DATE: March 30, 2023

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

FROM: EC Review Group: Applicants for Science and Adaptive Management Committee (SAMC)

RE: Recommended applicants for SAMC membership in 2023

Per Article 7 of the MRGESCP By-Laws (2021), the SAMC “*shall consist of no more than eight subject matter expert members appointed by the Executive Committee*.” Four positions on the SAMC are maintained with the following areas of expertise: aquatic ecology, terrestrial ecology, ecosystem function, hydrology. The EC also has discretion to select flexible areas of expertise based on upcoming science needs and, given the breadth of tasks in the current Work Plan (2023 *draft*), **the EC should consider amending Article 7 of the By-Laws to allow for a total of eight to ten subject matter experts on the SAMC**.

Three areas of expertise were identified in December 2022 to fill current vacancies on the SAMC:

* aquatic ecology [especially expertise with Rio Grande silvery minnow (*Hybognathus amarus*, RGSM)],
* watershed resource planning/regulatory, and
* environmental/natural resource economics.

The purpose of this memo is to communicate the results of the March 13, 2023 meeting of a subset of EC members to review and recommend applicants to fill vacant positions on the SAMC in 2023. Six well-qualified individuals submitted applications for membership on the SAMC during January and February 2023. Following the process described in the MRGESCP By-Laws (section 7.1.1.), applications were reviewed by the subset of EC members and applicants have been recommended for appointment to the SAMC during the March 30, 2023 EC meeting.

At the December 2022 meeting of the EC, Ryan Gronewold was nominated to take over the EC *ex-officio* position on the SAMC, replacing outgoing Alan Hatch. Per the MRGESCP SAMC Charter (2021), the *ex-officio* advisory “*position will not count towards the eight (8)-count membership, and will not participate as a subject matter expert*.” Therefore, with this proposed adjustment to the roster and the addition of a new area of expertise, **the recommendations for SAMC membership in 2023 are presented in Table 1**.

Table 1. Recommended SAMC membership for 2023 with respective areas of expertise.

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| **SAMC member** | **Expertise** | **Type** | **Proposed membership in 2023** |
| Ryan Gronewold, PE | EC *ex-officio* | Standing | Nominated (moving from Hydrology) expert) |
| Mick Porter, PhD, CFP | Aquatic Ecology | Standing | Recommended 2023 applicant |
| S. David Moore | Terrestrial Ecology | Standing | Incumbent, staying on for 2023 |
| Meaghan Conway, PhD | Ecosystem Function | Standing | Incumbent, staying on for 2023 |
| Aubrey Harris, PE | Hydrology | Standing | Recommended 2023 applicant |
| Alison Hutson, PhD | Aquatic Ecology | Flexible | Recommended 2023 applicant |
| Megan Friggens, PhD | Climate Science | Flexible | Incumbent, staying on for 2023 |
| Ari J. Posner, PhD | Geomorphology | Flexible | Incumbent, staying on for 2023 |
| Ara Winter, PhD | Statistics/Modeling | Flexible | Incumbent, staying on for 2023 |
| Ondrea Hummel, CERP | Watershed Resource Planning/Regulatory | Flexible | Recommended 2023 applicant |

References:

MRGESCP. 2021. Middle Rio Grande Endangered Species Collaborative Program: By-Laws. *Adopted by the Executive Committee on July 28, 2021.*

MRGESCP. 2021. 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*.

MRGESCP. 2023. Draft Work Plan for the Middle Rio Grande Endangered Species Collaborative Program. *To be approved by the Executive Committee on March 30, 2023*.