

**Middle Rio Grande Endangered Species Collaborative Program
Coordination Committee Meeting
October 1st, 2015 – 9:00am to 10:00am
Reclamation**

Decisions

- Due to lack of quorum, no decisions were made at today's meeting.

Actions

- Ali Saenz will email CC members with the website link to the updated Program Groups and Committee document.
- Ali Saenz will send a reminder memo to EC/CC members regarding the submission of agency expert resumes for participation in the Fish Population Monitoring Workshop.
- Rick Billings will submit his agency resumes (for the Fish Population Monitoring Workshop) to Ali Saenz as soon as possible.
- Ali Saenz will draft an email reminder to the EC highlighting the importance of attending and participating in the RIP Subgroup + EC meeting on October 15th. Rick Billings and Brent Rhees will review this draft email before distribution.
- The Science work group is asked to discuss the Data Synthesis project to determine the importance of this project (still relevant? feasible?) and if there is still a need/desire and to discuss options (ex. in-house?).
- Ali Saenz will coordinate with Scott Durst, Nathan Franssen, and Mark McKinstry to arrange a Data Synthesis 101 presentation for the November CC meeting. *complete*

On-going Actions

- Grace Hagger ty 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. (*continued from May 6th*) – *ongoing*

Recommendations

- It was recommended that once the agency participation list (for the Fish Population Monitoring Workshop) is available, Ali Saenz send a notification email directly to expert and agency participants with the read ahead and preparation documents listed and links included.
- Attendees had no changes or edits to the September 2nd CC meeting notes and recommended approval at the November 4th meeting.
- CC members were encouraged to communicate to their agency that sufficient EC representation is needed at the October 15th RIP subgroup + EC meeting if the 4 outstanding issues are to be successfully resolved.

Next CC Meeting: November 4th, 2015 from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM at Reclamation

- Tentative agenda items include: (1) Data Synthesis 101 Presentation; (2) BIA Restoration Landscape document – for review/discussion; (3) BA/BO Updates – if/as appropriate; (4) Update/report out on the RIP + EC Subgroup Meeting – 4 outstanding issues (bullet points); (5) FY2016 budget and projects (including peer review? FY2015 annual report? RGSM Life History and Habitat?) – in order

for Reclamation to have sufficient contracting time; (6) Approval of September 2nd and October 1st meeting notes;

Upcoming Dates and Deadlines:

- October 6 – RIP Subgroup (regular) meeting
- October 15 – RIP Subgroup + EC (expanded), 8:30 am to 4:00pm at Reclamation
- October 16 – HRW Field Trip, 9:00am to 4:00pm
- October 20 - ScW meeting, 9:00am to 11:30am at ISC
- October 23 – HRW Field Trip, TBD
- November 4 – CC meeting, 9:00am to 11:00am at Reclamation
- January 14th, 2016 – EC meeting, 9:00am to 1:00pm at Reclamation

Meeting Summary

Introductions and agenda approval: Rick Billings brought the meeting to order. Introductions were made. The agenda was reviewed and approved the addition of a brief discussion/update on Resilient Landscapes opportunities. A quorum was not present.

Approval of the September 2nd, 2015 CC Meeting Summary:

- Attendees had no changes or edits to the September 2nd CC meeting notes and recommended approval at the November 4th meeting (pending quorum).

Draft Working Letter on BIA Programs

- In a brief background, attendees were reminded that the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) is interested in collaboration with other agencies to pursue opportunities through the new Resilient Landscape (RL) program that was recently established.
- Nathan Schroder is developing a short informational document on the RL opportunity(s) with BIA.
- The Habitat Restoration Workgroup (HRW) will review the informational document and discuss the opportunity in more detail at their field trip on Friday, October 16.

