

**Middle Rio Grande Endangered Species Collaborative Program
Coordination Committee Meeting
May 6th, 2015 – 9:00am to 10:15am
Reclamation**

Decisions

- With a quorum present and no objections, the March 11th, 2015 CC meeting summary was approved for finalization with no changes.

Actions

- Grace Haggerty will confirm a conference room at ISC for the HRW meeting on Tuesday, May 19th from 12:30 to 3:30pm.
- Ali Saenz will compile a list of all the Program working groups and committees (including acronyms) and their respective tasks and objectives.
- Grace Haggerty will contact John Sutton (?) with SCIECA (the South Central Chapter of International Erosion Control Association (??)) to determine the feasibility and availability of a Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4) presentation to the EC.
- Ali Saenz and Rick Billings will coordinate and have project/contract updates available each CC meeting.
- Rick Billings will contact Dave Campbell to arrange a Propagation and Augmentation Program presentation for the June 18th EC meeting.

Tentative EC June 18th Agenda Items

- Presentation: RGSM Population Monitoring/Egg Collection ASIR (if feasible/available) **OR** The Propagation and Augmentation Program
- Review/Discuss the *RIP versus Collaborative Program* comparison document (pros/cons list drafted by the Program Document subgroup)
- Review any revised Program Documents (if applicable, available)
- Draft BA – discussions? Comments? Concerns? (if applicable/appropriate).

Next CC Meeting: June 3rd, 2015 from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM at Reclamation

- Tentative agenda items include: (1) Contract/Project Status Update; (2) Draft BA Review/Discussion; (3) Update/Review on Program Document RIP/Collaborative Program comparison document (if available);

Upcoming Dates and Deadlines:

- 2nd week of May – Reclamation's Draft BA released
- May 19th – ScW meeting, 9:00am to 12:00pm at ISC
- May 19th – HRW meeting, 12:30pm to 3:30pm at ISC
- June 3rd – CC meeting, 9:00am to 11:00am at Reclamation
- June 18th – EC meeting, 9:00am to 12:00pm at Reclamation
- Mid-June – Final Reclamation BA intended submittal to the Service
- Late August - Fish Population Monitoring (CPUE) 3-day Workshop

Meeting Summary

Introductions and agenda approval: Rick Billings brought the meeting to order. Introductions were made and a quorum was confirmed. The agenda was reviewed and approved with the addition of an EC 05/05/15 Workshop report out.

EC Report Out

- On May 5th, the EC met in an all-day workshop. The EC addressed regular business in the morning session. EC members endorsed the 2015 MAT Recommendations. Then attendees proceeded to discuss: (1) the Recovery Implementation Program (RIP) and what is meant/implications; (2) Broad Coverage; (3) Program and Science Support (PASS; a.k.a. 3rd Party Management); (4) Sufficient Progress; (5) Direction for Current and Future Workgroups; and (6) the Service's "4" significant recommended endeavors.
 - The significant discussions occurred in the afternoon session when the EC talked about the meaning and implications of a "formal RIP." The use of "RIP" in title or description is causing confusion. A formal RIP has very specific connotations/definitions and implications to the Service. It also has a very specific process and its own authority. The Program currently has congressional authorization and some agencies are concerned that transitioning to a formal RIP would interfere with their authorizations/funding. There is recommendation to decouple the RIP from the consultation.
 - The RIP is just not ready to be the sole conservation measure at this time. However, the Program remains committed to shifting focus and energy toward supporting recovery of the species.
 - The Program Document Subgroup was tasked with revisiting/revising/updating the Program/RIP documents and working through semantics/terminology.
 - The Program Document Subgroup was also tasked with developing a list of pros/cons for a formal RIP compared to remaining a "recovery-focused" Collaborative Program.
 - The Program has to be tailored for this specific region, participation, etc. There may be ongoing discussions/decisions regarding the name and "path forward", but realistically, not much has changed. The Program is committed to moving forward addressing the recovery of the species.
 - The EC provided direction that the standing Program groups (including ScW, HRW, and CC) are to continue meeting and remained engaged until more of the pending work (ex. the Fish Population Monitoring Workshop, Final BA and BO) has been completed and the new Executive Director is able to restructure/reorganize.
 - In addition to regular meetings, it was suggested that work group members "cross-pollinate" with individual agencies as a way to stay informed about many of the projects/work being accomplished outside of the Program (ex. ISC's habitat restoration work; Reclamation's retooling of the River Maintenance Program; etc.).
- CC Opinions and Feedback:
 - Some CC members expressed the opinion that the RIP was to be the conservation measure, securing funding, and support the technical recovery efforts. The Program has not been able to accomplish that "on its own" to date. Instead of remaining "status quo," the RIP was to be the next step moving forward.
 - Another opinion shared was that the workshop was "successful" because discussions have been reignited, actions items assigned, and EC members have a better understanding of positions regarding the RIP. Some EC members believe transitioning

to a RIP would formalize the program while providing more technical and financial power. Others believe that is might just be a “fancy way” of staying in compliance.

- There are many components still in progress: the Fish Population Monitoring Workshop, the adaptive management contract, BA/BO, PASS contract, etc.
- It was cautioned that the Program is not “abandoning” the recovery outlook - recovery goals are different than just following the Reasonable and Prudent Alternatives (RPAs). We still want the broad coverage protection and a streamlined ESA process for new members. The Program is still moving toward a focus on recovery, it is just that the RIP is not ready to be the sole conservation measure at this time.

Approval of the March 11th, 2015 CC Meeting Summaries

- With a quorum present and no objections, the March 11th, 2015 CC meeting summary was approved for finalization with no changes.

