

Coordination Committee Meeting

November 7, 2012

Meeting Materials:

Meeting Agenda

Meeting Minutes

Rapid Assessment Tool for Rio Grande Program Area as it Relates to Habitat Availability and
Habitat Restoration Priorities Memo

**Middle Rio Grande Endangered Species Collaborative Program
Coordination Committee Meeting
November 7, 2012 – 1:00 – 4:00 pm
Bureau of Reclamation
Rio Grande Conference Room**

Conference Call-in Line November 7, 2012

Toll Free Number: Phone: 1-800-621-8611

Passcode: 35430#

(1st Committee member or contractor to arrive, please dial in)

Draft Meeting Agenda

- Introductions and Agenda* Approval
- **Decision** – Approval of 10/03/12 CC Meeting Summary* and Review of Action Items
- Presentation – MRGESCP Rapid Assessment Tool Development – see below (*O. Hummel*)
- Review October 18 EC Meeting Actions & Decisions*
- **Decision** – Review and Establish Funding Targets and Priority Order for FY13 Acquisition of Program Requirements*
 - **Closed Session:** Discuss Program admin/technical support and facilitation draft SOW*
 - By December 14, 2012, New Scopes Required For:
 - RGSM Population Monitoring (draft submitted to ScW in Oct – in process)
 - Cooperative Agreement for RIP 3rd Party FME (for EC review by Nov 29 – see below)
 - RGSM Rescue/Salvage, Augmentation, and Monitoring (by November 2012);
Propagation @ BioPark; and Propagation @ Dexter (by October 2013)
 - RIP/ESA/BO technical support
 - RGSM Spawning Monitoring
 - SWFL Population Monitoring
- Update on Status and Next Steps for RIP Program Documents
 - Draft Cooperative Agreement for 3rd party financial management entity (FME) being prepared for EC review
 - EC will be provided final draft Program Document and final draft RIP Action Plan at November 29 EC meeting for Qs & As
 - EC will decide whether to endorse final draft RIP documents at December ____ EC meeting
- Upcoming Presentations/Workshops
 - November 13 – Climate Change in MRG Presentation (@ joint workgroup meeting)
 - November 28 – Sediment Modeling in Streams with SRH-1D @ Reclamation*
 - December 4 – Hydraulic Flow Modeling in Streams with SRH-2D @ Reclamation*

- February 2013 – CPUE Workshop
- Upcoming meeting(s) and Important Dates
 - EC Meeting – November 29, 2012 (9:00 am-4:00 pm) @ Reclamation
- Significant Non-Decision Items to Brief EC
- Announcements

****denotes read ahead***

Next meeting – reschedule December 5 CC Meeting to December ____, 2012

October 3, 2012 CC Actions

- Ali Saenz will add Angelique Maldonado as the Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority (ABCWUA) Database Management System (DBMS) representative. ✓
- Anyone who wants to be included on the announcement for the regular Action Plan focus group meetings should contact Grace Haggerty. Action Plan group is planning to have standing meetings for Thursdays from 1:30 to 3:30 pm (tentative) until all the elements of the plan have been completed.
- Lori Robertson will see if a fisheries staff will be available to give a species update at the October Executive Committee (EC) meeting. ✓
- Yvette McKenna will talk to Jim Brooks before Friday (10/5/12) to clarify the Service's ability to provide funding for the CPUE workshop. *Completed 10/05/12*
- Yvette McKenna will distribute the revised draft FY 2013 Work Plan to the Coordination Committee (CC). *completed 10/4/12*
- Michelle Mann will ask the SWM workgroup if the Application of Rio Grande Riparian Groundwater models to Support the Program and Water Operations Assessments activity is still needed; Yvette McKenna will inform Michelle of her action item. *(from 9/5/12) ✓*
- Jim Wilber will check on the status of the Isleta Phase II – Geomorphic Monitoring activity to ensure that it has been completed and that it does not need to be included in the FY13 Work Plan. *(from 9/5/12-completed via email on 10/04/12)*

August 1, 2012 CC Actions

- Cost share reports through FY2011 (September 30, 2011) and previous years are due to Yvette McKenna by **August 31, 2012.**

