

**Middle Rio Grande Endangered Species Act Collaborative Program  
Species Water Management (SWM) Workgroup  
02 May 2012 Meeting  
10:00am to 12:00pm @ BIA**

**Actions**

- Chris Banet will contact Cyndie Abeyta before the July 11<sup>th</sup> meeting to discuss the possibility of a field trip to Price's Dairy specifically for the SWM work group.

**Ongoing Actions**

- 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) (*continued from 03/07/12*)
- 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. (*continued from 03/07/12*)
- 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. (*continued from 03/07/12*)
- Hilary Brinegar will ask the CC for guidance on the continuation of the SWM work group (*continued from 03/07/12*)
- Michelle Mann will keep SWM informed of the MPT meetings in order for SWM members to participate. (*ongoing from 03/07/12; due to dry year predictions MPT is not currently scheduled to meet anytime soon*)
- 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*) – *ongoing due to continuing BA*;
- 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 March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2012 meeting notes were approved with a correction of a typo in the second decision item: "no" should be "not."

**Meeting Summary**

- Chris Banet brought the meeting to order. The meeting agenda was approved with no changes.
- The March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2012 meeting notes were approved with a correction of a typo in the second decision item: "no" should be "not."
- Meeting attendees reviewed the March and Ongoing Actions: 5 actions were completed as assigned and 8 remaining unknown status or ongoing/pending.
- Ed Kandl hopes to be in the field to download the groundwater/surface water data sometime this month. The USGS is currently revamping all the data collected because there have been complaints on the "un-user-friendliness" and unusable points. It has been about 6 months since the last data download (September/October 2011). The USGS is still processing the data from the fall 2011 download and will complete the last contract report.
- In an "informal" update, it was shared that the plan is for the SWM work group to be absorbed into another group, probably the Adaptive Management (AM) implementation team, once formed. This may occur as early as the end of FY12. There is only expected to be 4 work groups (or implementation teams) so the Program can become more efficient and cost effective.

- Chris Banet will contact Cyndie Abeyta before the July 11<sup>th</sup> meeting to discuss the possibility of a field trip to Price's Dairy specifically for the SWM work group. Some of the transects are not too far from that area - this might be a combined field visit.
- In the Program Update, it was shared that the EC has been meeting twice a month in order to accomplish all the work that is progressing simultaneously. The current expectation is that official decisions will be made at the May 29<sup>th</sup> Special Session meeting. The scheduled a Regular Business meeting on May 15<sup>th</sup> as well. The CC will meet this afternoon.

**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 Price's Dairy field trip – details, tasks, hand out development (?), scheduling, organizing, coordination, etc.

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

02 May 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 postponing of Hilary's agenda item and replacing it with an informal update from Curtis McFadden.

**Approval of the March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2012 Meeting notes**

- The March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2012 meeting notes were approved with a correction to typo on Decision #2 (no to not).

**March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2012 Action Item Review**

- ✓ 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*) – *complete*;
  - Cyndie contacted Chris this week with an update that she has been working on the spreadsheet and it will be completed and emailed to SWM members this week. A disc with the associated documents will be available as well.
  - The intent of this action was to capture the historical information and documents on the groundwater and surface water projects, reports, and interactions with the District (permits, agreements, etc.).
- ✓ Tetra Tech will provide the link to the Price's Dairy materials that were provided last year. – *completed 03/14/12*
- ✓ 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?). – *unknown status*;
- 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. – *unknown status*;
- ✓ 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." – *complete*;
- 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. – *unknown status*;
- Hilary Brinegar will ask the CC for guidance on the continuation of the SWM work group. – *unknown status*;
- Michelle Mann will keep SWM informed of the MPT meetings in order for SWM members to participate. – *ongoing*;

- ✓ Michelle Mann will forward the website link that could be useful in developing DBMS data templates for scopes of work. – *complete*;

### 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*) – *ongoing due to continuing BA*;
- 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*) – *ongoing*;
- 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*) – *unknown status*;

