

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

07 March 2012 Meeting

10:00am to 12:00pm @ BIA

Actions

- Cyndie Abeyta will continue populating the SWM GW/SW Interaction project spreadsheet and will coordinate with Matt Martinez (MRGCD) to receive any additional documentation to incorporate (ex. licenses, permits, etc.). *(revised action)*
- Tetra Tech will provide the link to the Price's Dairy materials that were provided last year.
- ✓ Chris Banet will forward the USGS quarterly monitoring reports to the SWM work group. – *completed 03/07/12*
- Hilary Brinegar will confirm what, if anything, of the USGS GW/SW Interaction Project has been included in the LTP inventory (ex. continued collection? analysis of the data?).
- Hilary Brinegar will ask at the CC what Reclamation's thoughts are regarding continuing the GW/SW Interaction work – continue data collection through USGS? In-house? etc.
- Chris Banet will contact Ed Kandl and request an update on the status of the GW/SW Interaction Project be provided to the SWM work group via email. Specifically, the work group would like to know what Reclamation intends with "funding the project."
- Hilary Brinegar will review the LTP inventory to confirm that future SWFL projects were submitted/included and that the activity summaries include references to the final SWLF Habitat reports and SWFL Literature Review recommendations.
- Hilary Brinegar will ask the CC for guidance on the continuation of the SWM work group.
- Michelle Mann will keep SWM informed of the MPT meetings in order for SWM members to participate.
- Michelle Mann will forward the website link that could be useful in developing DBMS data templates for scopes of work.

Ongoing Actions

- After Reclamation's Draft BA has been completed and made available, Dagmar Llewellyn and Ed Kandl will write an activity summary for hydrologic monitoring at habitat restoration sites. *(Ongoing from 03/02/11)*
- Cyndie Abeyta will find out if it will be possible for the SWM workgroup to take a field trip to Price's Dairy. *(Ongoing from 01/04/12)*
- Matt Martinez will ask Cody Walker if it will be possible for the SWM work group to take a field trip to view the SWFL habitat in Isleta. *(Ongoing from 01/04/12)*

Decisions

- The January 4th, 2012 meeting notes were approved with the incorporation of Hilary Brinegar's changes.
- With the proposed Program restructuring and lack of specific work, SWM members agreed to not modify/revise the SWM charter at this time as the SWM work group may be dissolved/discontinued. SWM will continue to meet every other month to complete 2 field trips in 2012 and provide comments/feedback on the LTP and/or other Program documents and reports as requested.

Meeting Summary

- Chris Banet brought the meeting to order. The meeting agenda was approved with the addition of a SWFL Habitat discussion.
- The January 4th, 2012 meeting notes were approved with the incorporation of Hilary Brinegar's changes.
- Meeting attendees reviewed the January and Ongoing Actions: 4 actions were completed as assigned and 3 remaining ongoing/pending.
- Attendees then discussed the groundwater/surface water interaction project status/updates. The estimated cost for the Groundwater/Surface Water Interaction project is listed as \$0 on the FY12 Budget since Reclamation is considering funding/completing this internally. However, it is not known what Reclamation intends with this project.
 - SWM members discussed wanting to have an analysis of the 10 years of monitoring data completed. SWM members also discussed requesting an update on the status of the project and clarification on how/what Reclamation intends to address the continuation.
- Members then briefly discussed making sure that any future activity summaries related to the SWFL should include references to both the final SWFL Habitat reports and the SWFL literature review and recommendations.
- With the proposed Program restructuring and lack of specific work, SWM members agreed to no modify/revise the SWM charter at this time as the SWM work group may be dissolved/discontinued. SWM will continue to meet every other month to complete 2 field trips in 2012 and provide comments/feedback on the LTP and/or other Program documents and reports as requested. This would allow time for the EC to make decisions and restructure the Program as necessary.
- In the Program Update, it was shared that the 2 EC focus groups (RIP Action Plan and Program Document) continue to work on their respective tasks and things are moving along. Due to revised schedules the decisions originally to be made in March have been pushed back to the April EC meeting. The functional database is expected in May 2012. There will be 2 training sessions offered: one at the end of June and the other at the beginning of July. The DBMS, PMT, and PIO met to discuss the process of transitioning the entire Program website, including the public pieces/pages, to the DBMS. Once completed, the DBMS will replace the Program website for all meeting and work group needs (read aheads, final notes, etc.). The MPT is looking for new members – specifically, they would like participation from a SWM member or two. Right now, the MPT is not meeting on a regular schedule. Normally, they meet on the 3rd Tuesday of each month – between the ScW and HR meetings.

