

Executive Committee Meeting
June 20, 2013

Meeting Materials:

Meeting Agenda

Meeting Minutes



**Middle Rio Grande Endangered Species
Collaborative Program
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
MEETING AGENDA
Thursday, June 20, 2013
9:00 am – 12:00 pm**

**LOCATION: Bureau of Indian Affairs, 1001 Indian School Rd. NW, Albuquerque, NM
Building 1 - Room 133**

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| 1. INTRODUCTIONS AND REVIEW OF PROPOSED AGENDA* | <i>5 minutes</i> |
| 2. <i>DECISION</i> – APPROVAL OF April 18, 2013 EC MEETING SUMMARY* | <i>10 minutes</i> |
| 3. <i>DECISION</i> – APPROVAL OF May 16, 2013 EC MEETING SUMMARY* | <i>10 minutes</i> |
| 4. REPORT ON DECISION FROM EC CLOSED SESSION (EC Co-chairs) | <i>10 minutes</i> |
| 5. BIOLOGICAL OPINION SCHEDULE/CONSULTATION UPDATE | <i>10 minutes</i> |
| A. Consultation Process Schedule Status* (<i>R. Graham/USFWS-Group</i>) | |
| 6. AGENCY FISCAL AND POLICY PLANNING UPDATES | <i>30 minutes</i> |
| A. US Army Corps of Engineers (<i>K. Schafer</i>) | |
| B. Bureau of Reclamation (<i>M. Hamman</i>) | |
| C. US Fish and Wildlife Service (<i>M. Shaughnessy</i>) | |
| D. Non-Federal update (<i>TBD</i>) | |
| E. Collaborative Program Projects (<i>R. Graham/CC Co-Chairs</i>) | |
| i. Presentation on Rio Rancho Habitat Restoration (<i>ISC, P. Pegram</i>) | |
| BREAK | <i>15 minutes</i> |
| 7. RECOVERY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM DOCUMENTS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES | <i>30 minutes</i> |
| A. Hydrology Forecast (<i>BOR</i>) | |
| B. Follow up on Minnow Action Team Recommendations (<i>NMISC/MRGCD</i>) | |
| C. Species Update (<i>USFWS</i>) | |
| 8. <i>DECISION</i> – COMPILE FINAL EC COMMENTS FOR RIP DOCUMENT IN PREPARATION FOR JULY APPROVAL* | <i>60 minutes</i> |
| A. Draft RIP Cooperative Agreement (<i>USFWS</i>) | |
| B. Draft Final Action Plan (with water management elements) (<i>J. Faler/RIP Action Plan Team</i>) | |
| 9. MEETING SUMMARY | |
| 10. PUBLIC COMMENT | |
| 11. ANNOUNCEMENTS | |
| 12. <i>DECISION</i> - NEXT SCHEDULED EC MEETING July 18, 2013 from 9:00 am – 4:00 pm @ BIA | |

**denotes read ahead*

Members

ABCWUA
ISC
NMDA
Sandia Pueblo
UNM

APA
Isleta Pueblo
NMGF
Santa Ana Pueblo
USACE

CABQ
NMAGO
MRGCD
Santo Domingo Tribe
USFWS
Reclamation

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Decisions

- The April 18th, 2013 EC meeting summary was approved for finalization with no changes.
- The May 16, 2013 EC meeting summary was approved with edits.
- The EC confirmed the existing CC approval process for work group work plan and accomplishment documents.
- With quorum present and no objections voiced, the EC approved a June 28, 2013 deadline for review and comments on the Final Draft Action Plan tables and Cooperative Agreement. Comments are due to [Rhea Graham](#) on or before June 28th. Please only submit one review per agency, using comment form provided.

Next Meeting: July 18th, 2013 from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM at Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Bldg. 1

- Tentative July Agenda Items: (1) Endorsement of all RIP Documents (table of milestones inserted below) included in Reclamation's amended Biological Assessment including the: (a) Final Program Document, (b) Final Action Plan, (c) Redline Edits to By-laws, and (d) Final Draft Cooperative Agreement¹;
- Future Agenda Items: (1) Updated 10(j) population schedule and report out on FWS Regional Office approval to proceed; (2) Updates/continued discussion on the acquisition of past mesohabitat data; (3) Presentations on completed projects

Upcoming Dates and Deadlines:

- June 2013 – CPUE workshop
- June 2013 – FY2014 projects and scopes of work due to Reclamation
- July 11th – All EC meeting read aheads due: Final RIP Program Document, Final RIP Action Plan, Redline edits of By-laws, Final Draft Cooperative Agreement
- July 18th – EC meeting at BIA Bldg 1

Meeting Summary

Introductions and review agenda: Rick Billings brought the meeting to order and introductions were made.

