

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

06 July 2011 Meeting

9:00am to 12:00pm @ BIA

Actions

- Page Pegram and Cyndie Abeyta will try to compile the locations, the number of wells/gages, the types of data loggers, and piezometer specs by July 20th.
- Terina Perez will contact Rick Billings to see if he will be available to give a tour of the Authority's Alameda facilities at the August 3rd SWM meeting.

Ongoing Actions

- After Reclamation's Draft BA has been completed and made available, then Terina Perez will help Dagmar Llewellyn and Ed Kandl write an activity summary for hydrologic monitoring at habitat restoration sites. (*Ongoing from 3/2*)
- 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*)
- 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*)
- Matt Martinez will provide a copy of the old USGS "well responsibility" agreement/MOU. (*Ongoing from 6/1*)
- Matt Martinez offered to assist in obtaining the necessary keys to access the transect wells. (*Ongoing from 6/1*)
- Matt Martinez will determine where the data loggers are located within or near the ditches and will help facilitate making the ditch workers aware of their existence (to help avoid regular destruction; *Ongoing from 6/1*).

Decisions

- The June 1st, 2011 meeting notes were approved with a correction to the spelling of Dale Rankin's name.

Meeting Summary

- Chris Banet brought the meeting to order and introductions were made.
- The agenda was approved with no changes.
- The June 1st, 2011 meeting notes were approved with a correction to the spelling of Dale Rankin's name.
- Meeting attendees performed an action item review. All but several action items were completed; all incomplete action items will be carried over.
- Attendees were updated that due to the amount of work associated with the *GW/SW Interaction project* Reclamation will no longer be taking over the study and the contract will go out for bid. In order to make updates to the SOW the work group will need more information including the exact location of the transects, which transects will remain, and the number and type of data loggers. The work group will need to contact Jeff Worthington (USGS) to find out the types of data loggers are used and to find out if copies of the field notes can be obtained. Page Pegram and Cyndie Abeyta will try to compile the locations, the number of wells/gages, the types of data loggers, and piezometer specs by July 20th. Concerns about the transition of responsibility and the plugging of abandoned wells were raised.
- Attendees scheduled a tentative field trip to the Albuquerque/Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority's (ABCWUA) facilities at Alameda, the Alameda bridge gage, and BEMP site for the next SWM meeting on August 3rd; pending reopening of the Bosque and Rick Billing's availability. Terina Perez will contact Rick Billings to see if he will be available to give a tour of the Authority's Alameda facilities at the August 3rd SWM meeting.
- Attendees were updated that the CC approved the funding of gages in San Acacia and San Marcial and that the *River Gages* activity summary has been updated to reflect the addition of the 2 gages.
- Attendees were updated that a Program technical symposium/open house has been scheduled for October 7th and 8th, 2011. It was suggested that ground water/surface water interaction be a topic. Attendees can suggest additional topics at the next SWM meeting.

- Attendees discussed possible consolidation of the work groups. The work group expressed openness to work group restructure as long as the collection and availability of water resource data is maintained, the water expertise in the work group is still utilized, and that key projects and issues continue to be addressed.
- Attendees reviewed the SADD Fish Passage recommendations and discussed how they could fit in with SWM future activities and the LTP.
 - Recommendation #1 (synthesize literature): Data collection as a part of SWM's projects will continue to contribute to the database. SWM is ready and able to assist in any kind of literature synthesis but may not be the appropriate leading party.
 - Recommendation #2 (determine what factors are imposing the major controlling constraints) – The PVA work group would be the most appropriate group to address this effort.
 - Recommendation #5 (impact of augmentation on minnow genetics) – This effort is not applicable to the SWM work group.
 - Recommendation #6 (field-oriented studies to determine what external and internal factors drive minnow movement) and Recommendation #7 (habitat restoration plan) – SWM expertise could be involved in #6 and #7; however HRW may be the most appropriate group for the efforts involved with #7.
- Agency Updates:
 - Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) has hired a new designated engineer.
 - A lot of staff members from the New Mexico Department of Agriculture (NMDA) are working on emergency response issues related to the fires and drought declarations.

Next Meeting: August 3rd, ABCWUA Alameda field trip

- Tentative agenda items include: MRGCD field trip; topics for Program technical symposium/open house.

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

06 July 2011 Meeting

9:00am to 12:00pm @ BIA

Meeting Notes

Introductions & Announcements

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

Agenda Approval

- The agenda was approved with no changes.

Approval of the June 1st Meeting notes

Decision: The June 1st, 2011 meeting notes were approved with a correction to the spelling of Dale Rankin's name.

