

# Coordination Committee Meeting

## *June 11, 2014*

### Meeting Materials:

Meeting Agenda

Meeting Minutes

**Middle Rio Grande Endangered Species Collaborative Program  
Coordination Committee Meeting  
June 11, 2014 – 9:00am to 12:00pm  
BOR, Rio Grande conference room**

Conference Call-in Line

Toll Free Number: 1-800-621-8611

Participant Passcode: 32095#

(1<sup>st</sup> Committee member or contractor to arrive, please dial in)

**Draft Meeting Agenda**

1. Introductions and Agenda\* Approval
  - a. ***Additional topics to be added by CC representatives***
2. **Decision** – Approval of 05/07/2014 CC meeting summary notes\*
3. CC Action Items and Decisions Review (see meeting summary)
4. Announcements and Agency Updates
5. Review Final Draft Program 2013 Annual Report\*
6. Update on First Spawning Spike from EC meeting
7. 2013 Non-Federal Cost Share reports
8. Review 2013 MAT Report to the EC\*
9. Significant Non-Decision Items to Brief EC

**Next meeting** – CC meeting – July 2, 2014 @ Reclamation from 9:00 to 11:00am

**Upcoming meetings and deadlines:**

HRW @ ISC 06/17/2014 from 9:00 am to 11:30 am

MAT @ BOR 06/24/2014 from 9 am to 11 am (Tentative)

USACE Change of Command Ceremony 06/26/2014 @ 10:00 am

EC @ BOR 07/17/2014 from 9 am to 12 pm

***\*denotes read ahead***

**Middle Rio Grande Endangered Species Collaborative Program  
Coordination Committee Meeting  
June 11<sup>th</sup> – 9:00am to 10:30am  
Reclamation**

**Decisions**

- With a quorum present and no objections, the May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2014 CC meeting summary was approved for finalization with two corrections:
  - On page 3, under the Agency Updates, the State had *applied* for a Water Trust Board Grant for the Rio Rancho Phase II.
  - A member requested that the term “spawning spike” be replaced throughout the document with “spawning pulse” for language consistency and since “spike” implies a sharper flow increase/decline.

**Actions**

- Ali Saenz will send Lacey Levine a cost share description and reminder email; the cost share template will be attached. *complete*
- Ali Saenz will email the continuing/ongoing work groups asking for updated participant/agency representation lists and any changes to the work group charter. *complete*
- Ali Saenz will ask Stacey Stanford to confirm the total amount of minnow salvaged in the Middle Rio Grande for inclusion in the 2013 Program Report (page 10, Program Accomplishments, bullet #6). *complete*

**CC Requests/Recommendations**

- CC members were encouraged to submit comments on both the 2012 and 2013 Program Reports to their EC member in order to facilitate timely approval at the July 17<sup>th</sup> EC meeting.
- It was requested that the action agency Annual RPM reports be posted to the database once finalized.
- It was suggested that the CC identify and recommend possible EC presentations and updates to occur at future EC meetings:
  - Cochiti Lake Sedimentation Assessment – Mussetter and Tetra Tech
  - Albuquerque-Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority (ABCWUA) Treatment Plant and Treatment Works
  - Compact Review presentation – what are the premises the Program and participating agencies are working under
  - The History of the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District (MRGCD or District) and Bureau of Reclamation
  - Valle de Oro – The New Refuge
  - Tamarisk Beetle Updates
  - The Propagation and Augmentation Program - timeline of contributions to the Program, what is the process, and what are the foreseeable future roles

**Next CC Meeting: July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2014 from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM at Reclamation**

- Tentative agenda items include: (1) identify and develop EC presentation/updates recommendation list; (2) comments or significant needs on 2013 Program Report – if any?; (3) Update on MAT 2014 Summer Emergency Recommendations;
- Potential Future Agenda Items: (1) Discussion/Consideration of the pros and cons of chartering any new group at this time during the transition; (2) Discussion/Consideration what are the technical arms of this Program going to be and how are they to work/interrelate/interact (pertains

to the formation of the Adaptive Management Committee and continuance of the MAT); (3) Revisit the previous decision to not include the Corps' financial reports in the Program's annual report

#### Upcoming Dates and Deadlines:

- *To Be Determined* – prior to the June 24<sup>th</sup> regular/full MAT meeting, the Hydrology ad hoc Subgroup will meet to calculate 2014 summer/drying scenarios
- June 17<sup>th</sup> – HRW meeting, 9:00am to 11:30am at ISC
- June 24<sup>th</sup> – MAT meeting, 9:00am to 11:00am at Reclamation
- June 26<sup>th</sup> – Army Corps of Engineers Change of Command, 10:00am
- July 2<sup>nd</sup> – CC meeting, 9:00am to 11:00am at Reclamation
- July 8<sup>th</sup> – Biology-focused MAT meeting; all interested parties are encouraged to participate, especially hydrologists
- July 10<sup>th</sup> – EC meeting read aheads due
- July 17<sup>th</sup> – EC meeting, 9:00am to 12:00pm at Reclamation

## Meeting Summary

**Introductions and agenda approval:** Rick Billings brought the meeting to order and introductions were made. A quorum was confirmed. The agenda was reviewed and approved with no changes.

