

Fiscal Planning Committee Meeting
January 27, 2022

Meeting Materials:

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[FY22 USACE Priority Project Cost Estimates \[read-ahead\]](#)

[MRGESCP FPC Annual Evaluation Form \[read-ahead\]](#)

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Fiscal Planning Committee Meeting
January 27, 2022

See the following meeting material on the page below:

Agenda



Middle Rio Grande Endangered Species Collaborative Program

Est. 2000

Fiscal Planning Committee (FPC) January 27, 2022 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Location: Zoom Meeting

<https://west-inc.zoom.us/j/8983593120?pwd=bU54V3NGeG93bXVISlJFcElzcE9wZz09>

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

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

Meeting Objectives:

- Review action items from the November 2021 FPC meeting.
- Discuss U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) FY22 funding.
- Review USACE priority projects to fund.
- Hear an update on the state of Bosque Ecosystem Monitoring Program (BEMP) funding, and discuss options.
- Discuss 2021 Annual Program Evaluation process.

1:00 – 1:10	Welcome, Introductions, and Agenda Review <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Decision: Approve January 27, 2022 meeting agenda	<i>Grace Haggerty, Non-Federal Co-Chair; Debra Hill, Federal Co-Chair</i>
1:10 – 1:15	November 2021 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Action items review <p>Read-Ahead:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Draft November 19, 2021 Meeting Minutes✓ Decision: Approve November 19, 2021 meeting minutes	<i>Program Support Team (PST)</i>
1:15 – 1:25	Summary of December 2021 Executive Committee (EC) Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Updated Long-Term Plan• Annual Program Evaluation	<i>Debbie Lee, PST FPC Co-Chairs</i>
1:25 – 1:35	Update on USACE FY22 Funding	<i>Michael Porter, USACE</i>
1:35 – 2:00	FY22 Priority Projects to be Funded <p>Read-Ahead:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> FY22 USACE Priority Project Cost Estimates	<i>Facilitated Discussion</i>
2:00 – 2:10	Break	
2:10 – 2:30	BEMP Funding <ul style="list-style-type: none">• State of BEMP funding	<i>Kim Eichhorst, BEMP Facilitated Discussion</i>

- Current BEMP funders
- 2:30 – 2:45 **2021 Annual Program Evaluation** *Debbie Lee, PST*
- Survey to be distributed
 - Individual interviews
- Read-Ahead:
- FPC Annual Program Evaluation Form
 - **Action Item:** FPC participants will return completed annual program evaluations to the PST
 - **Action Item:** The PST will reach out to individual members to schedule one-on-one interviews
- 2:45 – 2:50 **Announcements**
- 2:50 – 3:00 **Meeting Summary and Action Items** *FPC Co-Chairs*
- 3:00 **Adjourn**

[Link to full Meeting Materials List](#)

Fiscal Planning Committee Meeting
January 27, 2022

See the following meeting material on the page below:

Minutes



Middle Rio Grande Endangered Species Collaborative Program

Est. 2000

Fiscal Planning Committee (FPC) Meeting Minutes

January 27, 2022; 1:00 PM–3:00 PM
Location: Zoom Meeting

Decisions:

- ✓ Approval of the January 27, 2022 FPC meeting agenda
- ✓ Approval of the November 19, 2021 FPC meeting minutes

Action Items:

WHO	ACTION ITEM	BY WHEN
Program Support Team (PST)	Send out the FPC annual evaluation form	1/31/2022
FPC	Return completed annual evaluation forms	2/11/2022
PST	Assist Kim Eichhost, Bosque Ecosystem Monitoring Program (BEMP), by making introductions with noted signatories regarding funding	1/31/2022
PST	Inform Executive Committee Co-Chairs of FPC funding recommendations in the event that U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) remains under a continuing resolution authority	2/3/2022
Anne Marken	Discuss funding the Program Portal, Alameda Gage, and BEMP with Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District (MRGCD)	2/11/2022
PST and Kim Eichhorst	Send list of BEMP sites and data collected to the Science and Adaptive Management Committee (SAMC) for prioritization	2/11/2022
PST and FPC Co-Chairs	Discuss the need for another FPC meeting	2/11/2022

Next Meeting: May 2022

Collaborative Opportunities:

