

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

05 October 2011 Meeting

10:00am to 12:00pm @ BIA

Actions

- Terina Perez will send a link to the USGS FTP site to Hilary Brinegar.
- All questions in regard to the *Groundwater/Surface water Interaction Project* that SWM work group members would like USGS to address should be emailed to Terina; Terina will then forward this information to Ed Kandl (project COTR) for compilation.
- Terina Perez will talk to Jericho Lewis and Yvette McKenna about scheduling a special meeting for October 24th to further discuss the elements of the existing interim contract.
- Terina Perez will reserve a conference room at Reclamation for the December 7th, 2011 SWM meeting.
- Terina Perez will distribute flyers for the Program Technical Sessions and Open House on October 21st and 22nd to the SWM work group via email.
- 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*)

Requests

- In order to further address work group member concerns/questions regarding the interim *Groundwater/Surface water Interaction Project* contract, that due to time constraints were unable to be addressed during today's meeting, the SWM work group requests a special meeting with Jericho Lewis and USGS, if appropriate. The work group also requests that their questions to USGS be addressed in writing.

Decision

- The August 3rd, 2011 SWM meeting notes were approved with no changes.

Meeting Summary

- Terina Perez brought the meeting to order and introductions were made. The agenda was approved with the addition of scheduling a climate change presentation by the Forest Service.
- The August 3rd, 2011 Species Water Management (SWM) meeting notes were approved with no changes.
- Meeting attendees reviewed the August 2011 action items and all ongoing/continued action items. All action items are complete with the exception of 2 ongoing action items.
- Meeting attendees discussed the interim contract for the *Groundwater/Surface Water Interaction Project* with Jericho Lewis (Bureau of Reclamation Contracting Officer), Yvette McKenna (Program Manager), and representatives from USGS. In order to avoid a lapse in data collection, finish reports, and finalize details to put a SOW out for solicitation Reclamation made the decision to enter an interim contract with USGS. The current SOW for the interim contract includes downloading and processing the data currently being collected, finishing the 2 reports owed to the Program, and finishing processing of data collected in 2009 and 2010. Though USGS' proposal only covers work through May of 2012 the contract is good through the end of FY 2012 in case there needs to be an extension or the Program would like additional data collection. USGS shared that the final version of the first report is due to be posted online in December 2011 and a print version of the report will be released in January 2012. The 2nd report is still in colleague review. Draft copies of the 2 reports are available on the USGS FTP site. Terina Perez will send a link to the USGS FTP site to Hilary Brinegar.
 - The SWM work group was updated that Ed Kandl (project COTR) has been accompanying USGS during the current data collection to learn the well locations and procedures used for collecting data and to inventory the instruments. About 100 of the 280 wells and gages have been visited. Due to the expiration

of the IA with USGS the last time data was collected was in August of 2010; work group members expressed concern that data may have been lost or may be unusable.