### Groundwater/Surface Water Transect Update (E. Kandl)

- Ed Kandl shared that he will hopefully be able to go into the field sometime this month. It has been 6 months since the last data download (September/October 2011).
- The USGS is revamping all the data collected due to complaints collected about “un-user-friendliness” and unusable points.
  - It is not clear who the communication cables belong to (USGS or Reclamation), but the USGS seemed willing to lend them regardless.
  - Ed needs to download the software from the company. It is assumed that Reclamation will have the other equipment (wrenches, waders, screwdrivers, etc.) available in the storage warehouse. He will also need to get keys from the USGS and MRGCD (for the gates).
- The USGS is completely done with this work with the exception of the last reports. They are still processing the data from the September/October 2011 collection.
  - It appears that the “complicated” data processing turned out to be the USGS converting the data into their own format. It is assumed that it will be much simpler to convert the ASCII into an Excel file for QA/QC and corrections (atmospheric).
- Ed shared that he intends to keep a “time log” to record the effort and time requirements. This will be provided to the SWM work group in order to estimate the expected work load for single versus double transects. It is hoped that this will provide a realistic estimate on the work and time loads.
- Members briefly discussed the need to determine whether or not this data collection needs to continue. The work group will have to make a decision on how to proceed at some time in the future. It was shared that URGWOM does seem to like having this data available – they may be able to provide support or funding.

### Report out on any CC guidance on how to proceed (Hilary):

- The guidance from the CC update was postponed since Hilary was not in attendance. Instead, Curtis provided an informal update for members.
  - The current understanding is that the SWM work group to be absorbed into another group, probably the Adaptive Management (AM) implementation team, once formed. This may occur as early as the end of FY12. There is only expected to be 4 work groups (or implementation teams) so the Program can become more efficient and cost effective.

### Planning field trip #1

- There was a “public” field trip to Price’s Dairy recently. Unfortunately, no one in attendance at the SWM meeting had been able to go. It is unknown who from the Program attended the field trip.

- It was pointed out that some of the transects are not too far from that area. This might be an opportunity to have a combined field visit.
- There is no update on the possibility of an Isleta field trip.

**Action:** Chris Banet will contact Cyndie Abeyta before the July 11<sup>th</sup> meeting to discuss the possibility of a field trip to Price's Dairy specifically for the SWM work group.

### Program Update

- *Executive Committee (EC):*
  - The EC has been meeting twice a month in order to accomplish all the work that is progressing simultaneously. The current expectation is that official decisions will be made at the May 29<sup>th</sup> Special Session meeting.
    - May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2012 EC Regular Business meeting 9:00am to 1:00 pm; with PVA presentation
    - May 29<sup>th</sup>, 2012 EC Special Session Meeting to continue RIP discussions 9:00am to 4:00pm at Reclamation;
- *Coordination Committee (CC):*
  - The CC will meet this afternoon. They will be discussing scopes of work for the RGSM Genetics Activity and Adaptive Management Activity. They will also review and discuss an in-house effort to accomplish the Synthesis of Existing RGSM data.

### Agency Updates

- The predications are for a very dry year this year. The “peak” flow for the year occurred in March and the diurnals are not showing much in terms of peaks. Everyone is bracing for water and budget cuts.
- Due to this being an election year, it is expected that the 2013 budget will be delayed until February. It is assumed that Continuing Resolution (CR) will be in place until the inauguration. Usually no new projects get considered under CR, but on-going projects can generally be funded. Congressional staff will be very busy with the deficits, tax cuts, FY13 budget, and FY14 budget, all to be discussed in November/December.

**Next Meeting July 11<sup>th</sup>, 2012 from 10:00am to 12:00pm at BIA**

### Species Water Management Work Group 02 May 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
Curtis McFadden	SWM Member	USACE	505-342-3351	curtis.m.mcfadden@usace.army.mil	P
Ed Kandl	SWM Member	Reclamation	505-462-3586	ekandl@usbr.gov	P
Marta Wood	Admin Support	Tetra Tech	505-259-6098	marta.wood@tetrattech.com	O