

Executive Committee Meeting

June 29, 2023

Meeting Materials:

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[Revised Biennial Schedule \[read-ahead, March 30, 2023draft\]](#)

[Funding Opportunities Matrix \[read-ahead\]](#)

[Funding Opportunities Graphic \[read-ahead\]](#)

[SAMC Memo to EC on RiverEyes Dataset \[read-ahead\]](#)

[Revised SAMC Charter \[read-ahead, draft\]](#)

[Revised 2023 MRGESCP Work Plan \[read-ahead, draft\]](#)

[Revised Information and Data Quality Standards Ad Hoc Group Charge \[read-ahead, draft\]](#)

[2023 Science Symposium Proposal \[read-ahead, draft\]](#)

[Outline on a Potential Paper on MRGESCP's Transition to Adaptive Management](#)

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Executive Committee Meeting March 30, 2023

See the following meeting material on the page below:

Agenda



Middle Rio Grande Endangered Species Collaborative Program

Est. 2000

Executive Committee (EC) Meeting Agenda

June 29, 2023, 1:00 – 4:00 PM MT

Location: New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission Office
5550 San Antonio Drive NE, Albuquerque, NM 87109; Large Conference Room

Zoom Log-In:

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

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

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

Meeting Objectives:

- Hear an update on Middle Rio Grande Endangered Species Collaborative Program (MRGESCP) activities.
- Hear an update from the Fiscal Planning Committee (FPC) on their activities.
- Review the proposed revisions to the Info and Data Quality Standards Ad Hoc Group charge for approval.
- Hear an update on the Climate Futures Planning Workshop.
- Review the proposal for the 2023 Science Symposium for approval.
- Review outline for proposed paper on MRGESCP's transition to adaptive management (AM) for approval.
- Review 2023 MRGESCP Work Plan revisions for approval.
- Hear a Minnow Action Team (MAT) updated from the June 2023 meeting.
- Discuss member engagement.

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|-------------|--|--|
| 1:00 – 1:10 | Welcome, Introductions, Agenda Review | EC Co-chairs |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Meeting ground rules• Introduce Wayne Pullan, new Federal Co-chair | |
| | ✓ Decision: Approval of June 29, 2023 EC meeting agenda | |
| 1:10 – 1:15 | March 2023 Meeting Summary | EC Co-chairs |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Action items review | |
| | ✓ Decision: Approval of March 30, 2023 EC meeting minutes | |
| | Read-ahead: | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Draft March 30, 2023 EC Meeting Minutes | |
| 1:15 – 1:35 | Program Support Team (PST) Update | Debbie Lee &
Catherine Murphy,
PST |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cost-Share and Signatory Contributions update• Biennial Schedule update<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ FPC activities○ New format• Photo Contest reminder• Climate Futures Poll reminder• Program Portal redesign• Fiscal Planning Committee (FPC) update<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Status of funding matrix• Science and Adaptive Management Committee (SAMC) update<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Revised charter to reflect new membership numbers○ RiverEyes dataset | |

- Multi-year plan review
- Habitat restoration monitoring guidance update
- Project Evaluation criteria review
- Ad Hoc Group updates
 - Strategic Plan for Drying in Angostura Reach
 - Rio Grande Silvery Minnow (RGSM) Hypotheses Development
 - RGSM Conceptual Ecological Model Revisions
 - Information and Data Quality Standards
- ✓ **Decision:** Approval of revised MRGESCP Biennial Schedule
- **Action Item:** Program participants complete the Climate Futures Poll

Read-ahead:

- ☐ Revised Biennial Schedule
- ☐ Funding Opportunities Matrix and Graphic
- ☐ SAMC Memo to the EC on the RiverEyes Dataset
- ☐ Revised SAMC Charter

1:35 – 1:50 2023 MRGESCP Work Plan Update and Revisions

- Proposed revisions
- ✓ **Decision:** Approval of revised 2023 Work Plan

*Debbie Lee &
Catherine Murphy,
PST*

Read-ahead:

- ☐ Draft Revised 2023 MRGESCP Work Plan

1:50 – 2:05 Information and Data Quality Standards Ad Hoc Group

- Proposed charge revisions
- ✓ **Decision:** Approval of revised Information and Data Quality Standards Ad Hoc Group charge

Zoë Rossman, PST

Read-ahead:

- ☐ Revised Information and Data Quality Standards Ad Hoc Group Charge

2:05 – 2:20 Climate Futures Planning Workshop Update

- Small group update
- Field trip to Whitfield
- **Action Item:** PST schedule field trip to Whitfield

*Catherine Murphy,
PST*

2:20 – 2:35 2023 Science Symposium

- Review proposal
- Call for volunteers for planning small group
- ✓ **Decision:** Approval of 2023 Science Symposium proposal
- **Action Item:** All volunteer for the Science Symposium Planning Small Group

Debbie Lee, PST

Read-ahead:

- ☐ 2023 Science Symposium Proposal

2:35 – 2:50 Break

2:50 – 3:15 Proposed Paper on MRGESCP's Transition to AM

- Rationale for paper
- Review outline

*Debbie Lee &
Catherine Murphy,
PST*

- ✓ **Decision:** Approval of development of a paper on MRGESCP's transition to AM
- **Action Item:** PST complete paper on MRGESCP's transition to AM

Read-ahead:

- ☐ Outline on a Potential Paper on MRGESCP's Transition to AM

3:15 – 3:25	Minnow Action Team (MAT) Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review June 15, 2023 MAT meeting • Updates on 2023 hydrology and planned activities 	<i>Anne Marken, Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District</i>
3:25 – 3:50	Member Engagement Discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2022 activities • Cost-Share and Signatory Contributions • Low survey responses • Solutions 	<i>Debbie Lee, PST</i>
3:50 – 3:55	Public Comment and Announcements	
3:55 – 4 :00	Meeting Summary and Action Items Review <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Next EC Meeting: September 28, 2023 	<i>EC Co-chairs</i>
4:00	Adjourn	

[Link to full Meeting Materials List](#)

Executive Committee Meeting
March 30, 2023

See the following meeting material on the page below:

Minutes



Middle Rio Grande Endangered Species Collaborative Program

Est. 2000

Executive Committee (EC) Meeting Minutes

June 29, 2023; 1:00 PM–4:00 PM

Location: New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission Office
5550 San Antonio Drive NE, Albuquerque, NM 87109; Large Conference Room

Zoom Log-In:

<https://west-inc.zoom.us/j/8983593120?pwd=bU54V3NGeG93bXVISIJFcElzcE9wZz09>

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

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

Decisions:

- ✓ Approval of the June 29, 2023 EC meeting agenda
- ✓ Approval of the March 30, 2023 EC meeting minutes
- ✓ Approval of the revised Middle Rio Grande Endangered Species Collaborative Program (MRGESCP) Biennial Schedule
- ✓ Approval of the revised Science and Adaptive Management Committee (SAMC) Charter changing the maximum number of SAMC members from 8 members to 8-10 members
- ✓ Approval of the revised 2023 MRGESCP Work Plan
- ✓ Approval of the revised Information and Data Quality Standards Ad Hoc Group charge
- ✓ Approval of the 2023 Science Symposium
- ✓ Approval of development of a paper on the MRGESCP transition to adaptive management

Announcements:

- ❖ The non-federal signatories sent a letter to the congressional delegation in support of additional fiscal year 2024 funding for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Action Items:

WHO	ACTION ITEM	BY WHEN
Paul Tashjian	Send Senator Heinrich's funding newsletter to the Program Support Team (PST)	6/29/2023
Workshop Planning Small Group	Finalize date and location of the Climate Futures Planning Workshop	7/6/2023
EC Representatives	Volunteer or suggest volunteers via email for the Science Symposium Planning Small Group	7/7/2023
EC Representatives	Volunteer via email to help with the paper on MRGESCP's transition to adaptive management	7/7/2023
EC Representatives	Review the Funding Opportunities Matrix and provide any missing opportunities via email	7/7/2023

PST	Refine MRGESCP paper outline based on EC feedback (i.e., reduce scope, describe accomplishments for listed species, define the MRGESCP prior to adaptive management)	7/21/2023
EC Representatives	Submit signatory projects related to the ecosystem using the Data Entry App of the Science and Adaptive Management Information System (SAMIS; https://samis.west-inc.com/middleriogrande/login) [please contact the PST to update your login credentials, if needed]	7/28/2023
PST	Convene the Science Symposium Planning Small Group	8/11/2023
PST	Schedule the field trip to the Whitfield Wildlife Conservation Area in September 2023	8/15/2023
EC Representatives	Complete the Climate Planning Poll at https://s.surveymonkey.com/8rkwtuuy	8/23/2023
EC Representatives	Describe what “collaboration” in the MRGESCP looks like for your organization	September EC meeting
PST	Develop adaptive management "themes" around near-term planning priorities to support the MRGESCP mission	September EC meeting
SAMC and FPC	Consider environmental justice and socio-economic impacts associated with MRGESCP recommendations and look for stewardship opportunities when developing best-management practices and policies	Ongoing
PST	Draft paper on MRGESCP’s transition to adaptive management	2024

Next Meeting: September 28, 2023; 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Meeting Minutes

Welcome, Introductions, Agenda Review

The Federal Co-chair, Wayne Pullan, Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation), opened the meeting. Wayne P., who had formerly been Federal Co-Chair from April 2020 – April 2021, took back the role of Federal Co-Chair with Katrina Grantz stepping down. He noted the importance of the mission of the MRGESCP and its ability to bring together federal, state, and local governments, as well as private entities and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to focus on intractable problems. Wayne P. also reviewed the June 29, 2023 meeting agenda (see agenda), which the EC approved, and led introductions.

✓ **Decision:** Approval of the June 29, 2023 EC meeting agenda

March 2023 Meeting Summary

Debbie Lee, Program Manager, PST, reviewed the March 30, 2023 meeting minutes and action items (see minutes). Summary updates for action items are below:

- The Annual Program Evaluation was sent out again, and there were a few additional responses.
- The link to the Water Ops Power BI Dashboard was sent out following the March EC meeting.
- An updated Minnow Action Team presentation was included with the March EC meeting follow-up.
- A list of questions about Program Portal funding options was included with the March EC meeting follow-up.
- Jim Wilber, Reclamation, provided a copy of Reclamation's Water Reliability in the West – 2021 SECURE Water Act to the PST.
- The Fiscal Planning Committee (FPC) meeting was rescheduled.
- The Drying Ad Hoc Group name was changed to encompass the entire river and not just the Angostura Reach.
- The Drying Ad Hoc Group's draft report was distributed to the EC members following the March EC meeting.
- Several signatories provided pictures and testimonials for inclusion in the 2022 Annual Report.
- The FPC discussed Program Portal funding options, though no legal experts attended the FPC meeting.
- The PST invited additional individuals to participate in the Climate Futures Workshop Small Planning Group, though not everyone was able to commit the time.
- The By-Laws were updated to reflect the new change in SAMC membership the EC approved in March.
- Catherine will send out thank you letters to the SAMC members who are stepping down.
- No new projects were added to the SAMIS following the March EC meeting. Signatories were asked to provide 2022 activities.
- The PST pursued coordinating and submitting a session proposal for the 2024 National Conference on Ecosystem Restoration, but the EC Co-chairs decided the conference attendance cost (approximately \$700) was prohibitive.
- Zoë Rossman, PST, presented a seminar on how to adapt the Society of Ecological Restoration (SER) 5-Star Recovery Wheel to the MRG.
- The SAMC is continuing their science review of the multi-year plan.

