
Matthew Bonner	Army Corps of Engineers	