

Coordination Committee Meeting

July 2, 2014

Meeting Materials:

Meeting Agenda

Meeting Minutes

**Middle Rio Grande Endangered Species Collaborative Program
Coordination Committee Meeting
July 2, 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#

(1st 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. Identify and develop EC presentation/updates recommendation list
7. 2013 Non-Federal Cost Share reports
8. Update on MAT 2014 Summer Emergency Recommendations
9. Significant Non-Decision Items to Brief EC

Next meeting – CC meeting – Aug 6, 2014 @ Reclamation from 9:00 to 11:00am

Upcoming meetings and deadlines:

MAT – July 8, 2014 @ BOR from 9am to 11am

HRW – July 15, 2014 @ ISC from 11:30am to 3:30pm

EC – July 17, 2014 @ BIA from 9am to 1pm

MAT – July 22, 2014 @ BOR from 9am to 11am

****denotes read ahead***

**Middle Rio Grande Endangered Species Collaborative Program
Coordination Committee Meeting
July 2nd – 9:00am to 10:45am
Reclamation**

Decisions

- With a quorum present and no objections, the June 11th, 2014 CC meeting summary was approved for finalization with the following corrections:
 - On page 2, under the first May 7th CC Action Item reviewed, “only 3 agendas” will be corrected to “only 3 agencies.”
 - On page 3, in the Recovery Implementation Program (RIP) question/discussion, it was requested that the word “approved” be replaced with “endorsed” and the phrase “as place holders” be struck from the record.
 - On page 3, under the Corps’ database update, it will be clarified that the missing documents were not provided by the original contractor in the original data transfer with no fault on the current contractor.
 - On page 3, in the first bullet under the State’s update, “did win” will be corrected to “received.”
 - On page 4, the third bullet under the State’s update will be reworded to “the State has several projects funded in the FY2015 State budget that are targeted for Middle Rio Grande ESA compliance.”
 - On page 5, under the Notice of Intent (NOI) updates, the typo “suite” will be corrected to “suit.”

Actions

- Susan Bittick will provide a Corps’ project and funding update at the August 14th, CC meeting.
- Grace Haggerty will work with David Gensler and Stacey Stanford to draft language on the 2013 MAT recommendations (and emergency actions) for incorporation in the 2013 Program Annual Report.
- Grace Haggerty will find the Service’s species report given to the Compact Engineer Advisors and provide to Vicky Ryan (Reclamation) for text to replace the SWFL table in the 2013 Program Annual Report.
- Any comments, feedback, or edits on the Draft 2013 Program Annual Report should be submitted to Ali Saenz for incorporation.
- Jim Wilber will provide Ali Saenz with contact information for a potential Valley de Oro presentation to the EC.
- Susan Bittick will investigate the (1) Cochiti Lake Sedimentation Assessment and (2) the Tamarisk Beetle updates to determine contacts and/or feasibility for EC presentation.
- Susan Bittick will contact Jennifer Faler (and/or Kelly Oliver-Amy and/or David Campbell) to determine best language for the Population Monitoring (CPUE) Workshop objectives to help potentially secure federal funding contributions.

Next CC Meeting: August 14th, 2014 from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM at Reclamation

- Please note that the regularly scheduled August 6th CC meeting was delayed until August 14th to accommodate member's scheduling conflicts.
- Tentative agenda items include: (1) potential law suit/litigation discussions; (2) approval of the final draft 2013 Program Report; (3) finalize list of possible EC presentations/updates; (4) Corps' project and funding updates;
- Tentative September Agenda Items include: (1) FY2015 Work Plan
- 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:

- ~~July 8th – Biology focused MAT ad hoc meeting from 9:00am to 11:00am at Reclamation; all interested parties are encouraged to participate, especially hydrologists; cancelled on 7/7~~
- July 10th – EC meeting read aheads due
- July 15th – HRW meeting from 11:30am to 3:30pm at ISC
- July 17th – EC meeting, 9:00am to 1:00pm at BIA
- July 22nd – MAT ad hoc meeting from 9:00am to 11:00am at Reclamation
- August 14th – CC meeting from 9:00am to 11:00am at Reclamation (the regularly scheduled August 6th meeting was delayed due to member scheduling conflicts)

Meeting Summary

Introductions and agenda approval: Rick Billings brought the meeting to order and introductions were made. The agenda was reviewed and approved with no changes. Decision items were postponed until a quorum was confirmed.