Coordination Committee (CC) Action Items and Decisions Review

- *September 2nd Decisions*
 - There were no comments on the September 2nd CC decision items.
- *September 2nd Actions*
 - ✓ Ali Saenz will email the CC members the updated Program Groups and Committee document. – *completed*;
 - ✓ Ali Saenz will email the CC members the 2015 Projects/Contract spreadsheet. – *complete*;
 - ✓ Ali Saenz will request biographies of the Fish Population Monitoring Workshop experts from Atkins (contractor) in preparation for the 9/17/15 EC meeting. – *complete*;
 - The biographies and resumes have been received for Atkins, Reclamation, and the expert scientists. No other agency resumes have been received to date.
 - ✓ Ali Saenz will pull compiled literature for the experts in preparation for the Fish Population Monitoring Workshop. – *complete*;
 - Instead of providing all the planning members with links to preparation literature and read aheads, it was recommended that Ali send the information directly to the participants once identified.

- ~~Grace Haggerty will confirm the meeting room at ISC for the upcoming HRW and SeW meetings. –meetings were cancelled;~~
- 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. (*continued from May 6th*) – *ongoing*

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 Corrections and Changes:*
 - Egg Monitoring/Population Monitoring Presentation – remove the December 2015 date as the December EC meeting has been cancelled;
 - Postpone or remove all tentative dates for any Service presentations until after the Biological Assessment/Biological Opinion (BA/BO) has been completed;
 - Replace the Propagation and Augmentation Program presentation on September 17 with the Yellow-Billed Cuckoo presentation that was given that day;
 - Replace the Egg Monitoring/Population Monitoring presentation with a Fish Population Monitoring Workshop report-out for the March/April timeframe.

Review and Update from Program Document Subgroup (Updated Documents)

- The “regular” Recovery Implementation Program (RIP) subgroup will be meeting on October 6th. It is anticipated that this meeting will be focused on discussing the 4 outstanding issues (bullet points) and preparing any information for the October 15th “expanded” meeting.
 - *Note: in abbreviated form, the 4 issues are: (1) Development of metrics & sufficient progress; (2) Oversight Committee; (3) Clarify self-sustaining in terms of Program goals; and (4) two newly listed species*
- The RIP subgroup and the EC will meet all day on October 15th with the intent of reaching resolution on the 4 outstanding issues.
- CC members were encouraged to communicate to their agency that sufficient EC representation is needed if the 4 outstanding issues are to be successfully resolved.

Discussion/Review

- *Updated 2015 Program Workplan/Contracts*
 - Attendees reviewed the FY2015 contracts. Please contact a CC member for specific details on this conversation.
 - *US Army Corps of Engineers*
 - 1. Flycatcher Survey and Nest Monitoring studies within the Rio Grande (reaches 2, 3, 4, 6, and 7) were funded for FY2015 and FY2016 (MIPR accepted).
 - 2. Los Lunas was funded for FY2015 and FY2016 (MIPR accepted).
 - A task change was included in the FY2016/2017 effort to establish flycatcher Vegetation Quantification plots within the Los Lunas Restoration Site. The purpose of these plots will be to collect site specific flycatcher habitat data and statistically compare those habitat variables to that of over 100 flycatcher nesting locations within the Rio Grande. Although the Los Lunas Restoration site is not currently occupied by flycatchers, potentially suitable habitat has developed and this would be one means from which the habitat suitability could be determined.

- 3. USGS Gages
 - The Rio Grande Nature Center, Alameda Temperature, and sediment gages (at San Marcial, San Acacia, and Rio Grande at Puerco) were all funded for FY2015 and FY2016 (MIPRs accepted).
 - Reclamation and the Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority (ABCWUA) also fund gage work. The agencies work in conjunction to fund as many gages as possible.
- 4. Adaptive Management Contract was awarded for FY2015 with task orders that will continue into FY2016.
- 5. Database Management System (DBMS) was funded in FY2015; FY2016 has not been funded yet.
 - The Corps has included the DBMS in the FY2016 budget request in order to continue funding it. The intention is to compete a new 5-year DBMS contract in the timeframe of spring 2016.
- 6. Bosque Environmental Monitoring Program (BEMP) was awarded for FY2016 and includes new tamarisk leaf beetle monitoring methods (5 sweeps on each of 5 randomly selected plants at each sample site - rather than one sweep at one plant).
- *Reclamation*
 - Even though some projects took longer than anticipated, most are now through contracting and awarded.
 - Future Discussion Items:
 - *Annual Report* – the FY2014 Annual Report Development and Production was contracted out. It is recommended the CC discuss how to complete future annual reports (ex. FY2015 and FY2016). If the CC recommends contracting those reports out, then they will need to be included in future budgets.
 - It was suggested that the CC consider completing the Annual Report every year as they will be larger due to the inclusion of the Corps and non-federal contributions.
 - *Peer Review* – the Genetics Peer Review has been awarded. It was recommended the CC consider if any peer review activities should be included in future budgets, including FY2016.
 - The Science Workgroup will meet on October 20th to discuss the peer review key questions.
 - The EC did approve all 5 individuals for the expert peer review panel.
- *Draft 2016 Collaborative Program Workplan*
 - A draft FY2016 workplan has been developed using the FY2014-2015 prioritized activities list. Much of the existing work is on-going (continuing) work that needs to be accomplished every year – at least until a new BO is in place.
 - The government is currently in Continuing Resolution (CR) so the budgets are limited to the amounts funded the last cycle; for the Program this is ~ \$3 million.
 - Given the lead time that Reclamation's contracting office needs, the Program needs to be working on project packages now in October (November at the latest) for submittal as soon as possible.

