



## Minutes

### **Paso del Norte Watershed Council Executive Committee meeting April 19, 2012 | 3:30-5:30 PM International Boundary and Water Commission 4171 N. Mesa | Suite C-100 | El Paso TX**

**Conrad Keyes, Chair**

**Hilary Brinegar, Asst Chair**

**Present:**

Ari Michelsen-Texas AgriLife Rsrch Ctr

Bill Hargrove-UTEP CERM

Brian Hanson-NMDA

Conrad Keyes, Jr.-Corps consultant

Gilbert Anaya-USIBWC

**Sue Watts, Secretary**

**Ari Michelsen, Treasurer**

Kevin Von Finger-Frontera Land Alliance

Mike Landis-USBR

Sue Watts-ecologist

Zhuping Sheng-Texas AgriLife Rsrch Ctr

1. Introductions - The meeting of the Paso del Norte Watershed Council was called to order by Chair, Conrad Keyes, at 15:37. All present introduced themselves. Quorum not met.
2. Agenda approval – informal approval.
3. Decisions
  - a. Approval of minutes from Annual Meeting – Sue Watts. One correction was recommended. Because there was no quorum, the minutes will be sent out for approval by email vote.
  - b. Approval of 2012-2016 Workplan. Conrad Keyes reported that the Stormwater coalition will participate in several specific objectives. He will make the appropriate edits on the plan and it will be sent out for comment. Ari Michelsen recommended that the workplan be shared with the NM-TX Water Commission’s Management Advisory Committee to remind the head of the EPWU about the terms of the Sustainable Water Project’s EIS ROD with respect to funds for restoration tied to new construction.
4. Reports
  - a. PdNWC Financial Report-Ari Michelsen reported that the only unspent funds at this time are for the 319 grant under NMDA. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers funding expired Feb 2012. There is a possibility of funding from Bureau of Reclamation year-end funds so

- a plan for expanding river flow modeling is being drafted and will be sent to USBR leadership. In addition, a new cooperative agreement with USBR is being drafted.
- b. Technical Committee Report-Zhuping Sheng reported that the committee's final report will be released in 2 weeks. The published report must be peer-reviewed and should be available in 6 months. The newly developed models will be available once the reports are finalized. The modeling projects and the historic flows correlate well in the Rincon Valley-Mesilla Basin section ( $R^2=0.94$ ), moderately well from Leasburg to the El Paso diversion ( $R^2=0.70$ ), and less well in the El Paso-Juarez section ( $R^2=0.64$ ). Future work will combine the above 3 models and will incorporate flow data from 1975 forward.
  - c. 319(h) Project Report-Brian Hanson reported that Phil King and Geof Smith are available May 16 or 17 to present their findings to the PdNWC. Brian is continuing to have monthly stakeholder meetings and is using the newsletter to update information to all. The Watershed Plan is being drafted and is to be completed by Aug 2012. Reviewers are needed.
  - d. Biological committee-will meet after the next Council meeting. Discussions need to address findings of 319 committee and next steps.
5. Announcements—Workshop at Texas Agrilife Research Center on May 9. Free car-pooling will be available from Las Cruces.
  6. Next EC Meeting – May 17; 9AM in Las Cruces.
  7. Meeting adjourned at 17:25.