Coordination Committee (CC) Action Items and Decisions Review

- *June 11th Decisions*
 - There were no comments on the March 5th CC decision items.
- *June 11th Actions*
 - Ali Saenz will send Lacy Levine a cost share description and reminder email; the cost share template will be attached. – *complete;*
 - All the pertinent information was provided to the NM Department of Agriculture (NMDA), who has submitted their FY2013 cost share report.
 - 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;*
 - The Science Work Group (ScW) is the only work group that has provided the requested information. However, Habitat Restoration Work Group (HRW) did not meet last month.

- 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*;
 - There was an error of an extra digit – the typo has been corrected.

Approval of the June 11th, 2014 CC Meeting Summary

- With a quorum present and no objections, the June 11th, 2014 CC meeting summary was approved for finalization with the following corrections:
 - On page 2, under the first May 7th CC Action Item reviewed, “only 3 agendas” will be corrected to “only 3 agencies.”
 - On page 3, in the Recovery Implementation Program (RIP) question/discussion, it was requested that the word “approved” be replaced with “endorsed” and the phrase “as place holders” be struck from the record.
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 - On page 3, in the first bullet under the State’s update, “did win” will be corrected to “received.”
 - On page 4, the third bullet under the State’s update will be reworded to “the State has several projects funded in the FY2015 State budget that are targeted for Middle Rio Grande (MRG) ESA compliance.”
 - On page 5, under the Notice of Intent (NOI) updates, the typo “suite” will be corrected to “suit.”

Announcements and Agency Updates

- *Reclamation:*
 - Stacey Stanford has been hired by Reclamation as a MRG Biologist. The position details are still being finalized, but it is likely that she will continue to support Program work with potential detail to the Service.
 - Regarding the consultation, Reclamation continues to work on progressing the hydrologic objective(s), other water acquisition and water management plans
 - Regarding the potential litigation, Reclamation expects to be sued on or around July 11th. There is no idea how the Colorado piece will be included, if at all.
 - Regarding timeframes if sued, it was shared that it is hard to predict when court decisions might be handed down. However, preliminary injunctions could happen quicker, but even those hearings could still take quite a while.
 - In response to a question on continuing Program work during litigation, it was shared that the expectation is that Program activities will be ongoing/continued on simultaneously during proceedings. It is assumed that a lawsuit won’t directly change the current Program path, at least initially.
 - An MOU or MOA (Memorandum of Agreement) could be used to provide some level of certainty to the Service and could possibly be a way to achieve a quicker “incremental” Biological Opinion (BO). This option is being considered in potential strategies.
- *U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps):*
 - The Corps is exploring Program needs and working with their Office of Counsel to determine how to help accomplish the work through the Corps’ authorization. The Corps remains vested in supporting the Program and Recovery Implementation Program (RIP) through appropriations and continued attendance and participation in all levels of the Program, including the Minnow Action Team (MAT).

- It has been suggested that a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Corps and Reclamation could be useful to cover how both agencies can use funding “together” to accomplish Program objectives.
 - As with Reclamation, the Corps’ assumes it will also be sued around the same time.
 - It is assumed that the Corps’ funding will be “ok” in FY2016, but there is the possibility that the Albuquerque region will be “out competed” by California resulting in a redistribution of the funding.
- *State:*
 - The State is also dedicated to working on the hydrologic objectives – making them more robust. Reclamation, Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District (MRGCD), and Interstate Stream Commission (ISC), remain engaged in the MRSI (Matrices of River System Impacts) to evaluate the effects of the proposed conservation measures and improving/enhancing the RIP Action Plan to firm up water management commitments.
 - An MOU/MOA might help get some of those commitments down.