- ✚ Anne Marken will be researching MRGCD's potential to collaborate further with BEMP and the Middle Rio Grande Endangered Species Collaborative Program (MRGESCP) through additional funding.
- ✚ Signatories should identify the USACE gages providing data for their work to assess the priority gages to fund.
- ✚ Signatories should identify the Program Portal datasets they find most useful to determine which to prioritize for updates.
- ✚ Other signatories may have funding capability for USACE Fiscal Year 2022 (FY22) priority projects. Signatories should contact Debbie Lee, Program Manager on the PST, to discuss

funding opportunities. Debbie L. will also be actively reaching out to funding agencies to discuss opportunities and options.

- ✚ Signatories should identify which BEMP sites/services are most useful to them to inform BEMP's prioritization of sites and services. BEMP can also use the help of the SAMC to determine priority sites and datasets.
- ✚ Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority (ABCWUA) has previously funded BEMP, and will explore options to support BEMP again.
- ✚ BEMP will be contacting other signatories and other State agencies for potential funding.
- ✚ BEMP provides data for countless groups in New Mexico and loss of that data would have detrimental effects. Signatories with funding capabilities or other resources should contact Debbie L. with interest in supporting BEMP.
- ✚ All FPC members have the opportunity to help improve the MRGESCP's operations by participating in the 2021 Annual Program Evaluation.

Meeting Minutes

Welcome, Introductions, and Agenda Review

The FPC Non-Federal Co-Chair, Grace Haggerty, opened the meeting, led introductions and reviewed the January 27, 2022 meeting agenda. The FY22 omnibus appropriations bill had not been signed and USACE may be on a continuing resolution for FY22, which diminishes funding for MRGESCP-related activities. The FPC will be discussing strategies to support USACE.

The PST introduced new member Kevin Shelley.

- ✓ **Decision:** The FPC approved the January 27, 2022 FPC meeting agenda

November 19, 2021 Meeting Review

Debbie L. reviewed minutes and action items from the November 19, 2021 meeting. Summary updates to the November action items are below:

- The Executive Committee (EC) Co-Chairs were informed Grace H. and Debra Hill would be staying on as the FPC Non-Federal and Federal Co-Chairs, respectively.
- There were no comments from the FPC on the Signatory Activity Input Form.
- The PST and Science and Adaptive Management Information System (SAMIS) Development Team have discussed further development to build cost-share and additional tracking capabilities. Those developments would not take place until after March, when the current PST contractor, WEST, Inc., begins their new contract.
- The PST has been collecting Signatory Activity Input Forms for 2021.
- The revised cost share memo from U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) was sent to the EC.

- ✓ **Decision:** The FPC approved the November 19, 2021 FPC meeting minutes

Summary of December EC Meeting

Debbie L. gave an update from the EC meeting on December 7, 2021. Summary points are below:

- The EC approved an updated Long-Term Plan, which includes a list of projects recommended by the MRGESCP. The list includes projects USACE intended to fund in 2022.
- The EC approved the Annual Evaluation Process, which is a quick evaluation of program operations to determine if there are improvements that make the MRGESCP more effective, efficient, and relevant.

Update on USACE FY22 Funding

Michael Porter, USACE, updated the FPC on the state of USACE's FY22 funding. The continuing resolution expires February 18, 2022, and USACE anticipates U.S. Congress will take action on or before that date. U.S. Congress may release a budget or USACE will remain under continuing resolution. If a budget is decided, USACE will likely need a minimum of two months before it receives funding for contracts. USACE expected 1.94 million from the President's Budget. If USACE receives a budget, it should be spent within the fiscal year. Once USACE funds its priority contracts, it will fund other activities on its list.

FY22 Priority Projects to be Funded

Debbie L. opened further discussion on USACE's FY22 priority projects. Michael P. provided a spreadsheet with cost estimates for the following priority projects:

- BEMP Site Monitoring (\$427K)
- Program Portal (\$208K)
- Gages at San Marcial, San Acacia, and Rio Puerco (\$175K)
- Rio Grande Nature Center Sediment Gage (\$9K)
- Alameda Gage Water Temperature Probe (\$3K)

Debbie L. is getting a further cost breakdown for the Program Portal from U.S. Geological Survey to determine cost for select priority maintenance and development. Mark Kelly with ABCWUA (current contract holder) stated ABCWUA would be able to continue to fund baseline maintenance (approximately \$15K). Reclamation could also provide Program Portal funding (at approximately \$25K). The revised estimate for maintenance of the Program Portal may be closer to \$75K a year. Priority needs for the Program Portal are to update the datasets and geospatial mapper, and make the search function faster.