Next Meeting May 2, 2012 from 10:00am to 12:00pm at BIA

- Tentative agenda items include: (1) report out on any CC guidance on how to proceed (Hilary); (2) planning field trip #1 – details, tasks, hand out development (?), scheduling, organizing, coordination, etc.

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

07 March 2012 Meeting

10:00am to 12:00pm @ BIA

Introductions & Announcements

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

Agenda Approval

- The agenda was approved with the addition of a Southwester Willow Flycatcher (SWFL) Habitat discussion to follow the Groundwater/Surface Water Interaction Update.
- Attendees agreed to keep the Charter discussion on the agenda even though no MRGCD representation was available.

Approval of the January 4th, 2012 Meeting notes

- The January 4th, 2012 meeting notes were approved with the incorporation of Hilary Brinegar's changes.
 - On page 3, under the Joint Workgroup discussion on the SWFL habitat monitoring, Hilary suggested adding in language referencing the water requirements and literature review.

January 2012 Action Item Review

- ✓ Michelle Mann will ask Yvette McKenna (Program Manager) if the SWM workgroup can still submit a draft SOW for the GW/SW Interaction Project regardless of whether the activity will be funded in 2012. – *complete*;
 - Yvette McKenna indicated that Reclamation might be continuing this work in-house. If so, Reclamation staff would address any scope needs. SWM input/feedback would be sought at that time.
 - Ed Kandl is now Reclamation's official SWM representative.
- ✓ Ed will look into the history of the action item "After Reclamation's Draft BA has been completed and made available, Dagmar Llewellyn and Ed Kandl write an activity summary for hydrologic monitoring at habitat restoration sites (*Ongoing from 3/2*) to help determine if it is still needed. – *to be discontinued*;
- Matt Martinez will put all the documents he has concerning the GW/SW Interaction project onto a disc to distribute to the SWM workgroup and Cyndie will send the spreadsheet she has made to Matt to verify that all of the documents he has are included on the spreadsheet. – *unknown status; to be revised*;
 - It was clarified that Cyndie's spreadsheet has not been completed yet. Matt was going to provide information on licenses or permits that could be included in that spreadsheet.
 - It was recommended this action be revised to:
 - Cyndie Abeyta will continue populating the SWM GW/SW Interaction project spreadsheet and will coordinate with Matt Martinez (MRGCD) to receive any additional documentation to incorporate (ex. licenses, permits, etc.).
- ✓ Michelle Mann will find out when the work groups will be asked to review their charters so the 2012 Work Plan can be updated. – *complete*;

- Work groups are able to review/revise their charter at any time (especially if there are significant changes that need to be captured) but should be done at least annually. However, it was recommended that SWM update their charter with the 2012 Work Plan in order to make sure the objectives and tasks are aligned (i.e., “doable”).
 - ✓ Matt Martinez will talk to Cody Walker (Pueblo of Isleta) to see if it is possible to get a summary of the SWFL monitoring at Isleta or to see if there are any reports or lessons learned from the monitoring. – *complete*;
 - Matt sent an email to Cody. It was clarified that Isleta wants UNM to do any future monitoring; but since there is no way to do a sole source, Isleta was not interested in risking UNM not getting the contract. There may be other locations in the basin/valley to target other SWFL habitat studies.
 - Matt also sent a draft of the SWFL Water Requirement at Isleta report but the report was finalized in 2008.
 - SWM members discussed a possible field trip/site visit to Isleta this year.
 - Cyndie Abeyta will find out if it will be possible for the SWM workgroup to take a field trip to Price’s Dairy. – *unknown status; pending*;
 - Last year, there was a press conference at Price’s Dairy but SWM members would rather have an actual tour.
- Action:** Tetra Tech will provide the link to the Price’s Dairy materials that were provided last year.
- Matt Martinez will ask Cody Walker if it will be possible for the SWM work group to take a field trip to view the SWFL habitat in Isleta. – *unknown status; pending*;
 - SWM members discussed hosting a field trip to Isleta to visit/tour the SWFL habitat locations. It was suggested that this field trip be advertise throughout the entire Program to invite anyone potentially interested.
 - It was also suggested that the field trips be planned/coordinated sometime after the May 2nd SWM meeting. One field trip could occur in the spring/summer (Isleta?) and the other in the fall (Price’s Dairy?).