The EC approved the May 30, 2023 EC meeting minutes.

- ✓ **Decision:** Approval of the May 30, 2023 EC meeting minutes

Program Support Team Update

Debbie L., Catherine Murphy, and Michelle Tuineau, PST, presented updates on MRGESCP activities. Summary updates are below:

Cost Share and Signatory Contributions Update:

- There were no additional activities submitted to the PST between the March 2023 meeting and the June 2023 meeting.

Administrative Schedule Update:

- The Biennial Schedule (see read-ahead) was revised based on feedback from the EC and FPC. The Biennial Schedule format was revised for ease of reading, and FPC activities were added.

Administrative Reminders:

- The “Water, Water, Everywhere” photo contest is still running; signatories are encouraged to submit photos to the PST.
- The June newsletter includes a Climate Planning Poll that will inform the Climate Futures Planning Workshop.

Program Portal:

- The PST is working with U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) to do a Program Portal redesign to modernize the site’s look and increase usability. Two EC members will be reviewing the new user interface.

FPC Update:

- The FPC developed a Funding Matrix (see read-ahead), which is meant to help signatories or groups of signatories find grants. Some of the funding opportunities listed are specifically geared towards collaborative projects. The Funding Matrix is a living document that will be checked and updated by the FPC every meeting. The FPC would also like to select and support one funding opportunity to pursue collaboratively each year, and this is reflected in the Biennial Schedule.
- The PST is working with USGS to post a version of the Funding Matrix that can be filtered and queried on the Program Portal. This version would be available to the public.
- EC members discussed the Funding Matrix and brought up the following points:
 - If a funding need is identified, could the FPC connect the appropriate signatories?
 - Yes, for example, if an idea comes out of the Climate Futures Planning Workshop that requires funding, we can look at the “climate” row in the Funding Matrix and identify which types of signatories would be involved to see what grant programs we can go after. Then, the FPC can develop materials to support a proposal, identify partnerships, and track funding deadlines.
 - The WaterSMART Program for Reclamation serves a similar role with regards to funding opportunities, so it would be great for the FPC to serve this role for the MRGESCP.
 - The Funding Matrix is not comprehensive. Additional funding opportunities can be emailed to Michelle T. to be added to the Funding Matrix.
 - Will the FPC track signatories’ pursuit of funding opportunities and what the success rate is?
 - Yes, the FPC will track this to see how the MRGESCP can increase the probability of success and which grant opportunities to focus on.
 - Initially, SAMIS was going to be used to track both cost share and labor contributions to the MRGESCP, which is an important reason to enter activities into SAMIS. With some additional inputs, SAMIS can also track funding.

SAMC Update:

- The Funding Opportunities Matrix can help to facilitate coordination of SAMC and FPC activities. For example, the SAMC can present project ideas to the FPC, which can connect those projects with appropriate funding opportunities.
- The SAMC Charter (see read-ahead) has been revised to reflect the new SAMC membership numbers (i.e., increasing the maximum number of members from 8 to 8-10).
- RiverEyes data update:
 - The RiverEyes contractor, GeoSystems Analysis (GSA), has created a data visualization tool for the RiverEyes dataset. In the SAMC memo to the EC (see read-ahead), the SAMC recommends that the Program Portal continue to serve tabular data and provide a link to the new GSA online map tool.
 - However, if people are using the Program Portal to map these data in combination with other data on the Portal, then we might want to consider maintaining it on the Program Portal interactive mapper. EC members will contact the PST if their technical experts are using RiverEyes in this way and might be impacted if this functionality was removed from the Program Portal.
- SAMC members have reviewed the multi-year plan. A summary of their reviews is as follows:
 - Multi-year plan priorities from the 2022 Collaboratory should be integrated into the Long-Term Plan, as appropriate.
 - The SAMC is identifying external programs, studies, and tools that could be applied to various planning priorities, as well as matching those priorities with potential funding opportunities (in coordination with the FPC).
 - The SAMC raised the following question: Should the topics of environmental justice impacts from managing for climate change and/or cultural and socioeconomic impacts of the changing ecosystem be incorporated into the work of the MRGESCP?
 - EC discussion followed:
 - City of Albuquerque, Open Space Division just completed a community engagement plan that is trying to incorporate these issues in a tangible way through signage, accessibility, language, and advocating for communities that don't have access to the bosque. This may not be within the purview of the MRGESCP, but this is an important goal for the city, which would welcome collaboration to help achieve this goal.
 - This is a priority for the current federal administration and, therefore, for federal agencies. However, the decision is deferred to the EC regarding incorporation into the MRGESCP's work.
 - Given the authorization of the federal government, there is interest in the ecosystem approach, but the MRGESCP should be careful to not get too far from its endangered species mission.
 - If an issue is Endangered Species Act (ESA)-related and also incorporates environmental justice, it would be a win-win.
 - We cannot separate the management of natural areas from the human component. We need to think of what communities are being engaged and how to address the socioeconomic component. The question is how to address this within the MRGESCP.
 - It would be useful in ESA efforts to think about best management practices that relate to environmental justice.

- When the MRGESCP recommends actions, think about environmental justice impacts as well as the way we provide outreach to the community to reduce barriers.
 - Catherine M. summarized that the MRGESCP should not exclude these efforts but should look for related and connected opportunities. She noted that the Convention on Biological Diversity’s definition of the ecosystem approach includes “sustainable and equitable use,” which opens the window to look for opportunities to consider environmental justice issues.
 - The SAMC is finalizing review of the SER’s Recovery Wheel Ad Hoc Group and the Restoration Compendium Ad Hoc Group charges. Output from both groups will be combined with ecosystem-scale driving questions to develop standardized restoration monitoring guidance for the MRG. The EC will be asked to provide feedback on this effort during the restoration monitoring guidance phase.
 - The SAMC is conducting a pilot test of the Long-Term Plan project evaluation criteria to help prioritize SAMIS projects and link them to funding opportunities using the FPC Funding Matrix.
 - The Climate Futures Planning Workshop has been prioritized over the last few months, but ad hoc groups will be reconvened and moved forward this fall.
- ✓ **Decision:** Approval of the revised MRGESCP Biennial Schedule
 - ✓ **Decision:** Approval of the revised SAMC Charter changing the maximum number of SAMC members from 8 members to 8-10 members
 - **Action Item:** EC representatives will complete the Climate Planning Poll at <https://s.surveyplanet.com/8rkwtuuy>
 - **Action Item:** Paul Tashjian will send Senator Heinrich’s funding newsletter to the PST
 - **Action Item:** EC representatives will review the Funding Opportunities Matrix and provide any missing opportunities via email
 - **Action Item:** SAMC and FPC will consider environmental justice and socioeconomic impacts associated with MRGESCP recommendations and look for stewardship opportunities when developing best-management practices and policies

2023 MRGESCP Work Plan Update and Revisions

Debbie L. presented an update on the 2023 MRGESCP Work Plan (see read-ahead). Some detail has been removed from the Work Plan to ensure it is compatible with the MRGESCP’s process. The timeline for several tasks has been extended to accommodate preparation for the Climate Futures Planning Workshop. Debbie L. summarized changes to the Work Plan and asked for questions or comments from the EC. Reclamation commented that they had not been entering project information consistently into SAMIS but would start to do so with more guidance from the PST.

- ✓ **Decision:** Approval of the revised 2023 MRGESCP Work Plan

Information and Data Quality Standards Ad Hoc Group Update

Catherine M. presented an update on the Information and Data Quality Standards Ad Hoc Group. Summary updates are below:

- After realizing the original charge wasn’t feasible, the ad hoc group revised the charge (see read-ahead) to develop a template that signatories can use to document their protocols regarding data quality and reporting.

- Ara Winter, Bosque Ecosystem Monitoring Program, gave a brief overview of the Information Quality Act (IQA) standards at the request of an EC member. Other EC member comments are as follows:
 - Reclamation is now following strict standards for GIS data.
 - If there is no data quality manager, meeting standards can be difficult.
 - NM Department of Game and Fish doesn't have any established in-house standards, instead looking to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service for guidance since that's where much of their funding comes from.
- ✓ **Decision:** Approval of the revised Information and Data Quality Standards Ad Hoc Group charge

Climate Futures Planning Workshop Update

Debbie L. and Catherine M. presented an update on the Climate Future Planning Workshop. Summary updates are below:

- The approach for the workshop has been re-worked, vetted, and reviewed by climate scientists and climate planners from the South Central Climate Adaptation Science Center (CASC). SAMC member Megan Friggens, U.S. Forest Service, also reviewed and provided resources for the approach.
- The PST is in contact with Valencia Soil and Water Conservation District (VSWCD), as their Whitfield Wildlife Conservation Area complex potentially could provide an area to test (at their discretion) some of the adaptive management ideas that come out of the workshop. Catherine M. and Debbie L. will be presenting to the VSWCD board about the MRGESCP and the workshop in August.
- The PST is planning a field trip to Whitfield later this summer. Whitfield has beautiful wetlands and potentially could provide habitat for the Pecos sunflower. Andrew Hautzinger, the VSWCD Director, is excited to be at the forefront of climate adapted management and is not afraid to try out new methods.
 - Andrew H. presented at the last Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District (MRGCD), board meeting, and that information is public for anyone interested.
- The field trip is open to everyone and will be held sometime in September, actual date to-be-determined.
- The small planning group has identified the week of October 23 for a two-day event, likely held at the Tamaya Wellness Center, Pueblo of Santa Ana. There were no conflicts identified for this week from the EC.
- The workshop approach is to generate climate futures and have workshop participants discuss changes to ecosystem function and relate those functional changes to species habitat, relating everything back to threatened and endangered species. The workshop will generate research and management recommendations, identify roles for partnerships, and link to funding opportunities.
- **Action Item:** Workshop Planning Small Group will finalize date and location of the Climate Futures Planning Workshop
- **Action Item:** PST will schedule the field trip to the Whitfield Wildlife Conservation Area in September 2023

Proposed 2023 Science Symposium

Debbie L. and Catherine M. presented on the proposed 2023 Science Symposium (see read-ahead). Summary points are below:

