

# Executive Committee Meeting

## *October 27, 2020*

### Meeting Materials:

Agenda

Minutes

Recommendations to the EC on SAMC Membership [read-ahead]

Draft Charter for SAMC of the MRGESCP [read-ahead, draft]

2020 SAMC Selection and Draft S&AM Plan [presentation]

Approved Charter for SAMC of the MRGESCP [follow-up]



# Middle Rio Grande Endangered Species Collaborative Program

*Est. 2000*

## **Executive Committee (EC) Meeting October 27, 2020 2:00 – 4:00 PM MT**

*Location: Zoom Meeting*

<https://west-inc.zoom.us/j/8983593120?pwd=bU54V3NGeG93bXVlSlJFcElzcE9wZz09>

*Call-In: +1-669-900-6833*

*Meeting ID: 898-359-3120; Passcode: 1251*

## **Meeting Agenda**

### **Meeting Objectives:**

- *Approve the Science and Adaptive Management Committee (SAMC) charter*
- *Discuss recommendations for and vote on SAMC membership*
- *Move to convene the SAMC*

**2:00 – 2:10      Welcome, Introductions, Agenda Review** *EC Co-chairs*

- Ground rules for zoom meeting

- **Decision:** Approval of October 27, 2020 EC meeting agenda

**2:10 – 2:20      September 1, 2020 Meeting Summary** *EC Co-chairs*

- Action Items Review

- **Decision:** Approval of September 1, 2020 EC meeting minutes

Read ahead:

- ☐ September 1, 2020 EC meeting minutes

**2:20 – 2:45      Science and Adaptive Management Committee (SAMC) Charter** *Catherine Murphy, Program Support Team (PST)*

- Review and discussion of draft SAMC charter *Facilitated discussion*

Read ahead:

- ☐ Draft SAMC charter

- **Decision:** Approve SAMC charter

**2:45 – 3:00      SAMC Membership** *Catherine Murphy, PST*

- Review of SAMC application process *Facilitated discussion*
- Recommendations from the administrative ad hoc group

- Voting on SAMC members
- Nominations and voting for EC ex-officio member

*If the EC cannot agree via vote on the ad hoc group recommendations, the EC will go into a closed door session following the EC meeting for further deliberations.*

Read ahead:

- ☐ Ad hoc group recommendations on SAMC membership
- **Decision:** Finalize/Approve SAMC members
- **Action Item:** Convene the SAMC

3:00 – 3:40	<b>Next Steps on Science &amp; Adaptive Management Plan, Long-Term Plan, and SAMC</b>	<i>PST</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overview of the Science &amp; Adaptive Management Plan and timeline of next steps</li> <li>• Framework for Adaptive Management Database and Long-Term Plan</li> </ul>	
3:40 – 3:45	<b>Announcements</b>	
3:45 – 3:50	<b>Public Comment</b>	
3:50 – 4:00	<b>Meeting Summary and Action Items Review</b>	<i>EC Co-chairs</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Next EC Meeting: December 17, 2020 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Science &amp; Adaptive Management Plan approval</li> <li>○ Long-Term Plan approval</li> <li>○ 2021 Work Plan</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
4:00	<b>Adjourn</b>	



# Middle Rio Grande Endangered Species Collaborative Program

Est. 2000

## Executive Committee (EC) Meeting Minutes

**October 27, 2020; 2:00 PM–4:00 PM**

**Location:** Zoom Meeting

### Decisions:

- ✓ Approval of October 27, 2020 EC meeting agenda
- ✓ Approval of September 1, 2020 EC meeting minutes with amendments
- ✓ Approval of the Science and Adaptive Management Committee (SAMC) Charter with amendments
- ✓ Approval of the following SAMC membership, as recommended by the SAMC Applications Administrative Ad Hoc Group:
  - Mo Hobbs, aquatic ecology expert
  - Thomas Archdeacon, aquatic ecology expert
  - Dave Moore, terrestrial ecology expert
  - Meaghan Conway, ecosystem function expert
  - Ryan Gronewold, hydrology expert
  - Megan Friggens, climate science expert
  - Ari Posner, geomorphology expert
  - Ara Winter, statistics and modeling expert
- ✓ Approval of Alan Hatch, Pueblo of Santa Ana, as the EC ex officio member of the SAMC
- ✓ Approval to sunset all existing science and technical groups as of the December 17, 2020 EC meeting

### Action Items:

WHO	ACTION ITEM	BY WHEN
Program Support Team (PST)	Notify SAMC applicants of the EC's decision on SAMC membership	10/29/2020
PST	Notify the existing science and technical group chairs of the December 17 <sup>th</sup> sunset date	11/4/2020
PST	Schedule the first SAMC meeting	Early November
PST	Schedule one-on-one meetings with EC representatives to discuss comments on the Science and Adaptive Management (S&AM) Plan and signatory requests for the Long-Term Plan (LTP)	11/18/2020
EC	Provide comments on the S&AM Plan to the PST	11/23/2020
PST	Draft letters of appreciation for the members of existing science and technical groups for approval by the EC	12/10/2020
PST	Provide final S&AM Plan and LTP for approval at the December 17 <sup>th</sup> meeting	12/10/2020
OUTSTANDING ACTION ITEMS		

Non-Federal Signatories	Submit FY20 Cost Share to the PST	12/1/2020
All Signatories	Submit FY20 MRGESCP Annual Report write-ups to the PST	12/15/2020

**Next Meeting:** December 17, 2020; 9:00 AM–12:00 PM

## **Meeting Summary**

### **Welcome, Introductions, Agenda Review**

*Ground rules for Zoom meeting*

Wayne Pullan, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) and Federal Co-Chair, opened the meeting and led introductions. The EC approved the meeting agenda with no amendments.

- ✓ **Decision:** Approval of the October 27, 2020 meeting agenda by the EC

### **September 1, 2020 Meeting Summary**

*Action items review*

Debbie Lee, Program Manager with the PST, reviewed action items from the September 1, 2020 meeting. The September 1, 2020 meeting minutes were approved by the EC with suggested amendments.

- ✓ **Decision:** Approval of the September 1, 2020 EC meeting minutes by the EC with amendments

### **Science and Adaptive Management Committee Charter**

*Review and discussion of draft SAMC charter*

Catherine Murphy, Science Coordinator with the PST, presented a slideshow on the 2020 SAMC, which covered the SAMC Charter (see presentation). The EC approved the SAMC Charter with the following revisions:

- “Best management practices” was changed to “best management alternatives.”
- The charter was revised to align with the description of the SAMC in the S&AM Plan.
- The caveat preventing PST members from offering scientific and technical expertise was removed.
- If a vacancy occurs mid-term, the seat will remain open unless the EC chooses to fill the position for the rest of the term.
- The EC ex officio member of the SAMC will advise on policy.
- Non-members of the SAMC may speak outside the restrictions of the non-member comment period at the request of the SAMC.
- SAMC members will recuse themselves if they identify a potential financial conflict of interest.