June Action Item Review

- **Matt Martinez will use the old USGS MOU to draft a new agreement for Ed Kandl and Reclamation to sign accepting responsibility for the transect project wells.**
 - This action item is no longer applicable due to a shift in the project direction; Reclamation will no longer be taking over the project and it will be going out for bid.
- **Matt Martinez will provide Ed Kandl with a copy of the old USGS "well responsibility" agreement/MOU.**
 - Incomplete. Due to a shift in the project direction the action item will be changed to "Matt Martinez will provide a copy of the old USGS "well responsibility" agreement/MOU. It's important to make sure that there is an agreement in place that would point out the responsible party.
- **Matt Martinez offered to assist Ed in obtaining the necessary keys to access the transect wells.**
 - Incomplete. Due to a shift in the project direction the action item will be changed to "Matt Martinez offered to assist in obtaining the necessary keys to access the transect wells." The keys to access the transect wells will be needed regardless of who takes over the project.
- **Terina Perez will work with SWM members to compare the SWM work plan and the expected field trips (i.e., City, MRGCD, and Atrisco) to make sure the priorities are listed appropriately (*on current agenda*).**
 - This action item will be completed as a part of today's meeting.
- **Matt Martinez will work with Ed Kandl to determine where the data loggers are located within or near the ditches and will help facilitate making the ditch workers aware of their existence (to help avoid regular destruction).**
 - Incomplete. Due to a shift in the project direction the action item will be changed to "Matt Martinez will determine where the data loggers are located within or near the ditches and will help facilitate making the ditch workers aware of their existence (to help avoid regular destruction).
- ✓ **Cyndie Abeyta will contact Dale Rankin to see if he would be interested in volunteering his time to accompany Ed Kandl to the well site locations.**
 - Complete. While Dale appreciates the invite he is unable to accompany Ed to the well site locations. Jeff Worthington at USGS would be the appropriate contact.
- ✓ **Page Pegram will provide Ed Kandl with copies of ISC's SOP for the data loggers.**
 - Complete.

Ongoing Actions

- **After Reclamation's Draft BA has been completed and made available, then Terina Perez will help Dagmar Llewellyn and Ed Kandl write an activity summary for hydrologic monitoring at habitat restoration sites. (*Ongoing from 3/2*)**
 - Incomplete.
- **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*)**
 - Incomplete.

- **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)**
 - Incomplete.

Updates on the transfer of the USGS transect project to Ed

- Attendees were updated that due to the amount of work associated with the *GW/SW Interaction project* Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) will no longer be taking over the study and the contract will go out for bid.
- Attendees were shown several changes that were made to the SOW that specified that a contractor would now be taking over the project.
- Meeting attendees discussed scaling back the number of transects by eliminating the doubles.
 - One suggestion was to discontinue maintenance for one of the doubles at each location and allow the batteries on the loggers to die out.
 - Some attendees were in favor of scaling back the number of transects from the very beginning and not waiting for the batteries on the loggers to die out.
 - The work group will need to determine which transects will be staying in order include this information in the SOW.
- Concerns about the transition of responsibly and the plugging/capping of abandoned wells were raised.
 - It's thought that Reclamation and USGS are currently the responsible parties if this is the case documents will need to be drafted to remove USGS of their responsibility.
 - It was suggested that the plugging and capping of any wells that are abandoned be written into the new contract.
 - Concerns were expressed about burdening a contractor with filling in the wells.
 - Attendees discussed whether they would want to completely abandon the wells or if they should be preserved for future use.
 - It was suggested that annual manual measurements be taken at the transects where the loggers are removed. This could be done monthly or annually and since there will not be downloading and QA/QC of data from the manual measurements it should not contribute significant extra cost.
 - The District will need to determine if that will be enough activity for the wells to be considered active. If once a year is not enough then the wells can be plugged. Ray Gomez (Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District) has said that he will need time to look at the contract and talk to Mr. Shah; he would also like to see the new SOW.
- The SWM work group will need to determine which wells will stay for the SOW and the number and types of data loggers.
- Attendees expressed difficulty in completing the SOW without having an inventory of the locations or more information about the wells.
 - It was shared that Jericho Lewis (Reclamation Contracting Officer) is trying to modify the contract with USGS to fund inventory in order to close out the contract.
 - There is a spreadsheet available on the USGS website that has information on the piezometers, locations, depth, and other specs.
 - The field notes taken by USGS probably have a lot of information that will be helpful to the work group.
 - It was commented that it should be the projects COTR's responsibility to obtain the field notes and other pertinent information from USGS. However since this information is needed as soon as possible and some of it may be able to be obtained by the work group, the work group decided to try to write up a summary of the wells using the spreadsheet on the USGS website.
 - U.S. FWS may be able to make copies of the field notes.
 - The work group will need to contact Jeff Worthington (USGS) to find out the types of data loggers that are used and to find out if copies of the field notes can be obtained.

Action: Page Pegram and Cyndie Abeyta will try to compile the locations, the number of wells/gages, the types of data loggers, and piezometer specs by July 20th.