#### Approval of the May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2014 CC Meeting Summary

- With a quorum present and no objections, the May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2014 CC meeting summary was approved for finalization with two corrections:
  - On page 3, under the Agency Updates, the State had *applied* for a Water Trust Board Grant for the Rio Rancho Phase II.
  - A member requested that the term “spawning spike” be replaced throughout the document with “spawning pulse” for language consistency and since “spike” could imply a sharper increase/decline.

#### Coordination Committee (CC) Action Items and Decisions Review

- *May 7<sup>th</sup> Decisions*
  - There were no comments on the March 5<sup>th</sup> CC decision items.
- *May 7<sup>th</sup> Actions*
  - Ali Saenz will resend the 2013 Cost Share Report reminder to CC members: 2013 Non-Federal Cost Share reports are due to Rhea Graham (and copied to Ali Saenz) as soon as possible. Please use the Cost Share Reporting Template, and please respond if you have nothing to report. – *ongoing*;
    - Only 3 agendas have submitted their 2013 Cost Share reports.
- Ali Saenz will provide the links (and/or directions) to accessing awarded contracts on the Federal Business website ([www.fedbizopps.gov](http://www.fedbizopps.gov) or [www.fbo.gov](http://www.fbo.gov)). – *completed*;
- Rhea Graham will email CC members the website links to other restoration program's data management processes. – *completed 05/08/14*;
- Susan Bittick will email a database meeting invitation to interested CC members. – *completed*;

- The CC requests that remaining work groups (PIO, PVA, HRW, ScW) completed a charter review, update participant lists, update objectives and meeting schedules as appropriate. – *ongoing*;
  - The work groups are asked to review and identify any potential charter changes needed for the transition period.
- The CC requests that a revised schedule for completion of the 2013 MAT report for review be provided, so that EC members can be provided a current status update. – *ongoing*;
  - Stacey Stanford has been compiling all the appropriate supporting documentation in the appendices to the report. There will be 2 parts to the MAT reports: (1) early year Recommendations Report and (2) the Implementation Report that documents what actions occurred, lessons learned, outcomes and results, etc.
  - The MAT is not a chartered group and there remains “disagreements” on the extent that the group should be a Program team – which some participants consider it would become too bureaucratic.
  - In response to a question regarding the progress of the Recovery Implementation Program (RIP), it was shared that in July 2013 the EC endorsed the draft RIP Action Plan and draft RIP Program Document. There are several delays that have to be resolved before the RIP can be fully established and implemented. For example, the draft Biological Opinion (BO) is not yet available as the Service is still analyzing the proposed actions; the Corps withdrew their Biological Assessment (BA) and will soon have the revised version available; the Service only wants to issue a single BO; etc. These delays are completely outside of the Program’s control but have to be resolved before there is enough surety on the compliance components for agencies to agree to the RIP.

### Announcements and Agency Updates

- *Reclamation:*
  - Reclamation is finally able to move past the hiring freeze constraints and is looking to start re-staffing vacant positions. Reclamation is looking to modify the Interagency Agreement (IA) with the Service in order to help fill their staffing gaps. The proposed idea is that Reclamation would hire some biologist positions and detail those employees to the Service (one for the Fisheries and one for the ES Office). It is unknown how this will eventually work out.
  - Reclamation is working with the new refuge (Valle de Oro) on EIS and water rights issues. There are potential habitat restoration and education opportunities.
  - Please direct any contracting questions or issues to Jennifer Faler or Jim Wilber.
- *U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps):*
  - The conversion of the database to the .net platform is scheduled for the end of October but may be completed earlier than that. The reason for the conversion is that the original platform (Silverlight) has been problematic with slow speeds and limited accessibility with different operating systems and mobile devices.
  - Not all the reports from the old website had been uploaded to the database, but they are slowly being added now.
  - \*\*\*\*explanation regarding the missing documents from IceTech to DBMS conversion
- *State:*
  - The State received the Water Trust Board grant for the Rio Rancho Phase II.
  - Estevan Lopez had his Senate confirmation hearing for Reclamation Commissioner. ISC has to go through the personnel process to fill their Director position. The process is moving forward but timeframes are not available.

