

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

November 02, 2011

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

Actions

- Page Pegram will resend the list of SWM work group questions for USGS to Terina Perez.
- Terina Perez and Ed Kandl will talk to Jericho to see if he has heard back from USGS and inform him of the workgroups questions. After Terina and Ed talk to Jericho the SWM work group may schedule a conference call to work on the SOW.
- Ed Kandl will ask Jeff Worthington if flagging transducer data that varies significantly from manual measurements is a part of USGS procedure.
- Terina Perez and Tetra Tech will verify with Cyndie Abeyta that Megan Friggens will still be presenting at the December 7th, 2011 SWM meeting.
- Terina Perez and Tetra Tech will make sure that an invitation to view the presentation is distributed Program wide.

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*)

Decision

- The October 5, 2011 meeting notes were approved with 2 corrections on page 2 of the notes.

Meeting Summary

- Terina Perez (PMT Liaison) brought the meeting to order. The agenda was approved with no changes and there were no announcements.
- The October 5, 2011 meeting notes were approved with the following corrections for clarification on page 2 of the notes:
 - "Nathan Myers *offered to locate copies* of the USGS standard procedures."
 - "Nathan Myers *volunteered to research well* ownership/management and to locate any related permits."
- All action items were completed with the exception of two ongoing actions.
- Meeting attendees discussed the *Groundwater/Surface Water Interaction Project*.
The work group was updated that Jericho Lewis (Reclamation CO) would like to wait for a response from USGS before he meets again with the SWM work group as he is still waiting for an updated schedule from USGS. Concern was raised that the work group still needs information from USGS, including information on well ownership/management and copies of the standard operating procedures (SOP) used by USGS, in order to have a complete scope of work (SOW) by the December 16, 2011 deadline.
 - Meeting attendees discussed whether they had any additional questions for USGS other than the questions that were previously compiled by the work group. Though these questions were partially addressed at the October SWM meeting, due to time constraints, some of the questions were not fully addressed and the work group would like to have the questions answered in writing. Page Pegram will resend the list of questions for USGS to Terina Perez. Additionally the work group would also like USGS to verify that

the cost estimate for the current interim contract does not include any costs for processing that has already been completed under the previous contract. The work group would also like to know if Nathan Myers has located the SOP for data collection and processing and if he has located information on well ownership and management. Terina and Ed Kandl will talk to Jericho to see if he has heard back from USGS and inform him of the workgroups questions. After Terina and Ed talk to Jericho the SWM work group may schedule a conference call to work on the SOW.

- It was briefly discussed that one way to address work group member concerns about the quality of the data from the last year and a half could be for USGS to flag any of the transducer measurements that have drifted significantly from the manual water level measurements; Ed Kandl will ask Jeff Worthington if this is already a part of USGS procedures.
- In a Program update, SWM members were updated that the Program 10th Anniversary Open House went well and that around 70 children were in attendance. Attendees were reminded that there will be a Joint Workgroup Brunch/Meeting on November 15th, 2011 at Bureau of Reclamation. The November 3rd-4th, 2011 Executive Committee meeting will be at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (the Corps). The deadline for new SOWs is December 16th, 2011. The work group was also updated that the development of the 2010-2011 Program Reports will begin as soon as the 2008-2009 Program Report is completed.
- In an agency update, attendees were updated that the Corps Biological Assessment was officially released and was distributed to the Program via email yesterday, November 1st, 2011.

Next Meeting: December 7th, 2011. Terina Perez and Tetra Tech will verify with Cyndie Abeyta that Megan Friggens will still be presenting; if Megan is presenting then the meeting will be at Reclamation.

- Potential agenda items include: (1) presentation on the report *The vulnerability of species to climate change in the southwest: terrestrial species of the Middle Rio Grande* (Megan Friggens); (2) SWM charter content discussion; (3) *Groundwater/Surface Water Interaction Project SOW*;

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Meeting Notes

Introductions and Announcements

- Terina Perez (PMT Liaison) brought the meeting to order. There were no announcements.

Agenda Approval

- The agenda was approved with no changes.

Approval of the October 5, 2011 Meeting Notes

Decision: The October 5, 2011 meeting notes were approved with 2 corrections on page 2 of the notes.

- The October 5, 2011 meeting notes were approved with the following corrections for clarification on page 2 of the notes:
 - “Nathan Myers *offered to locate copies* of the USGS standard procedures.”
 - “Nathan Myers *volunteered to research well ownership/management* and to locate any related permits.”

These corrections better clarify that USGS will need to provide standard procedures and information on well ownership/management as providing these materials are outside of the capabilities of the SWM work group.

Action Item Review - Meeting attendees reviewed the October Action Items and other ongoing action items.

- August 3rd Action Items:
 - **Terina Perez will send a link to the USGS FTP site to Hilary Brinegar**
 - Complete.
 - **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 did not receive any questions; however the work group had previously compiled a list of questions for USGS. Page Pegram will resend the list of questions for USGS that was previously compiled by the SWM work group to Terina Perez.

Action: Page Pegram will resend the list of SWM work group questions for USGS to Terina Perez.