Update on MAT 2014 Summer Emergency Recommendations

- The 2014 summer recommendations are similar to those from last year: continuous flow in the Angostura Reach down to Isleta and to the extent possible, maintain refugia past the Isleta and San Acacia dams.
 - Last year, the river would have dried a lot more if a small flow hadn’t been maintained pasted the dams and at the drain outfalls.
- As far as reporting, the group is working on finalizing the 2013 MAT Report and starting the planning/development of the 2014 MAT Report.
- The MAT is providing the interaction/communication between the biologists, hydrologists, and water managers. However, the on-the-ground technical work (including research, monitoring, surveys, studies, etc.) is not their task; those still need to be addressed through the ScW and HRW groups and eventually the Adaptive Management Team.

Review Final 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.
- In a working session with the document projected, CC members provided feedback and suggest edits. Edits included (but are not limited to):
 1. It was suggested the Executive Summary include a few clarification sentences to indicate where in the RIP process the Program is. It was also suggested the references to the RIP be written in future tense. Other suggested language included:
 - The RIP has not been implemented yet. Once established, the RIP is expected to be... envisioned to be...
 - The RIP is currently being developed...
 - Many of the activities described in this report for FY2013 are aimed at the eventual support of the RIP.
 2. Check the formatting of the tables – to make sure the information was aligned.
 3. FY2013 was the first year with MAT involvement and the MAT group should be referenced in the Water Operations section(s).
 - Since the MAT is an ad hoc group of the EC and not an officially chartered Program group, it was suggested that a new section be created to reference the MAT work. It was clarified that the MAT should only be referenced as “the Minnow Action Team.”

- For example, 3.2.1 could be the new MAT section and 3.2.2 could be created for Reclamation's supplemental water program.
- 4. It was suggested that website links for referenced documents be included in the report.
- 5. It was agreed that the Southwestern Willow Flycatcher (SWFL) table in Section 3.4.4 is overly detailed for this report. It was suggested that SWFL information and annual updates be provided in the same format (text summary) as the rest of the document.
- 6. It was suggested that the heading of the Collaborative Program Contacts (page 3) be changed to Program Management Team and delete the phone numbers and emails. A footnote could be added specifying that these were the individuals in those positions for the specific year.
- For future years, it might be helpful to include a table of agencies involvement with specific groups/committees to show how everyone is participating together to accomplish the Program's goals and objectives.

Identify and Develop EC Presentation/Updates Recommendation List

- It was suggested at the June 11th CC meeting that members identify and recommend possible EC presentations and updates to occur at future EC meetings. The CC reviewed the brainstormed list of suggestions from the June meeting. Only one new suggestion was offered during the meeting:
 - 2014 Drought Relief Bill (once finalized, contact Udall's staff - Kaveh Sadeghzadeh?)

2013 Non-federal Cost Share Report

- This remains an ongoing request. Only 3 2013 Cost Shares have been submitted to date.
- It was suggested that the CC begin working on the FY2015 Work Plan in September.

CPUE Workshop

- Attendees briefly discussed workshop planning language in order to best represent the intentions and potentially assist in securing funding. For example, the expert panel is intended as more of a "peer review" panel versus an "advisory panel."

Significant Non-Decision Items to Brief EC

- The next EC meeting is scheduled for July 17th, 2014.
- Potential July 17th 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 and Lawsuit Updates – expected by July 11th
 - CC recommendations to include more presentations and updates as part of each EC meeting – list of potential topics to be provided at the August meeting
 - Reminder of FY2013 Cost Share Reports overdue
 - Approval of the 2012 Program Annual Report; draft 2013 Program Annual Report will be reviewed/recommended at the August 14th CC
 - CC intends to begin 2015 work plan and budget development in September

Next CC Meeting: August 14th, 2014 from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM at Reclamation

- Please note that the regularly scheduled August 6th CC meeting was delayed until August 14th to accommodate member's scheduling conflicts.

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**Coordination Committee Meeting
2 July 2014 Meeting Attendees**

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