- ✓ **Decision:** Approval of the SAMC Charter with amendments

### **Science and Adaptive Management Committee Membership**

*Review of SAMC application process*

*Recommendations from the administrative ad hoc group*

### *Voting on SAMC members*

#### *Nominations and voting for the EC ex officio member*

Catherine M. continued the 2020 SAMC presentation, first discussing the preliminary list of SAMC tasks for 2020–2021, and then the list of SAMC applicants recommended by the SAMC Application Administrative Ad Hoc Group (see presentation). These were the main points from the presentation and following discussion:

#### **SAMC Membership**

- The Administrative Ad Hoc Group convened for 2.5 hours to discuss the 16 applications from 14 applicants (two applicants submitted two applications each).
- There were applicants for each of the specified SAMC positions (aquatic ecology, terrestrial ecology, ecosystem function, and hydrology), plus a variety of applicants for flexible positions.
- The following applicants were recommended by the Administrative Ad Hoc Group to sit on the SAMC:
  - Mo Hobbs (aquatic ecology expert)
  - Thomas Archdeacon (aquatic ecology expert)
  - Dave Moore (terrestrial ecology expert)
  - Megan Conway (ecosystem function expert)
  - Ryan Gronewold (hydrology expert)
  - Megan Friggens (climate science expert)
  - Ari Posner (geomorphology expert)
  - Ara Winter (statistics and modeling expert)
- One EC member asked if the applicants understood the time commitment related to a position on the SAMC.
  - The applicants are aware of the time commitment of 10-15 hours per month.
  - The bulk of the work will be completed by Catherine M., as the SAMC Facilitator, and Science & Technical Ad Hoc Groups to whom the SAMC will delegate specific tasks. Catherine M. will stay organized and prepare for meetings to ensure the SAMC members are using their time well.
- The conflict of interest statement in the charter is general, only stating that members will abide by all federal, state, tribal, and local agency rules and regulations regarding conflict of interest. Does there need to be a more detailed statement that describes some of the conflicts of interest SAMC members will face?
  - One EC member noted a preference for a soft statement that allows the SAMC to be self-policing. The members are trusted to know the rules that apply to them, and are empowered to decide how to proceed.
- The Collaborative Program is appreciative of the many qualified applicants for the SAMC. There will be future iterations of the SAMC, and applicants who were not selected this round are highly encouraged to apply again.
- Applicants who were not selected are on a growing list of experts the SAMC can reach out to for technical input.
- The EC approved the SAMC applicants recommended by the SAMC Applications Administrative Ad Hoc Group.

- ✓ **Decision:** Approval of the following SAMC membership, as recommended by the SAMC Applications Administrative Ad Hoc Group:

- Mo Hobbs, aquatic ecology expert
- Thomas Archdeacon, aquatic ecology expert
- Dave Moore, terrestrial ecology expert
- Meaghan Conway, ecosystem function expert
- Ryan Gronewold, hydrology expert
- Megan Friggens, climate science expert
- Ari Posner, geomorphology expert
- Ara Winter, statistics and modeling expert

#### **EC Ex Officio Member**

- The EC nominated members for the EC ex officio position on the SAMC. There is no alternate for the position.
- The time commitment is an issue for many EC members. Would the ex officio member have a lower time commitment than the other SAMC members?
  - Yes, as he or she would not be expected to read all the scientific reports and other documents. The EC ex officio member may not be required at some meetings.
- Alan Hatch, Pueblo of Santa Ana, was approved as the EC ex officio member.

- ✓ **Decision:** Approval of Alan Hatch, Pueblo of Santa Ana, as the EC ex officio member of the SAMC

#### **Disbanding Existing Science and Technical Groups**

- Does the EC approve of disbanding all existing science and technical groups at the December EC meeting and allowing them to be reconstituted at the discretion of the SAMC?
  - There is support for the SAMC having a fresh start.
  - Groups with active work can be re-banded with specific charges under the SAMC.
  - Will there be a transition period, so the SAMC can be updated on what groups are doing?
    - The groups are ready to disband or preparing summary materials.
    - The Adaptive Management Work Group (AMWG) had a final meeting. AMWG members approved the distribution of the S&AM Plan to the larger Collaborative Program and are ready to sunset the group.
    - The Population Monitoring Work Group (PMWG) is summarizing its accomplishments in a report to the EC. The PMWG will present the report at the December EC meeting.
      - The summary report will be given to the SAMC. The SAMC will break down the remaining tasks of the PMWG and assign them to Science and Technical Ad Hoc Groups.
    - Will the By-Laws Ad Hoc Group (BLG) continue?
      - Yes, the BLG was tasked by the EC with revising the by-laws, and will be considered an Administrative Ad Hoc Group under the new structure when the need arises. The next meeting was on hold until the EC made decisions on how the SAMC will operate. The BLG can now incorporate the approved SAMC charter into the by-laws.
    - The Minnow Action Team (MAT) is separate from the Collaborative Program and will continue to meet as usual.

- The EC wants to recognize the work of the members of the disbanding groups with a letter of appreciation.
- ✓ **Decision:** Approval of sunseting all existing science and technical groups as of the December 17, 2020 meeting
- **Action Item:** The PST will notify the existing science and technical group chairs of the December 17th sunset date
- **Action Item:** The PST will draft letters of appreciation for the members of existing science and technical groups for the EC Co-chairs to sign on behalf of the EC and the Collaborative Program

### **Next Steps on S&AM Plan, LTP, and SAMC**

*Overview of the S&AM Plan and timeline of next steps*

*Framework for Adaptive Management Database and LTP*

Catherine M. presented on the S&AM Plan, LTP, and SAMC (see presentation). These are the main points from the presentation:

- S&AM Plan and LTP
  - Together, the S&AM Plan and LTP provide the framework for implementation of the Collaborative Program's science and adaptive management (AM) process.
  - The S&AM plan defines the Collaborative Program's role and its science and AM process.
  - The LTP is an evolving communication and planning tool that organizes scientific activities into periodic work plans.
- Science and AM Process – Next Steps
  - So far, the S&AM Plan has been drafted and reviewed by the PST, AMWG, and WEST technical editing. It is now out for review by the EC.
    - The review period is from October 22nd to December 2nd.
    - During the review period, the PST will be meeting with signatories to discuss and get feedback on the S&AM Plan.
    - At these meetings, the PST will also ask signatories what they need in the LTP.
  - The PST will be calling SAMC applicants to inform them of the EC's decision on SAMC membership. The PST will also be scheduling the SAMC's first meeting.
  - The PST will be revising the S&AM Plan and working on a draft LTP. Final versions of both will be presented at the December EC meeting for approval.
  - The LTP presented in December is meant to help U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) secure funding.
    - The LTP will draw heavily from USACE long-term plan documents. Those documents directly align with what the Collaborative Program wants to do moving forward.
- What's New in S&AM Plan
  - Re-organization with the SAMC
    - The SAMC is a hub of information. It will make sure the EC gets shorter, more useful summaries of Collaborative Program work.
  - Construction of the AM Database and Project Bank
    - The AM Database will be populated using existing information. The AM Database will store and disseminate accurate, up-to-date information, facilitate transparent prioritization of activities, and support informed decision-making.