- Jeff Worthington (USGS) described the procedures used in data collection and processing; it was explained that all procedures used are standard USGS procedure for surface water/ground water data collection and processing. Data collection consists of data download, manual measurements, and instrument calibration. Data processing consists of drift and barometric pressure correction and the storage of data in a data management application. The drift on data that has been collected so far has been about 1.2 inches before barometric correction is applied. Nathan Myers (USGS) offered to locate copies of the USGS standard procedures.
- Attendees discussed the SWM work group's decision to reduce the number of wells in the project. Because the Program's only current use for the data is to assist the URGWOM tech team, the SWM work group had made the decision to reduce the number of wells. It was discussed that well abandonment is one issue involved with reducing the number of wells and that licenses/agreements regarding ownership and management of the wells will need to be reviewed. Nathan Myers volunteered to research well ownership/management and locate any related permits.
- USGS explained that though provisional data for 2009 and 2010 is included in the draft reports, the data is still in the data processing stages and that new policies implemented by USGS for data processing require the data to be reviewed and approved by three different people before the data can be considered final. USGS will be making some corrections to their proposed schedule; once these corrections are made the schedule will be made available to the SWM work group.
- In order to have the project completed in FY12 the work group will need to deliver a complete SOW to Jericho by December 16, 2011. The SWM work group will review the SOW at their November 2nd SWM meeting. Though it was shared that Reclamation is still considering taking over data collection and processing for the project, the work group decided that it would best to have a SOW ready by December 16th in case the project will go out for bid.
- In order to further address work group member concerns/questions regarding the interim *Groundwater/Surface water Interaction Project* contract, that due to time constraints were unable to be addressed during today's meeting, the SWM work group requests a special meeting with Jericho Lewis and USGS, if appropriate. The work group also requests that their questions to USGS be addressed in writing. All questions that SWM work group members would like USGS to address should be emailed to Terina; Terina will then forward this information to Ed Kandl (project COTR) for compilation. Terina Perez will talk to Jericho Lewis and Yvette McKenna about scheduling a special meeting for October 24th to further discuss the elements of the existing interim contract.
- Meeting attendees discussed scheduling a half-hour presentation from Megan Friggens of the Rocky Mountain Research Center (U.S. Forest Service) on the report *The vulnerability of species to climate change in the southwest: terrestrial species of the Middle Rio Grande*. The work group scheduled the presentation for the December 7th, 2011 SWM meeting with an invitation to attend the presentation extended Program wide. In order to accommodate additional attendees for the presentation, the December SWM meeting is planned to be held at Reclamation. Terina Perez will reserve a conference room at Reclamation for the December 7th, 2011 SWM meeting.
- In a Program update attendees were reminded of the Program Technical Sessions and Open House on October 21st and 22nd; Terina will distribute the flyers for both events to the SWM work group via email. The work group was updated that though Program structure has been discussed by both the Coordination Committee and the Executive Committee the Program is not at the point of having a suggested structure.
- In agency updates the work group was updated that John D'Antonio will be the Deputy Project Manager for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers starting on November 7th, 2011. Cyndie Abeyta announced that she is now with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Aquatics branch and no longer a part of the Middle Rio Grande branch. The work group was also updated that the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District ceased storage releases on September 15th and has been using native water to continue the irrigation season.

Next Meeting: November 2nd, 2011. Tentative agenda items include: (1) Review and discuss *Groundwater/Surface water Interaction Project* SOW;

Other Upcoming Meetings:

- Joint work group meeting/brunch on November 15th, 2011.

- December 7th, 2011 SWM Meeting – tentative agenda items include: (1) Presentation on *The vulnerability of species to climate change in the southwest: terrestrial species of the Middle Rio Grande*. (Megan Friggens).

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

05 October 2011 Meeting

10:00am to 12:00pm @ BIA; room to be determined

Final Notes

Introductions and Announcements

- Terina Perez brought the meeting to order and introductions were made.

Agenda Approval

- The agenda was approved with the addition of scheduling a climate change presentation by the Forest Service.

Approval of the August 3rd, 2011 Meeting Notes

Decision: The August 3rd, 2011 Species Water Management (SWM) meeting notes were approved with no changes.

Action Item Review

- Meeting attendees reviewed the August 2011 action items and all ongoing/continued action items. All action items are complete with the exception of 2 ongoing action items.
 - **August 3rd Action Items**
 - **Ed Kandl and Terina Perez will determine the details of the USGS transect scope and report the details to the work group.**
 - Complete.
 - **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.**
 - Complete.
 - **If/when appropriate, Terina Perez will provide the SWM work group with a finalized copy of the USGS transect scope of work.**
 - The *Groundwater/Surface Water Interaction Project SOW* will be discussed during today's meeting.
 - **Chris Banet will follow up with Matt Martinez to determine Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District (MRGCD) representation at the SWM meetings.**
 - Complete. Matt confirmed that he will be representing MRGCD at 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.**
 - Complete. Contractors are able to present at the Technical Sessions; staff from USGS will be presenting on the work completed for the *Groundwater/Surface Water Interaction Project*.
 - **Continued/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*)**
 - This action continues to be ongoing.
 - **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*)**
 - This action continues to be ongoing.
 - **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*)**
 - Complete. It is MRGCD's preference that language that addresses depletions be included in the SWM work group Charter.

- **Matt Martinez will provide a copy of the old USGS “well responsibility” agreement/MOU. (Ongoing from 6/1)**
 - Complete.
- **Matt Martinez offered to assist in obtaining the necessary keys to access the transect wells. (Ongoing from 6/1)**
 - This action is no longer needed as Reclamation will not be taking over the project; however should the gate keys to levee roads or side gates access be needed to access the transect wells the key are available.
- **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).**
 - This action item is no longer needed as Matt does not know the locations of the wells. The recommendation was made that any wells are regularly damaged be clearly flagged to help avoid damage. It was explained that though some wells have been damaged or buried do to dredging that it is not usually the same wells that are being damaged. It was also explained that surface water gages rather than wells are more likely to be damaged and that they are usually damaged by trees, wildlife, or vandalism.

