



Minutes

Paso del Norte Watershed Council Annual Meeting & Executive Committee meeting February 3, 2012 – 11:30-1:30 Chope's Restaurant| 16145 South Hwy 28| La Mesa NM

Conrad Keyes, Chair
Hilary Brinegar, Asst Chair

Sue Watts, Secretary
Ari Michelsen, Treasurer

Present:

Bill Hargrove-UTEP CERM
Chris Canavan-NMED
Christopher Brown-NMSU
Cliff Terry-Stormwater coalition
Conrad Keyes, Jr.-Corps consultant
Gil Sorg-City of Las Cruces
Gilbert Anaya-USIBWC
Hilary Brinegar-NMDA
Julie Maitland-NMDA

Kevin Von Finger-Frontera Land Alliance
Luzma Nava-NMSU
Mike Landis-USBR
Peter Bennett-City of Las Cruces
Randy Carr-NMSU
Shane Walker-UTEP
Sue Watts-ecologist
Zhuping Sheng-Texas AgriLife Rsrch Ctr

1. The Annual Meeting of the Paso del Norte Watershed Council was called to order by Conrad Keyes at 11:37 AM. All present introduced themselves.
2. The agenda was approved with no changes.
3. Lunch was ordered.
4. Reports
 - a. PdNWC Financial Report-Zhuping Sheng reported that the most recent Army Corps funding will expire Feb 2012. There is a pending scope of work for future USACE funding. There is also a possibility of future funding from Bureau of Reclamation so proposals are being sought for projects that can be started when funding is available. A motion was approved for continuing this work.
 - b. 319(h) Project Report-Chris Canavan reported that Brian Hanson has done a good job with the stakeholder outreach. There have been 6 stakeholder meetings to date and the next will be Feb 16 at Frank O'Brien Papen Community Center. Peter Bennett gave a very informative talk on stormwater drainage at the last meeting. The watershed plan is to be completed by Aug 2012 and there is committed participation from EBID, IBWC, and others. NMDA is donating mapping services. It is anticipated that Phil King and Geof

Smith will present information at the next stakeholder meeting pending scheduling.

- c. Technical Committee Report-Zhuping Sheng reported that the committee will finalize their report by the end of Feb and are working on a new scope of work. They are trying to get more Bureau of Reclamation involvement in Rio Grande modeling projects. The next URGWOM steering committee meeting is scheduled for April 17.
 - d. PdNWC website final report-Chris Brown reported that Randy Carr has taken over for Zach in the NMSU Sparc lab. They have added a Google calendar to the website to aid in scheduling and event notification. Web mapping is functional; Riverware and the data portal are being cleaned up. Contact Randy or Hilary if you notice any problems.
 - e. Sunland Park WWTP constructed wetland project-Bill Hargrove reported that the project has 3 parts—engineering feasibility, biological function, and communication/outreach. A draft report has been completed and the final version will be posted on the PdNWC website. Mike Landis reported that they have had excellent cooperation from NMED and IBWC, but the continued interest from the City of Sunland Park is unknown at this time. The groundwater authority wants a study of potential risks of toxins getting into groundwater from constructed wetland. Shane Walker reported that there is sufficient space for a wetland and he has done estimates for costs of cut and fill and has done modeling for removal of phosphorus and bacteria.
 - f. Luzma Fabiola Nava, Visiting Scholar in Residence at NMSU Dept. of Geography reported the results of her research project On Governance and Sustainable development in the Rio Grande watershed. She found that there was no apparent consensus on the definition of the boundaries of the watershed or criteria for sustainability. Consequently, stakeholder’s activities generally have a local rather than regional focus on quality and environmental issues.
5. Decisions
- a. Election of new Executive Committee members (2012-2014 terms). Motion to accept Hilary Brinegar, Juan Flores, Conrad Keyes, Julie Maitland, Ari Michelsen, and Sue Watts was approved by

acclamation. Official representative for BLM and Dona Ana County will be clarified by the next meeting. Officers approved are Conrad Keyes-Chair, Hilary Brinegar-Asst Chair, Sue Watts-Secretary, Ari Michelsen-Treasurer.

- b. Minutes from the Sept 19, 2011 meeting were approved with no edits.
6. Next EC Meeting – April 19; 3:30PM at IBWC.
 7. Meeting adjourned at 1:30 PM.