Debbie L. spoke with Reclamation and ABCWUA about funding the gages, as they use data from them. Mark K. is not sure if ABCWUA can fund any gages. Anne Marken, MRGCD, stated the MRGCD would have approximately \$35K to put towards projects this year. She will confirm whether the MRGCD can help fund priority projects. MRGCD regularly funds BEMP each year and may be able to allocate more funds to them. NMISC is working on pushing through a contract with BEMP and the University of New Mexico. No additional funding from NMISC is expected. The Alameda gage should be a priority as it has a continuous record. MRGCD may have more funding available after June. Other signatories may have funding capability. Debbie L. has been discussing with individual signatories options on funding projects that would have been funded by USACE if no FY22 budget is passed.

The FPC concluded funding priorities are baseline funding of the Program Portal, BEMP monitoring, and priority gages (e.g., San Marcial, San Acacia, Rio Puerco, and Alameda). The PST will get costs for other priority improvements to the Program Portal in the case additional funding becomes available.

- **Action Item:** The PST will inform EC Co-Chairs of FPC funding recommendations in the event that USACE remains under a continuing resolution authority
- **Action Item:** Anne Marken will discuss funding the Program Portal, Alameda Gage, and BEMP with MRGCD
- 📌 **Collaborative Opportunity:** Anne Marken will be researching MRGCD's potential to collaborate further with BEMP and the MRGESCP through additional funding.
- 📌 **Collaborative Opportunity:** Signatories should identify the USACE gages providing data for their work to assess the priority gages to fund.
- 📌 **Collaborative Opportunity:** Signatories should identify the Program Portal datasets they find most useful to determine which to prioritize for updates.
- 📌 **Collaborative Opportunity:** Other signatories may have funding capability for USACE FY22 priority projects. Signatories should contact Debbie L. to discuss funding opportunities. Debbie L. will also be actively reaching out to funding agencies to discuss opportunities and options.

BEMP Funding

Kim E. opened discussion on BEMP funding in FY22-23. BEMP did not receive FY21 funding from USACE and dropped to 26 sites. For FY22-23, there is a \$150K shortfall to maintain staff at current levels, but no vegetation data would be collected and additional sites/schools would be dropped. With additional

funding, BEMP would prioritize datasets such as vegetation. BEMP is budgeting \$100K in foundation funds, and will continue to diversify its funding through smaller grants. BEMP prefers securing staff and core sites to adding new datasets or sites. BEMP is asking for input for priorities on their services and sites, to inform the decisions about which to keep. Anne M. will confirm what additional funding MRGCD can provide. To maintain the current service level (maintaining minimal sites and current datasets), BEMP needs \$250-300K. Among the datasets dropped are fuel load, fire hazard, and cottonwood monitoring. BEMP will continue monitoring water quality.

BEMP will be reaching out to ABCWUA, which is a former funder, and continue applying for grants. Debbie L. asked if there are organizations using BEMP data who are not funders. BEMP data is publically available, so it is not always clear who is using the data. BEMP should reach out to New Mexico Department of the Environment, New Mexico Department of Game & Fish, and Buckman Direct Diversion.

Following the meeting, Debbie L. will coordinate with the other signatories to communicate the FPC's priorities and determine funding availability. Debbie L. will message that available funding should be used for the Alameda water temperature gage and BEMP. Kim E. will send a list of BEMP sites and data collected to the SAMC for prioritization at an upcoming meeting.