- The Science Symposium is typically held the first week of December and will be in person this year. Old Town Farm, the USGS Water Science Center, and the University of New Mexico Rotunda were offered as potential locations.
 - Volunteers will be needed to help plan the symposium (a group of around 10 would be ideal). Lynette Giesen, Reclamation, volunteered, and other EC members will email Catherine M. to volunteer or provide names of individuals to contact. The first meeting for the Symposium planning group will be scheduled in July, and the theme will be decided at the first meeting.
 - The Symposium will also provide some social time and incorporate student participation. Catherine M. asked signatories to encourage students to present at the Symposium, and suggested a potential book drive for field guides, technical texts, and other reference or educational material.
- ✓ **Decision:** Approval of the 2023 Science Symposium
 - **Action Item:** EC representatives will volunteer or suggest volunteers via email for the Science Symposium Planning Small Group
 - **Action Item:** PST will convene the Science Symposium Planning Small Group

Proposed Paper on MRGESCP's Transition to Adaptive Management

Debbie L. presented an outline of a proposed paper (see read-ahead) documenting the MRGESCP's transition to adaptive management. Summary points are below:

- Earlier this year, the EC wanted to investigate the feasibility of a session proposal for the 2024 National Conference on Ecosystem Restoration (NCER). The conference fees were prohibitively expensive, so the EC Co-chairs decided to forego submitting a NCER session proposal. They still wanted to document and share the story of the MRGESCP, so the focus shifted to writing a paper that would highlight the last few years of the MRGESCP's transition to a science and adaptive management program. EC members who want to write sections or provide reviews of the paper could be co-authors. A summary of the EC's discussion regarding this topic is below.
 - The allowed length of the paper will limit what can be included.
 - A paper is much better than presenting at a conference because it will reach a wider audience, but word limits should be considered when choosing a journal. Some journals allow you to apply for grants to cover publication costs.
 - The paper could compare the MRGESCP to other programs to make it more applicable to others.
 - If the paper has at least one federal co-author, it forces it into the public domain, effectively making it open access.
 - Jennifer Faler, Reclamation, volunteered to review.
 - Jim Wilbur, Reclamation, volunteered to write or review.
 - EC members will contact Debbie L. or Catherine M. if they would like to help write or review the paper.
- ✓ **Decision:** Approval of development of a paper on the MRGESCP transition to adaptive management
 - **Action Item:** PST will refine MRGESCP paper outline based on EC feedback
 - **Action Item:** EC representatives will volunteer via email to help with the paper on MRGESCP's transition to adaptive management
 - **Action Item:** PST will draft paper on MRGESCP's transition to adaptive management

Minnow Action Team Update

Anne Marken, MRGCD, gave a Minnow Action Team (MAT) update. Summary points are below:

- The last meeting was an opportunity to look at the hydrograph. Flows upstream of Cochiti Dam have been coming down but flows through the middle valley have remained elevated due to flood water evacuation from storage. After July 1, remaining flood water is locked in storage until November, so the goal is to move water from Cochiti Reservoir so that inflow meets outflow by July 1. Drying is not anticipated in San Acacia until mid-late July, and August for Isleta. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) presented plans to step flows down from 5,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) to 1,400 cfs while evacuating stored water. On June 26, they started to make reductions in releases out of Cochiti and are implementing two 250 cfs cuts per day so that all stored water will be out of Cochiti by July 1. There are 120,000 acre-feet of flood water stored in Abiquiu Reservoir that will be locked until November.
- The EC discussed several points, which are summarized as follows:
 - There weren't many Rio Grande silvery minnow (RGSM) eggs found in the samplers this year due to increased volume in floodwaters, so U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) began using larval light traps to detect larval fish. They had little success through May but began seeing larval RGSM around a week ago, and now have several thousand in each facility. Success of the light traps seems to depend on the size of the fish. USACE is stepping down releases slowly to prevent entrapment of RGSM larval fish on the floodplain. Hopefully there will be spawning in the river and some broodstock for the 2023 season. New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission (NMISC) will stop monitoring on June 30 since that is the end of their fiscal year.
 - Held water is required to be sent out by next March and needs to be moved at the highest rate possible. Colorado, New Mexico, and Texas would all like to get it out by the end of the year. Held water needs to be out of Abiquiu by November 15 due to construction but can be held in Cochiti. This is considered part of normal flood operations.
 - Anne M. doesn't anticipate needing another MAT meeting, but one can be called if necessary. Eric Gonzales, Reclamation, has requested maintaining flows right on the precipice of drying, so MRGCD will try to accommodate that. They will continue to use drains in the Isleta Reach and will be using San Juan-Chama water to fill the gap between supply and demand. No drying is anticipated in Albuquerque this year.

Member Engagement Discussion

Debbie L. and Catherine M. led a discussion on the lack of sufficient signatory engagement with the MRGESCP. Not many new/updated activities have been entered into the SAMIS, which impacts the ability to track and report cost share. There has been a low response rate to polls and surveys. The PST wants to know how to better engage with the signatories. With the MRGESCP's transition to adaptive management, the type and level of engagement from signatories has changed: before, signatories were mainly asked for feedback and input on documents and processes being developed to support the transition. Now that the MRGESCP is operating as a science and adaptive management program, signatories are asked to provide information about their activities, as well as research and management priorities, in order to inform recommendations. The MRGESCP is providing the platform, but signatories need to populate it with content. The PST understands that signatory participants are busy and have limited time and resources, so they are trying different methods to get information. If a signatory experiences additional barriers to providing information, the PST can work with them, but signatories should communicate what they need.

A discussion among the EC members followed, and the main points are summarized below:

Using SAMIS to track signatory activities:

- For many years, cost share was a “check the box” administrative exercise and everyone got a bit numb to it. Now that the MRGESCP is operating differently, we need to shift our mindset. There is still a need for cost share information, but the primary need is for up-to-date information on which to base recommendations. It’s no longer just an administrative exercise.
- Signatory staff already must do a lot under fast timelines, and there is little time for extra work, such as providing this information to the MRGESCP. However, there is also a need to adapt within agencies (ex. trying to manage the River Mile 60 project differently in response to high flows this spring/summer), so providing information can inform stronger recommendations from the MRGESCP.
- Some of the hesitation on entering projects is trying to figure out what should and shouldn’t be entered. Some projects apply only to river maintenance, others are related to the 2016 Biological Opinion (BO), so making the decisions about what to include is difficult. Another problem is compiling relevant information from other staff/experts within an agency.
 - Any projects that link to the activities of other signatories, and would benefit from an acknowledgment of that coordination/collaboration, should be entered. If more context is needed to increase the likelihood of funding or partnerships for a project, then that project should be entered. If a project doesn’t require more context or coordination, and it does not inform research or management, it does not need to be entered into SAMIS.
- Catherine M. noted that the MRGESCP is here to help signatories take projects and link them to broader topics to help secure funding, approvals, or partnerships. SAMIS exists not only to inform development of robust adaptive management recommendations, but also to help signatories demonstrate the benefits of participating in the MRGESCP by linking and tracking information. Signatories should always be able to articulate what they get out of the MRGESCP, and Catherine M. wants to help them do that using the SAMIS platform.
- Debbie L. gave an example from last year, where there was a request for cost share partners for labor and land access. If projects were entered in the SAMIS, it would be easier to identify which organizations had relevant projects in the area, leading to better partnerships and more open communication.
- Any project that has to do with the ecosystem should be put into the SAMIS.
- An EC member commented that as someone who has never used SAMIS, there is a learning curve. Catherine M. offered to provide one-on-one guidance and mentioned the user manual as additional help.

The value of the MRGESCP as a collaborative space:

- Debbie L. asked Paul Tashjian, Audubon Southwest, and Kyle Harwood, Buckman Direct Diversion, as the two newest members, what they saw in the MRGESCP when they joined, and whether the MRGESCP has met their expectations.
 - Paul T. joined primarily for coordination regarding the Rio Grande at large, as well as for water issues. His staff has been able to engage more than he has. Coming in, he thought the mission was about river management and water management and coming up with collaborative solutions, as opposed to being focused on BO species.
 - Kyle H. said Buckman Direct Diversion first attended under the wing of NMISC and that participation was project driven. There is a big interest in environmental issues in Santa

Fe, and understanding the RGSM issues in the NEPA process became important. The MRGESCP is the only organization that meets regularly and comes together to talk about the sum of what everyone is doing regarding water management, species work, and habitat restoration. Kyle H. appreciated the direct communication with stakeholders.

- The signatories don't have a whole lot in common, but there is a subset of shared interests. One EC representative raised whether, given the MRGESCP's mission and direction, the right organizations were participating. This individual also questioned how all the signatories can collectively achieve all their missions in the face of water scarcity.
- There is value in having conversations about species status, particularly for RGSM, even if there are not a lot of associated projects.
 - The natural process for the RGSM is to spawn with the spring runoff, and high flows provide floodplain nursery habitat. Flows below 2,500 cfs do not allow for the overbanking needed by RGSM, so restoration has been focused on lowering the floodplain so that inundation occurs at lower flows. RGSM is a short-lived species, so when there are a few consecutive bad years, the population is impacted. This would have been a very bad year if 2023 flows had been similar to those in 2022, and this year may still not be a great water year. The RGSM is in bad shape. The amount of drying is an issue, there's a Rio Grande Compact debit, New Mexico is often in Article VII, and we can't store in upstream reservoirs. There needs to be some real change regarding how we deal with the RGSM, whether it's a peer review of existing activities or a 10(j) population.

The value of the ecosystem approach:

- Not everyone cares about the specific requirements around the BO, but the ecosystem approach helps with connecting species management to river management. Even when working with blinders, if you're entering information, it can be placed into the larger context to help identify connections. The ecosystem connects all of us, as opposed to the BO, which only affects a subset of signatories.
- The MRGESCP needs to consider all the species. For example, the southwestern willow flycatcher is doing well in the Isleta Reach. The paper that's being developed on the MRGESCP should point out the successes already achieved by the signatories. This basin has done more for listed species than the Colorado Basin.

During the conversation about adaptive management priorities, several questions were raised. These included:

- Is there an adaptive management project on what to do about bars and islands?
- Are bars and islands the new floodplain?
- At some point is it going to be all wetlands with no space for water? Will there be a way to return water?

Options for "resetting" member engagement:

- An EC member suggested identifying a theme to inform the annual work plan that would change depending on the needs of each year.
- Debbie L. suggested that the lack of engagement is a symptom of something else, possibly a lack of clarity about what the MRGESCP is and the role of the MRGESCP now. It's been six years since a MRGESCP retreat, and in that time, we've transitioned to become an adaptive management program. It could be good to sit down together and figure out what we want to achieve, since it's a much different program than it was in 2017.
 - The BO is 2016-2030, so we're halfway through that time frame, which might make it a useful time to convene that working session.

- Catherine M. commented that maybe the question we need to be asking is what collaboration looks like for each EC member and their signatory organization.

Wayne P. challenged the signatories to individually and collectively re-dedicate themselves to the MRGESCP, each other, and to the PST. He acknowledged the PST has developed the tools and processes necessary for the MRGESCP to succeed, and it is up to the signatories to take the next steps. He noted that the MRGESCP's dysfunctional days are in the past, and the group has refocused on adaptive management, which is necessary given the future projections. He sees a lot of potential in the MRGESCP to do great things, acknowledging that might require asking for Congressional funding (and justifying that ask by figuring out how to tell our story). The effective functioning of this group may be critical. In New Mexico, we concern ourselves with quantities of water that in other systems are miniscule. And by the same token, with the challenges that are ahead, small acts of collaboration may be very important to our success, and the MRGESCP is the proper forum for that to happen.