- Answers to common questions on the AM Database:
    - The PST is building the AM Database.
    - The AM Database is being developed on MS Access but can be transitioned to a SQL server.
    - The PST will manage the AM Database during development. Once established, the Collaborative Program can decide to host it on the Program Portal or a cloud-based service.
  - Commitment to iterative learning
    - The Collaborative Program commits to iterative learning through tracking, evaluating, and incorporating scientific evidence into its objectives, experimental designs, and decision-support tools.
    - What does the SAMC communicate to EC?
      - Modifications to objectives and tools with scientific justifications.
      - Recommended modifications to the LTP with scientific justifications.
      - Recommended management alternatives with analysis and scientific justifications.
  - What will the Collaborative Program communicate through the EC?
    - Recommended studies and projects that reduce uncertainties.
    - Recommended adjustments to management actions backed by scientific evidence.
- LTP
  - The first iteration will be approved in December 2020.
    - It will include the Project Bank, but it will not be prioritized.
  - The LTP will be updated in late spring/early summer 2021.
    - Linkages to draft objectives and uncertainties will have been developed, so the list of potential scientific activities will include top-down objectives and be query-able using filters.
    - In the future LTP, objectives will be linked to uncertainties, uncertainties will be linked to hypotheses, and hypotheses will be linked to projects.
    - Projects will be categorized by type, focus, necessary water conditions, reach, authority, etc.
      - The PST needs input from the EC to fill out the authority of each project.
- **Action Item:** The PST will schedule the first SAMC meeting
- **Action Item:** The PST will notify SAMC applicants of the EC's decision on SAMC membership
- **Action Item:** The PST will schedule one-on-one meetings with EC representatives to discuss comments on the S&AM Plan and signatory requests for the Long-Term Plan
- **Action Item:** The EC will provide comments on the S&AM Plan to the PST
- **Action Item:** The PST will provide final S&AM Plan and Long-Term Plan for approval at the December 17th meeting

### **Announcements**

- There is a Rio Grande Compact Commission meeting on November 12<sup>th</sup>. For more information, visit the Office of the State Engineer Interstate Stream Commission website.
- The Collaborative Program's 2020 Science Symposium is scheduled for December 1-3, 2020. It will be a series of half-day Zoom events. An agenda will be sent out in the next week or two.

**Public Comment**

No public comments were received.

**Meeting Summary and Action Items Review**

- Debbie L. reviewed meeting action items.
- The next meeting is scheduled for December 17, 2020 from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM.

## Meeting Participants

Participant	Organization
Alan Hatch	Pueblo of Santa Ana
Andy Dean	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Anne Marken	Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District
Bill Grantham	New Mexico Office of the Attorney General
Catherine Murphy	Program Support Team
Dale Strickland	Program Support Team
Debbie Lee	Program Support Team
Debra Hill	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Elizabeth Anderson	Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority
Jennifer Faler	U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Jim Wilber	U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
John Stomp	Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority
Julie Dickey	Program Support Team
Kate Mendoza	Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority
Katrina Johns	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Kim Eichhorst	Bosque Ecosystem Monitoring Program
Luke Pierpont	Buckman Direct Diversion
Lynette Giesen	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Mark Kelly	Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority
Matthew Wunder	New Mexico Department of Game and Fish
Michelle Tuineau	Program Support Team
Mike Marcus	Assessment Payers Association of the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District
Mo Hobbs	Albuquerque-Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority
Page Pegram	New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission
Ryan Gronewold	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Shawn Sartorius	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Shay Howlin	Program Support Team
Thomas Turner	University of New Mexico
Wayne Pullan	U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

## **Recommendations to the Executive Committee on Science and Adaptive Management Committee Membership**

At the Executive Committee (EC) meeting on September 1, 2020, an administrative ad hoc group was formed and charged with reviewing applications for Science and Adaptive Management Committee (SAMC) membership. The administrative ad hoc group reviewing applications was comprised of the following members:

- Anne Marken, Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District (MRGCD)
- Grace Haggerty, New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission
- Jim Wilber, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation)
- Kate Mendoza, Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority (ABCWUA)
- Vicky Ryan, participating in place of Shawn Sartorius, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)
- Janet Jarratt, Assessment Payers Association of the MRGCD

The administrative ad hoc group met on October 7, 2020. Sixteen applications from fourteen individuals were received and reviewed. Two applicants submitted applications for two positions. Below is a summary of the recommendations provided by the administrative ad hoc group to the EC:

- **Aquatic Ecologist**
  - Mo Hobbs, Water Resources Scientist, ABCWUA
    - Mo has worked on a variety of Rio Grande silvery minnow (RGSM) projects with a number of different organizations. She would also bring a fresh perspective to discussions.
  - Thomas Archdeacon, Fisheries Biologist, USFWS
    - Thomas understands the research history regarding the RGSM and has an extensive breadth of technical knowledge.
- **Terrestrial Ecologist**
  - Dave Moore, Wildlife Biologist, Reclamation
    - Dave has extensive expertise with both the SWFL and YBCU species and could bring an outside perspective to the SAMC.
- **Ecosystem Function Expert**
  - Meaghan Conway, Aquatic and Riparian Habitat Specialist, N.M. Department of Game and Fish
    - Meaghan has a wide range of expertise and a diverse background. In her application, she noted that she enjoyed summarizing scientific information.
- **Hydrologist**
  - Ryan Gronewold, Planning Branch Chief & Engineer, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)
    - In the initial round of applications, there were no applicants for the hydrology position. The administrative ad hoc group requested that the Program Support Team reach out to USACE for potential applicants.
    - Ryan has a deep knowledge of the hydrology of the Middle Rio Grande.

- **Flexible Specialties**

- *Climate Science*: Megan Friggens, Research Ecologist, USDA Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Research Station
  - Megan has expertise in climate science, which would be helpful for long-term planning. She can also bring an outside perspective.
- *Geomorphology*: Ari Posner, Physical Scientist, Reclamation
  - Ari has a strong background with geomorphology in the Middle Rio Grande, including sediment transport.
- *Statistics and Modeling*: Ara Winter, Data Manager, Bosque Ecosystem Monitoring Program
  - A statistician would be a strong addition to the SAMC. Ara brings an ecosystem approach to statistics and modeling.



# Middle Rio Grande Endangered Species Collaborative Program

*Est. 2000*

## **Charter for Science and Adaptive Management Committee of the Middle Rio Grande Endangered Species Collaborative Program**

### **I. Overview**

The Middle Rio Grande Endangered Species Collaborative Program (MRGESCP) By-Laws state that the Executive Committee (EC) may establish committees and ad hoc groups to carry out activities that further the MRGESCP's mission and goals. Upon approval of this charter, the EC establishes the Science and Adaptive Management Committee (SAMC).

The SAMC will operate under defined schedules, objectives, and tasks established in coordination with the EC. Methods for accomplishing established activities will be identified by the SAMC. The Program Support Team (PST) will coordinate with the SAMC to ensure that objectives and work products are clearly defined, assigned tasks are completed, and schedules are met.

The SAMC is not a voting or decision-making group. It will synthesize scientific findings, translate results into recommendations, cite appropriate evidence, and include rationale for any supported differences of opinion within the MRGESCP. Products of the SAMC will be delivered to the EC for approval and next steps. The EC continues to hold decision-making authority for the MRGESCP.

### **II. SAMC Purpose**

The SAMC will coordinate the implementation of MRGESCP-related science initiatives and signatory efforts by defining and delegating tasks to Science and Technical (S&T) Ad Hoc Groups; compiling results from scientific studies, modeling, and monitoring efforts; and translating scientific findings into recommendations for best management practices in the Middle Rio Grande.