Discussion and update on the USGS contract (explanations/steps forward)

- Meeting attendees discussed the interim contract for the *Groundwater/Surface Water Interaction Project* with Jericho Lewis (Bureau of Reclamation Contracting Officer), Yvette McKenna (Program Manager), and representatives from USGS.
 - Attendees received a brief overview of the interim contract with USGS. Historically data was collected and analyzed by USGS. A couple of reports are pending finalization and still need to be delivered to the Program. Because of the late deliverables and in attempts to better budget funding, in early FY11 the SWM work group had looked at contracting out the work and had begun to work on a new SOW. Reclamation had also discussed taking over the data collection and data clean up but was unable to do so. In order to avoid a lapse in data collection, finish reports, and finalize details to put a SOW out for solicitation, Reclamation made the decision to enter an interim contract with USGS.
 - It was explained that the current SOW for the interim contract includes downloading and processing the data currently being collected, finishing the 2 reports owed to the Program, and finishing the processing of data collected in 2009 and 2010. Though USGS’ proposal only covers work through May of 2012 the contract is good through the end of FY 2012 in case there needs to be an extension or the Program would like additional data collection.
 - It was shared that Reclamation has signed a letter to release the first report for publication. Also, USGS shared that the final version of the first report is due to be posted online in December 2011 and a print version of the report will be released in January 2012. The 2nd report is still in colleague review. Draft copies of the 2 reports are available on the USGS FTP site.

Action: Terina Perez will send a link to the USGS FTP site to Hilary Brinegar.

- The SWM work group was updated that Ed Kandl (project COTR) has been accompanying USGS during the current data collection to learn the well locations and procedures used for collecting data and to inventory the instruments.
 - About 100 of the 280 wells and gages have been visited. Due to the expiration of the IA with USGS the last time data was collected was in August of 2010.
 - Work group members expressed concern that because it has been so long since data has been collected that data may have been lost or may be unusable.
 - There are 3 types of instruments. Two of the instrument types utilize long term batteries and the other instrument type uses AA batteries. So far of the sites visited, data from only one well has been lost. USGS is making a point to visit sites with the instruments with shorter battery lives first.
 - It was shared that some of the instruments and wells in the Corrales area were damaged. The current interim agreement does not include major repair to the wells.
- Jeff Worthington (USGS) described the procedures used in data collection and processing.
 - During the site visits the wells are opened and the loggers up pulled up a couple of inches to get a reading of water level with an electronic measuring device; the water level is verified 2-4 times. The loggers are then connected to a lap top and the data is downloaded and the loggers are

calibrated. It was explained that there are descriptions in the project proposal of how the data is downloaded and how the water level is measured and that all procedures used are standard USGS procedure for surface water/ground water data collection and processing. The loggers collect water level, pressure, and most collect temperature; it was explained that all the loggers are capable of collecting temperature but the manufacturer charges more for those capabilities to be utilized.