- As mentioned previously, it is recommended that the CC discuss (1) future annual reports and (2) additional peer review needs (and/or peer review-related activities).
- *Secondary CC Priorities*
 - *Minnow Life History and Habitat Study* – this project has a statement of objectives, but apparently not everyone agrees with funding this project. It is recommended the CC discuss this project and determine whether or not to pursue funding in FY2016.
 - *Data Synthesis*
 - This project originated in the Science workgroup and included minnow literature research to help inform Long-term Plan (LTP) priorities and activity development.
 - Some attendees voiced concerns about the potentially high cost that would be required to complete a successful data synthesis. One opinion expressed that it is better to complete this type of work with in-house staff – especially considering internal people are the most familiar with the information and intentions.
 - An example was shared that the San Juan River (SJR) Recovery Implementation Program (RIP) completes data integration every 5 years. While this task was originally contracted out, the SJR RIP brought the contractor on full time to have the work completed in-house.
 - Integrated data across spectrums (ex. fish capture and water quality) becomes very difficult and requires a lot of up-front thoughts/organization. It also requires the development of processes so that future collections to become easier to integrate.
 - Even though it might be costly, the opinion was shared that data synthesis is helpful (and even necessary) to have existing and future data be useable.
 - It will be up to the Program to determine if the data synthesis is still a priority to be accomplished.
 - It was suggested this topic could be revisited as a task for the Science Coordinator once the RIP transition has progressed.
 - It was suggested that the SJR RIP data synthesis person give a “Data Integration and Synthesis 101” presentation to the CC.
 - Ali contacted Nate Franssen and Sharon Whitmore – due to SJ River Recovery obligations Nate is unable to participate in any outside presentations between now and February.

Significant Non-Decision Items to Brief EC

- There were no additional information items to bring to the EC.

Next CC Meeting: **November 4th, 2015 from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM** location to TBD

- Tentative agenda items include: (1) Data Synthesis 101 Presentation; (2) BIA Restoration Landscape document – for review/discussion; (3) BA/BO Updates – if/as appropriate; (4) Update/report out on the RIP + EC Subgroup Meeting – 4 outstanding issues (bullet points); (5) FY2016 budget and projects (including peer review? FY2015 annual report? RGSM Life History and Habitat?) – in order for Reclamation to have sufficient contracting time;

**Coordination Committee Meeting
October 1st, 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	Dave Campbell	FWS	761-4745	P	david_campbell@fws.gov
3	Leann Towne	Reclamation	462-3579	P	ptowne@usbr.gov
4	Ann Demint	Reclamation	462-3654	A	ademint@usbr.gov
5	Lacy Levine (via phone conference)	NMDA	575-646-8024	A	llevine@nmda.nmsu.edu
6	Nathan Schroeder	Santa Ana Pueblo	771-6719	P	nathan.schroeder@santaana-nsn.gov
7	Ali Saenz	Reclamation	462-3600	O – Program Analyst	asaenz@usbr.gov
8	Marta Wood	Alliant Env.	259-6098	O – Note Taker	mwood@alliantenv.com