### **III. Responsibilities**

The SAMC will be directed by the EC to implement the MRGESCP's Science & Adaptive Management (S&AM) Plan and Long-Term Plan. SAMC responsibilities include:

- Convening and coordinating S&T Ad Hoc Groups to complete tasks in support of the S&AM Plan
- Reviewing MRGESCP-related field studies and modeling/monitoring activities and translating results into best management practices
- Working with the Fiscal Planning Committee to coordinate EC-approved work products (e.g., studies, projects)
- Communicating to the EC the progress of S&AM Plan implementation, including a summary of updates to MRGESCP objectives and tools, with associated scientific justifications
- Regularly communicating updates at each EC meeting, which includes:
  - Presenting potential work products and the status of in-progress work products

- Proposing S&T Ad Hoc Groups with draft charges for EC review and approval
- Proposing implementation schedules for EC approval
- Suggesting amendments to the S&AM Plan
- Providing the documented range of SAMC opinions, as necessary, for EC review and consideration of next steps
- Providing new science-based recommendations for best research and management practices
- Providing new recommendations for independent peer review

#### **IV. Membership**

The SAMC shall consist of no more than eight (8) subject matter expert members, appointed by the EC. These positions include:

- Four (4) specified subject matter experts with the following areas of expertise:
  1. Aquatic ecology
  2. Terrestrial ecology
  3. Ecosystem
  4. Hydrology
- Up to four (4) flexible subject matter experts selected based on science-related needs, as determined by the EC. The SAMC may provide input on which areas of expertise would benefit the group, but the ultimate decision will be made by the EC.

One (1) EC member shall serve in an ex officio and advisory capacity to the SAMC. This position will not count towards the eight (8)-count membership, and the member will not participate in scientific deliberations as a technical expert.

The SAMC will be facilitated by the MRGESCP Science Coordinator and supported by the Program Support Team (PST). Members of the PST will not count towards the eight (8)-count membership and will not participate in scientific deliberations as technical experts.

#### **V. Application Process**

The EC, in coordination with the Science Coordinator and Program Support Team, will oversee and administer the application process. Interested individuals shall submit a formal application to the Science Coordinator. Individuals may apply for more than one SAMC position and must submit one application per position. Applications will be accepted from experts both internal and external to the MRGESCP.

The EC will review submitted applications and each EC representative will cast one vote per SAMC position. The EC will nominate EC members for the ex officio position and vote to fill the position. The EC has final decision-making authority on SAMC membership.

#### **VI. Membership Terms**

SAMC members shall be appointed by the EC for an initial two (2)-year term. Sitting SAMC members may apply for one (1)-year term limit extensions. Individuals may not serve on the SAMC for more than four (4) consecutive years, except as authorized by the EC.

## **VII. Roles**

The eight (8) subject matter expert members will:

- Be chosen based on their technical qualifications and will serve as technical experts in their respective fields
- Not represent a signatory or organization as members of the SAMC
- Safeguard and support the scientific rigor of MRGESCP investigations and initiatives

The EC ex officio position will:

- Serve in an advisory capacity to the SAMC
- Provide the larger MRGESCP perspective
- Ensure topics and recommendations are within the scope decided by the EC
- Provide direction for completion of summary documents to the EC

The Facilitator (MRGESCP Science Coordinator) will:

- Coordinate meetings
- Facilitate the SAMC administrative functions, including:
  - Drafting S&T Ad Hoc Group charges
  - Coordinating with the FPC, S&T Ad Hoc Groups, and any independent peer review tasks
  - Relaying updates and recommendations to the EC

## **VIII. SAMC Meeting Operations**

The SAMC shall meet at minimum once per quarter. The SAMC may meet more frequently if determined necessary based on work assignments. Formal agendas will be drafted for review and approval at each meeting. The PST will post SAMC meetings on the Program Portal event calendar and include draft agendas and read-aheads for download. Meeting agendas and read-aheads will be made available to SAMC members no later than one week in advance of the meeting date.

SAMC meetings shall be open to an audience of non-SAMC members. Only SAMC members may participate in meeting deliberations. Prior to the meeting, the SAMC may invite Ad Hoc Group leaders and/or outside experts to participate on specific agenda items, as needed. At each meeting, time will be included on the agenda for non-member comment. Non-members who wish to provide comment will have up to three (3) minutes to speak during this time, or they can choose to submit written comments to the Facilitator at any time.

The PST shall record formal meeting minutes that will be used to document meeting deliberations and communicate activities to MRGESCP members and external interested parties. Finalized agendas, read-aheads, and minutes will be included in the MRGESCP Annual Administrative Record and stored on the Program Portal.



## **IX. Science & Technical Ad Hoc Groups**

The SAMC shall convene S&T Ad Hoc Groups to carry out discrete tasks necessary for executing the MRGESCP S&AM Plan and Long-Term Plan. These tasks include:

- Completing executive summaries to delineate alternative hypotheses regarding critical uncertainties, as needed
- Developing, refining, and updating conceptual ecological models
- Developing scopes of work to test research hypotheses and/or collect necessary data
- Compiling and synthesizing the results of field studies, monitoring, and modeling to develop recommendations
- Analyzing data to address hypotheses linked to scientific uncertainties
- Updating the S&AM Plan as new information becomes available and new questions emerge

The SAMC shall approve a charge for each S&T Ad Hoc Group that specifies:

- An assigned task
- A deadline to complete the assigned task
- Deliverables to the SAMC
- Membership

Once the task of a S&T Ad Hoc Group is complete and approved by the SAMC, the Ad Hoc Group will be sunsetted.

## **X. Recommendations to the EC**

The SAMC will not be a decision-making body. When making science-based recommendations to the EC, the SAMC will strive to operate by consensus. In a report to the EC, the SAMC will include:

- (If consensus was reached) The consensus recommendation with scientific justification
- Considered alternatives to a recommendation
- (If consensus was not reached) Documentation of competing positions with appropriate scientific justification

Ultimately, the EC that determines the final recommendations of the MRGESCP.

If there is not a consensus recommendation from the SAMC, the EC may:

- Direct the SAMC to form a S&T Ad Hoc Group to investigate the issue in more detail
- Determine, with input from the SAMC, there is a need for independent peer review

## **XI. Annual Update and Evaluation of the SAMC by the EC**

The MRGESCP Science Coordinator shall provide a formal annual update to the EC that summarizes:

- Accomplishments from the past year
- Status of the SAMC Work Plan
- Updates to MRGESCP science and adaptive management tools (e.g., conceptual ecological models, geospatial mapper, etc.)

- Any recommended amendments to the S&AM Plan or Long-Term Plan, including MRGESCP objectives

As part of the annual update, the EC shall evaluate SAMC membership. If there are empty seats on the SAMC, the EC may choose to seek applicants. The EC may also review requests for (1)-year term limit extensions or extensions past the limit of four (4) consecutive years.

## **XII. Conflict of Interest**

SAMC members will abide by all federal, state, tribal, and local agency rules and regulations regarding conflict of interest.

## **XIII. Amendment of the SAMC Charter**

This charter may be revised and amended as deemed appropriate by the MRGESCP By-Laws. Potential amendments will be open to input from the SAMC and must be approved by the EC.

