

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

03 August 2011 Meeting

8:30am to 12:00pm @ Alameda Open Space

Decisions

- The July 6th, 2011 SWM meeting notes were approved with no changes.

Actions

- Ed Kandl and Terina Perez will determine the details of the USGS transect scope and report the details to the work group.
- Terina Perez will discuss the SWM work group's request to modify the USGS contract to incorporate (1) reduction of the transects by about half and (2) the inclusion some SWM members to accompany the USGS to well locations with Jericho Lewis.
- If/when appropriate, Terina Perez will provide the SWM work group with a finalized copy of the USGS transect scope of work.
- Chris Banet will follow up with Matt Martinez to determine MRGCD representation at the SWM meetings
- Terina Perez will ask the CC if presentations at the Technical Sessions could be given by a contractor or if it is really the responsibility of work group members.

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*).

Meeting Summary

- Chris Banet brought the meeting to order and introductions were made. There were no announcements. The agenda was approved with no changes.
- The July 6th, 2011 meeting notes were approved with no changes.
- Meeting attendees reviewed the July and other outstanding action items. All the July action items were completed as assigned. All of the outstanding action items remain ongoing and will be carried over for tracking purposes.
- Attendees then discussed the transfer of the USGS transect project to Ed Kandl (Reclamation). The work group was notified that the USGS has been awarded an interim contract to continue the data collection. The exact details of the contract are not known at this time. Members expressed the desire to have 2 modifications made to the existing tasks: (1) SWM would like to see the double transects reduced by about half; and (2) SWM would like to have a few field days incorporated into the agreement in order for one or two members to accompany the USGS staff to well locations.
- Discussion of a possible MRGCD field trip was postponed.

- Attendees requested that the USGS provide a presentation on their surface water/groundwater project results during the Technical Session day of the Program's Open House. This is a slight modification of the topic suggestion from last month.
- The Program update was provided as a read ahead. Attendees did briefly discuss the potential restructuring of the Program work groups. The CC continues to discuss but nothing has been approved/finalized yet.
- In the agency updates, it was shared that Galisteo has had some water coming through – there has not been much debris just mostly ash. The ABCWUA treatment plant has been closing to let the ash pass. A lot of the ash is coming from downstream of Cochiti. It was shared that there was a big fish kill this past Sunday and Monday, near Alameda. The cause is unknown. The Service has been testing the water and they indicated that the water was normal.
- The September 7th, 2011 SWM has been cancelled. The next meeting will be on October 5th and the agenda will include a tentative field trip to MRGCD.
- Attendees then visited the ABCWUA drinking water diversion at the Alameda Open Space. Rick Billings briefly described the operations and pointed out different features and components of the system. It was commented that the fish passage seemed to be at a higher velocity than expected. In response, it was shared that the fish do use it – even the smaller fish (including minnow). There are boulders and other features in the fish passage that help the fish maneuver through. The Service has about a 7% return on tagged minnow. Right now the facility is diverting about 100 cfs.
- A few members then proceeded to the Old Alameda Bridge looking for the transect wells in the area.

Next Meeting: October 5th, 2011, MRGCD field trip

- Tentative agenda items include: (1) MRGCD field trip; (2) Program Structure updates and what it might mean for the work groups; (3) concrete information on the USGS contract;

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Meeting Notes

Introductions & Announcements

- Chris Banet brought the meeting to order and introductions were made.
- There were no announcements.

Agenda Approval

- The agenda was approved with no changes.

Approval of the July 6th, 2011 Meeting notes

Decision: The July 6th, 2011 meeting notes were approved with no changes.

July 6th, 2011 Action Item Review

- ✓ 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. – *complete*;
 - The well x-y coordinates were found (compiled from tables and spreadsheets). However, this is no longer pertinent as the locations were needed for the scope that SWM was working on but now there is an interim contract with USGS in place.
 - Page Pegram shared that she also provided recommendations on which wells should be kept and which wells could be omitted.
- ✓ 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. – *complete*; *reminder was sent on July 23rd*.