Collaborative Program Upcoming Presentations and Joint Workgroups

Date: November 13, 2012 from 11:30 am-12:30 pm at ISC

Title: 21st Century Trends in Observed Temperature and Precipitation in the Rio Grande Basin above Elephant Butte Dam

Presenter: Ariane O. Pinson

Description: Trends in climate change in the Rio Grande basin above Elephant Butte Dam, New Mexico and Colorado, are examined for the period 2001-2010 relative to 1990-1999 and 1950-1999. These data show a trend towards a warmer and drier climate across the region, although different portions of the landscape are responding at different rates. The observed changes in the Rio Grande basin are in accord with changes observed throughout the southwestern and western United States, and are in line with model projections for increased warmth and aridity in the region across the 21st Century.

Date: November 28, 2012 from 1:30-3:00 pm at USACE Room 119 Main

Title: MRGESCP Joint Workgroup Meeting – HR Rapid Assessment Tool/Assessment Metrics for SWFL and RGSM

Presenter: Todd Caplan

Description: You are invited to this discussion of the Rapid Assessment Tool that HR presented to Science last month. We will be having a presentation by Todd Caplan of GeoSystems Analysis Inc. on assessment metrics for SWFL and RGSM. These metrics were developed for the Middle Rio Grande Restoration Project and could potentially be used in part or as a whole within the Rapid Assessment Tool. Todd will provide an overview of the metrics and an example of their use. After this presentation, Ondrea Hummel would like to see if there are some Science workgroup members that would like to help with further development of the metrics for the other elements.

**Middle Rio Grande Endangered Species Collaborative Program
Coordination Committee Meeting
November 7, 2012 – 1:00 – 4:00 pm
Bureau of Reclamation
Rio Grande Conference Room**

Actions

- Cost share reports through FY2011 (September 30, 2011) and previous years are due to Yvette McKenna by November 21st, 2012.
- ✓ Ondrea Hummel will email a digital copy of the Rapid Assessment Tool handouts to Ali Saenz.
- ✓ Ali Saenz will distribute digital copies of the Rapid Assessment Tool handouts to CC members for review and comment.
- The CC will review the Rapid Assessment Tool handouts and provide comments to Ondrea Hummel (and cc'd to Rick Billings) by COB on November 14th, 2012.
- Ondrea Hummel will attend the November 15th RIP Action Plan Focus Group meeting from 3:00pm to 5:00pm to participate in discussions on incorporating the Rapid Assessment Tool into the Draft RIP Action Plan.
- Lori Robertson will review and/or update the Principles for ESA Consultation Appendix document and the Draft Cooperative Agreement document in order to provide to Yvette McKenna by November 20th for posting as informational read aheads for the November 29th EC meeting.
- Lori Robertson will look into the possibility of the Service providing correspondence on its observations of the consultation process to date; this would be in place of the issuance of a partial draft BO to the action agencies which won't occur on November 16th since formal consultation has not yet been initiated.
- Jim Wilber and Rick Billings will elevate the CC's concern with trying to get the CPUE workshop moving forward and completed sooner rather than later to the EC at the November 29th meeting.
- CC members will review the draft meeting support scope of work (SOW) and submit comments to Yvette McKenna by Friday, November 9th.
- ✓ As a quorum was not present for the entire meeting, Yvette McKenna will email a revised draft FY13 work plan to the CC members for approval/decision via email.

Decisions

- The October 3rd, 2012 CC meeting summary was approved with the incorporation of suggested edits reviewed during the meeting including: (1) correction to the language on Page 2 that the listed BOs are not "on hold"; (2) minor editorial corrections on Page 3 and 4; and (3) minor edit to the 2nd bullet under the Decisions clarifying "...recommended funding of ~~for~~ \$2,030,000 ~~in~~ for activities *listed* on the draft FY 2013 Work Plan.