# Middle Rio Grande Endangered Species Collaborative Program's

## ***2020 Science & Adaptive Management Committee (SAMC) Selection***



*27 October 2020*

*Program Support Team presentation to Executive Committee*

## SAMC Charter highlights

- ***Purpose***: The SAMC will coordinate the implementation of MRGESCP-related science initiatives and signatory efforts by defining and delegating tasks to Science and Technical (S&T) Ad Hoc Groups; compiling results from scientific studies, modeling, and monitoring efforts; and translating scientific findings into recommendations for best management alternatives in the Middle Rio Grande.
- ***Membership***: Up to 8 scientists including 4 specified subject matter experts in Aquatic Ecology, Terrestrial Ecology, Ecosystem Function and Hydrology; and up to 4 flexible subject matter experts; plus 1 *ex officio* EC member and 1 facilitator (PST Science Coordinator)

## **SAMC Preliminary Tasks for 2020-2021**

- Orientation and review of S&AM Plan, CP Structure and AM Tools
- Present a topic at the Science Symposium?
- Organize MRGESCP Objectives Workshops – define objectives to address CP goals and guide scientific activities
- Analyze and dissect remainder of Population Monitoring Work Group tasks into manageable questions; Develop charges and convene Technical Ad Hoc Groups to address each
- Determine components of AM database requiring input from subject matter experts and organize workshops/ad hoc groups
- Help develop and update the Long-Term Plan

## 2020 SAMC Membership Recommendations

### Administrative Ad Hoc Group:

Anne Marken (MRGCD)

Grace Haggerty (NMISC)

Jim Wilber (Reclamation)

Kate Mendoza (ABCWUA)

Janet Jarratt (APA) *unable to attend*

Vicky Ryan (USFWS)

### Recommended SAMC Members:

Mo Hobbs (Aquatic Ecology)

Thomas Archdeacon (Aquatic Ecology)

Dave Moore (Terrestrial Ecology)

Megan Conway (Ecosystem Function)

Ryan Gronewold (Hydrology)

Megan Friggens (Climate Science)

Ari Posner (Geomorphology)

Ara Winter (Statistics & Modeling)

Alan Hatch (EC *ex officio*)

# Middle Rio Grande Endangered Species Collaborative Program's

## ***Draft Science & Adaptive Management Plan***



*27 October 2020*

*Program Support Team presentation to Executive Committee*

## Science & AM Plan and Long-Term Plan

- Together, the Science & AM Plan and the Long-Term Plan provide the framework for implementation of the Collaborative Program's science and AM process.
  - The **Science & AM Plan** defines the MRGESCP's role and associated processes in providing science-based recommendations for management of the MRG. It describes the MRGESCP's science and AM process.
  - The **Long-Term Plan** is an evolving communication and planning tool that is generated by organizing scientific activities into periodic work plans (i.e., annual, biennial, triennial). It is heavily informed by the AM Database.

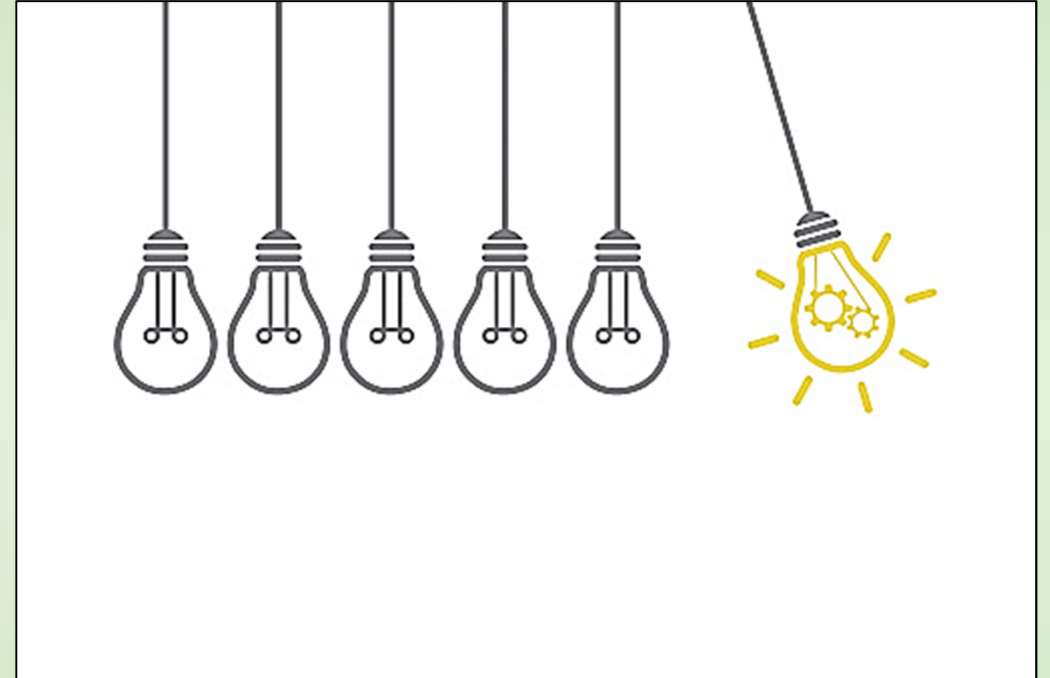


# Science & Adaptive Management Process - Next Steps

- ✓ **AMWG Review:** August 20, 2020 – September 17, 2020
- ✓ **PST & AMWG Individual Review Meetings:** August 27, 2020 – September 17, 2020
- ✓ **PST Revision:** September 17 – 29, 2020
- ✓ **Revised Draft to the MRGESCP:** September 30, 2020 – October 7, 2020
- ✓ **PST Revision & WEST Technical Editing:** October 8 – 16, 2020
- **Final Draft S&AM Plan to EC for Review:** October 22, 2020 – December 2, 2020
- **First SAMC Meeting:** November 2020
- **Draft Long-Term Plan (LTP) Framework to the SAMC:** November 2020
- **PST & EC Individual Review Meetings:** October 26, 2020 – November 18, 2020
- **PST Revision:** November 18, 2020 – December 4, 2020
- **Final S&AM Plan Draft to EC as Read Ahead:** Week of December 7, 2020
- **Objectives Workshop:** Week of December 7, 2020
- **EC Meeting – Final S&AM Plan and LTP Approval:** December 17, 2020
- **Operational AM Database:** Spring 2021
- **LTP Update:** Late Spring/Summer 2021

