

Draft Minutes
Paso Del Norte Watershed Council
May 19, 2006 11:00 am
University of Texas El Paso (UTEP)
Geology Building, Room 310

In Attendance:

*Julie Maitland-Assistant Chair
*Jennifer Montoya-Secretary
*Ari Michelsen-Treasurer
*Irene Tejada-Program Coordinator
*Kevin Bixby
*Chris Brown
Conrad Keyes
Mariana Chew
Mike Fahey
*Inga Groff
*Joe Groff
Bobby Creel
Ed Hamlyn
Cynthia Campo
*Zhuping Sheng
Garisha Ganjgunte

*Executive Committee Members

1. Convene meeting
 - 11:15 a.m. - Meeting called to order by Julie Maitland.
2. Introductions
 - Those present introduced themselves.
3. Other Business
 - Conrad- URGWOPS in final stages of taking comments. Final EIS is out in early summer-June/July. ROD will be out Aug/Sept.
 - Surprising lack of comments from southern part of State
 - Chris Brown moved to amend agenda to add Conrad Keyes to the Executive Committee. Ari seconded the motion.
 - a. Conrad voted to Executive Committee. Determined that we have 3 open slots.
4. Review of minutes for March 9, 2006 meeting
 - Amended minutes with comments submitted by Steve and Kevin. Minutes approved with amendments.

5. A. Review of MAC Meeting-Issues w/MAC
 - a. Meeting less frequently
 - b. All MAC members are members of the PdN Task Force
 - c. Dissolving relationship between MAC & PdN Council has been proposed. MAC indicates that any council will be implement mitigation aspects of the Sustainability EIS..
 - Review of Task Force by Ari. Says that the Technical Committee meetings are more inclusive but that the Task Force meetings are not open to Public.
 - Started by Houston Advanced Research Center. Mexico representation is part of the charter.
 - Discussion about various organizations that could foster communication
 - Jennifer-would like to know more about the Lower Rio Grande Water Users Organization.
 - Chris- The Task Force was formed to advance the environmental concerns on from a tri-state perspective. They deal with water resource management, not wildlife habitat enhancements.
 - Ed says original mission of Task Force was to harmonize water planning. Our mandate is more focused on river enhancement and restoration.
- B. Ed Hamlyn to draft a resolution that will acknowledge what the Commission is considering. The PdN Council will pursue and perform their obligation as part of the Record of Decision for the Sustainability EIS.
 - Chris motions to draft resolution
 - Ed 2nds it based on discussion here. Ed to start it.
- C. Review of links to MAC via by-laws

6. Council Activities and Programs:

- A. 319
 - Letters to NMDA from the participating organizations in PdN Council that describe time and mileage commitments as match are needed.
 - Final workplan submitted to NMDA 3 weeks ago
 - Joint powers signed. Money available for use on July 1, 2006
- B. Water subcommittee work on “Scopes of Work”
 - Jennifer
 - Kevin
 - Julie
 - Need a Water Utility member (as part of agreement with EBID)
 - Need a City Rep member (as part of agreement with EBID)
 - Let the Record show that Chris Brown will not volunteer.
- C. USACE Coordinated Database
 - Ping - Phase IV of scope of work and contract is under progress

- \$200,000 in overlap with Phase III extended to Fort Quitment
 - Runs through 2007
 - Covers Surface Water through Mesilla Valley and Groundwater Interactions
 - Remember that the model was developed for flood control and not for operations.
- D. Ping and Conrad report on Albuquerque URGWOM Meeting
General reporting on the overall URGWOM process
- E. USBR Challenge 2025 Grant
- Ping- User Needs Survey now developed and available online.
 - Part of the challenge grant is a survey designed for existing users. Plus, we want to identify non-users.
 - EPWU met with EBID to identify where flow meters, weirs, etc. should be located.
 - Need 2 locations for flow measurement devices and 3-4 probes for water quality. Being worked on by EBID.
 - Mike Fahy gave an update on 2025 grant.
 - Deadline for user survey coming.
 - Enter paper surveys submitted to online survey, is that something Irene can do?
- F. Chris- Report on his presentation to IBWC Citizen Forum with Ping
- Got names and emails for attendees of the presentation. Will add those attendees to request to fill out survey.
- G. Irene-said she got a good response at EPA National Coordinators meeting on Ping's poster
- H. Irene - Consejos de Cuenca
- Update funding mechanisms to be determined after the election.
 - How do we bring in more participation from Mexico?
 - Only have budgeted 5 hours per week for next 4 months for Irene.
 - More translation for webpage needed
- I. Ari- We're getting \$200,000 for phase IV from US Army Corps of Engineers to continue Coordinated Database and Riverware Modelling. He also submitted his Treasurers Report .
- J. Other Business-
- Discussion of Irene's salary
 - Need for outreach communications
 - Get info out about our meeting
- K. Chris and Jennifer adjourn