EC November 29th Meeting Potential Agenda Items

- Under CC Report: the CC is concerned about getting the CPUE workshop moving forward and completed sooner rather than later due to the importance of the metrics to the RIP and participating agencies

Updated RIP Document Schedule

- November 21st – revised Draft RIP Program Document and Action Plan posted as read aheads for the November 29th EC meeting;

- November 21st to December 6th - Program-wide review period on the revised Draft RIP Program Document and Action Plan;
- November 29th – EC meeting; open Question and Answer session (no decision) on the revised Draft RIP Program Document and Action Plan;
- December 7th – absolute last day to submit agency comments on the revised Draft RIP Program Document and Action Plan;
- December 10th to the 12th – Focus groups to address/incorporate EC comments
 - December 10th – RIP Action Plan Focus Group meeting to address/incorporate comments;
- December 13th – Revised Final Draft RIP Program Document and Action Plan versions to be posted as read aheads for the December 21st EC meeting;
- December 20th – EC meeting with agenda item to endorse the Final Draft RIP documents

Next Meeting: December 12th, 2012 from 1:00 PM to 2:30 PM at Reclamation

- Tentative agenda items include: update on draft SOWs and contracting

Upcoming Dates and Deadlines:

- November 13th – Climate Change in MRG Presentation (@ joint work group meeting)
- ~~November 16th – Service intends to issue a partial draft BO to action agencies;~~ *update – this will most likely not occur by November 16th as the Service has not yet initiated formal consultation and therefore cannot issue anything at this time; however, it may be possible to provide the Program with a “lessons learned” assessment on the process to date;*
- November 19th – Habitat Restoration Rapid Assessment Tool/Assessment Metrics for SWFL and RGSM joint work group presentation, 1:30-3:00 pm at the Corps;
- November 28 – Sediment Modeling in Streams with SRH-1D at Reclamation; *this is a modeling training class that is being opened to Program members;*
- November 29th – EC meeting, 9:00am to 4:00pm at Reclamation
- December 4 – Hydraulic Flow Modeling in Streams with SRH-2D @ Reclamation; *this is a modeling training class that is being opened to Program members;*
- December TBD – EC meeting, tentatively scheduled for December 20th; agenda to include endorsement of the RIP Final Draft documents
- April or May 2013 – new estimated time frame for the CPUE workshop due to contracting issues

Meeting Summary

Introductions and agenda approval: Jim Wilber brought the meeting to order and introductions were made. The agenda was approved with a slight change in order: the Closed Session Budget discussion(s) was moved to the last item.

Decision – Approval of the October 3rd, 2012 CC Meeting Summary and Review of Action Items:

- The October 3rd, 2012 CC meeting summary was approved with the incorporation of suggested edits reviewed during the meeting including: (1) correction to the language on Page 2 that the listed BOs are not “on hold”; (2) minor editorial corrections on Page 3 and 4; and (3) minor edit to the 2nd bullet under the Decisions clarifying “...recommended funding of ~~for~~ \$2,030,000 ~~in~~ for activities *listed* on the draft FY 2013 Work Plan.

- *October 3rd, 2012 CC Actions*

- ✓ Ali Saenz will add Angelique Maldonado as the Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority (ABCWUA) Database Management System (DBMS) representative. – *complete*;
- ✓ Anyone who wants to be included on the announcement for the regular Action Plan focus group meetings should contact Grace Haggerty. Action Plan group is planning to have standing meetings for Thursdays from 1:30 to 3:30 pm (tentative) until all the elements of the plan have been completed. – *complete*;
 - The RIP Action Plan Focus Group is scheduled to meet tomorrow (Thursday, November 8th) from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm at Reclamation. Please note the change in time - usually, the Action Plan group meets from 3:00 pm to 5:00pm.
- ✓ Lori Robertson will see if a fisheries staff will be available to give a species update at the October Executive Committee (EC) meeting. – *complete*;
- ✓ Yvette McKenna will talk to Jim Brooks before Friday (10/5/12) to clarify the Service's ability to provide funding for the CPUE workshop. - *completed 10/05/12*
- ✓ Yvette McKenna will distribute the revised draft FY 2013 Work Plan to the Coordination Committee (CC). - *completed 10/4/12*
- ✓ Michelle Mann will ask the SWM workgroup if the Application of Rio Grande Riparian Groundwater models to Support the Program and Water Operations Assessments activity is still needed; Yvette McKenna will inform Michelle of her action item. (from 9/5/12) – *complete*;
- ✓ Jim Wilber will check on the status of the Isleta Phase II – Geomorphic Monitoring activity to ensure that it has been completed and that it does not need to be included in the FY13 Work Plan. (from 9/5/12) - *completed via email on 10/04/12*
- Cost share reports through FY2011 (September 30, 2011) and previous years are due to Yvette McKenna by **August 31, 2012**. – *ongoing*;
 - This action will be continued with a new deadline of November 21st in order to report an update at the November 29th EC meeting. If your agency has not already done so, please submit cost share reporting through FY2011 to Yvette McKenna.
 - Out of 13, only 6 cost share reports have been received.