- **Action Item:** EC representatives will submit signatory projects related to the ecosystem using the Data Entry App of the SAMIS
- **Action Item:** EC representatives will describe what "collaboration" in the MRGESCP looks like for your organization
- **Action Item:** PST will develop adaptive management "themes" around near-term planning priorities to support the MRGESCP mission

Meeting Participants

EC Representative	Organization
Mark Kelly, Non-Federal Co-Chair	Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority
Wayne Pullan, Federal Co-Chair	U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Paul Tashjian	Audubon Southwest
Kim Eichhorst	Bosque Ecosystem Monitoring Program
Kyle Harwood	Buckman Direct Diversion
Colleen Langan-McRoberts	City of Albuquerque, Open Space Division
Anne Marken	Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District
Bill Grantham	New Mexico Office of the Attorney General
Grace Haggerty	New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission
Matthew Wunder	New Mexico Department of Game and Fish
Michael Scialdone	Pueblo of Sandia
Dana Price	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Jennifer Faler	U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Vance Wolf (acting alternate representative)	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Megan Osborne	University of New Mexico
Participant	Organization
Ara Winter	Bosque Ecosystem Monitoring Program
Ashleigh Morris	Office of the Solicitor, U.S. Department of the Interior
Cetan Christensen	Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority
Dustin Chavez-Davis	City of Albuquerque, Open Space Division
Hira Walker	Yellow-billed Cuckoo Working Group
Jim Wilber	U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Lynette Giesen	U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Rich Valdez	SWCA Environmental Consultants
Shannon Weld	New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission
Stephanie Jentsch	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Trevor Stevens	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Support	Organization
Angela Medina Garcia	Program Support Team
Catherine Murphy	Program Support Team
Debbie Lee	Program Support Team
Michelle Tuineau	Program Support Team
Zoë Rossman	Program Support Team

[Link to full Meeting Materials List](#)

Executive Committee Meeting
March 30, 2023

See the following meeting material on the page below:

Revised Biennial Schedule [read-ahead, draft]

Middle Rio Grande Endangered Species Collaborative Program				KEY	
ADMINISTRATIVE BIENNIAL SCHEDULE				♥	FPC
Updated March 2023				♦	SAMC
				♣	HR Coord
				♠	EC
				Text	Activity not linked to specific group
MONTH	MEETINGS	EVERY YEAR (YEARS A & B)		YEAR A (ODD YEARS)	YEAR B (EVEN YEARS)
		ONE MONTH ACTIVITIES	MULTI-MONTH ACTIVITIES		
JANUARY	FPC ♥	♥ Inform project priorities for USACE, ABCWUA, CoA ♥ Check for funding matrix updates	Draft Annual Report Annual Program Evaluation SAMC member search		♦ Science Evaluation ♦ Develop proposed projects from Collaboratory
FEBRUARY ^N	SAMC ♦ HR Coord ♣	♣ Field Trip			
MARCH	EC ♠	♠ Signatory Contributions Report ♠ Results from Program Evaluation Updates to charters* Form By-Laws Admin Ad Hoc* ♠ Appoint SAMC members ♠ Approve Annual Report ♠ Relate MAT/hydrology forecast to Program			♠ Approve updated Science Objectives ♠ Approve updated Long-Term Plan
APRIL ^N	FPC ♥	♥ Inform project priorities for MRGCD, NMDGF, NMISC, and Reclamation ♥ Check for funding matrix updates	♦ Updates to CEMs Commence By-Laws Admin Ad Hoc*	♦ Form S&T Ad Hoc to update RioRestore	♥ Coordinate implementation of Long-Term Plan activities
MAY	SAMC ♦ HR Coord ♣	Update Portal datasets			
JUNE ^N	EC ♠	♠ Updates and recs from SAMC ♠ Work Plan update ♠ Update By-Laws*			
JULY	FPC ♥	♥ UNM legislative letter of support ♥ Determine collaborative funding opportunity to pursue next year ♥ Check for funding matrix updates			♥ Funding check: RioRestore, Program Portal, PASS
AUGUST ^N	SAMC ♦ HR Coord ♣	♣ Field Trip			
SEPTEMBER	EC ♠	♠ Updates and recs from SAMC ♠ Work Plan update			
OCTOBER ^N	FPC ♥	Topical Workshop			
NOVEMBER	SAMC ♦ HR Coord ♣	♦ S&T Ad Hoc progress reports and presentations to the SAMC	Draft Annual Report		
DECEMBER ^N	EC ♠	♠ Hydrology and species summary ♠ SAMC summary presentation ♠ Approve Work Plan for next year ♠ Determine SAMC SME needs		Collaboratory (GO TO YEAR B)	Science Symposium (GO TO YEAR A)

* If needed; ^N Newsletter

ABCWUA = Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority; Admin = Administrative; CoA = City of Albuquerque; EC = Executive Committee; FPC = Fiscal Planning Committee; HR Coord = Habitat Restoration Coordination Group; Long-Term Plan = Long-Term Plan for Science & Adaptive Management; MAT = Minnow Action Team; MRGCD = Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District; NMDGF = New Mexico Department of Game and Fish; NMISC = New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission; PASS = Program and Science Support contract; Program = Middle Rio Grande Endangered Species Collaborative Program; Reclamation = U.S. Bureau of Reclamation; SAMC = Science and Adaptive Management Committee; SME = subject matter expert; S&T = Science & Technical; UNM = University of New Mexico; USACE = U.S. Army Corps of Engineers



[Link to full Meeting Materials List](#)



















Executive Committee Meeting
March 30, 2023

See the following meeting material on the page below:

Funding Opportunities Matrix [read-ahead]

INSTRUCTIONS
All columns are filterable. Click the down arrow on each column for filter options. Sort A to Z to put list items in alphabetical order. Use the search bar to filter the list by response (ex. search State in the Eligible Recipients column)

KEY				
Symbols:	Application Period:	Funding Emphasis:	Eligible Recipients:	Funding Amount:
★ = Highly collaborative	 = Application period	Collaborative★, Climate Resilience/Adaptation, Disaster Recovery, Drought Resilience, Flood/Storm Risk Reduction, Habitat/Ecosystem Restoration, Innovation, Soil Health, Water Conservation, Water Quality/Efficiency, Wildfire Risk Reduction, Pollution Remediation	Academic Institution, Business (for profit), Individual, Local Government, Non-profit, State, Territory, Tribal Government	\$ = \$40,000-\$99,999
⊕ = Cost share	 = Application is due			\$\$ = \$100,000-\$499,999
*** = Info missing	Q# = Quarter			\$\$\$ = \$500,000-\$1,999,999
				\$\$\$\$ = \$2,000,000+

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES MATRIX Updated July 2023																			
FUNDING OPPORTUNITY	DESCRIPTION	ACRONYM	FUNDING EMPHASIS	ELIGIBLE RECIPIENTS	PERFORMANCE PERIOD	COST SHARE ⊕	FUNDING AMOUNT	APPLICATION PERIOD											
								Q1			Q2			Q3			Q4		
								JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Clean Water Act Nonpoint Source Grant (Section 319(h) Grants)⊕	The EPA's Section 319(h) Grant Program is a program intended to help control nonpoint source pollution, which is pollution from runoff after a rain or snowfall, like fertilizer, pet waste, or toxic chemicals. The EPA provides funding to state governments, who each run state-level competitive grant programs.	319⊕	Habitat/Ecosystem Restoration, Water Quality/Efficiency, Pollution Remediation	Academic Institution, Business (for profit), Individual, Local Government, Non-profit, State, Territory, Tribal Government	***	60 percent federal cost share.	***												
Five Star and Urban Waters Restoration Grant Program★⊕	The Five Star and Urban Waters Restoration Program brings together students, conservation corps, other youth groups, citizen groups, corporations, landowners and government agencies to provide environmental education and training through projects that restore wetlands and streams. The program provides challenge grants, technical support and opportunities for information exchange to enable community-based restoration projects. Funding levels are modest, from \$10,000 to \$40,000, with \$20,000 as the average amount awarded per project. However, when combined with the contributions of partners, projects that make a meaningful contribution to communities become possible. At the completion of Five Star projects, each partnership will have experience and a demonstrated record of accomplishment, and will be well-positioned to take on other projects. Aggregating over time and space, these grassroots efforts will make a significant contribution to our environmental landscape and to the understanding of the importance of healthy wetlands and streams in our communities.	5S★⊕	Collaborative★, Habitat/Ecosystem Restoration	Academic Institution, Local Government, Non-profit, State, Tribal Government	Up to 18 months	50 percent federal cost share.	\$												
Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration (Section 206)⊕	Under Section 206, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has the authority to carry out aquatic ecosystem restoration and protection projects.	AER⊕	Habitat/Ecosystem Restoration	Local Government, Non-profit, State, Territory, Tribal Government	***	100 percent federal cost share up to \$100,000 for feasibility study. 50% federal cost share over \$100,000 for feasibility study. 65 percent federal cost share for design and construction. 0% federal cost share for operation and maintenance.	\$\$\$\$												
Brownfields Assessment Grants⊕	The Brownfields Program is designed to empower states, tribes, communities, and other stakeholders to work together to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfield properties, like preserving them as greenspace. The Assessment Grants program is a competitive program that provides funding for a grant recipient to inventory, characterize, assess, conduct a range of planning activities, develop site-specific cleanup plans, and conduct community engagement related to brownfield sites.	BAG⊕	Habitat/Ecosystem Restoration, Pollution Remediation	State, Tribal Government	4-5 years	Varies	\$\$\$-\$\$\$\$												
Brownfields Cleanup Grants⊕	The Brownfields Program is designed to empower states, tribes, communities, and other stakeholders to work together to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfield properties, like preserving them as greenspace. Brownfields Cleanup Grants provide funding for up to four years for cleanup activities at brownfield sites.	BCG⊕	Habitat/Ecosystem Restoration, Pollution Remediation	Local Government, Non-profit, State, Territory, Tribal Government	Up to 4 years	80 percent federal cost share	\$\$\$-\$\$\$\$												
Brownfields Multipurpose Grants⊕	The Brownfields Program is designed to empower states, tribes, communities, and other stakeholders to work together to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfield properties, like preserving them as greenspace. A Multipurpose Grant is for communities that have identified an area (like a neighborhood) with one or more brownfield sites.	BMG⊕	Habitat/Ecosystem Restoration, Pollution Remediation	Local Government, Non-profit, State, Territory, Tribal Government	Up to 5 years	\$40,000 non-federal cost share waived for FY23	\$\$\$												
Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities Program⊕	The Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) Program aims to shift funding away from reactive post-disaster recovery to pro-active investment in community resilience and pre-disaster mitigation activities. Eligible grantees may submit applications on behalf of sub-applicants, including local governments, homeowners, business operators, and non-profit organizations.	BRIC⊕	Climate Resilience/Adaptation, Habitat/Ecosystem Restoration, Innovation	Local Government, State, Territory, Tribal Government	3 years	75 percent federal cost share generally. 90 percent federal cost share for disadvantaged rural communities.	\$\$\$\$												
BRIC Sub-Program: Direct Technical Assistance	The Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) Sub-Program: Direct Technical Assistance (DTA) provides support and/or connects communities to experienced mentors for project or application-specific needs and community-wide resilience needs for up to 36 months.	BRIC-DTA	Climate Resilience/Adaptation, Disaster Recovery	Local Government, Tribal Government	***	None	***												