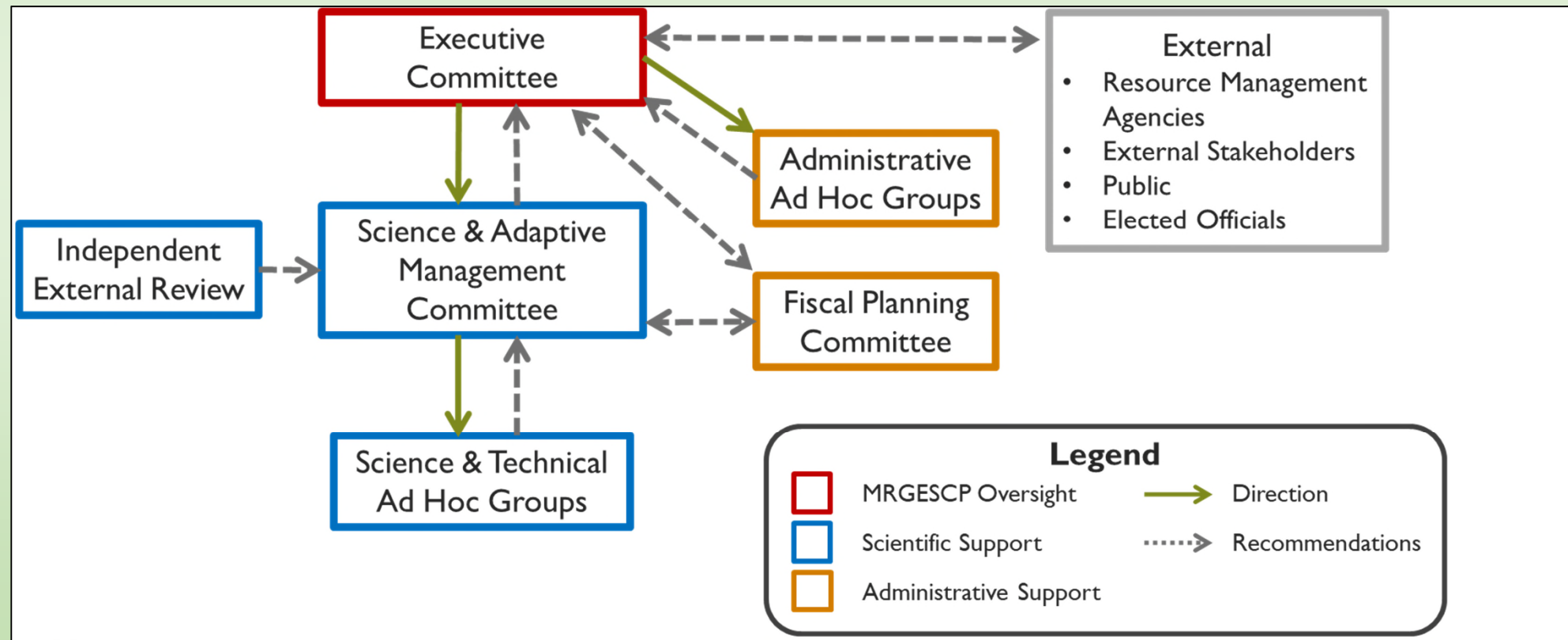
# MRGESCP Science & Adaptive Management Plan – What's New?

- I. Re-organization with the Science and Adaptive Management Committee
- II. Construction of an Adaptive Management Database and Project Bank
- III. Commitment to iterative learning



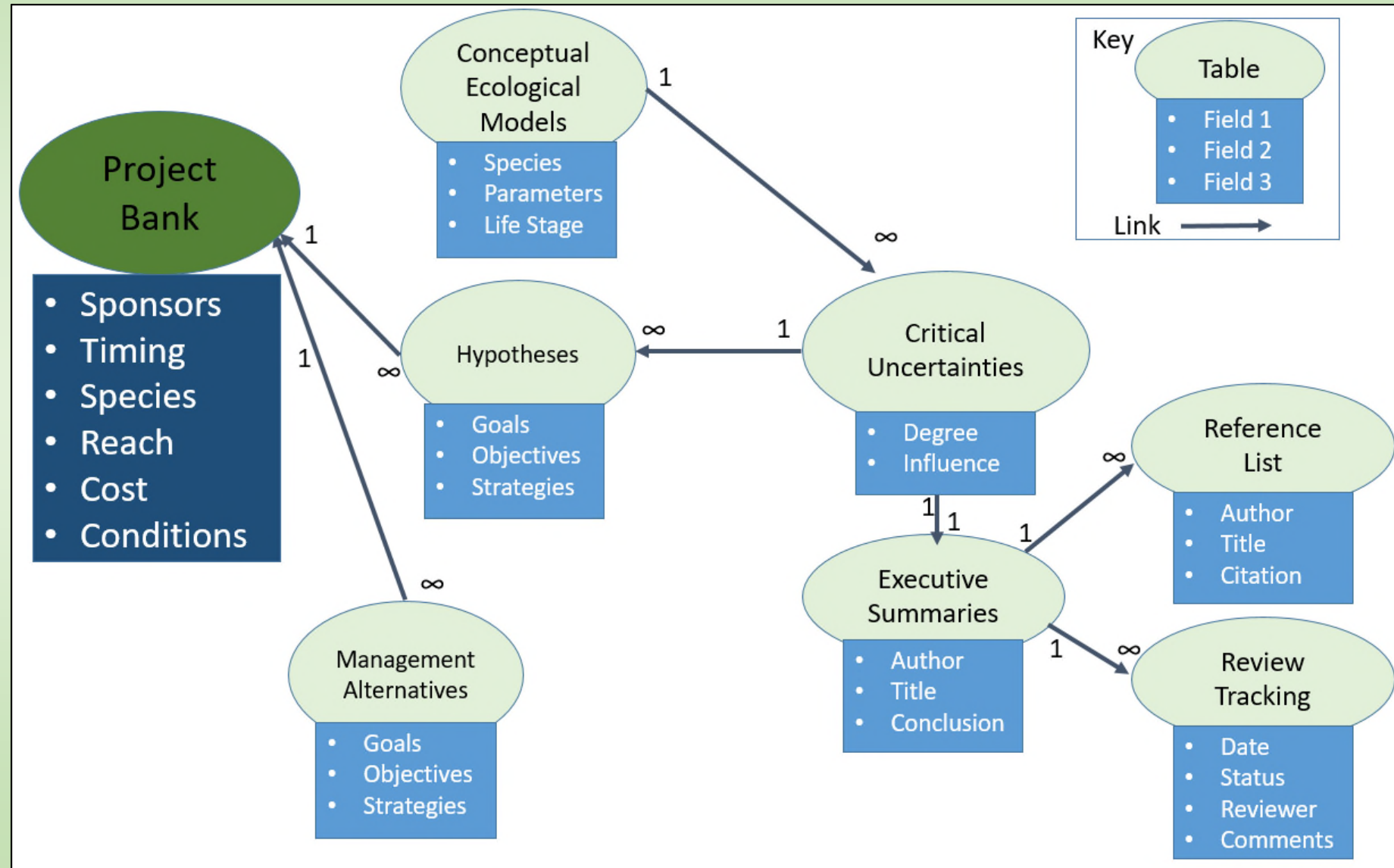
# MRGESCP Science & Adaptive Management Plan – What's New?

- I. Re-organization of the Collaborative Program's structure, with the Science and Adaptive Management Committee translating and relating scientific evidence to the Executive Committee.



# MRGESCP Science & Adaptive Management Plan – What's New?

II. Construction of an AM Database to store and disseminate accurate, up-to-date information on AM uncertainties, projects, and monitoring information, and to facilitate transparent prioritization and support informed decision making.



