

Minutes

Paso del Norte Watershed Council
Annual Meeting 2006
Best Western Mesilla Valley Inn
901 Avenida de Mesilla, Las Cruces NM
December 18, 2006
8:30-11:00 AM

1. Convene meeting and welcome.

2. **Introduction of attendees (all):** Sue Watts, Chris Brown, Geri Quisenberry, Inga Groff, Joe Groff, Ari Michelsen, Conrad Keyes, Jennifer Montoya, Cynthia Campo, Chris Canavan, Zhuping Sheng, Julie Maitland, Steve Smullen, Mike Fahy, Alfredo Granados, Garish Ganjegunte, Mike Landis, and Bobby Creel

3. Council activities over last year

a. 319 grant (Geri):

- Electronic fact sheet for the 319 Watershed Restoration Grant has been developed, and there is a link to it at the PdN webpage.
- Data Survey Consultant contract will be awarded to Dr. Phil King who will utilize several graduate students to create the WRAS. A separate contract for a wildlife biologist to join that team is also being discussed by the subcommittee.
- Stakeholder meetings are planned for Doña Ana County and City of Las Cruces to learn about County Planning and Development and how it will affect the river. A field trip around the watershed is planned for stakeholders next year. Also, a GIS Workshop to introduce stakeholders to the uses of GIS will be offered.
- Contribution Forms- Geri reminds the Council that if they have made any contributions to 319 to please fill out your forms. Contract Geri if you do not have an electronic copy.
- Source tracking study recommended by George Di Giovanni of TAES.
- URGWOM is in the process of developing a five year plan in 2007-2008 that will include stakeholders and improve the operation model to track water quality.

b. Coordinated database: Zhuping updates

- Jennifer requests titles to the four phases of URGWOM and Zhuping offered to email a short description. This description follows-

Title: Development of a Coordinated Database for Water Resources and Flow Model in the Paso del Norte Watershed.

Phase I: Enhancement of the Coordinated Water Resources Database for the Paso del Norte Watershed

Phase II: Development of RiverWare model for the Rio Grande flow in the

Rincon Valley for flood control planning

Phase III: Development of RiverWare model for the Rio Grande flow in the Mesilla Basin for flood control planning.

Phase IV: Development of RiverWare Conceptual model for the Rio Grande flow in the Mesilla Basin and the Rio Grande reach below El Paso for flood control planning.

Enhancement of GIS coverage and data transfer protocol was included for each phase.

4. **Treasurer's Report (Ari):** Ari handed out Grant Awards, Fund Allocation and Current Balances as of 12/13/06. Discussed fund balances and distribution.
5. **Approval of minutes from November 11, 2006 meeting:** Minutes reviewed. Motion to approve minutes accepted by all.
6. **Approval of by-law amendments:** Motion to approve by-laws as amended. Motion accepted by all.
7. **Election of Executive Committee members:** Christopher Brown, Alfredo Granados, Inga Groff, and Bob Currey.
8. **Other Business**
 - A suggestion was made to expand the distribution list that receives by-laws, letters, etc.. It was felt that the education and outreach subcommittee could work on expanding the distribution list.
 - Governor Richardson has announced 2007 as Year of Water in NM pledging \$7.5 million for river restoration. There are lots of restoration projects being put on the table that are ongoing. Kevin suggests a \$300,000 watershed restoration project for our stretch of the river. Kevin offers to draft a Council position paper on river restoration w biosubcommittee that could be used for future funding proposals.
 - Steve Smullen updated the Council on the first stakeholder meeting for the Canalization EIS at EBID on December 12, 2006. The meeting introduced a hydrology and hydraulics study about the restoration project. Inventory and suggested sites for restoration will be done at next meeting in May.
 - Jan 29th is the next Paso del Norte Watershed Taskforce meeting at 11:00-11:30 at El Paso Water Utilities.
9. **Date and Location of next meeting:** February 2, 2007 at IBWC 9:00 AM

Update of the Minutes: The meeting was rescheduled to Thursday February 1, 1:30-3:30 pm at IBWC International Boundary and Water Commission (bring your ID), following the URGWOM program update.