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) - *ongoing*;
 - Reclamation's BA will be completed within a few weeks. This action will be addressed at that time.
- 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) – *on hold due to the recent interim contract with USGS*;
- 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) – *ongoing*;
- Matt Martinez will provide a copy of the old USGS "well responsibility" agreement/MOU. (Ongoing from 6/1) – *ongoing*;
- Matt Martinez offered to assist in obtaining the necessary keys to access the transect wells. (Ongoing from 6/1) – *ongoing*;
- 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). - *ongoing*;
 - Attendees briefly discussed whether or not Matt indicated that he has been so busy and unable to regularly attend that he would be looking for a replacement.

Updates on the transfer of the USGS transect project to Ed

- Terina Perez (PMT liaison) notified the work group that a temporary contract with the USGS is being negotiated. The details of this interim contract are not fully known, but it appeared to possibly cover another year. This means that the SWM work group does not need to work on a new scope or transferring the project to Ed Kandl anymore.
- Attendees discussed that regardless of who was continuing the work, the number of wells still needs to be reduced – this is especially true if the new contract does indeed cover the next year. There is no need to monitor all of the double transects for the entire next year. The work group would like to see a transition to half of the wells.
 - SWM members asked if it was possible (appropriate) to receive a copy of the USGS scope of work that was contracted. Attendees also inquired if it would be possible to make recommended changes (modifications) to the USGS scope of work.
 - The recommendations included (1) reducing the number of wells by half (removal of half of the data loggers) and (2) incorporating a few field “tour” days into the agreement in order for one or two members to accompany the USGS staff to well locations.
 - Without these changes the project will be in the exact same “spot” this time next year.
 - Attendees then discussed the possibility of letting the contract expire at the completion of the interim agreement. In previous conversations, the work group had discussed only collecting data for another year or two. Based on previous discussions, the data is no longer critical or even much used. The tech team used to use the information more than they do now. It was suggested that the work group determine who uses the data, who might use the data, and how often before pursuing expiring the work.
 - Terina and Ed volunteered to follow up on the work group requests. If the actual scope cannot be released to SWM members, Terina will determine if it is appropriate to at least share the details.
 - Since Reclamation has taken care of the extending the work contract for now SWM members do not need to invest any more energy in developing a transition or new scope at this point.

Action: Ed Kandl and Terina Perez will determine the details of the USGS transect scope and report the details to the work group.

Action: Terina Perez will discuss the SWM work group’s request to modify the USGS contract to incorporate (1) reduction of the transects by about half; and (2) inclusion of field time to allow some members to accompany the USGS to well locations.

Action: If appropriate, Terina Perez will provide the SWM work group with a finalized copy of the USGS transect scope of work.

Discussion of potential MRGCD field trip

- Discussion of a possible MRGCD field trip was postponed as no one from the District was present to participate or provide suggestions.

Action: Chris Banet will follow up with Matt Martinez to determine MRGCD representation at the SWM meetings.

Topics for Program Technical Symposium and Open House

- Attendees requested that the USGS provide a presentation on their surface water/groundwater project results during the Technical Session day of the Program’s Open House. This is a slight modification of the topic suggestion from last month.
- The Program’s Open House and Technical Session is a two-day event scheduled for early October. The first day (Friday, October 21st) will be the Technical Session with presentations and discussion; the second day (Saturday, October 22nd) will be the public open house day. The October EC meeting has been cancelled in order to allow the executives to attend the Technical Sessions.

- It is unknown if contractors will be included on the Technical Session agenda or if the work group members and agency representatives are expected to be the presenters. Unfortunately, if that is the case no one else is really able to present the contractors results.

Action: Terina Perez will ask the CC if presentations at the Technical Sessions could be given by a contractor or if it is really the responsibility of work group members.

Program Update

- The Program update was provided as a read ahead. Attendees did briefly discuss the potential restructuring of the Program work groups.
 - The EC instructed the PMT to look into the possible restructuring and/or re-grouping of work groups. The PMT and PM have explored several possible alternatives which have been given back to the CC and EC. The CC has been having ongoing discussions but nothing has been decided or agreed upon yet. The PM did create a diagram of potential configurations as a strawman on options. There are a lot of questions and concerns at the CC level – concerns with agency and work group representation, loss of history, coverage of activities and issues (and how those will be carried forward through some other avenue).
 - The EC assigned the consultation team to review structure options but that group hasn't met yet so progress is on hold. The main purpose of restructuring is that the Program could benefit from a simplification and compilation. But how people are to represent their agencies is unknown.
 - There are also concerns about who should be on the Adaptive Management (AM) work group (and who decides who participates) and the possible loss of voices (since once suggestion has been to have the work group co-chairs be on the AM group). Others have expressed that it should be up to the signatories to determine their own representatives on the group (in order to determine the best representation based on experience and qualifications).
 - Ultimately, any Program restructuring will be an EC decision.
 - SWM attendees did discuss the benefit of combining technical tasks for a smoother and simpler process. It could also be beneficial to have fewer meetings which might enable small signatories to be able to participate more.
 - For example, PHVA could be incorporated with SWM into a new “hydrology” work group.