# Adaptive Management Database FAQ

## ❖ Who is developing the AM Database?

*The Program Support Team (PST) is building the AM Database and establishing the functional linkages that make it relational. Linkages can be reviewed and modified by Administrative and Technical Ad Hoc Groups.*

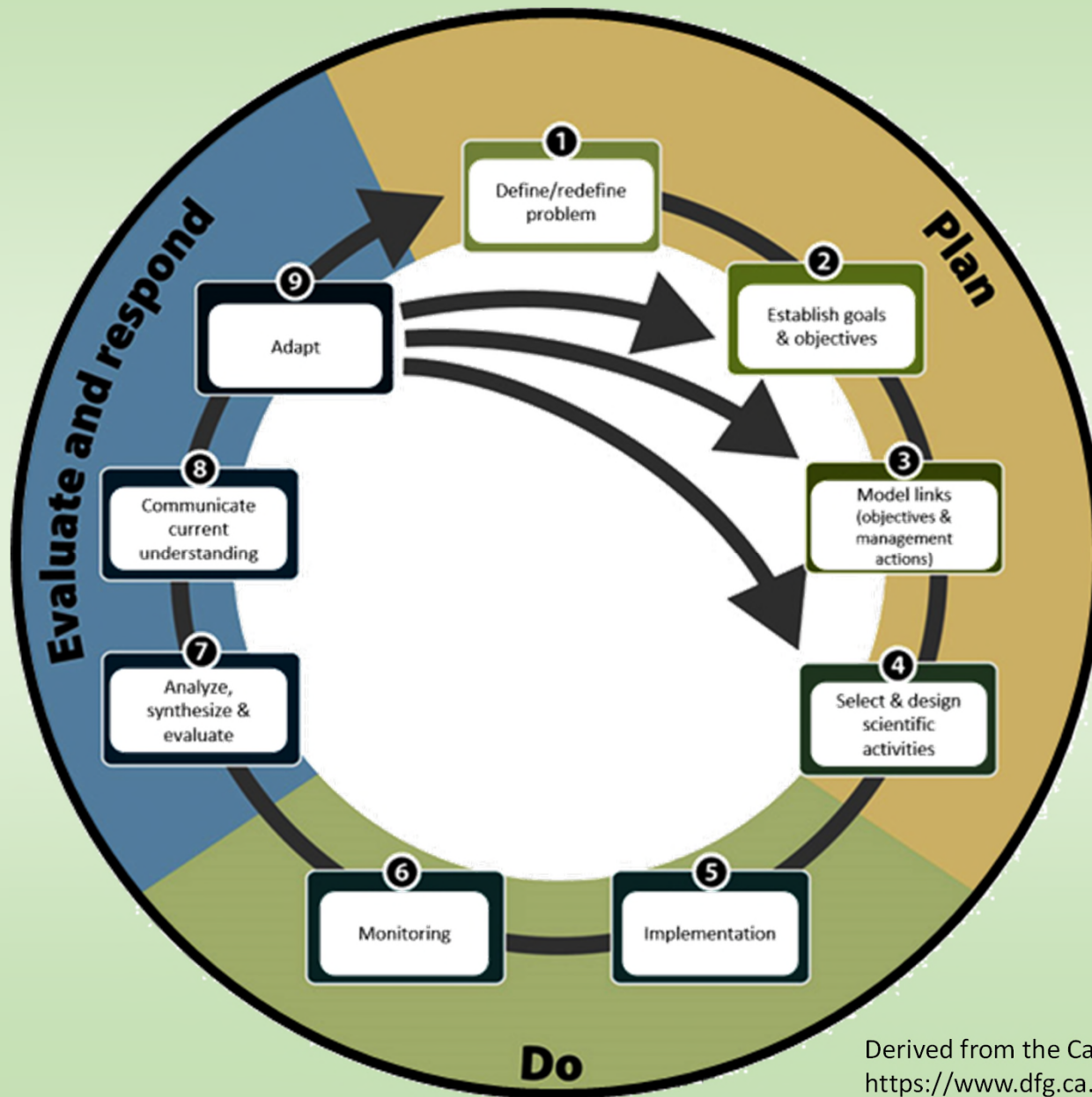
## ❖ On what platform is the AM Database being developed?

*Initially, the AM Database is being formatted using MS Access (for convenience). Once formatting is complete, it can be transitioned to a SQL server (for stability).*

## ❖ Who will manage and host the AM Database?

*During development, the PST will manage and host the AM Database. Once established, the Collaborative Program can decide between the Program Portal or a cloud-based hosting service. Scoping for these and additional options can be provided by the PST.*

# MRGESCP Science & Adaptive Management Plan – What's New?



III. Commitment to iterative learning through tracking, evaluating, and incorporating scientific evidence into Collaborative Program objectives, experimental designs and decision-support tools.



# MRGESCP Science & Adaptive Management Plan – What will the SAMC communicate to the EC?

- ❖ Summary of modifications to MRGESCP objectives and tools (e.g., CEMs) *with scientific justifications.*
- ❖ Recommended modifications to the Long-Term Plan *with scientific justifications.*
- ❖ Recommended management alternatives *with analysis and scientific justifications.*



# MRGESCP Science & Adaptive Management Plan – What will the MRGESCP communicate?



- ❖ Recommend studies and projects that reduce critical, management-relevant uncertainties (i.e., Long-Term Plan)
- ❖ Recommend adjustments to management actions backed by scientific evidence



# Long-Term Plan

- LTP first iteration – December 2020
  - The Project Bank with linkages to draft objectives and identified uncertainties
  - Will not be prioritized
- LTP update – late Spring/early Summer 2021
  - Top-down from agreed upon objectives
  - Query-able using different filters

# Long-Term Plan Linkages

- Objectives → Uncertainties → Projects
- Sortable and query-able by:
  - Project type
  - Project focus
  - Necessary physical conditions
  - Reaches
  - Authority
- Also query-able by:
  - Cost estimate
  - Temporal scale



# Middle Rio Grande Endangered Species Collaborative Program

*Est. 2000*

## **Charter for Science and Adaptive Management Committee of the Middle Rio Grande Endangered Species Collaborative Program**

***Approved by the Executive Committee on October 27, 2020***

### **I. Overview**

The Middle Rio Grande Endangered Species Collaborative Program (MRGESCP) By-Laws state that the Executive Committee (EC) may establish committees and ad hoc groups to carry out activities that further the MRGESCP's mission and goals. Upon approval of this charter, the EC establishes the Science and Adaptive Management Committee (SAMC).

The SAMC will operate under defined schedules, objectives, and tasks established in coordination with the EC. Methods for accomplishing established activities will be identified by the SAMC. The Program Support Team (PST) will coordinate with the SAMC to ensure that objectives and work products are clearly defined, assigned tasks are completed, and schedules are met.

The SAMC is not a voting or decision-making group. It will synthesize scientific findings, translate results into recommendations, cite appropriate evidence, and include rationale for any supported differences of opinion within the MRGESCP. Products of the SAMC will be delivered to the EC for approval and next steps. The EC continues to hold decision-making authority for the MRGESCP.

### **II. SAMC Purpose**

The SAMC will coordinate the implementation of MRGESCP-related science initiatives and signatory efforts by defining and delegating tasks to Science and Technical (S&T) Ad Hoc Groups; compiling results from scientific studies, modeling, and monitoring efforts; and translating scientific findings into recommendations for best management practices in the Middle Rio Grande.