Presentation: MRGESCP Rapid Assessment Tool Development

- Ondrea Hummel, with the Habitat Restoration Workgroup (HRW) and Monitoring Plan Team (MPT) ad hoc work group, presented an introduction to the Rapid Assessment Tool that the HRW is developing in conjunction with the Science (ScW) and MPT work groups. A cover memo and handout were provided during meeting.
 - The purpose of this work is to take a cumulative look at all habitat restoration work and existing habitat in the river corridor to determine estimates of available habitat as well as identify needs.
 - This was a task assigned to HRW to assist in the transition to a Recovery Implementation Program (RIP) and might be included in (or attached to) the RIP Action Plan.
 - This work supports the transition to a RIP by evaluating conditions now (i.e., where things are now) and not just in terms of the number of acres but criteria values. This will provide a “grade” or report card that can be used in annual reevaluation to track progress.
 - Using existing information, the HRW has developed a spreadsheet of items to guide the development of the tool. Through this process, participants expect to be able to better understand what efforts are working, what efforts could be reduced, etc.

- The spreadsheet accounts for the on-the-ground features of habitat – geomorphology, hydrology, and vegetation.
 - Tools that could be used to populate the spreadsheet include recent GIS mapping that HRW has been having done (by Tetra Tech through a contract with the Corps).
 - All updated information would also be put into the Database Management System (DBMS).
 - The group is working on assigning tools to be used for each category and/or determining if other tools are needed.
 - HRW is also using the mapping that Tetra Tech is doing to target potential restoration areas by developing formulas to overlay target areas (i.e. – areas adjacent to SWFL territories where *Diorhabda* is an issue and willow plantings are needed, etc.)
- On November 19th, Todd Caplan will be presenting on tools for looking at minnow and flycatcher habitat in the Corps' projects. Those same tools could be considered by the Program as they are useful and easy to repeat annually.
- The HRW welcomes feedback and input. Interested Program members are also invited to attend the Habitat Tools presentation titled *HR Rapid Assessment Tool/Assessment Metrics for SWFL and RGSM* on November 19th at the Corps.
- As the next steps, HRW will solicit input from ScW, MPT, and other work groups and continue to refine the Rapid Assessment Tool. A small focus group might also be set up.
- *Questions and Comments*
 - **Comment:** This preliminary work looks good. It helps to “connect the dots” on some of the work group-level actions. This is just the type of information that is needed to firm up the commitments in the RIP Action Plan.
 - **Response:** Agreed. How do we know where to go if we don't know where we are?
 - **Comment:** Please note that a brief description on the Rapid Assessment Tool presentation has been provided on the agenda for today's meeting. The only difference is that the date has been changed from November 28th to November 19th. This presentation is a special joint work group meeting on minnow and flycatcher “ecometrix” but is open to all interested Program participants.
 - **Comment:** The intent is to continue developing this tool so that it can be used to “plug” in metrics at the beginning of projects and inform those.
 - **Response:** This tool would provide an “initial grade” including how a project fits in with the “big picture” of the river at that time. It is worth noting that not all factors or categories will have to be used for each species. Some are specific to the species and some might not be appropriate for all projects.
 - The spreadsheet can be “back populated” with data from any existing or past project. Then there is the assessment part - or the set of criteria that rates those projects. Remember, there are 111 habitat restoration sites. Each component would be scored and then totaled for a cumulative project score. Some components might even be weighted depending on the importance to the species. But these details still have to be worked out. What was presented today is the general framework with the intent of using as much existing information as possible.
 - **Question:** Has the group considered using photo points for the vegetation monitoring?