Agency Updates

- It was shared that Galisteo has had some water coming through – there has not been much debris just mostly ash. The ABCWUA treatment plant has been closing to let the ash pass. A lot of the ash is coming from downstream of Cochiti. It was shared that there was a big fish kill this past Sunday and Monday, near Alameda. The cause is unknown. The Service has been testing the water and they indicated that the water was normal. (KOB TV has an article posted online).
 - Attendees shared that if the ash content were heavy enough (even if the dissolved oxygen did get depleted) the fish's ability to get the oxygen could still be affected (obstruction to the oxygen uptake).

Next Meeting: October 5th, 2011, MRGCD field trip

- Attendees discussed a possible agenda item to revise the SWM charter. The original concern was that SWM was not pursuing the objectives as laid out in the charter (ex. investigating sources of water). But many of the objectives in the charter are actually agency authorities and not within the prevue of the work group. The recommendation was to alter the charter to reflect the work the group is actually doing. However, this discussion needs to occur with good representation of the various agencies (ex, the District, NMDA, etc.)
 - Due to the possible restructuring, members decided to postpone this agenda topic until further instruction or guidance is provided by the CC or EC.

- Attendees then determined that there were not enough agenda items to warrant holding a meeting in September. Instead, it was agreed that the September meeting would be cancelled unless there were any directives/tasks from the CC or EC that would require addressing. The next meeting will be the regularly scheduled October meeting.
 - Tentative agenda items include: (1) MRGCD field trip; (2) Program Structure updates and what it might mean for the work groups; (3) concrete information on the USGS contract;

Field Trip – Tour of ABCWUA Facilities

- Attendees then visited the ABCWUA drinking water diversion at the Alameda Open Space. Rick Billings briefly described the operations and pointed out different features and components of the system. It was commented that the fish passage seemed to be at a higher velocity than expected. In response, it was shared that the fish do use it – even the smaller fish (including minnow). There are boulders and other features in the fish passage that help the fish maneuver through. The Service has about a 7% return on tagged minnow. Right now the facility is diverting about 100 cfs.

Field Trip – Tour of Alameda Bridge Gage

- Rick then lead attendees north, around the outside perimeter fence of the water diversion plant to one of the Alameda wells. The wells casings actually stand about 3 foot high (not sunk in or level with the ground) and are about 2.5 inches in diameter. The elevation marker can be found just in front of the well. It was commented that in the USGS reporting, only the ground elevation was recorded and not the casing elevation. It is unknown if this is corrected or accounted for in their results.
- Only one of the transect's well locations is known. The other wells in the transect are assumed to be linear to the other side of the river.

Field Trip – Tour of the Old Alameda Bridge

- A few members then proceeded to the Old Alameda Bridge looking for the transect wells in the area. No wells were found.
- This supports the need for work group members to be shown the actual well locations by the USGS.

Species Water Management Work Group 3 August 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
Chris Banet	SWM Member Co-Chair	BIA	563-3403	chris.banet@BIA.gov	P
Ed Kandl	---	Reclamation	462-3586	ekandl@usbr.gov	O
Rick Billings	SWM Member	ABCWUA	796-2527	rbillings@abcwua.org	P
Marta Wood	Admin Support	Tetra Tech	259-6098	marta.wood@tetratech.com	O



1. Looking south – meeting attendees standing on bridge over the fish passage and entrance to the facility.



2. Looking southeast to the facility structures.



3. Looking north – close-up of water passing the drinking water diversion



4. Looking South – close-up of Alameda transect well



5. Looking south - Old Alameda Bridge