Ongoing Actions

- ~~Ed Kandl will modify the Groundwater/Surface Water (GW/SW) Interaction Project SOW to include the workgroup’s changes and email to the SWM work group for review by Tuesday, December 13th. Ed will also talk to Jericho Lewis (Contracting Officer) to find out if it’s possible for the SOW deadline to be extended (Ongoing 11/2/11). – *unknown status; duplicate action (see action below) – to be deleted*~~
- After Reclamation’s Draft BA has been completed and made available, Dagmar Llewellyn and Ed Kandl will write an activity summary for hydrologic monitoring at habitat restoration sites. (Ongoing from 3/2/11) – *unknown status; ongoing*
 - The Monitoring Plan Team (MPT) work group developed a very successful 2-year pilot monitoring which was going to be used to develop a 10-year monitoring plan.
- ~~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 3/2/11) – *unknown status; duplicate action – to be deleted*~~

Updates on *Groundwater/Surface water Interaction Project*

- The FY2012 Program budget has been reduced to approximately \$2 million. The CC continues to adjust the 2012 work plan accordingly.
- The estimated cost for the Groundwater/Surface Water Interaction project is listed as \$0 since Reclamation will consider funding/completing internally.
- The USGS contract modification that was funded was only for a short period of time – 3 or 6 months – in order to finish/complete their involvement and transition the work.
 - Attendees briefly discussed whether or not the USGS quarterly reports had been distributed to the entire work group.
 - SWM already submitted comments on the reports so SWM has completed all their tasks associated with the groundwater/surface water project. Reclamation will now be proceeding on their own.
 - SWM members discussed wanting to have an analysis of the 10 years of monitoring data completed.
 - SWM members also discussed requesting an update on the status of the project and clarification on how/what Reclamation intends to address the continuation.

Action: Chris Banet will forward the USGS quarterly monitoring reports to the SWM work group.

Action: Hilary Brinegar will confirm what, if anything, of the USGS GW/SW Interaction Project has been included in the LTP inventory (ex. continued collection? analysis of the data?).

Action: Hilary Brinegar will ask at the CC what Reclamation's thoughts are regarding continuing the GW/SW Interaction work – continue data collection through USGS? In-house? etc.

Action: Chris Banet will contact Ed Kandl and request an update on the status of the GW/SW Interaction Project be provided to the SWM work group via email. Specifically, the work group would like to know what Reclamation intends with “funding the project.”

SWFL Discussion

- While there is not expected to be any funding for this work at this time, SWM attendees discussed wanting to make sure that potential future SWFL work is adequately captured (and taken into account) in the LTP.
 - Specifically, the future activity summaries should include references to both the final SWFL Habitat reports and the SWFL literature review and recommendations.
- Attendees briefly discussed the revised critical habitat designation(s). It is unknown when the critical habitat designations will be finalized. However, there is apparently still opportunity to submit comments on the critical habitat and it is assumed any additional comments will go through the same public process.

Action: Hilary Brinegar will review the LTP inventory to confirm that future SWFL projects were submitted/included and that the activity summaries include references to the final SWFL Habitat reports and SWFL Literature Review recommendations.

Review and Discuss Charter

- It was explained that last year Hilary posed questions, asked for clarifications, and provided edits. Unfortunately, the edits she submitted were never incorporated. However, there have been a lot of changes over the last few years and the acquisitions element of this group is no longer appropriate.
- Attendees discussed the current Program changes that have been proposed and are being pursued. Attendees agreed that it will be important to have others besides Reclamation involved in the water management “issues.” However, until the executives make official decisions regarding the path of the Program (ex. becoming a Recovery Implementation Program or RIP, consolidating/revising work groups, etc.) members suggested not making any changes to the SWM charter at this time.

