

Middle Rio Grande Endangered Species Act Collaborative Program Science Work Group Meeting

19 February 2013 Meeting – 10:00 AM-11:30 AM

ISC

Meeting notes – 02/19/13 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM

Attendees:

Dana Price USACE dana.m.price@usace.army.mil wk:342-3378 cell:417-9787
Kelly Amy USBR koliver-amy@usbr.gov 462-3552
Michael Porter USACE michael.d.porter@usace.army.mil 342-3264
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Jen Bachus USFWS Jennifer_bachus@fws.gov 761-4714

1. Draft agenda was approved with addition of Minnow Action Team update
2. Note taking volunteer – Dana
3. Approval January 13, 2013 ScW meeting bullets. Agreed to post as provisional.
4. January Action Item Review (see below)
5. Announcements - The Southwestern Native Aquatic Resources & Recovery Center (Dexter) has completed a pilot study on RGSM salinity tolerance. Jen Bachus provided a handout with preliminary information.
6. Contracting Updates
 - No new awards at this time
 - Bio Park SOW is done
7. Tentative field trip ideas and dates (ongoing item) – no new ideas. Having the March meeting at the BioPark was suggested. Kathy will check into availability.
8. Discussed Research Symposium 1-page document
 - Mick will continue working on the Symposium as ScW's representative /'co-chair'.
 - Attendees agreed to wait and see what 'hot topics' may emerge from the continued development of the RIP and new BOs before selecting topics and presenters.
 - HRW has been requested to provide a co-lead for organizing.
9. Discussed Habitat Restoration Group's proposed Assessment Tool. Discussion points included:
 - Monitoring should look at both restored and non-restored sites
 - Woody debris in the water (for minnow overwintering) should be added as a monitored attribute, as well as DO for water quality
 - With availability of more frequently updated LiDAR data anticipated in the future, there is potential to model habitats more consistently.
 - LiDAR as a tool for detecting change and tracking how restoration sites evolve
 - LiDAR data would allow analysis of several of the attributes proposed for monitoring related to hydrology and geomorphology (#s2, 3, 7, 8, 9 in the table).
10. Program update

- EC update (*Brooke Wyman was unable to attend. Dana passed around an EC agenda.*) Jen shared that at the EC meeting, the San Acacia Reach work group had closed out its agenda and gave presentations. Powerpoints are posted; Jen will send link.
- RIP update (*Dana, Jen*) – RIP documents now refer to multiple Biological Opinions. Progress is incremental. Participants want certainty in what will be required of them under the applicable BiOp before signing. The Service can't give an opinion on something that's not developed. Everyone is talking, working well together.
- Responses to Comments on Fish Health Study – The Fish Health Study authors have responded to comments made by the Corps, NMISC, and FWS-Ecological Services. Responses have been provided to the commenting agencies and will be made available to other Science members by request. The report has been revised, but at this point we don't know if the revised report is posted.
- Important Dates/Events: Pop Monitoring report comments due Friday, 2/22
- Minnow Action Team update (*Mick*) –
 - Based on the February forecast, the Corps is uncertain whether there will be sufficient water to store for a recruitment flow.
 - Reclamation is looking into other options
 - There was discussion and a lot of ideas relating to egg salvage. Coordination with the BioPark is needed. BioPark is requested to attend next meeting.
 - The Corps and Reclamation recently did a river survey looking at height of the lowest in-channel habitats and how much flow will be required to inundate nursery habitat. Ryan Gronewold is analyzing the field data with HEC-RAS to estimate how much volume would be needed to inundate sites.

Next Meeting: March 19, 2013, at ISC.

Action Items:

- Kathy will look into a meeting room at the BioPark for the March ScW meeting.
- Jen will email a link to the San Acacia Reach ad-hoc work group presentation.
- Dana will send a reminder for the Pop Monitoring report comment due date
- Dana will send the Jan. meeting bullets to Ali Saenz to post as 'provisional'
- Kelly will continue redeveloping the ScW project tracking spreadsheet with updates, expected due dates for draft reports for ScW review, and distribute to the ScW work group. (*ongoing*)
- Dana will start email to Mark Doles and Ali Saenz asking to have DBMS templates posted for meeting notes. [Currently it is not apparent how to locate all sets of a workgroup's meeting notes – querying different fields returns different subsets of notes.]
- Dana will query DB Stephens, thru Mark Doles, to identify who from the workgroups has established logins and who has access to comments. *Related to the following continued item:*
 - Yvette McKenna will check with Ali Saenz if individual work group comment forms are being posted to the DBMS (in order for work group members to see how the comments were addressed). These would continue to be password-protected. (*continued from Dec.*)

- Kelly will work on identifying who is responsible for posting different types of documents to DBMS : meeting notes, comments on draft documents and responses, final reports, etc.
- Kelly will check whether final Fish Health report has been posted
- DBMS needs a reference literature section (not assigned?)

January Actions Review and Continuing Items -

- ScW members will review the Research Symposium Strawman Document and will provide comments to Mick Porter for compilation. (*ongoing*)
- Any suggestions on possible ScW field trips or site visits should be submitted via email to Dana Price for compilation. (*ongoing item*)
- ✓ All pop monitoring data from Oct 2011 to Oct 2012 will be sent to Mick to be given to PVA. (*complete*)
- ✓ Dana will get an update on the RIP documents for Science members. (*complete*)
- ✓ Dana will forward research symposia document to HR to get their input and request that HRW consider this proposal and nominate a lead. (*complete, waiting for response from HR*)
- Kelly will check to see how much the symposium at the Nature Center that occurred in October of 2011 cost. (*ongoing*)
- Different agencies will check to see what rooms would be available and how many they could seat (dates). (*ongoing*) Corps' conference room can seat 150. Need to check RGNC and MRGCD.
- RIP Action plan meeting schedule- Alison will check with Grace (*ongoing*).
- ✓ Museum request: Kelly will send the process so that we can get an inventory of the RGSM in the museum. Alison will draft a request for the inventory and send to the group for approval through email. (*complete*)
- ✓ Genetics monitoring grant: Kelly requests input on evaluation criteria from Workgroup members by COB Thurs. (*complete*)
- ✓ Salvage 2012 draft report- Comments due to Kelly by 1-31-13. (*complete*)
- ✓ Dana will try to post approved December meeting notes on DBMS. (*complete*) - Notes to be posted need to be sent to Ali
- Alison Hutson and Mick Porter will work together to explore the use of mixed model tools on the CPUE datasets for the Adaptive Management Recruitment Analysis work (*ongoing*). Alison and Mick have met. Mick has a good book on the topic and will provide information on mixed models once he has gone through it.

- The work group will consider developing and instituting a process where by one of the Program staff has copies of everything so that it can be imported to the database (for draft and old SOWs); in other words, develop process on how draft work group information and/or documents will be included in the DBMS. (*continued from January*) - **Tie into other DBMS - related actions.**