Discussion of potential MRGCD and WUA field trips

- Attendees scheduled a tentative field trip to the Albuquerque/Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority's (ABCWUA) facilities at Alameda, the Alameda bridge gage, and BEMP site for the next SWM meeting on August 3rd; pending reopening of the Bosque and Rick Billing's availability.

Action: Terina Perez will contact Rick Billings to see if he will be available to give a tour of the Authority's Alameda facilities at the August 3rd SWM meeting.

- If Rick is unavailable or the Bosque is still closed the field trip can be rescheduled for September or October.
- Attendees briefly discussed visiting the MRGCD wasteways or snag log projects. It was also suggested that a site in Angostura would be good to visit. The work group can further discuss a field trip to an MRGCD site at next month's meeting.

Program Update

- The Program update was provided as a read ahead. There was not a need to further discuss any of the updates.
- Attendees were updated that ISC had requested assistance from the Program in funding 2 gages; one in San Marcial and one in San Acacia. Attendees were updated that the CC approved the funding of gages in San Acacia and San Marcial and that the *River Gages* activity summary has been updated to reflect the addition of the 2 gages.
 - It was asked if USGS still has a program to match state funding for the gages.
 - It wasn't known if that program still exists but it is known that the funding for other gages is not matched.

Suggestions for Open House

- Attendees were updated that a Program technical symposium/open house has been scheduled for October 7th and 8th, 2011. There will be six workshop on Friday the 7th. (Suggestions received from other work groups include RGSM age and growth, SWFL, Tamarisk Beetle, PVA, and RGSM Fish Health)
 - It was suggested that ground water/surface water interaction be a topic.
 - Attendees can suggest additional topics at the next SWM meeting.

SWM Charter/Work plan discussion

- **Per EC directive to consider possible workgroup consolidation, review both to determine what objectives have been met and anticipated timeframes for completion**
 - Attendees reviewed their Annual Work Plan to see how many of their tasks/objectives have been complete.
 - The work group has completed many of its tasks but there are only a few of the tasks that are specific to SWM. Work group members expressed that if the work group is dissolved it will be important to preserve the activities that are unique to SWM such as groundwater/surface water interaction, examining water management alternatives, and assessing depletions.
 - The Program Manager has distributed a diagram of what an adaptive management work group would look like and at the very least it would be made up of the Co-Chairs from the technical work groups.
 - The SWM work group is ready to address key issues at the direction of the EC. Right now the broad activities that the work group is working on are data collection and analysis.
 - It was expressed that maintaining the collection and availability of water resource data and utilizing the expertise within in the work group for management analyses are important to the work group.
 - The work group is willing to continue to look at their ongoing projects and is willing to take on additional projects even if it's under a different name as long as the water expertise continues to be utilized and data collection continues to occur.

Review Future activities to address the Fish Passage Peer Review recommendations*(see below)

- Attendees reviewed the SADD Fish Passage recommendations and discussed how they could fit in with SWM future activities and the LTP.
 - Recommendation #1 (synthesize literature):
 - Meeting attendees generally agreed that there is relevancy in this recommendation but not a large amount that relates to SWM work group activities.
 - Data collections as a part of SWM projects will continue to contribute to the database. SWM is ready and able to assist in any kind of literature synthesis but may not be the leading party for it.
 - Recommendation #2 (determine what factors are imposing the major controlling constraints)
 - It was suggested that the PVA work group would be the most appropriate group to address this effort.
 - Recommendation #5 (impact of augmentation on minnow genetics)
 - Attendees did not find the recommendation to be applicable to the SWM work group.

- Recommendation #6 (field-oriented studies to determine what external and internal factors drive minnow movement) and Recommendation #7 (habitat restoration plan)
 - SWM expertise could be involved in both recommendations #6 and #7; however the SWM work group may not be the most appropriate leading party.
 - HRW may be the most appropriate group for the efforts involved with recommendation #7.

Agency Updates

- Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) has hired a new designated engineer.
- A lot of staff members from the New Mexico Department of Agriculture (NMDA) are working on emergency response issues related to the fires and drought declarations.

Next Meeting: August 3rd, 2011

- Field trip to Alameda bridge area. Meeting attendees should meet at 8:30 AM at the Open Space parking lot (Pending reopening of the Bosque)

Species Water Management Work Group 6 July 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
Cyndie Abeyta	SWM Member	USFWS	761-4738	cyndie_abeyta@fws.gov	P
Chris Banet	SWM Member Co-Chair	BIA	563-3403	chris.banet@BIA.gov	P
Edward Kandl	SWM Member	Reclamation	462-3586	ekandl@usbr.gov	P
Matt Martinez	SWM Member	MRGCD	247-0234	mmartinez@mrgcd.us	P
Christine Sanchez	Admin Support	Tetra Tech	881-3188 ext 139	christine.sanchez@tetrattech.com	O