

**Middle Rio Grande Endangered Species Collaborative Program  
Public Information and Outreach (PIO) Workgroup Meeting  
29 June 2011**

**9:00 – 11:00 am at Bureau of Reclamation**

**Actions**

- Yvette McKenna will talk to Brent Rhees and Estévan Lopez to determine who from Program would be available/appropriate to give a 1 hour presentation on the Program to the Congressional Tour.
- Yvette McKenna will ask Jericho Lewis how long it will take to use the GPO printers to make hard copies of the 2008-2009 Program Annual Report.
- Ronnie Shelby will add Mary Carlson to the Congressional Tour planning meetings contact list and will send her the information on the conference call scheduled for Thursday, June 30<sup>th</sup>.
- Julie Maas will send a copy of the Congressional Tour tentative schedule and invitation list to Tom Buckley.
- Tom Buckley will contact the BioPark to help facilitate the potential availability and details of using the BioPark to host the Program's Open House on October 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2011.
- Julie Maas and/or Mary Carlson will send the Program's Open House information specifics to Tom Buckley (in order for him to contact the BioPark).
- Mary Carlson will contact congressional folks to determine potential interest and availability/attendance in the Program's Open House for October 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- Julie Maas will contact Beth at the Rio Grande Nature Center to determine the availability of the facilities for the Program's Open House on October 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- Yvette McKenna will explore the availability of COA's Open Space for the Program's Open House on October 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- Ali Saenz will determine the location of the Santa Ana Pueblo Environmental Fair when she registers and will distribute directions at that time.
- Julie Maas and/or Ronnie Shelby will send a "save the date email" to potential Congressional Tour invitees if the official invite is not ready for distribution next week.

**Decisions**

- PIO agreed to not participate in the 2011 NM Game and Fish Outdoor Expo.

**Meeting Summary**

- The meeting was brought to order and the agenda was approved with no changes.
- In the PMT meeting review, it was shared that there is apparently a "rumor" from congressional staffers that due to the recent cancellations of the EC meetings that maybe the EC doesn't need to meet as often. This is a good thing since the by-laws state the objective to only meet 2x a year and CC as often as needed. The PMT then briefly reviewed actions. The PMT update was concluded with a brief discussion on having a mid-July "open mic" CC meeting.
- PIO members then shared the recent decision to host a Congressional Tour on August 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> (with field and site visits, raft trip, presentations, and talks). Attendees discussed the tentative details of this tour including: (1) Program presentation to occur on Day 1 just after the introductions; (2) potential locations for the Program presentation including – on the bus? Sandia? Rio Grande Nature

Center (RGNC)? Central Bridge? Visitor Center at Open Space?; (3) tentative tour stops; and (4) handouts including the 2008-2009 Program Annual Report.

- Attendees then discussed details of the Program's Open House. The original tentative date was October 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> but members discussed potential conflicts with this weekend including lack of staff availability due to the Columbus weekend holiday. After discussing other potential dates, attendees agreed to target the potential dates of October 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>. Attendees also discussed potential locations and determined that the first choice would be to host the event at the RGNC and if that is not feasible, to try for the City's Open Space Visitor Center.
- Mary Carlson, Ali Saenz, and Terina Perez volunteered to staff a booth at the Santa Ana Environmental Fair scheduled for Saturday, August 27<sup>th</sup>.
- The next PIO meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, July 12<sup>th</sup> from 9:00am to 11:00am at Reclamation. Please note the switch from usually meeting on a Thursday to meeting on a Tuesday.

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Public Information and Outreach (PIO) Workgroup Meeting  
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**Meeting Notes**

**Introductions/Agenda Approval**

- The meeting was brought to order and the agenda was approved with no changes.

**PMT Updates**

- The June Executive Committee (EC) meeting was cancelled because an agenda review indicated there was nothing essential that had to be addressed right away. It was shared that there is apparently a “rumor” from congressional staffers that due to the recent cancellations of the EC meetings that maybe the EC doesn’t need to meet as often. This is a good thing since the by-laws state the objective for the executives to only meet twice a year and the Coordination Committee (CC) as often as needed. The PMT is still working on options on possible Program restructuring. The purpose is to figure out what work group(s) could be consolidated or combined (or disbanded) in order to ease the work load on participants and to formulate a new Adaptive Management (AM) work group. The next EC meeting is scheduled for July 21<sup>st</sup>.
- It was reported that as of yesterday afternoon (06/28/11) there have been some recent problems with accessing information on the Program’s website.
- The PMT then did a quick action item review:
  - The San Acacia Diversion Dam (SADD) Fish Passage peer review was distributed to PMT members to review with the work groups.
  - Ali Saenz shared that she was able to download 6 flow charts and has begun work.
  - PMT members are still in process of facilitating work group review of their activity summaries because some of the groups haven’t met yet.
  - The presentation handouts have been printed in preparation for this afternoon’s CC meeting.
  - The RFQ for the Genetics and Augmentation study has been completed. Attendees discussed whether or not it should be provided to the CC as a read ahead at this time but it was not on the agenda for today’s meeting.
  - The July 6<sup>th</sup> CC meeting was cancelled since Yvette McKenna (Program Manager) has to be in Salt Lake. Attendees discussed that an “open” agenda meeting might be scheduled for the middle of the month. It was cautioned that an “open mic” meeting may require some level of facilitation (to keep participants from talking over each other) and possibly multiple note takers.