Healthy Soil Program Grant	Grants to improve soil health are the centerpiece of NMDA's Healthy Soil Program. Every year, NMDA awards grants to implement on-the-ground projects that involve one or more of the five soil health principles, stated as follows in the legislative Act that created the program: keeping soil covered minimizing soil disturbance on cropland and minimizing external inputs maximizing biodiversity maintaining a living root integrating animals into land management, including grazing animals, birds, beneficial insects or keystone species, such as earthworms	HSPG	Soil Health	Business (for profit), Individual, Local Government, Non-profit, State, Tribal Government	Up to 10 months	***	\$\$					■	☒								
Invasive Plant Program Grant Ⓢ	The State of New Mexico, Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department (EMNRD), Forestry Division (Forestry Division) accepts grant applications for invasive plant management projects year-round. The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service (Forest Service) regularly provides funds specifically to address areas where invasive plants threaten forested acres. Projects must emphasize prevention and treatment of invasive plants and address any or all of the following: awareness and education; prevention and early detection; inventory and mapping; planning and coordination; integrated weed management; or monitoring and evaluation. The Forestry Division shall give the highest priority to projects that apply integrated management practices and demonstrate partnerships and monitoring results and for projects that address priority species on the New Mexico Noxious Weed List: https://www.emnrd.nm.gov/sfd/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/Weed-List-memo-and-weedlist-2020.pdf.	IPPGⓈ	Habitat/Ecosystem Restoration	Local Government, State, Tribal Government	Up to 2 years	50 percent federal cost share.	\$	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Land and Water Conservation Fund – State and Local Assistance Program Ⓢ	The LWCF is funded by revenues from offshore oil and gas leases and uses funding to conserve resources, like parks, wildlife refuges, forests, open spaces, trails and wildlife habitat. The Stateside LWCF program, a component of the overall LWCF program (which also funds federal land conservation projects and other state and local grants), is comprised of two programs: state formula grants and the Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership (ORLP) program (nationally competitive). ORLP targets economically disadvantaged urban communities with little access to publicly available, close-by, outdoor recreation.	LWCFⓈ	Habitat/Ecosystem Restoration	Local Government, State, Territory	Up to 3 years	50 percent federal cost share.	\$-\$										■	■	☒		
North American Wetlands Conservation Act Small Grants Program Ⓢ	The United States Fish and Wildlife Service's North American Wetlands Conservation Act Small Grants Program is a competitive grant program that supports public-private partnerships to advance projects that further the goals of NAWCA. Projects must advance long-term protection, restoration, and/or enhancement of wetlands and associated uplands habitat for the benefit of all wetland-associated migratory birds. Grant requests may not exceed \$100,000.	NAWCAⓈ	Habitat/Ecosystem Restoration	Business (for profit), Individual, Non-profit	2 years	50 percent federal cost share.	\$\$												☒		
National Culvert Removal, Replacement & Restoration Grants Ⓢ	The National Culvert Removal, Replacement & Restoration Grants is an annual competitive grant program that awards funding for projects to replace, remove, and repair culverts or weirs in a way that meaningfully improves or restores fish passage for anadromous fish (fish born in freshwater who spend most of their lives in saltwater and return to freshwater to spawn, such as salmon) and increases culvert and weir resilience to increased flooding events due to the impacts of climate change on weather and precipitation.	NCRRRⓈ	Habitat/Ecosystem Restoration	Local Government, State, Tribal Government	Up to 5 years	100 percent federal cost share for Tribal Governments. Up to 80 percent federal cost share for states or municipalities.	\$-\$\$\$\$	■	☒										■	■	■
NFWF America the Beautiful Challenge ★Ⓢ	The America the Beautiful Challenge is a public-private grant program for locally led ecosystem restoration projects that invest in watershed restoration, resilience, equitable access, workforce development, corridors and connectivity, and collaborative conservation consistent with the America the Beautiful Initiative.	NFWF★Ⓢ	Collaborative★, Climate Resilience/Adaptation, Habitat/Ecosystem Restoration	Academic Institution, Local Government, Non-profit, State, Territory, Tribal Government	2 years	90 percent federal cost share for States. 97 percent federal cost share for Territories and Tribal Governments. Cost share is waived for Indian tribes fully covered by partnerships with Native Americans in Philanthropy and waived for territories per DOI legal interpretation.	\$\$-\$\$\$\$			■	☒	■	■	☒							
Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation Military Installation Resilience Program Ⓢ	***	OLDCCⓈ	***	Local Government, State, Tribal Government	***	90 percent federal cost share.	***														
Pollution Prevention Grant: Environmental Justice in Communities	The purpose of the Pollution Prevention Grant: Environmental Justice in Communities is to provide technical assistance to businesses (e.g., information, training, expert advice) on source reduction, also known as pollution prevention (P2). Grantees must demonstrate that the project will improve human health and the environment in disadvantaged communities by implementing P2 approaches.	P2-EJC	Pollution Remediation	Academic Institutions, State, Territory, Tribal Government	2 years	None	\$\$-\$\$\$				■	■	☒								

[illegible]

[Link to full Meeting Materials List](#)

Executive Committee Meeting
March 30, 2023

See the following meeting material on the page below:

Funding Opportunities Graphic [read-ahead]

