



Approved Minutes

Paso del Norte Watershed Council Executive Committee meeting August 7, 2012 | 1:00-3:00 PM Great American Land and Cattle Steakhouse

600 Valley Chile Rd| Anthony TX| 915 886 4690

**Conrad Keyes, Chair
Hilary Brinegar, Asst Chair**

**Sue Watts, Secretary
Ari Michelsen, Treasurer**

Present:

Ari Michelsen-Texas AgriLife Rsrch Ctr
Arturo Madrid-citizen
Betty Gonzalez-citizen
Bill Hargrove-UTEP CERM
Brian Hanson-NMSU
Christopher Brown-NMSU
Conrad Keyes, Jr.-Corps consultant
Gilbert Anaya-USIBWC
Gill Sorg-City of LC
Hilary Brinegar-NMDA

Jim Tolbert-citizen
Kevin Bixby-SWEC
Kevin Von Finger-Keystone Park
Mike Landis-USBR
Pilar Madrid-citizen
Stanley Mubako-UTEP
Sue Watts-ecologist

1. Introductions - The meeting of the Paso del Norte Watershed Council was called to order by Chair, Conrad Keyes, at 1:06PM. A quorum was present. All present introduced themselves.
2. Agenda approval- add voting on acceptance of April 19 minutes.
3. Decisions
 - a. Minutes from May 17, 2012 meeting approved with no edits.
 - b. Motion to approve 2012-2016 Strategic Plan passed.
 - c. Added item: minutes of April 19 meeting approved with one edit.
4. Reports
 - a. Report on 319(h) grant activities, status of watershed-based plan, and recommendations for the future-Brian Hanson. A draft watershed-based plan has been prepared. It is being reviewed by Phil King at this time but it will be finished by Aug 17. Gill Sorg suggested that a section on the life cycle of E. coli be included. Brian presented a video which summarized his activities for the 319(h) grant, especially stakeholder outreach. Important findings from the project include: high loading of E. coli during periods of high runoff. There is a need to determine if there are major hot

spots for loading, particularly in the East Drain. EBID is a potential partner for future efforts. It may be possible to implement drain management procedures for reducing E. coli loading to the river, perhaps through UV exposure to surface water.

Kevin Bixby stated that in a public meeting Phil King and Gary Esslinger had used results of the data collected for the 319(h) grant to support EBID's opposition to management of Dona Ana wilderness areas. They had used our name and Kevin felt that the audience may have mistakenly inferred that we supported EBID's position. The Council is encouraged to advance our own position on the issue.

- b. Status of funding request to USBR-Mike Landis. The response from USBR has been positive but there are currently no funds available. We could potentially join forces with IBWC to address projects within the scope of the EIS.
 - c. Status of funding request to USIBWC-Gilbert Anaya. A dialogue has been initiated and the Council is one of the participants.
 - d. PdNWC Financial Report-Ari Michelsen. No new funds to report.
 - e. Technical Committee Report-Chris Brown. The technical report will be submitted to the Corps by the end of the month. A funding request is also being prepared which will also be submitted by the end of the month. Results from the Corps project were presented by Zhuping Sheng at a meeting in Santa Fe in July. A new cooperative agreement with USBR is being drafted which will include \$15,000 in new funds.
 - f. Biological Committee report- Brian Hanson. Minutes of the last meeting will be sent to all. Restoration projects are still the priority but should fit into watershed based plan. Grants could be sought for individual projects.
5. Announcements-none
 6. Next EC Meeting – October 16, 3-5 PM at USIBWC headquarters if room is available. Gilbert will check.
 7. Meeting adjourned at 3:01PM