- The agenda was approved with no changes.

Decision – Approval of the April 18th, 2013 EC meeting summary: The April 18th, 2013 Executive Committee (EC) meeting summary was approved for finalization with no changes.

Decision – Approval of the April 18th, 2013 EC meeting summary: The May 16th, 2013 Executive Committee (EC) meeting summary was approved with edits.

- On the first Decision bullet, original language indicated “*The concern is that significant disagreement remains with portions of the Conservation Objective.*” Agreement to change to “*The Conservation Objective had not been fully reviewed and there was no agreement on their potential role under the RIP.*”

- It was stated that it is helpful to state purpose and responsible agency with the agenda item in the meeting summaries (i.e. Page 9, state the Service presented on the Hydrologic Objectives).
- Add “draft” to the meeting summary when referencing the Hydrologic Objectives.
- Page 11, strike the sentence that discusses “hand me downs” and “pedigree” in reference to data.

Report on Decision from EC Closed Session: A handout was provided for meeting attendees.

Biological Opinion Schedule/Consultation Update

	EC Meeting Date	Document Name	File Control	Read-ahead deadline
√	April 18, 2013	RIP Program Document	Ali/Reclamation	April 11, 2013
√	May 16, 2013	Revised Long Term Plan Narrative	Deb F/Website drafts portal	May 9, 2013
√	May 16, 2013	Draft Action Plan Narrative	Grace & Janet/NMISC	May 9, 2013
	June 20, 2013	Present Draft Action Plan Table	ISC/Reclamation	June 13, 2013
	June 20, 2013	Draft Cooperative Agreement	Lori/USFWS	June 13, 2013
	July 18, 2013	Final Program Document*	Ali/Reclamation	July 11, 2013
	July 18, 2013	Final Draft Long Term Plan Narrative*	Deb F/Website drafts portal	July 11, 2013
	July 18, 2013	Final Action Plan*	Grace & Janet/NMISC	July 11, 2013
	July 18, 2013	Final Cooperative Agreement*	Lori/USFWS	July 11, 2013
	July 18, 2013	Present Bylaws' redline edits**	Yvette/Reclamation	July 11, 2013

* *Interim Final*

** *Finalized after Cooperative Agreement signed*

- The check marks indicate progress
- For the July EC meeting, the documents will be labeled “Interim Final” because change may be required as needed.
- A special thanks was given to all the teams who have worked hard on the documents.
- The documents will be provided as read aheads on July 11, 2013 for the July EC meeting to ensure participants are prepared for the decision items.

Agency Fiscal and Policy Planning Updates

- *US Army Corps of Engineers (Corps):* The Corps is still functioning under the Continuing Resolution (CR) and their Work Plan should arrive around July 1st. With respect to sequestration and furlough, there are a few Corps employees subject to furlough but most employees under the Energy and Water appropriations have been exempted.
- *Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation):* BOR will survive with sequestration, however they are preparing to move to a new accounting system which may cause some delays but they are working hard to implement the new system as smoothly as possible. Their system will be down September through November. BOR also updated that they will be responding to Wild Earth Guardian’s Notice of Intent.

- *US Fish and Wildlife Service (Service):* The Service had no update on FY 13 but is currently working on FY 14 and FY 15.
- *Non-Federals and State:* A few Non-federal agencies' end their fiscal year June 30th.
- *Interim Program Manager Update and Program Projects:* The Program Manager is working hard to get Collaborative Program projects obligated. It was stated that hopefully contracts will be in place for note taking and facilitation for July but if not, the Program will continue as it is currently functioning.
 - *Coordination Committee (CC):* The CC met on June 13th and worked on the 2014 Work plan to help BOR stay ahead of the curve with their new accounting program and will be ready for BOR as they come out of their blackout. A copy of the consensus 2014 Work plan was distributed to EC members. The CC also asked the EC for direction on the CC's future with the transition of the RIP. The CC will meet in July to make sure there are no unidentified gaps in funding with BOR's new accounting system and blackout.
 - *Rio Rancho HR Project Presentation:* Page Pegram (ISC) gave a presentation on the CP-funded Rio Rancho HR Project. The presentation will be posted to the website.