- **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 for the *Groundwater/Surface Water Interaction Project*.**
 - The work group was updated that Jericho Lewis (Bureau of Reclamation Contracting Officer) would like to wait for a response from USGS before he meets again with the SWM work group as he is still waiting for an updated work schedule from USGS.
 - It was pointed out that the work group is also waiting for copies of standard operating procedures (SOPs) and information on well ownership/management from USGS. Attendees were reminded of an issue brought up at the last meeting of whether there is funding left over from the initial contract with USGS and which parts of the work had already been paid for.
 - Since Jericho is still waiting for a response from USGS, the work group determined to forward their questions to Jericho and Ed (project COTR) – though a lot of the

questions that the work group had compiled were answered at the October SWM meeting, where USGS and Jericho were present, they were not answered specifically.

- Additionally the work group would like USGS to verify/clarify that the cost estimate that is included with the interim contract does not include any duplicate costs – such as costs that were included for processing that was already completed under the initial contract and new cost estimates for data processing that Nathan Myers thought had not been completed but that Jeff Worthington thought had been completed.
- The work group also needs to find out if USGS has located their SOP for data collection/processing and information on well ownership/management before the SOW can be completed.

Action: Terina Pez and Ed Kandl will talk to Jericho to see if he has heard back from USGS and inform him of the workgroups questions.

- Ed Kandl, who has been accompanying USGS to the field for data downloading and manual measurements, updated the work group that there is only one transect at Central and then the site visits will be completed.
- Meeting attendees briefly discussed how to address work group member concerns for the quality of the data since it has been almost a year and a half since the instruments were last calibrated.
 - One idea was that the work group request that USGS flag any of the transducer measurements that have drifted significantly from the manual water level measurements if this is not already a part of USGS procedure. As Ed Kandl has been assisting in site visits, he volunteered to ask Jeff Worthington if this is already a part of USGS procedures. Ed also updated the group that there have not been any concerns about the quality of the data that has been collected so far and that at each site the last value that the transducer recorded is compared to the manual measurement.

Action: Ed Kandl will ask Jeff Worthington if flagging transducer data that varies significantly from manual measurements is a part of USGS procedure.

- **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.**
 - Completed on October 6th, 2011.
- **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.**
 - Complete. The Rio Grande room at Reclamation has been reserved from 10:00 AM to 12:30 PM for the December 7th, 2011 SWM meeting.

Action: Terina Perez and Tetra Tech will make sure that an invitation to view the presentation is distributed Program wide.

Action: Terina Perez and Tetra Tech will verify with Cyndie Abeyta that Megan Friggens will still be presenting.

- 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 item 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. (Ongoing from 3/2)**
 - The status of this action item is not known.

Review and discuss *Groundwater/Surface water Interaction Project SOW*

- The SWM work group discussed that they have a mostly complete SOW but that clarifying information on land access and well abandonment issues are needed before the SOW can be completed. Terina and Ed will try to get answers from Jericho in order to facilitate completion of the SOW. After Terina and Ed talk to Jericho the SWM work group may schedule a conference call to work on the SOW.

Program Update

- Attendees were updated that the Collaborative Program 10th Anniversary Open House on October 21-22 went well with about 70 children in attendance.
- Attendees were reminded of the Joint work group Brunch/Meeting on November 15th at Reclamation.
- The Executive Committee (EC) will be meeting November 3rd (full day) and November 4th (half day) at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (the Corps).
- Attendees were reminded that the deadline for new SOWs is December 16th, 2011.
- The work group was also updated that the development of the 2010-2011 Program Reports will begin as soon as the 2008-2009 Program Report is completed.

Agency Updates

- In an agency update, attendees were updated that the Corps final Biological Assessment was officially released and was distributed to the Program via email yesterday, November 1st, 2011.

Attendees briefly discussed adding a discussion on the SWM work group charter to the agenda of an upcoming SWM meeting in order to discuss the content of the charter and what the work group can continue to do as they figure out their place within the Program. It was said that the outcomes from the upcoming EC meeting will likely be a part of this discussion. Hilary Brinegar volunteered to draft ideas of text that could supplement the work group charter; she will try to have discussion with staff at MRGCD and ISC to get their input.

Next Meeting: December 7th, 2011 10:00 AM to 12:30 PM at Reclamation.

Action: Terina Perez and Tetra Tech will verify with Cyndie Abeyta that Megan Friggens will still be presenting; if Megan is presenting then the meeting will be at Reclamation.

- Potential agenda items include: (1) presentation on the report *The vulnerability of species to climate change in the southwest: terrestrial species of the Middle Rio Grande* (Megan Friggens); (2) SWM charter content discussion; (3) *Groundwater/Surface Water Interaction Project SOW*;

Species Water Management Work Group 2 November 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
Charles Riley	---	BIA	563-3446	Charles.riley@bia.gov	P
Ed Kandl	SWM Member	Reclamation	462-3586	ekandl@usbr.gov	P
Hilary Brinegar via phone	SWM Member	NMDA	575-646- 2642	hbrinegar@nmda.nmsu.edu	P
Christine Sanchez	Admin Support	Tetra Tech	881-3283 ext. 139	christine.sanchez@tetrattech.com	O