Coordination Committee (CC) Action Items and Decisions Review

- *March 11th Decisions*
 - There were no comments on the March 11th CC decision items.
- *March 11th Actions*
 - ✓ Ali Saenz will distribute the 02/19/15 EC Talking Points (developed at the 02/04/15 CC meeting) to all CC members. – *complete*;
 - ✓ Any comments on the 02/19/15 EC Talking Points (developed at the 02/04/15 CC meeting) or draft April 2nd EC workshop agenda are due to Ali Saenz no later than Friday, March 20th. – *complete*; *no comments were received*
 - ✓ Ali Saenz will distribute the 2012 June EC Closed Session and other notes that specify the previously identified Program Priorities. – *complete*;
 - Grace Haggerty will confirm availability of the Compact Review presentation for the April or May 2015 EC meeting. (*continued from 12/10/14; dates may shift due to April 2nd EC workshop and meeting cancellations*) – *postponed until further notice*;
 - Submit Workgroup designation assignments for all active Program workgroups and subcommittees if not already completed. (*continued from 12/10/14*) – *ongoing/pending recommendations from the Program Document subgroup*;

Review & update list of EC Presentations/Updates (recurring item)

- The CC continues to develop and refine a list of potential presentations for EC meetings.
- *Suggested Modifications to the Presentation List:*
 - Add: a Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4) informational presentation
 - Add: ASIR population monitoring/egg collection presentation
 - At the EC workshop yesterday (05/05/15), signatories requested this presentation.
 - If there are limitations to the contractor’s ability to present, it is more important that ASIR attend/participate in the Fish Population Monitoring Workshop. However, if feasible, this presentation should occur before the Fish Population Monitoring workshop in August.
 - The Propagation and Augmentation Program presentation should be scheduled for the following month (after the population monitoring/egg collection presentation).

- Postponed: the Status of the MRG and Tributaries Sediment Transport Study (Tetra Tech) postponed until November or December.
- Postponed: the Albuquerque-Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority (ABCWUA) Treatment Plant and Treatment Works presentation was delayed until later in the year;
 - This allows flexibility in the June and July agendas should ASIR be able to present before the workshop.

EC Discussion and Agenda Items

- *Tentative June 18th EC Agenda Items:*
 - It is assumed the June and July EC agendas will be full with (1) presentations (RGSM Population Monitoring/Egg Collection by ASIR in June); (2) review of the RIP versus “recovery focused” Collaborative Program pros/cons list; (3) review of revised Program Documents (if applicable, available); (4) review/discussion of the draft BA (if applicable).
 - The Minnow Action Team (MAT) may or may not meet again before the June 18th EC meeting – it depends on any significant changes in conditions.
- *Future CC Agenda Items:*
 - It was requested that a Contract/Project Status Update be a standing CC agenda item. This is not necessarily to be a “funding analysis” but a way to keep CC members apprised Program activities – status, funding, what has been spent/remaining.
- *Federal CC Co-chair:*
 - There are no volunteers for federal CC co-chair at this time. Most of the federal agencies will be unable to consider filling this position until after the BA/BO process has been negotiated and finalized.
- *Contracting and Project Updates:*
 - Program FY2014 Annual Report Contract – anticipating an award in August or September timeframe;
 - The Rio Grande Silvery Minnow (RGSM) Population Monitoring/Egg Collection work was awarded in February.
 - Augmentation has also been awarded.
 - The federal Interagency Agreements (IAs) are still pending.
 - The Program and Science Support (PASS, formerly known as 3rd Party Management) has been obligated – meaning it has passed through the approval(s) process. Reclamation is working to secure a high-level contracting officer. It will be ready for solicitation soon.
 - The Option Years for Note Taking and Facilitation services have been exercised.
 - Completed contracts include: (1) Egg Monitoring in Canals; (2) Population Monitoring/Egg Collection; (3) Southwestern Willow Flycatcher (SWFL) Monitoring; (4) Genetics Peer Review.
 - The RGSM Spawning Response and Life History project (from the Science Work Group, ScW) is in contracting but on hold as it is not for award this year.

Next CC Meeting: **June 3rd, 2015 from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM at Reclamation**

- Tentative agenda items include: (1) Contract/Project Status Update; (2) Draft BA Review/Discussion – if appropriate; (3) Update/Review on Program Document RIP/Collaborative Program comparison document (if available/appropriate);

**Coordination Committee Meeting
06 May 2015 Meeting Attendees**

	NAME	AFFILIATION	PHONE NUMBER	PRIMARY (P) ALTERNATE (A) OTHERS (O)	EMAIL ADDRESS
1	Rick Billings	ABCWUA	259-0535	P – Co-Chair	rbillings@abcwua.org
2	Leann Towne	Reclamation	462-3579	P	ptowne@usbr.gov
3	Ann Demint	Reclamation	462-3654	A	ademint@usbr.gov
4	Susan Bittick	USACE	342-3397	P	susan.m.bittick@usace.army.mil
5	Danielle Galloway	USACE	342-3661	A	danielle.a.galloway@usace.army.mil
6	Lacy Levine (via phone conference)	NMDA	575-646-8024	A	llevine@nmda.nmsu.edu
7	Ryan Ward (via phone conference)	NMDA	575-646-2670	P	rward@nmda.nmsu.edu
8	Brooke Wyman	MRGCD	247-023	A	brooke@mrgcd.us
9	Grace Haggerty	NMISC	383-4042	P	grace.haggerty@state.nm.us
10	Nathan Schroeder	Santa Ana Pueblo	771-6719	P	nathan.schroeder@santaana-nsn.gov
11	Jason Kikel	UNM (community & regional planning)	724-831-9246	O	jakikel@unm.edu
12	Ali Saenz	Reclamation	462-3600	O – Program Analyst	asaenz@usbr.gov
13	Marta Wood	Alliant Env.	259-6098	O – Note Taker	mwood@alliantenv.com