Recovery Implementation Program Documents and Other Activities

- *Hydrology Forecast:* There are low water conditions. Colorado stated to wind down production of Closed Basin Project. MRGCD only has 2 weeks left. BOR is preparing for P&P-only operations. Weekly and Daily coordination is required. Monsoon season may occur mid to late July which could help with low flows.
- *Minnow Action Team (MAT):* BOR ramped down releases mid May. The 1st river drying documented was June 1st. Since then, the river has progressed well. Though flows continue to shrink, it is stable down south. The last change on minnow flows occurred at San Acacia. Last cut at Isleta happened June 20th, so drying soon should be expected. There are 8 separate locations that need to stay wet (ABQ, Isleta, San Acacia...). It was stated that we are doing well for what we have to work with. The MAT team has not met formally recently but monitoring efforts continue.
- *Species Update:* The Service provided a handout, news release and presentation for the species update. All will be added to the website.

Decision Approval of June 28th, 2013 Deadline for RIP Action Plan and Cooperative Agreement

Comments: It is requested that the EC approve a comment deadline of June 28th for the RIP Action Plan and Cooperative Agreement Documents using the comment form. It was also decided that the Sufficient Progress Metrics and Hydrologic Objectives will be routed through the Program Document Team. The EC will receive the documents for review July 1st and comments on the comment form are due July 8th.

Meeting Summary

- Rhea Graham (Interim Program Manager) offered a quick summary of today's meeting:

Announcements

- There were no announcements.

Public Comment

- There was no public comment.

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Document, (b) Final Action Plan, (c) Redline Edits to By-laws, and (d) Final Draft Cooperative Agreement; (2) EC direction for workgroups and CC

- Future Agenda Items: (1) Updated 10(j) population schedule and report out on FWS Regional Office approval to proceed; (2) Updates/continued discussion on the acquisition of past mesohabitat data; (3) Presentations on completed projects;

**Executive Committee Meeting Attendees
June 20th, 2013**

Attendees:

Representative

<i>Representative</i>	<i>Organization</i>	<i>Seat</i>
Brent Rhees	U.S. Bureau of Reclamation	Federal co-chair
Rick Billings (A)	Water Utility Authority	Non-Federal co-chair
Michelle Shaughnessy (P)	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Service
Subas Shah (P)	Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District	MRGCD
Ann Moore (A)	NM Attorney General's Office	NMAGO
Mike Hamman (P)	U.S. Bureau of Reclamation	BOR
Kris Schafer (A)	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	USACE
Matthew Wunder (P)	NM Department of Game and Fish	NMDGF
Frank Chavez (P)	Pueblo of Sandia	Sandia
Alan Hatch (P)	Pueblo of Santa Ana	Santa Ana
Janet Jarratt (P)	Assessment Payers Association of MRGCD	APA

Others

Rhea Graham (Interim PM)	Bureau of Reclamation
Ali Saenz	Bureau of Reclamation
Jennifer Faler	Bureau of Reclamation
Jim Wilber	Bureau of Reclamation
Ann Demint	Bureau of Reclamation
Josh Mann	Bureau of Reclamation
Grace Haggerty	NM Interstate Stream Commission
Chris Shaw	NM Interstate Stream Commission
Deb Freeman	NM Interstate Stream Commission
William DeRagon	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Beth Pitrolo	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Michelle Mann	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Ryan Gronewold	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Wally Murphy	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Lori Robertson	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Brooke Wyman	MRGCD
Patrick Redmond	for MRGCD
Jessica Tracey (A)	Pueblo of Sandia
Kyle Harwood	City of Santa Fe/BBD
Alex Eubanks	Senator Heinrich's Office
Sarah Cobb	Senator Udall's Office
Mariana Padilla	Congressman Lujan Grisham
Kevin Cobble	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service