- SWM has addressed all the responsibilities and tasks that they could. But at this time, members do not see being viable after 2012 unless more direction/guidance and specific tasks are provided from the CC or EC.
- The PHVA and PVA (to some extent) work groups are meeting several of the hydrology-related tasks/needs.
- Under the proposed restructuring, a new science or biology “team” has been suggested to replace several of the current existing work groups. The water managers and hydrologists would become members of this proposed work group.
- Attendees suggested that SWM finish the year on the every-other-month schedule and complete the 2 suggested field trips. This would allow time for the EC to make decisions and restructure the Program as necessary.
 - If the CC decides to discontinue SWM sooner instead of later, the 2 proposed field trips could go to the PIO work group.

Action: Hilary Brinegar will ask the CC for guidance on the continuation of the SWM work group.

Decision: With the proposed Program restructuring and lack of specific work, SWM members agreed to no modify/revise the SWM charter at this time as the SWM work group may be dissolved/discontinued. SWM will continue to meet every other month to complete 2 field trips in 2012 and provide comments/feedback on the LTP and/or other Program documents and reports as requested.

Program Update

- *EC Update:* The 2 EC focus groups (RIP Action Plan and Program Document) continue to work on their respective tasks. Things are moving along. The EC is trying to meet the RIP needs while staying true to our uniqueness. Due to revised schedules the decisions originally to be made in March have been pushed back to the April EC meeting. There won't be signing of any cooperative agreements by or at the April EC meeting
 - Reclamation working hard on the BA but it is unknown when the draft will be submitted to the Service. It was shared that Reclamation has worked hard to communicate and coordinate with the 6 pueblos.
 - Concern was shared that it appears that the Service is still intent on only issuing a single BO for both BAs. However, Reclamation is expecting their own BO. Only time will tell how this disconnect is resolved. The Corps submitted their BA back in September or October 2011 and the Service only has 135 days to respond.
- *DBMS:* The functional database is expected in May 2012. There will be 2 training sessions offered around June. Comments and feedback from the trainings will be submitted to the contractor to address and then the database contract will be complete. The DBMS, PMT, and PIO met to discuss the process of transitioning the entire Program website, including the public pieces/pages, to the DBMS. Once completed, the DBMS will replace the Program website for all meeting and work group needs (read aheads, final notes, etc.).
- *Monitoring Plan Team:* The MPT is looking for new members – specifically, they would like participation from a SWM member or two. Right now, the MPT is not meeting on a regular schedule. Normally, they meet on the 3rd Tuesday of each month – between the ScW and HR meetings.

Action: Michelle Mann will keep SWM informed of the MPT meetings in order for SWM members to participate.

- *Other:* Yvette McKenna provided a website link that could be useful in developing the DBMS data templates for future scopes of work.

Action: Michelle Mann will forward the website link that could be useful in developing DBMS data templates for scopes of work.

Agency Updates

- There were no agency updates.

Next Meeting May 2, 2012 from 10:00am to 12:00pm at BIA

- Tentative agenda items include: (1) report out on any CC guidance on how to proceed (Hilary); (2) planning field trip #1 – details, tasks, hand out development (?), scheduling, organizing, coordination, etc.

Species Water Management Work Group 07 March 2012 Meeting Attendees

Name	POSITION	AFFILIATION	PHONE NUMBER	EMAIL ADDRESS	PRIMARY, ALTERNATE, OTHER
Chris Banet	SWM Member	BIA	505-563-3403	christopher.banet@bia.gov	P – Co-Chair
Hilary Brinegar via phone	SWM Member	NMDA	575-646-2642	hbrinegar@nmda.nmsu.edu	P
Michelle Mann	PMT Liaison	USACE	505-342-3426	michelle.n.mann@usace.army.mil	O
Page Pegram	SWM Member	ISC	505-383-4051	page.pegram@state.nm.us	P
Marta Wood	Admin Support	Tetra Tech	505-259-6098	marta.wood@tetrattech.com	O