- **Action Item:** The PST will assist Kim Eichhost by making introductions with noted signatories regarding funding
- **Action Item:** Kim Eichhorst will send list of BEMP sites and data collected to the Science and Adaptive Management Committee for prioritization
- ✚ **Collaborative Opportunity:** Signatories should identify which BEMP sites/services are most useful to them to inform BEMP's prioritization of sites and services. BEMP can also use the help of the SAMC to determine priority sites and datasets.
- ✚ **Collaborative Opportunity:** ABCWUA has previously funded BEMP, and will explore options to support BEMP again.
- ✚ **Collaborative Opportunity:** BEMP will be contacting other signatories and other State agencies for potential funding.
- ✚ **Collaborative Opportunity:** BEMP provides data for countless groups in New Mexico and loss of that data would have detrimental effects. Signatories with funding capabilities or other resources should contact Debbie L. with interest in supporting BEMP.

2021 Annual Program Evaluation

Debbie L. opened discussion on the 2021 Annual Program Evaluation. The PST provided the survey in the read-aheads, which went out to all attendees of the FPC. The four questions cover whether the FPC is functioning as intended, whether the Co-Chairs are engaged, whether the FPC is on track to complete tasks in the Work Plan, and whether there are other issues that need to be addressed. If needed, the PST will follow up with some respondents to get more details. The form is due **February 11, 2022**. The PST will compile responses and propose potential changes at the EC meeting on **March 23, 2022**.

- **Action Item:** The PST will send out the FPC annual evaluation form
- **Action Item:** The FPC will return completed annual evaluation forms
- ✚ **Collaborative Opportunity:** All FPC members have the opportunity to help improve the MRGESCP's operations by participating in the 2021 Annual Program Evaluation

Closing Items:

- The PST will discuss the need for another FPC meeting with the FPC Co-Chairs.
- **Action Item:** The PST and FPC Co-Chairs will discuss the need for another FPC meeting

Meeting Participants

Co-Chair

Debra Hill, Federal Co-Chair

Grace Haggerty, Non-Federal Co-Chair

Organization

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission

Participant

Anne Marken

Brittney Erdmann

Debbie Lee

Kevin Shelley

Kim Eichhorst

Michelle Tuineau

Mick Porter

Organization

Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District

Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District

Program Support Team

Program Support Team

Bosque Ecosystem Monitoring Program

Program Support Team

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

[Link to full Meeting Materials List](#)

Fiscal Planning Committee Meeting
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See the following meeting material on the page below:

FY22 USACE Priority Project Cost Estimates [read-ahead]

Item	Description
BEMP Site Monitoring	Collect long-term data at 33 established BEMP research sites using groundwater well, vegetation transects, leaf litter traps, and pitfall traps for collecting insects. Monthly and periodic site data collection.
Program Portal	Maintain and expand the MRGESCP Portal
Gages at San Marcial, San Acacia, Rio Puerco	Funds 3 USGS sediment gages at San Marcial, San Acacia, and the Rio Puerco near Bernardo
RGNC Sediment Gage	Funds the sediment gage in the high-flow channel at the Rio Grande Nature Center
Alameda Gage Water Temperature Probe	Funds the water temperature probe at the Alameda gage

Contractor	Cost
BEMP	\$ 426,980.00
USGS	\$ 208,000.00
USGS	\$ 174,940.00
USGS	\$ 8,700.00
USGS	\$ 3,125.00

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Fiscal Planning Committee Meeting
January 27, 2022

See the following meeting material on the page below:

MRGESCP FPC Annual Evaluation Form [read-ahead]

**Middle Rio Grande Endangered Species Collaborative Program
2021 Program Evaluation**

Fiscal Planning Committee (FPC)

The Executive Committee (EC) has directed an annual Program evaluation of overall Collaborative Program relevance, efficiency, and effectiveness. To that end, the EC requests the FPC complete the following form by **February 11, 2022** in order to evaluate:

- FPC Charter
- Annual Work Plan Tasks
- Long-term Plan

#	Evaluation Topic	YES	NO	Detailed Explanation	Recommended Action(s)
5.a	Is the FPC functioning as originally intended?				a. Recommend charter amendments b. <i>Describe another action, in detail</i>
5.b	Are the FPC co-chairs engaged?				a. Recommend election of new co-chairs b. <i>Describe another action, in detail</i>
5.c	Is the FPC on track to complete the tasks in the Annual Work Plan?				a. PST and FPC Co-chairs discuss potential revisions to the Annual Work Plan for EC review and approval b. <i>Describe another action, in detail:</i>
5.d	Other issues to raise regarding the FPC?				a. <i>Describe action, in detail</i>