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES GRAPHIC

						KEY	Funding Emphasis	Eligible Recipients	★	Highly collaborative	⊕	Cost Share
	Academic Institution	Business (for profit)	Individual	Local Government	Non-profit	State	Territory	Tribal Government				
Climate Resilience /Adaptation	EJSG★, GTA, NFWF★⊕, WS-AS⊕	EQIP	EQIP, GTA	BRIC⊕, BRIC-DTA, CDBG, CFG⊕, DWSIRS⊕, EJG2G★, GTA, NFWF★⊕, REPI⊕, UCFP⊕	CFG⊕, EJCPS★, EJG2G★, EJSG★, EQIP, GTA, NFWF★⊕, REPI⊕, UCFP⊕, WS-AS⊕, WGF	BRIC⊕, CDBG, DWSIRS⊕, GTA, NFWF★⊕, PAS⊕, REPI⊕, WS-AS⊕	BRIC⊕, CFG⊕, EJG2G★, GTA, NFWF★⊕, PAS⊕, UCFP⊕	BRIC⊕, BRIC-DTA, CFG⊕, DWSIRS⊕, EJG2G★, EJSG★, EQIP, GTA, NFWF★⊕, PAS⊕, REPI⊕, TCRG, UCFP⊕, WS-AS⊕				
Disaster Recovery		CDBG-DR, HMGP⊕	CDBG-DR, ECP⊕, EFRP⊕, HMGP⊕	BRIC-DTA, CDBG-DR, CDBG-MIT, EJG2G★, EWP⊕, HMGP⊕, STRLF⊕	CDBG-DR, EJCPS★, EJG2G★, HMGP⊕	CDBG-DR, CDBG-MIT, EJG2G★, EWP⊕, HMGP⊕, PAS⊕, STRLF⊕, WS-DERA	CDBG-MIT, EJG2G★, HMGP⊕, PAS⊕, STRLF⊕	BRIC-DTA, CDBG-MIT, EJG2G★, EWP⊕, HMGP⊕, PAS⊕, STRLF⊕, WS-DERA				
Drought Resilience	WS-AS⊕	HMGP⊕	HMGP⊕	CFG⊕, DWSRF⊕, HMGP⊕, UCFP⊕, WS-CWM★⊕, WS-DCP⊕, WS-EWRP⊕	CFG⊕, HMGP⊕, UCFP⊕, WS-AS⊕, WS-CWM★⊕, WS-DCP⊕, WS-DRP⊕, WS-EWRP⊕, WS-SSWEP⊕, WS-WEE⊕, WS-WMS⊕, WGF	DWSRF⊕, HMGP⊕, WS-AS⊕, WS-CWM★⊕, WS-DCP⊕, WS-DERA, WS-DRP⊕, WS-EWRP⊕, WS-SSWEP⊕, WS-WEE⊕, WS-WMS⊕	CFG⊕, HMGP⊕, UCFP⊕, WS-CWM★⊕	CFG⊕, DWSRF⊕, HMGP⊕, UCFP⊕, WS-AS⊕, WS-CWM★⊕, WS-DCP⊕, WS-DERA, WS-DRP⊕, WS-EWRP⊕, WS-SSWEP⊕, WS-WEE⊕, WS-WMS⊕				
Flood/Storm Risk Reduction	WPD⊕	FMA⊕, HMGP⊕	FMA⊕, HMGP⊕	EJG2G★, EWP⊕, FMA⊕, FPMS⊕, HMGP⊕, SFRM⊕, WFPO⊕, WPD⊕, WS-CWM★⊕, REDC, PMREF⊕, WTB⊕	EJG2G★, FMA⊕, HMGP⊕, SFRM⊕, WPD⊕, WS-CWM★⊕, REDC, PMREF⊕	EJG2G★, EWP⊕, FMA⊕, FPMS⊕, HMGP⊕, PAS⊕, SFRM⊕, WPD⊕, WS-CWM★⊕, REDC, PMREF⊕, WTB⊕	EJG2G★, FMA⊕, FPMS⊕, HMGP⊕, PAS⊕, SFRM⊕, WS-CWM★⊕, REDC, PMREF⊕	EJG2G★, EWP⊕, FMA⊕, FPMS⊕, HMGP⊕, PAS⊕, SFRM⊕, WFPO⊕, WPD⊕, WS-CWM★⊕, REDC, PMREF⊕, WTB⊕				
Pollution Remediation	319⊕, EJSG★, EJTCGM, P2-EJC, P2-EJSSP	319⊕	319⊕	319⊕, EJG2G★, BCG⊕, BMG⊕, BRLE, RIDF, SWFGE	319⊕, EJSG★, EJTCGM, EJCPS★, EJG2G★, BCG⊕, BMG⊕, BRLF	319⊕, P2-EJC, P2-EJSSP, EJG2G★, BAG⊕, BCG⊕, BMG⊕, BRLF	319⊕, EJG2G★, BCG⊕, BMG⊕, BRLE, P2-EJC, P2-EJSSP	319⊕, EJSG★, EJTCGM, P2-EJC, P2-EJSSP, EJG2G★, BAG⊕, BCG⊕, BMG⊕, BRLF, RIDF				
Habitat/Ecosystem Restoration	319⊕, 5S★⊕, EJSG★, GTA, NFWF★⊕, RCPP⊕, SRP, WPD⊕	319⊕, EQIP, NAWCA⊕, RCPP⊕, SRP	319⊕, EFRP⊕, EQIP, GTA, NAWCA⊕, SRP, WRE⊕	319⊕, 5S★⊕, AER⊕, BCG⊕, BMG⊕, BRIC⊕, BRLE, CFG⊕, CWSRF⊕, EI⊕, GTA, IPPG⊕, LWCF⊕, NCRRR⊕, NFWF★⊕, PMIE⊕, RCPP⊕, REPI⊕, SRP, UCFP⊕, WCPP⊕, WPD⊕, WRE⊕, WS-AERP★⊕, WS-CWM★⊕, WS-EWRP⊕, WTB⊕	319⊕, 5S★⊕, AER⊕, BCG⊕, BMG⊕, BRLF, CFG⊕, EI⊕, EJSG★, EQIP, GTA, NAWCA⊕, NFWF★⊕, PMIE⊕, RCPP⊕, REPI⊕, SRP, UCFP⊕, WPD⊕, WRE⊕, WS-AERP★⊕, WS-CWM★⊕, WS-EWRP⊕	319⊕, 5S★⊕, AER⊕, BAG⊕, BCG⊕, BMG⊕, BRIC⊕, BRLE, CWSRF⊕, EI⊕, EJSG★, EQIP, GTA, IPPG⊕, LWCF⊕, NCRRR⊕, NFWF★⊕, PAS⊕, PMIE⊕, RCPP⊕, REPI⊕, SRP, SWG⊕, WCPP⊕, WPD⊕, WRE⊕, WS-AERP★⊕, WS-CWM★⊕, WS-EWRP⊕, WTB⊕	319⊕, AER⊕, BCG⊕, BMG⊕, BRIC⊕, BRLE, CFG⊕, EI⊕, GTA, LWCF⊕, NFWF★⊕; PAS⊕, PMIE⊕, RCPP⊕, SRP, SWG⊕, UCFP⊕, WRE⊕, WS-CWM★⊕	319⊕, 5S★⊕, AER⊕, BAG⊕, BCG⊕, BMG⊕, BRIC⊕, BRLF, CFG⊕, CWSRF⊕, EI⊕, EJSG★, EQIP, GTA, IPPG⊕, NCRRR⊕, NFWF★⊕, PAS⊕, PMIE⊕, RCPP⊕, REPI⊕, SRP; UCFP⊕, WPD⊕, WRE⊕, WS-AERP★⊕, WS-CWM★⊕, WS-EWRP⊕, WTB⊕				
Innovation	CIG⊕, RCPP⊕, SRP	CIG⊕, RCPP⊕, SRP	CIG⊕, SRP	BRIC⊕, CIG⊕, CWSRF⊕, RCPP⊕, SRP	CIG⊕, RCPP⊕, SRP, WGF	BRIC⊕, CIG⊕, CWSRF⊕, RCPP⊕, SRP, SWG⊕	BRIC⊕, CIG⊕, RCPP⊕, SRP, SWG⊕	BRIC⊕, CIG⊕, CWSRF⊕, RCPP⊕, SRP				
Soil Health		EQIP, HSPG	EQIP, HSPG	CWSRF⊕, HSPG	EQIP, WGF, HSPG	CWSRF⊕, HSPG		CWSRF⊕, EQIP, HSPG				
Water Conservation	RCPP⊕	RCPP⊕		RCPP⊕, WS-EWRP⊕, WTB⊕	RCPP⊕, WS-EWRP⊕, WS-WEE⊕, WGF	RCPP⊕, WS-EWRP⊕, WS-WEE⊕, WTB⊕	RCPP⊕	RCPP⊕, WS-EWRP⊕, WS-WEE⊕, WTB⊕				
Water Quality/Efficiency	319⊕, EJSG★, GTA, TTA, WPD⊕, PPRF	319⊕, EQIP, FMA⊕, WIFIA	319⊕, ECP⊕, EQIP, FMA⊕, GTA	319⊕, CWSRF⊕, DWSIRS⊕, DWSRF⊕, EI⊕, EJG2G★, FMA⊕, GTA, STRLF⊕, TTA, WFPO⊕, WIFIA, WPD⊕, WS-CWM★⊕, WS-EWRP⊕, WTB⊕, PPRF	319⊕, EI⊕, EJCPS★, EJG2G★, EJSG★, EQIP, FMA⊕, GTA, TTA, WPD⊕, WS-CWM★⊕, WS-DRP⊕, WS-EWRP⊕, WS-SSWEP⊕, WS-WEE⊕, WS-WMS⊕, WGF	319⊕, CWSRF⊕, DWSIRS⊕, DWSRF⊕, EI⊕, EJG2G★, FMA⊕, GTA, PAS⊕, STRLF⊕, WIFIA, WPD⊕, WS-CWM★⊕, WS-DRP⊕, WS-EWRP⊕, WS-SSWEP⊕, WS-WEE⊕, WS-WMS⊕, WTB⊕	319⊕, EI⊕, EJG2G★, FMA⊕, GTA, PAS⊕, STRLF⊕, WS-CWM★⊕	319⊕, CWSRF⊕, DWSIRS⊕, DWSRF⊕, EI⊕, EJG2G★, EJSG★, EQIP, FMA⊕, GTA, PAS⊕, STRLF⊕, WFPO⊕, WIFIA, WPD⊕, WS-CWM★⊕, WS-DRP⊕, WS-EWRP⊕, WS-SSWEP⊕, WS-WEE⊕, WS-WMS⊕, WTB⊕, PPRF				
Wildfire Risk Reduction		HMGP⊕	HMGP⊕	CWDG⊕, EJG2G★, HMGP⊕, SFA⊕	CWDG⊕, EJG2G★, HMGP⊕	CWDG⊕, EJG2G★, HMGP⊕	EJG2G★, HMGP⊕	CWDG⊕, EJG2G★, HMGP⊕, SFA⊕				

ACRONYM LIST

[319⊕](#) = Clean Water Act Nonpoint Source Grant (Section 319(h) Grants)
[5S★⊕](#) = Five Star and Urban Waters Restoration Grant Program
[AER⊕](#) = Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration (Section 206)
[BAG⊕](#) = Brownfields Assessment Grants
[BCG⊕](#) = Brownfields Cleanup Grants
[BMG⊕](#) = Brownfields Multipurpose Grants
[BRIC⊕](#) = Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities Program
[BRIC-DTA](#) = BRIC Sub-Program: Direct Technical Assistance
[BRLF](#) = Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund Grants
[CDBG](#) = Community Development Block Grant Program
[CDBG-DR](#) = Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery Program
[CDBG-MIT](#) = Community Development Block Grant – Mitigation Program
[CFG⊕](#) = Community Forestry Program
[CIG⊕](#) = Conservation Innovation Grants
[CWDG⊕](#) = Community Wildfire Defense Grant Program for At-Risk Communities
[CWSRF⊕](#) = Clean Water State Revolving Fund
[DWSIRS⊕](#) = Drinking Water System Infrastructure Resiliency and Sustainability Grant
[DWSRF⊕](#) = Drinking Water State Revolving Fund
[ECP⊕](#) = Emergency Conservation Program
[EFRP⊕](#) = Emergency Forest Restoration Program
[EI⊕](#) = Environmental Infrastructure Program
[EJCPS★](#) = Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Cooperative Agreement Program
[EJG2G★](#) = Environmental Justice Government-to-Government Program
[EJSG★](#) = Environmental Justice Small Grants Program
[EJTCGM](#) = Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Grantmaking Program
[EQIP](#) = Environmental Quality Incentives Program
[EWP⊕](#) = Emergency Watershed Protection Program
[FMA⊕](#) = Flood Mitigation Assistance Grant
[FPMS⊕](#) = Flood Plain Management Services Program
[GTA](#) = Groundwork USA Technical Assistance
[HMGP⊕](#) = Hazard Mitigation Grant Program
[HSPG](#) = Healthy Soil Program Grant
[IPPG⊕](#) = Invasive Plant Program Grant
[LWCF⊕](#) = Land and Water Conservation Fund – State and Local Assistance Program
[NAWCA⊕](#) = North American Wetlands Conservation Act Small Grants Program
[NCRRR⊕](#) = National Culvert Removal, Replacement & Restoration Grants
[NFWF★⊕](#) = NFWF America the Beautiful Challenge
[OLDCC⊕](#) = Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation Military Installation Resilience Program
[P2-EJC](#) = Pollution Prevention Grant: Environmental Justice in Communities

[P2-EJSSP](#) = Pollution Prevention Grant: Environmental Justice Through Safer and More Sustainable Products
[PAS⊕](#) = Planning Assistance to States and Tribes Program
[PMIE⊕](#) = Project Modifications for Improvement of the Environment (Section 1135)
[PMREF⊕](#) = Permanent Measures to Reduce Emergency Flood Fighting Needs for Communities Subject to Repetitive Flooding (Section 119)
[PPRF](#) = Public Project Revolving Fund
[RCPP⊕](#) = Regional Conservation Partnership Program
[REDC](#) = Pilot Programs for Rural and Economically Disadvantaged Communities (Sections 118(b) and 118(c))
[REPI⊕](#) = Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration Challenge
[RIDE](#) = Recycling and Illegal Dumping Fund
[SFA⊕](#) = State Fire Assistance Program
[SFRM⊕](#) = Small Flood Risk Management Projects (Section 205)
[SRP](#) = Superfund Redevelopment Program
[STRLF⊕](#) = Safeguarding Tomorrow Revolving Loan Fund Program
[SWFGF](#) = Solid Waste Facility Grant Fund
[SWG⊕](#) = State Wildlife Grants
[TCRG](#) = Tribal Climate Resilience Grants – Annual Awards Program
[TTA](#) = Training and Technical Assistance for Rural, Small, and Tribal Wastewater Systems
[UCEP⊕](#) = Urban and Community Forestry Program
[WCPP⊕](#) = Wildlife Crossings Pilot Program
[WFPO⊕](#) = Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations Program
[WGF](#) = Wallace Genetic Foundation
[WIFIA](#) = Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act
[WPD⊕](#) = Wetland Program Development Grants
[WRE⊕](#) = Wetland Reserve Easements
[WS-AERP★⊕](#) = WaterSMART Grant - Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Projects
[WS-AS⊕](#) = WaterSMART Grant - Applied Science Grants
[WS-CWM★⊕](#) = WaterSMART Grant - Cooperative Watershed Management Program
[WS-DCP⊕](#) = WaterSMART Grant - Drought Contingency Planning
[WS-DERA](#) = WaterSMART Grant - Drought Emergency Response Actions
[WS-DRP⊕](#) = WaterSMART Grant - Drought Resiliency Projects
[WS-EWRP⊕](#) = WaterSMART Grant - Environmental Water Resources Projects
[WS-SSWEP⊕](#) = WaterSMART Grant - Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects
[WS-Title XVI⊕](#) = WaterSMART Grant - Title XVI Authorized Projects
[WS-WEE⊕](#) = WaterSMART Grant - Water and Energy Efficiency
[WS-WIIN⊕](#) = WaterSMART Grant - Title XVI WIIN Act Water Reclamation and Reuse Projects
[WS-WMS⊕](#) = WaterSMART Grant - Water Marketing Strategy Grants
[WTB⊕](#) = Water Trust Board Water Project Fund