- Though Ed has been documenting how data is collected, the interim contract currently does not include writing up of procedures.
- It was shared that the newly collected data will be available in a variety of formats, including Excel.
- In response to concerns about cable stretch and drift over time it was explained that USGS had contacted the instrument manufacturer and the USGS Hydrologic Instrumentations Facility to see if stretch tests have been done. The manufacturer was able to provide the amount of stretch that it would take to break the cable and a response from the Hydrologic Instrumentations Facility has not yet been received; USGS will keep the SWM work group informed. The manufacturer did verify that the battery voltage does not affect the readings.
- Jeff Worthington shared that drift has averaged about 1.2 inches before barometric correction is applied.
- Data processing consists of drift and barometric pressure correction. Because some of the instruments have unvented cables the data needs barometric correction. Pressure data from the airport is used for correction. USGS shared that a good source for correction is also the National Climatic Data Center (NCDC) where data is provided hourly; Jeff Worthington offered to provide a link to the NCDC website to the SWM work group. Once the data has been correct it is transferred to the program Automated Data Processing System (ADAPS) for storage and management. It was explained that there are also different types of corrections that are used if the loggers are reset or if data is collected right as the logger is pulled up. Nathan Myers (USGS) offered to locate copies of the USGS standard procedures. Also, once corrections have been applied, hydrographs and data files are created and posted to the USGS website.
- Attendees discussed the SWM work group's decision to reduce the number of wells in the project (particularly the dual transects).
 - It was asked if there would be room in the interim contract to have the number of wells reduced. It was verified that the contract is modifiable.
 - It was discussed that determining which wells would be removed would depend on what the data would be used for.
 - It was explained that the work group was hoping to get information from the reports on which wells could be removed.
 - USGS explained that at several sites multiple wells at shallow, middle, and deep depths are being used to measure a vertical gradient. The middle depth wells could likely be removed with the shallow and deep wells still capturing the gradient. It was also explained that dual transects were being used to capture a 3-D picture of flow to determine which direction groundwater is entering the aquifer.
 - Meeting attendees discussed that the project has undergone many changes and the work group now has different priorities; this is one reason why the SWM work group had decided that the number of wells could be reduced. Also, because the Program's only current use for the data is to assist the URGWOM tech team, the SWM work group had made the decision that the number of wells could be reduced.
 - It was explained that the SWM work group met with the URGWOM tech team around February of 2011 and, based on their feedback, determined that the project was worth pursuing for at least a couple more years but at a reduced level. The work group had also worked with Nabil Shafike (URGWOM tech team) to determine which transects were needed for URGWOM, and it was found that neither URGWOM nor the PHVA utilize data from the the double transects.
 - Meeting attendees also discussed that it may be time to see how the data can be used to inform water management.

- In a Program update attendees were reminded of the Program Technical Sessions and Open House on October 21st and 22nd

Action: Terina will distribute flyers for the Program Technical Sessions and Open House to the SWM work group via email.

- The work group was updated that though Program structure has been discussed by both the Coordination Committee and the Executive Committee the Program is not at the point of having a suggested structure.
 - It was suggested by a SWM work group member that the work group have a discussion on what they would like to accomplish. It was also suggested that the workgroup look at the Water Committee in the San Juan Recovery Implementation Program.

Agency Updates

- In agency updates the work group was updated that John D'Antonio will be the Deputy Project Manager for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers starting on November 7th, 2011.
- Cyndie Abeyta announced that she is now with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Aquatics branch and no longer a part of the Middle Rio Grande branch.
- The work group was also updated that the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District ceased storage releases on September 15th and has been using native water to continue the irrigation season in attempts to ensure a full or near-full irrigation season next year.

Further Discussion of the *Groundwater/Surface Water Interaction Project* interim contract

- In order to further address work group member concerns/questions regarding the interim *Groundwater/Surface water Interaction Project* contract, that due to time constraints were unable to be addressed during today's meeting, the SWM work group requests a special meeting with Jericho Lewis and USGS, if appropriate. The work group also requests that their questions to USGS be addressed in writing. All questions that SWM work group members would like USGS to address should be emailed to Terina; Terina will then forward this information to Ed Kandl (project COTR) for compilation.

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Other Upcoming Meetings:

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**Species Water Management Work Group
5 October 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
Charles Riley	BIA Host	BIA	563-3446	Charles.riley@bia.gov	O
Ed Kandl	SWM Member	Reclamation	462-3586	ekandl@usbr.gov	O
Jericho Lewis	---	Reclamation	462-3622	jlewis@usbr.gov	O
Rodger Ferreira	---	USGS	830-7902	Ferreira@usgs.gov	O
Nathan Myers	---	USGS	830-7942	nmyers@usgs.gov	O
Jeff Worthington	---	USGS	830-7973	worthntn@usgs.gov	O
Yvette McKenna	---	Reclamation	462-3640	yrmckenna@usbr.gov	O
Matt Martinez	SWM Member	MRGCD	730-6474	mmartinez@mrgcd.us	P
Amy Louise	SWM Member	USACE	342-3342	Amy.louise@usace.army.mil	A
Cyndie Abeyta	SWM Member	U.S. FWS	761-4738	Cyndie_abeyta@fws.gov	P
Christine Sanchez	Admin Support	Tetra Tech	881-3188 ext. 139	christine.sanchez@tetrattech.com	O