**PIO Updates**

- *Congressional staff tentative meeting with MRGESCP representatives & trip to Rio Grande Basin*
  - A Congressional Tour of the Middle Rio Grande (MRG) is being scheduled for August 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> (Tuesday through Friday). The Corps is providing (funding) a bus for all the District Representatives and their staff as well as other key individual and agency invitees. The tour is being coordinated by ISC (Liz Zeiler, Julie Maas), the Corps (Ronnie Shelby), and Reclamation (Mary Carlson).
  - The tour is to include a rafting trip to look at habitat restoration sites on the river. There will also be presentations and talks at each stop along the tour.
  - One tentative agenda item is to have an overview presentation on the Collaborative Program to occur on Day 1 (August 9<sup>th</sup> from about 3:00pm to 4:00pm) just after the tour

introductions. The congressionals will be boarding the bus in Albuquerque and being transported to Gabrielle's in Santa Fe for dinner.

- The intent of the Program presentation is to review the background and purpose of the Program. Attendees discussed that instead of occurring on the bus, it would be nice to have the presentation at a site (where the Program posters could be displayed). Site options discussed included – Sandia, the Rio Grande Nature Center (RGNC), Central Bridge, Visitor Center at Open Space.
- It was cautioned that a tour of this size and nature requires an aggressive schedule and it takes relentless coordination to accomplish. There tend to be a huge amount of handouts because there are no projectors available in the field.
  - The handouts have been started (many of them are updates of existing documents). The intent is to provide a binder of materials to each attendee.
  - It was shared that the Program's 2008-2009 Annual Report is to be delivered July 1<sup>st</sup>, in electronic form. Members discussed including the annual report in the Congressional Tour binder.
- Tentative stops include Program and agency restoration sites as well as: Abiquiu Diversion outlook; Abiquiu Dam; rafting in Chavez Canyon; the San Juan/Chama project; Cochiti Dam; the Route 66 project; the Los Lunas Refugium; the SADD; Percha Dam; Elephant Butte Dam; the pilot channel; Fort Craig pumping station; and the Bosque del Apache.
  - The intent is to set up the Program posters and displays at each Program site visited.
  - The tour includes over night stays at the Abiquiu Inn (night 1); the Governor's Inn in Santa Fe (night 2); T or C (night 3); and Socorro (night 4).
- The next tour planning meeting is a phone conference on Thursday.

**Action:** Yvette McKenna will talk to Brent Rhees and Estevan Lopez to determine who from Program would be available/appropriate to give a 1 hour presentation on the Program to the Congressional Tour.

**Action:** Yvette McKenna will ask Jericho Lewis how long it will take to use the GPO printers to make hard copies of the 2008-2009 Program Annual Report.

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### **Collaborative Program 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary/Open House**

- The Program's 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and Open House event was originally scheduled for October 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> (Fri/Sat).
  - The technical session with presentations is to be held on the first day; it is anticipated that there will be approximately 6 throughout the day. The work groups are proposing topics.
  - The second day will be the "family-friendly", public interaction day.
  - Some members stressed that the name of this event should not be referred to as a "symposium" or "state of science" – the event needs to be more informal.
- The venue hasn't been decided yet, but the intent is to use a facility that can handle the technical needs as well as the public portion.
  - The facility should be a location that is readily accessible for people already passing and there (foot traffic).
  - Tingley Beach and the Central Bridge do not have any meeting room options for the technical sessions. The RGNC has the foot traffic and the meeting capabilities and has

“bent over backward” to accommodate the Program in the past. The City’s Open Space also has meeting capabilities and outdoor opportunities but doesn’t have the same amount of public “foot traffic.” The BioPark was another option although there was some concern on responsiveness, cost, “red tape”, and parking (the lot fills by 10:00am and is not conducive to people coming and going easily).