APPLICATION DUE DATES

First Quarter (Jan-Mar)	Second Quarter (Apr-Jun)	Third Quarter (Jul-Sep)	Fourth Quarter (Oct-Dec)	All Year	Unknown
5S ★⊕ BRIC ⊕ BRIC-DTA CFG ⊕ EWP ⊕ FMA ⊕ NCRRR ⊕ RIDE SWG ⊕ UCFP ⊕ WPD ⊕ WS-CWM ★⊕	CIG ⊕ EJCPS ★ EJG2G ★ EJSG ★ EJTCDM HSPG NFWF ★⊕ P2-EJC P2-EJSSP STRLF ⊕ SWFGF WS-AERP ★⊕ WS-AS ⊕ WS-DCP ⊕ WS-DRP ⊕ WS-EWRP ⊕ WS-SSWEP ⊕	REPI ⊕ TCRG TTA WCPP ⊕ WS-WEE ⊕ WS-WMS ⊕ WTB ⊕	BAG ⊕ BMG ⊕ BRLE CWDG ⊕ LWCF ⊕ NAWCA ⊕ RCPP ⊕	CDBG CDBG-DR CDBG-MIT CWSRF ⊕ DWSIRS ⊕ DWSRF ⊕ ECP ⊕ EFRP ⊕ EI ⊕ FPMS ⊕ GTA HMGP ⊕ IPPG ⊕ PAS ⊕ PMREF ⊕ PPRF SFA ⊕ SRP WFPO ⊕ WIFIA WRE ⊕ WS-DEA	EQIP OLDCC ⊕ WS-Title XVI ⊕ WS-WIIN ⊕ BCG ⊕ AER ⊕ 319 ⊕ REDC PMIE ⊕ SFRM ⊕ WGF

[Link to full Meeting Materials List](#)

Executive Committee Meeting
March 30, 2023

See the following meeting material on the page below:

SAMC Memo to EC on RiverEyes Dataset [read-ahead]



Middle Rio Grande Endangered Species Collaborative Program

Est. 2000

DATE: June 07, 2023

TO: The Middle Rio Grande Endangered Species Collaborative Program (MRGESCP)
Executive Committee (EC)

FROM: The MRGESCP Science and Adaptive Management Committee (SAMC)

RE: Discontinuation of updates of the RiverEyes data on the Program Portal

During the SAMC quarterly meeting on May 30, 2023, SAMC members had the opportunity to review some of the capabilities of the recently launched River Eyes Data Portal, built and hosted by GeoSystems Analysis, Inc. (GSA) (<https://reyes.gsanalysis.com/>). This portal displays the data collected on river drying in the Middle Rio Grande since 2002, in the form of tables and interactive data visualizations, as well as web maps.

The River Eyes Data Portal offers user-friendly, dynamic, and useful visualizations tools on river drying. These interactive data visualizations are a substantial improvement over the RiverEyes data layer currently displayed on the Program Portal Interactive Map.

The SAMC, therefore, recommends discontinuing the update of the RiverEyes data on the Program Portal and instead posting the link to the GSA River Eyes Data Portal on the Program Portal.

[Link to full Meeting Materials List](#)

Executive Committee Meeting
March 30, 2023

See the following meeting material on the page below:

Revised SAMC Charter [read-ahead, draft]



Middle Rio Grande Endangered Species Collaborative Program

Est. 2000

Middle Rio Grande Endangered Species Collaborative Program Science and Adaptive Management Committee Charter

Approved by the Executive Committee on October 27, 2020

Revised to align with the By-Laws Adopted on July 28, 2021

Revised to reflect change to SAMC membership approved on March 30, 2023

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 science coordination lead and program coordination lead 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 a non-decision-making body. 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 & 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 (LTP). SAMC responsibilities include:

- Coordinating with the science coordination lead and other PST staff to ensure the completion of MRGESCP-related science initiatives
- Convening and coordinating S&T Ad Hoc Groups to complete tasks in support of the S&AM Plan
- Reviewing results from MRGESCP-related studies, models, and monitoring activities and translating findings into management recommendations

- Working with the Fiscal Planning Committee (FPC) to support EC-recommended activities (e.g., research, restoration, modeling)
- Reporting to the EC the progress of S&AM Plan implementation, including a summary of updates to MRGESCP science objectives and strategies, and modifications to conceptual ecological models, with associated scientific justifications
- Providing updates at each EC meeting, which includes:
 - Discussing proposed work and the status of in-progress work products
 - Informing the EC of the formation of S&T Ad Hoc Groups with assigned tasks and deadlines
 - Informing the EC of the disbanding of S&T Ad Hoc Groups
 - Proposing implementation schedules for MRGESCP science and adaptive management initiatives for EC approval
 - Suggesting amendments to the S&AM Plan
 - Documenting the range of SAMC opinions with associated scientific justifications for EC review and consideration of next steps
 - Providing evidence-based recommendations for scientific research and management alternatives
 - Recommending research questions for independent peer review, as needed

IV. Membership

The Science and Adaptive Management Committee shall consist of eight-to-ten (8-10) subject matter expert members appointed by the Executive Committee. These positions will include:

- Four (4) specified subject matter experts with the following areas of expertise:
 1. Aquatic ecology
 2. Terrestrial ecology
 3. Ecosystem function
 4. Hydrology
- Four-to-six (4-6) flexible subject matter experts selected based on science-related needs, as determined by the Executive Committee. The Science and Adaptive Management Committee may provide input on which areas of expertise would benefit the group, but the final decision will be made by the Executive Committee.

An individual may not hold more than one position on the SAMC at one time.

One (1) Executive Committee member shall serve in an *ex-officio* advisory capacity to the Science and Adaptive Management Committee. This position will not count towards the eight-to-ten (8-10)-count membership and will not participate as a subject matter expert.

The Science and Adaptive Management Committee will be chaired by the science coordination lead and supported by the Program Support Team (Article 10). Neither the science coordination lead

nor members of the Program Support Team will count towards the eight-to-ten (8-10)-count membership.

a. Application Process

The EC, in coordination with the science coordination lead and program coordination lead, will oversee and administer the application process. Interested individuals shall submit a formal application to the science coordination lead. 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, or delegate review of, submitted applications and each EC representative will cast one vote per SAMC position no later than the last EC meeting of the calendar year. 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.

b. Membership Terms

SAMC members shall be appointed by the EC for staggered two (2)-year terms. Sitting SAMC members may apply for one (1)-year term limit extensions. Individuals may serve on the SAMC for no more than four (4) consecutive years, except as authorized by the EC.

c. Membership Vacancies

If a vacancy on the SAMC occurs mid-term, it will remain open unless the EC, in coordination with the SAMC, determines a need to fill the position. Upon a determination, the EC may appoint an individual for the remainder of the term.

V. Roles

The eight-to-ten (8-10) subject matter expert members will:

- Be chosen based on their technical qualifications and will serve as subject matter 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 (science coordination lead) 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

VI. SAMC Meeting Operations

The SAMC will hold meetings as necessary to conduct its business. At a minimum, the SAMC shall meet once each annual quarter, and may meet more frequently, as needed. Meetings will be facilitated by the science coordination lead. Formal agendas will be drafted for review and approval at each meeting. The PST will announce SAMC meetings on the Program Portal event calendar and will include draft agendas and read-aheads for download. Meeting agendas and read-aheads will be made available to SAMC members no later than seven (7) calendar days in advance of the meeting date, with the exception of materials under nondisclosure or confidentiality agreements, materials pertaining to closed portions of meetings, or materials declared confidential by the law.

SAMC meetings shall be open to an audience of non-committee members. Only SAMC members may participate in meeting deliberations. Prior to the meeting, the SAMC may invite ad hoc group leads 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 that 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. Non-members may submit written comments to the science coordination lead prior to SAMC meetings.

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.

VII. Establishment of Science & Technical Ad Hoc Groups

The SAMC may establish S&T Ad Hoc Groups to carry out tasks necessary for implementing the S&AM Plan and LTP. S&T Ad Hoc Groups will operate according to specific schedules, objectives, and scopes of work developed through coordination with the SAMC. These tasks include:

- Addressing specified scientific uncertainties
- Conducting literature reviews and writing 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 or laboratory studies, monitoring, and modeling to develop recommendations
- Analyzing existing data to address hypotheses linked to scientific uncertainties
- Proposing updates to the S&AM Plan as new information becomes available and new questions emerge

a. Formation of Science & Technical Ad Hoc Groups

The SAMC shall develop a charge for any S&T Ad Hoc Group it wishes to form. The charge will clearly define:

- Task(s) assigned
- Qualifications for ad hoc group membership
- Nominees for ad hoc group membership
- Nominee for ad hoc group lead
- Any attendance requirements or guidelines to achieve sufficient participation
- Deliverable(s)
- Schedule, including anticipated sunset date

SAMC members may sit on S&T Ad Hoc Groups as technical experts, but may not serve as ad hoc group leads.

b. Review of Science & Technical Ad Hoc Groups

The SAMC shall receive progress updates from the science coordination lead (or ad hoc group leads) regarding active S&T Ad Hoc Groups at each meeting. The SAMC may, as necessary, revise a S&T Ad Hoc Group's charge, schedule, or membership, or decide to disband the S&T Ad Hoc Group early.

c. Disbanding Science & Technical Ad Hoc Groups

A S&T Ad Hoc Group shall be disbanded upon the completion of its charge, or at the discretion of the SAMC. If the SAMC determines the need for additional work that is not included in the original charge, a new S&T Ad Hoc Group charge shall be developed.

VIII. Recommendations to the EC

The SAMC will not be a decision-making body. When bringing evidence-based recommendations to the EC, the SAMC will strive to operate by consensus. In a report or memorandum 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 associated scientific justifications

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

If there is no 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, in coordination with the SAMC, that there is a need for independent peer review

IX. Annual Update and Evaluation of the SAMC by the EC

The science coordination lead 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 LTP, including MRGESCP science 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.