### **III. Responsibilities**

The SAMC will be directed by the EC to implement the MRGESCP's Science & Adaptive Management (S&AM) Plan and Long-Term Plan. SAMC responsibilities include:

- Convening and coordinating S&T Ad Hoc Groups to complete tasks in support of the S&AM Plan
- Reviewing MRGESCP-related field studies and modeling/monitoring activities and translating results into best management alternatives
- Working with the Fiscal Planning Committee to coordinate EC-approved work products (e.g., studies, projects)
- Communicating to the EC the progress of S&AM Plan implementation, including a summary of updates to MRGESCP objectives and tools, with associated scientific justifications

- Regularly communicating updates at each EC meeting, which includes:
  - Presenting potential work products and the status of in-progress work products
  - Informing the EC on formation of S&T Ad Hoc Groups with assigned tasks and deadlines
  - Proposing implementation schedules for EC approval
  - Suggesting amendments to the S&AM Plan
  - Providing the documented range of SAMC opinions, as necessary, for EC review and consideration of next steps
  - Providing new science-based recommendations for best research and management alternatives
  - Providing new recommendations for independent peer review

#### **IV. Membership**

The SAMC shall consist of no more than eight (8) subject matter expert members, appointed by the EC. These positions include:

- Four (4) specified subject matter experts with the following areas of expertise:
  1. Aquatic ecology
  2. Terrestrial ecology
  3. Ecosystem
  4. Hydrology
- Up to four (4) flexible subject matter experts selected based on science-related needs, as determined by the EC. The SAMC may provide input on which areas of expertise would benefit the group, but the ultimate decision will be made by the EC.

One (1) EC member shall serve in an ex officio and advisory capacity to the SAMC. This position will not count towards the eight (8)-count membership, and the member will not participate in scientific deliberations as a technical expert.

The SAMC will be facilitated by the MRGESCP Science Coordinator and supported by the Program Support Team (PST). Members of the PST will not count towards the eight (8)-count membership.

#### **V. Application Process**

The EC, in coordination with the Science Coordinator and Program Support Team, will oversee and administer the application process. Interested individuals shall submit a formal application to the Science Coordinator. Individuals may apply for more than one SAMC position and must submit one application per position. Applications will be accepted from experts both internal and external to the MRGESCP.

The EC will review submitted applications and each EC representative will cast one vote per SAMC position. The EC will nominate EC members for the ex officio position and vote to fill the position. The EC has final decision-making authority on SAMC membership.

## **VI. Membership Terms**

SAMC members shall be appointed by the EC for an initial two (2)-year term. Sitting SAMC members may apply for one (1)-year term limit extensions. Individuals may not serve on the SAMC for more than four (4) consecutive years, except as authorized by the EC.

## **VII. Membership Vacancies**

If a vacancy on the SAMC occurs mid-term, it will remain open unless the EC determines a need to fill the position for the remainder of the term.

## **VIII. Roles**

The up to eight (8) subject matter expert members will:

- Be chosen based on their technical qualifications and will serve as technical experts in their respective fields
- Not represent a signatory or organization as members of the SAMC
- Safeguard and support the scientific rigor of MRGESCP investigations and initiatives

The EC ex officio position will:

- Serve in an advisory capacity to the SAMC on policy
- Provide the larger MRGESCP perspective
- Ensure topics and recommendations are within the scope decided by the EC
- Provide direction for completion of summary documents to the EC

The Facilitator (MRGESCP Science Coordinator) will:

- Coordinate meetings
- Facilitate the SAMC administrative functions, including:
  - Drafting S&T Ad Hoc Group charges
  - Coordinating with the FPC, S&T Ad Hoc Groups, and any independent peer reviewers
  - Relaying updates and recommendations to the EC

## **IX. SAMC Meeting Operations**

The SAMC shall meet at minimum once per quarter. The SAMC may meet more frequently if determined necessary based on work assignments. Formal agendas will be drafted for review and approval at each meeting. The PST will post SAMC meetings on the Program Portal event calendar and include draft agendas and read-aheads for download. Meeting agendas and read-aheads will be made available to SAMC members no later than one week in advance of the meeting date.

SAMC meetings shall be open to an audience of non-SAMC members. Only SAMC members may participate in meeting deliberations. Prior to the meeting, the SAMC may invite Ad Hoc Group leaders and/or outside experts to participate on specific agenda items, as needed. At each meeting, time will be included on the agenda for non-member comment. Non-members who wish to provide comment will have up to three (3) minutes to speak during this time, unless included on the agenda

or at the specific request of the SAMC, or they can choose to submit written comments to the Facilitator at any time.

The PST shall record formal meeting minutes that will be used to document meeting deliberations and communicate activities to MRGESCP members and external interested parties. Finalized agendas, read-aheads, and minutes will be included in the MRGESCP Annual Administrative Record and stored on the Program Portal.

#### **X. Science & Technical Ad Hoc Groups**

The SAMC shall form S&T Ad Hoc Groups charged with carrying out discrete tasks necessary for executing the MRGESCP S&AM Plan and Long-Term Plan. These tasks include:

- Addressing specified scientific uncertainties
- Completing executive summaries to delineate alternative hypotheses regarding critical uncertainties, as needed
- Developing, refining, and updating conceptual ecological models
- Developing scopes of work to test research hypotheses and/or collect necessary data
- Compiling and synthesizing the results of field studies, monitoring, and modeling to develop recommendations
- Analyzing data to address hypotheses linked to scientific uncertainties
- Updating the S&AM Plan as new information becomes available and new questions emerge

The SAMC shall approve a charge for each S&T Ad Hoc Group that specifies:

- An assigned task
- A deadline to complete the assigned task
- Deliverables to the SAMC
- Membership

Once the task of a S&T Ad Hoc Group is complete and approved by the SAMC, the Ad Hoc Group will be sunsetted.

#### **XI. Recommendations to the EC**

The SAMC will not be a decision-making body. When making science-based recommendations to the EC, the SAMC will strive to operate by consensus. In a report to the EC, the SAMC will include:

- (If consensus was reached) The consensus recommendation with scientific justification
- Considered alternatives to a recommendation
- (If consensus was not reached) Documentation of competing positions with appropriate scientific justification

Ultimately, the EC that determines the final recommendations of the MRGESCP.

If there is not a consensus recommendation from the SAMC, the EC may:

- Direct the SAMC to form a S&T Ad Hoc Group to investigate the issue in more detail
- Determine, with input from the SAMC, there is a need for independent peer review

## **XII. Annual Update and Evaluation of the SAMC by the EC**

The MRGESCP Science Coordinator shall provide a formal annual update to the EC that summarizes:

- Accomplishments from the past year
- Status of the SAMC Work Plan
- Updates to MRGESCP science and adaptive management tools (e.g., conceptual ecological models, geospatial mapper, etc.)
- Any recommended amendments to the S&AM Plan or Long-Term Plan, including MRGESCP objectives

As part of the annual update, the EC shall evaluate SAMC membership. If there are empty seats on the SAMC, the EC may choose to seek applicants. The EC may also review requests for (1)-year term limit extensions or extensions past the limit of four (4) consecutive years.

## **XIII. Conflict of Interest**

SAMC members will abide by all federal, state, tribal, and local agency rules and regulations regarding conflict of interest. SAMC members are required to recuse themselves when they identify a potential financial conflict of interest.

## **XIV. Amendment of the SAMC Charter**

This charter may be revised and amended as deemed appropriate by the MRGESCP By-Laws. Potential amendments will be open to input from the SAMC and must be approved by the EC.