- Depending on the seating at the facility, the technical sessions could be opened to the public but the primary audience is to be work group members and other Program participants.
- The location needs to be confirmed by the end of July in order to get a flyer into the Water Authority’s billing statements.
- It was agreed that the first choice would be to host the event at the RGNC and if that is not feasible, to try for the City’s Open Space Visitor Center.
- Attendees then discussed potential dates for the Open House as October 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> (1) coincides with the last weekend of balloon fiesta and (2) is a holiday weekend (Columbus Day is that Monday). It does however happen to coincide with the Congressional recess.
  - One concern is that with the 3-day weekend there maybe less technical staff available to participate or be available. Also, the pueblos and tribes do not celebrate Columbus Day so this may be a sensitive issue to consider.
  - Alternate dates discussed included:
    - October 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> (Thursday/Friday) but the concern is that there won’t be much participation on a Thursday.
    - The week of September 30<sup>th</sup> but that is the end of the fiscal year so agency staff will be very busy.
    - The next Congressional recess is October 24<sup>th</sup> through 30<sup>th</sup>. The weekend of October 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> is the Halloween weekend.
    - October 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> was suggested; while it overlaps with the Wolf Awareness week, Wolf Awareness booths could be set up at the Open House venue as well.
      - The October EC meetings would normally be scheduled for October 20<sup>th</sup> but maybe the executives would be agreeable to cancelling their meeting in order to attend the technical sessions and maybe the public portion as well.

**Action:** Tom Buckley will contact the BioPark to help facilitate the potential availability and details of using the BioPark to host the Program’s Open House on October 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2011.

**Action:** Julie Maas and/or Mary Carlson will send the Program’s Open House information specifics to Tom Buckley (in order for him to contact the BioPark).

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### **Santa Ana Pueblo Environmental Fair**

- Julie Maas provided a brief update on the Sandia Environmental Fair. It was not as well attended as was hoped but there was an opportunity to network with other agencies. There was quite a bit of minnow origami done at this event.
- The Santa Ana Environmental Fair is Saturday, August 27<sup>th</sup> from 10:00am to 2:00pm. Volunteers are needed to staff a table at this event. There should only be one table with the Program display, banners, handouts, etc.

- Mary Carlson, Ali Saenz, and Terina Perez volunteered to staff a table at the Santa Ana Environmental Fair scheduled for Saturday, August 27<sup>th</sup> from 10:00am to 2:00pm.
- Details on the event location and directions are not known yet. It is at the Pueblo's Tribal Center (Exit 242).

**Action:** Ali Saenz will determine the location of the Santa Ana Pueblo Environmental Fair when she registers and will distribute directions at that time.

#### NM Department of Game and Fish Outdoor Expo

- NMDGF is taking the last registrations for the 2011 Outdoor Expo. PIO members discuss how the Program has participated in this event for the last 3 years in a row. While the experience was good and a different audience is reached, the environmental focus is not really well received. A majority of the audience is hunters.

**Decision:** PIO agreed to not participate in the 2011 NM Game and Fish Outdoor Expo.

#### Next PIO Meeting: Tuesday, July 12<sup>th</sup> from 9:00am to 11:00am at Reclamation

- Please note the switch from usually meeting on a Thursday to meeting on a Tuesday.
- Tentative agenda items: (1) Congressional Tour updates – finalize details; work remaining; (2) Open House updates – finalize venue location; develop or finalize the flyer for the Water Bill; discuss technical session needs; discuss events/booths for public day; (3) regular PIO business – finalize notes, announcements,

### Public Information and Outreach Workgroup June 29<sup>th</sup>, 2011 Meeting Attendees

NAME	POSITION	AFFILIATION	PHONE NUMBER	EMAIL ADDRESS	PRIMARY, ALTERANATE, OTHER
Terina Perez	PMT Member	Reclamation	462-3614	tlperez@usbr.gov	O
Tom Buckley	PIO Member	FWS	248-6455	tom_buckley@fws.gov	P
Stacey Kopitsch	PMT Member	FWS	761-4737	stacey_kopitsch@fws.gov	O
Yvette McKenna	PM	Reclamation	462-3640	ymckenna@usbr.gov	O
Ronnie Shelby	PIO Member	COE	342-3353	ronna.t.schelby@usace.army.mil	P
Ali Saenz	Admin Assistant/PMT Member	Reclamation	462-3600	asaenz@usbr.gov	O
Susan Bittick	CC Co-chair	COE	342-3397	susan.m.bittick@usace.army.mil	O
Mary Carlson	PIO Member Co-Chair	Reclamation	462-3576	mcarlson@usbr.gov	P
Julie Maas	PIO Member Co-Chair	ISC	383-4095	julie.maas@state.nm.us	P
Marta Wood	Admin support	Tetra Tech, EMI	259-6098	marta.wood@tetrattech.com	O