- **Response:** That could be a potential. We have photo points for a number of the HR sites, but not every site. There have been discussions on including the Reclamation flycatcher potential habitat work, remote sensing and color infrared.
 - This is a recommended tool since it is relatively inexpensive.
- **Question:** Has the group identified any obvious tools that aren't available (or are lacking) that we ultimately need to assess the habitat? Anything flagged that would need to go on a task list for development?
 - **Response:** Right now, we are making sure all the recent information (2011 and 2012) for each of the reaches has been updated and included. New imagery is a potential need.
 - From an Action Plan perspective, this tool (once more fully developed) could help to identify needs and inform action plan tasks.
- **Question:** When will the next MPT report be available? And are there any plans to incorporate that information?
 - **Response:** Field work is still being completed as of this coming Friday. We have the 2011 and 2012 vegetation data; there is no fish data due to the poor water conditions. This recent information will be used to help determine what work effort is recommended at what level for what sites.
- **Comment:** It would be interesting and beneficial to have the HRW participate in the discussions on how this tool fits with the information in the RIP Action Plan. Does the Action Plan encompass what is in the tool? It is understood that the steps and details of the tool still need to be worked out, but the Action Plan focus group and the HRW should begin to consider how to integrate the assessment tool into the Action Plan - either specifically or in general.
 - **Response:** The HRW would like to provide this assessment tool to the EC.
 - After discussion, some CC members suggested that the Rapid Assessment Tool be incorporated into and provided to the EC *as part of* the Action Plan. This means integrating the tool into the Action Plan. It was suggested that HRW members working on the Rapid Assessment Tool attend the next Action Plan meeting to participate in the integration discussions.
 - Rick Billings offered to help facilitate that the integration conversation at tomorrow's Action Plan meeting.

Review October 18th, 2012, EC Meeting Actions and Decisions:

- **EC Actions:**
 - None of the actions or decisions directly affected the CC, so due to time constraints, the EC actions and decisions were not reviewed line by line. CC members were encouraged to review the provided read ahead on their own.
 - It was pointed out that in the Upcoming Dates and Deadlines (on the second page of the read ahead), the deadline for draft documents is October 29th. This deadline was shifted in order to provide a realistic timeline for getting documents revised, in a final draft state, and submitted to the EC for endorsement at the December meeting.
 - Read aheads for the November 29th EC meeting have to be posted on November 21st. This is essentially the date of the beginning of a Program-wide review of the documents. Comments and feedback on the Draft Final documents will be accepted until December 5th.
 - There will be a "high-level" question and answer session at the November 29th EC meeting. The purpose of this question and answer session is to address any major

issues and affirm the timeline for the Program-wide review. The EC will have had 1 week to review the draft final documents for this session.

- This schedule gives the focus groups 1 week to address and incorporate Program-wide comments by December 12th in order to be posted as read aheads by December 13th.
- Some members expressed concern that the EC will only have 3 or 4 days to review the draft final documents before the November 29th meeting (partially due to the Thanksgiving holiday). It was suggested that the December 5th comment deadline be bumped back to December 7th in order to give signatories an extra day or two. It was acknowledged that this “cuts” into the time that the focus groups have to address comments and feedback – they would only have 3 days to respond.
 - After discussion, there was agreement to extend the EC (and Program-wide) review time (from December 5th to December 7th) as long as the focus groups understood the shortened response period and were able to address comments sufficiently in that time. The focus groups have December 10th, 11th, and 12th for addressing comments in order to post the revised versions as read aheads on December 13th.
 - The endorsed final draft documents make up the package that will be provided to the Service.
 - Members of the Program Document focus group did not think there would be issues getting the comments addressed and the revised versions posted by December 13th.
 - Members of the Action Plan focus group discussed meeting on December 10th.
- It was shared that some EC members have asked to see the Draft Cooperative Agreement. It was requested that the most current draft of the Cooperative Agreement be provided as an informational read ahead for the November 29th EC meeting.
 - A Service representative explained that the last set of comments on the Draft Cooperative Agreement were not resolvable at this time; the Corps and the Service need to be “on the same page.”
 - The reason for the request is that there are a lot of “attachment” documents that will be accompanying the Program Document and maybe the Action Plan as well. These additional documents should be made available for EC review in preparation for the endorsement of the “whole” package.
 - It was responded that a status update on each, with details, assignments, and deadlines for completion could be provided as EC information at the November meeting.
 - Reclamation intends to formally submit the full package of RIP Action Plan, RIP Program Document, all attachments and addendums to the Service for inclusion in the consultation process as soon as possible after the December 20th EC meeting.
- In response to a question on whether or not the Draft Biological Opinion (BO) would be provided to the action agencies on November 16th as previously discussed, it was shared that this is unlikely to happen. The Service cannot issue anything since formal consultation has not yet been initiated. However, Lori Robertson agreed to look into the possibility of the Service providing feedback on the consultation process to date.
- In response to a question on the status of the water management plan process, it was shared that the intent is to have the Draft Water Management Plan completed enough to be a read ahead for the December 20th EC meeting. This will require follow up meetings and