X. 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.

XI. 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.

[Link to full Meeting Materials List](#)

Executive Committee Meeting March 30, 2023

See the following meeting material on the page below:

Revised 2023 MRGESCP Work Plan [read-ahead, draft]

2023 Work Plan

General Collaborative Program Administration

Science Decision Support Planning and Tools Development	3.1b	Develop a project template to document data and information quality standards for signatory projects	X		X																
	3.2	Survey of Manager Confidence in MRGSCP Science Support																			
	3.2a	Present results of the 2022 survey	X					X			X										
	3.2b	Incorporate the objective of the survey of manager confidence into the Annual Program Evaluation for 2023						X										X	X		
	3.3	Evaluate and refine project evaluation criteria to align with management needs			X					X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				
	3.4	Conceptual Ecological Models																			
	3.4a	Complete the revisions to the Rio Grande Silvery Minnow (RGSM) Conceptual Ecological Model to incorporate genetics considerations and the augmentation program			X	X				X	X	X	X	X							
	3.4b	Initiate an Internal Science Review of the draft revised Rio Grande Silvery Minnow (RGSM) Conceptual Ecological Model			X	X			X						X	X	X				
	3.4c	Draft a conceptual ecological model for the New Mexico meadow jumping mouse			X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X					
	3.4d	Draft a conceptual ecological model for the Pecos sunflower			X	X			X				X	X	X	X					
	3.5	Climate Scenario Planning Workshop																			
	3.5a	Plan Climate Scenario Planning Workshop for the Middle Rio Grande to develop strategies for managing listed species in the future			X				X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			
	3.5b	Link climate forecast models with projected on-the-ground impacts to species and habitat			X				X				X	X	X						
		Host a field trip to the Whitfield Wildlife Conservation Area															X				
3.5c	Host a Climate Scenario Planning Workshop	X		X				X										X			
3.5d	Compile and present results from Climate Scenario Planning Workshop			X				X										X	X		
3.6	Send a survey to solicit input and feedback on data relationship visualization options for the Program Portal							X	X						X	X	X				
Implementing Adaptive Management Activities	4.1	Continue RGSM Hypothesis Development S&T Ad Hoc Group					X					X	X	X							
	4.1a	Explore research hypotheses regarding the influence of mesohabitat on fish distribution (Rec #4)					X					X	X	X	X						
	4.1b	Compare and contrast various RGSM population models, and determine most appropriate uses for each (Rec #7)					X					X	X	X	X						
	4.2	Provide Recommendations for Drying in the Angostura Reach																			
	4.2a	Survey of water managers regarding roles and flexibility in planning for and controlling drying					X			X	X	X	X								
	4.2b	Provide recommendations for management actions and data collection in response to potential drying in the Angostura reach in 2023		X		X	X			X			X	X							
	4.2c	Develop public messaging strategies in concert with recommendations for drying in 2023		X	X					X				X	X						
	4.2e	Evaluate effectiveness of the drying response plan, and refine recommendations for 2024 (contingent on drying in Angostura Reach)		X		X	X			X								X	X	X	X
	4.3	Convene Restoration Guidance S&T Ad Hoc Groups to define restoration goals, monitoring/maintenance considerations, and metrics to document success																			
	4.3a	Evaluate use of the Society of Ecological Restoration (SER) Recovery Wheel's applicability and usefulness to plan and evaluate ecosystem restoration in the MRG				X	X						X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
4.3b	Compile and review a compendium of restoration resources for the MRG				X	X						X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
4.4	Vegetated Islands and Bank-Attached Bars in the MRG																				

Coordination of Signatory Activities	4.4a	Develop a glossary of technical terms related to management of vegetated islands/bars			X	X							X	X	X					
	4.4b	Develop conceptual model representing the vegetated islands/bars phenomenon			X	X							X	X	X					
	5.1	Host quarterly HR coordination meetings					X		X		X		X			X			X	
	5.2	Identify coordination opportunities related to the spring/summer hydrology	X					X			X									
	5.3	Provide updates on coordination activities related to the spring/summer hydrology, and lessons learned	X					X												X
	5.4	Provide updates on the implementation of signatory activities from the Long-Term Plan					X	X		X		X			X			X		

[Link to full Meeting Materials List](#)

Executive Committee Meeting March 30, 2023

See the following meeting material on the page below:

Revised Information and Data Quality Standards Ad Hoc Group Charge [read-ahead, draft]

**Middle Rio Grande Endangered Species Collaborative Program (MRGESCP)
Information and Data Quality Standards Hybrid Ad Hoc Group
DRAFT Charge**

Note: Due to this charge's relationship to both MRGESCP administrative and science practices, this group will be a hybrid Administrative/Science and Technical Ad Hoc Group. Therefore, the charge and final deliverables must be approved by both the Executive Committee (EC) and the Science and Adaptive Management Committee (SAMC).

Approved by the SAMC on August 26, 2022.

Approved by the EC on September 8, 2022.

Approved by the Information and Data Quality Standards Hybrid Ad Hoc Group on February 9, 2023.

Revision approved by the SAMC on June 15, 2023.

Revision approved by the EC on June 29, 2023.

Revised Ad Hoc Group Charge

The Information and Data Quality Standards Hybrid Ad Hoc Group will develop a form template that summarizes data QAQC and management practices for each signatory project entered into the SAMIS, and will develop language for a data disclaimer for the Program Portal.

Membership

A. Criteria for membership

- An understanding of the Information Quality Act (IQA) and other federal and state regulations/policies regarding data management and information quality assurance/quality control (QA/QC).
- An understanding of good data management practices.
- Experience with, or future interest in, providing scientific information to the MRGESCP in order to inform recommendations to natural resource management agencies.
- Experience with, or future interest in, posting scientific data and reports onto the Program Portal.

B. Member List

- *Matt Wunder, Co-Lead*
- *Ara Winter, Co-Lead*
- Kelsey Bicknell, Albuquerque-Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority
- Mick Porter, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- Kenneth Richard, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
- Shannon Weld, N.M. Interstate Stream Commission
- Ara Winter, Bosque Ecosystem Monitoring Program
- Matt Wunder, N.M. Department of Game and Fish

Background

The initial charge of the Information and Data Quality Standards Hybrid Ad Hoc Group was to investigate the feasibility, utility, and necessity of applying Information Quality Act (IQA)¹

¹ The Information Quality Act (IQA) or Data Quality Act (DQA) (Section 515 of Public Law 106-554) directs the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to issue government-wide guidelines that "provide policy and

standards to the MRGESCP. On March 27, 2023, the Ad Hoc Group determined that developing IQA-compliant standards to the MRGESCP was not a feasible task since signatories must comply with their own agency standards, or the standards of relevant funding agencies.

However, the Ad Hoc Group saw value in documenting data management practices for each project uploaded to the SAMIS. This documentation would give SAMIS users additional information about how data are collected, stored, and managed for individual projects, and could provide a snapshot of IQA standards that are being met by a project.

Tasks and Deliverables

Task One Description

Create a form template for information on data management for projects uploaded into the SAMIS.

Objective of Task One

To document data management practices for individual projects within the SAMIS to support external data use.

Deliverable(s):

1. Form template compatible with the SAMIS for users to fill out when uploading data.
2. Document with definitions and justifications for each field included in the template.

Task Two Description

Develop a data disclaimer for the Program Portal.

Objective of Task Two

To develop a data disclaimer to protect the MRGESCP, signatories, agencies that fund project contracts, and project contractors, from liability relating to decisions supported by data and other information served on the Program Portal.

Deliverable(s):

Draft disclaimer language for SAMC and EC review to put on the Program Portal.

Timeline and Reporting Scheduling

Task	Subtask	Deliverable	To Be Completed By
Create a form template for information on data management for	Identify appropriate fields to include in the template in order to provide a snapshot	Template with fields and associated document with definitions and	July 2023

procedural guidance to federal agencies for ensuring and maximizing the quality, objectivity, utility, and integrity of information (including statistical information) disseminated by Federal agencies."

projects uploaded into the SAMIS.	of data management practices for a project.	justifications for each field.	
	Revise the template to ensure usability within the SAMIS	Revised template	July 2023
Draft a data disclaimer for the Program Portal.		Draft disclaimer language for SAMC and EC review to put on the Program Portal.	August 2023 SAMC

[Link to full Meeting Materials List](#)

Executive Committee Meeting March 30, 2023

See the following meeting material on the page below:

2023 Science Symposium Proposal [read-ahead, draft]

Middle Rio Grande Endangered Species Collaborative Program
2023 Science Symposium Proposal

Per the Biennial Schedule, the Middle Rio Grande Endangered Species Collaborative Program (Program) will hold a Science Symposium in December 2023. Previous Symposia were held in 2019 and 2020 and were generally well received.

Purpose:

- To provide a collaborative space to share scientific research related to the Middle Rio Grande
- To foster dialogue and collaboration between scientists within and external to the Program
- To support the development of linkages between scientific work and Program objectives and strategies in the Science and Adaptive Management Information System (SAMIS)

Proposed Timing:

- The first week of December
- Two full days

Possible Locations:

- In-person, to hold ~80 people in theater seating
- Old Town Farm / Bike in Coffee
- U.S. Geological Survey Water Science Center
- UNM Rotunda
- Others?

Next Steps:

- Those interested in helping plan the Symposium contact the Program Support Team (PST)
- The PST will convene the small planning group. The groups first tasks will be deciding on location and date
- Call for abstracts to go out July 2023

[Link to full Meeting Materials List](#)

Executive Committee Meeting
March 30, 2023

See the following meeting material on the page below:

Outline on a Potential Paper on MRGESCP's Transition to Adaptive Management

Proposed outline for a paper on the MRGESCP Transition to Adaptive Management

Objectives of Paper:

- Document the Collaborative Program's journey to adaptive management
- Generate interest in the Collaborative Program's work from a wider audience
- Provide guidance to other diverse collaboratives attempting adaptive management

Suggested journals (Open access preferred?):

Journal of Environmental Management; Environmental Conservation; Ecology and Society; Journal of Fish and Wildlife Management; Environmental Management

Working Title (To be further workshopped):

Developing an Adaptive Management Program: Lessons Learned from the Middle Rio Grande Endangered Species Collaborative Program

- I. Introduction
- II. Brief Background about the MRGESCP
 - a. Founding and brief history
 - b. Challenges
 - c. Program area and species
 - d. Decision to transition to an AM program from...?
- III. Assumptions from the Long-Term Plan for Science and AM
 - a. Defining the operational space for the MRGESCP
 - b. Allowing the signatories to identify opportunities for AM
- IV. Building the new Science & Adaptive Management Program
 - a. Customizing the AM cycle and defining Program and signatory roles
 - b. Developing the Program structure
 - i. Committees to oversee different aspects of the Program and draft recommendations
 - ii. Ad hoc groups to carry out the different tasks
 - c. Facilitating communication and task implementation
 - i. Elements and conditions that enable and support AM
 - ii. Tools, processes, and roles to generate results
- V. Appropriate application of sound science
 - a. Increasing transparency and decreasing bias
 - i. Proper documentation
 - ii. Creating a shared knowledge base
 - b. Developing standards and protocols
 - i. Peer review
 - ii. Information and data quality
- VI. Ensuring management relevance
 - a. Collaboratory: Periodic realignment to current management needs
 - b. Multi-year out-planning
- VII. Generating robust recommendations
 - a. Building resilience through climate futures planning
 - b. Encouraging collaboration over coordination
 - c. Increasing information sharing and accountability