- The State has several projects funded in the FY2015 budget that are targeted for MRG ESA compliance.
- *Albuquerque-Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority (ABCWUA):*
  - ABCWUA continues to complete restoration and construction work that would apply to the BO requirements.
  - All the transfer water made it to Elephant Butte which means there was a good/positive result from the actions this spring.

#### **Draft Program 2013 Annual Report Update**

- A draft copy of the 2013 Program Annual Report was provided as a read ahead for today's meeting.
- The financial summary is updated annually. Table 3.5.4, SWFL Monitoring Report, is a new table not previously included in the annual reports. The CC request to include work group co-chairs for record keeping purposes was addressed.
- The EC delayed approval of the 2012 Program Report until the July meeting in order to allow more time to review.
  - CC members were encouraged to submit comments on both the 2012 and 2013 Program Reports to their EC member in order to facilitate timely approval at the July 17<sup>th</sup> EC meeting.

#### **Update on First Spawning Pulse from EC meeting**

- The MAT presented an update on all recent activities that occurred during the spawning pulses. CC members agreed that it was a good presentation with a mix of presenters, highlighting the collaboration and involvement, and documenting the successes.
  - Attendees briefly discussed how the Collaborative Program meetings compare to the structure of the San Juan Program. The San Juan executive decision making meetings are very agenda focused and they do not meet nearly as often. However, once a year there is a technical/program "work updates and presentations" meeting.
  - Several CC members suggested that the CC identify and recommend possible EC presentations and updates to occur at future EC meetings. These presentations serve the purpose of highlighting the good work that continues to be completed through the transition period, assist in keeping the decision makers up-to-date, and can help provide a "positive" outlook.
  - Possible presentations and updates brainstormed during the meeting include:
    - Cochiti Lake Sedimentation Assessment – Mussetter and Tetra Tech
    - Albuquerque-Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority (ABCWUA) Treatment Plant and Treatment Works
    - Compact Review presentation – what are the premises the Program and participating agencies are working under
    - The History of the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District (MRGCD or District) and Bureau of Reclamation
    - Valle de Oro – The New Refuge
    - Tamarisk Beetle Updates
    - The Propagation and Augmentation Program - timeline of contributions to the Program, what is the process, and what are the foreseeable future roles

#### **2013 Non-federal Cost Share Report**

- This remains an ongoing request. Only 3 2013 Cost Shares have been submitted to date.

**Significant Non-Decision Items to Brief EC**

- The next EC meeting is scheduled for July 17<sup>th</sup>, 2014. The CC will meet again prior to the next EC meeting (on July 2<sup>nd</sup>). The CC should have agreement on recommendation to approve the 2012 and 2013 Program Reports at the July 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting.
- Potential July 17<sup>th</sup> EC meeting agenda items include:
  - Population Monitoring (CPUE) Workshop Updates – survey results and refined list of potential experts
  - MAT Summer 2014 Emergency Recommendations – EC feedback on options to be done this summer
  - NOI Updates – mid July was the deadline for filing suit
  - CC recommendations to include more presentations and updates as part of each EC meeting

**Next CC Meeting: July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2014 from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM at Reclamation**

- Tentative agenda items include: (1) identify and develop EC presentation/updates recommendation list; (2) comments or significant needs on 2013 Program Report?; (3) Update on MAT 2014 Summer Emergency Recommendations
- Potential Future Agenda Items: (1) Discussion/Consideration of the pros and cons of chartering any new group at this time during the transition; (2) Discussion/Consideration what are the technical arms of this Program going to be and how are they to work/interrelate/interact (pertains to the formation of the Adaptive Management Committee and continuance of the MAT); (3) Revisit the previous decision to not include the Corps' financial reports in the Program's annual report

**Coordination Committee Meeting  
11 June 2014 Meeting Attendees**

NAME	AFFILIATION	PHONE NUMBER	PRIMARY (P) ALTERNATE (A) OTHERS (O)	EMAIL ADDRESS
Jim Wilber	BOR	462-3548	P – Co-Chair	jwilber@usbr.gov
Rick Billings	ABCWUA	796-2527	P – Co-Chair	rbillings@abcwua.org
Susan Bittick	USACE	342-3397	P	susan.m.bittick@usace.army.mil
Grace Haggerty	NMISC	383-4042	P	grace.haggerty@state.nm.us
Dave Campbell	FWS	761-4745	P	david_campbell@fws.gov
Ann Moore	NMAGO	222-9024	P	amoore@nmag.gov
Lacy Levine	NMDA	575-646-8024	P	llevine@nmda.nmsu.edu
Ali Saenz	Reclamation	462-3600	O – Program Assistant	asaenz@usbr.gov
Marta Wood	Alliant Env.	259-6098	O – Note Taker	mwood@alliantenv.com