completion of any assignments by the December 13th read ahead deadline. The intent is to have the water management plan items incorporated into the Action Plan and be included in the supplemental submittal to the Service. This will have to happen in December unless it is kept separate as a tool and not included in the submission.

- In response to a question directed to the Service regarding the Service's satisfaction with the discussions, progress, and work that is happening on the RIP documents, it was responded that many things have to "come together" and be "worked out" before official consultation can be initiated. It is important to remember the analysis component that has not yet occurred – the analysis of conservation measure(s) to minimize adverse effects. The documents are being built, but there is no assessment on how their content minimizes effects.
 - It was shared that Reclamation intends to have the analysis piece (at least initial analysis) be part of the supplemental submittal in December. This analysis might not be to the level of detail that would make everyone happy but it will align with the December deadlines.

Update on Status and Next Steps for RIP Program Documents

- The Draft Cooperative Agreement for the 3rd Party Financial Management Entity (FME) is being prepared for EC review. An example from the Platte program is being used as a guide. Since none of the positions will be filled for a full year, it is assumed that the current funding targets for FY13 are ok.
- The Final Draft Program Document and Final Draft RIP Action Plan will be provided to the EC as read aheads for the November 29th meeting. There will be a "high-level" question and answer session at that meeting.
 - When the Final Draft RIP documents are posted as read aheads, this will be the start of the Program-wide review period.
 - The final revised documents will come to the EC for endorsement at the December 20th meeting.

Upcoming Presentations/Workshops – Update on CPUE Workshop

- The CPUE workshop was most recently postponed until February 2013. However, due to contracting issues it was shared that this timeline is probably not realistic.
 - The planning group is trying to "get back on track" and hold a meeting before the end of the year. However, it is safe to assume that unless something changes, the CPUE workshop will be delayed until April or May 2013.
 - A member expressed concern that it appears that a lot of things are "sliding." While budgeting issues are understood, it was suggested that since this workshop is not as expensive as other things the Program is paying for that maybe funding alternatives could be considered. For example, maybe the Program could provide some funding or a non-federal partner could contribute (applied to cost share) or there could be direct or even indirect agency contributions. There is concern with delaying the workshop even further – it is a key milestone in determining the demographic metrics for the RIP and it needs to be done sooner than later. The monitoring program is in place and there should be adjustments over the first couple years (of the RIP) to make sure we are covering all the elements and goals we are trying to meet.
 - It was also shared that there has been challenges with the Service's involvement in the discussions and planning efforts. It was cautioned as not wise to proceed too far without the Service's involvement.
 - Attendees were reminded that the Service offered to coordinate and fund this workshop and that it is not expected to be inexpensive. The estimates are for 4 or 5 expert participants at 60 to 80 hours each. The Service has expressed

commitment to their offer to fund the workshop but they will not know more about their budget until January 2013 at the earliest.

- Part of the concern is that if the planning is delayed until January and then the Service is not able to provide sufficient funds, several months would have been wasted and the money still would not be available. The Program needs this information – it is a “no-go” issue that could affect Program participation. There needs to be some assurance on the criteria.
- It was responded that this concern and the suggestions could be discussed in further detail during the Closed Session.

Next EC Meeting

- November 29th, 2012 from 9:00am to 4:00pm at Reclamation.

Next CC Meeting: **December 12th, 2012 from 1:00 PM to 2:30 PM at Reclamation**

- The original December 5th CC meeting was rescheduled to December 12th to provide sufficient time after the November 29th EC meeting. Due to the holidays and member schedules, the length of the December CC meeting was decreased.
- Tentative agenda items include: (1) update on draft SOWs and contracting;

Review and Establish Funding Targets and Priority Order for FY13 Acquisition of Program Requirements – CLOSED SESSION

- The CC met in Closed Session to discuss funding targets, priorities, and scopes of work for FY13. Please contact your CC representative or Yvette McKenna for details on this discussion.

Coordination Committee Meeting 7 November 2012 Meeting Attendees

| NAME | AFFILIATION | PHONE NUMBER | PRIMARY (P) ALTERNATE (A) OTHERS (O) | EMAIL ADDRESS |
|-------------------------|---------------------|--------------|--|------------------------------------|
| Yvette McKenna | Reclamation | 462-3640 | O – PM | ymckenna@usbr.gov |
| Rick Billings | ABCWUA | 796-2527 | P – Co-Chair | rbillings@abcwua.org |
| Jim Wilber | Reclamation | 462-3548 | P – Co-Chair | jwilber@usbr.gov |
| Ondrea Hummel | USACE | 342-3375 | O | ondrea.hummel@usace.army.mil |
| Eveli Abeyta | Santo Domingo | 917-9939 | P | eabeyta@sdutilities.com |
| Herman Quintana | Santo Domingo | 465-0055 | A | hquintana@sdutilities.com |
| Stacey Kopitsch | USFWS | 761-4737 | O | stacey_kopitsch@fws.gov |
| Nathan Schroeder | Pueblo of Santa Ana | 771-6719 | P | nathan.schroeder@stantaana-nsn.gov |
| Lori Roberson via phone | USFWS | 761-4710 | P | lori_robertson@fws.gov |
| Grace Haggerty | NMISC | 383-4042 | P | grace.haggerty@state.nm.us |

| | | | | |
|---------------|-------------|----------|--|---------------------------|
| Ann Moore | NMAGO | 222-9024 | P | amoore@nmag.gov |
| Matt Schmader | CABQ | 452-5200 | P | mschmader@cabq.gov |
| Ali Saenz | Reclamation | 462-3600 | O – Program Administrative Assistant | asaenz@usbr.gov |
| Marta Wood | Tetra Tech | 259-6098 | O – Note Taker | marta.wood@tetrattech.com |

To: Coordination Committee, Middle Rio Grande Endangered Species Collaborative Program (CP)

From: Habitat Restoration Workgroup

Date: November 7, 2012

Subject: Rapid Assessment Tool for Rio Grande Program Area as it relates to habitat availability and habitat restoration priorities

Ecological assessment is a systematic process intended to identify, analyze and evaluate environmental condition. The aim of this assessment is to determine the state of system physical processes and their translation into biologic characteristics. On a changing landscape like the Rio Grande in New Mexico, a Rapid Assessment Tool is critical to evaluate and characterize the general hydrologic, geomorphologic, and ecologic condition and trends on an annual basis.

The Rapid Assessment Tool is based on physical and biological criteria like lateral connectivity, flow velocity diversity, and suitable vegetation patch size. For the CP, this will provide a standard and efficient method to determine endangered species habitat availability, quality, and sufficient progress metrics. The Rapid Assessment Tool will inform habitat restoration efforts by identifying locations in "less than desirable conditions" throughout the Program area which would then lead to on-the-ground efforts to improve these conditions. It can also reflect improved conditions following habitat restoration and track sustainability of these improvements. Recovery Implementation Program Action Plan goals will provide the backdrop to define "desirable conditions." In order to use objective measures to determine state of the system, the Database Management System, and products like the PVA models, mesohabitat study results, HRW Reach GIS products, and continuing agency & CP monitoring programs will be used. Some assumptions will be allowed if there is agreement on their validity. If there is not agreement, these data gaps will lead to potential adaptive management research projects. It is envisioned that working at a sub reach level (number of subreaches/reach varies) is appropriate for this effort.

The Habitat Restoration and Science Workgroup are currently developing this Rapid Assessment Tool. All interested are welcome to join in its development. This summary is provided to the Coordination Committee as an update on tasks assigned to the Habitat Restoration Workgroup during a transition to a Recovery Implementation Program and for potential incorporation into the Draft Adaptive Management section of the CP Recovery Implementation Action Plan.