



Approved Minutes

Paso del Norte Watershed Council Executive Committee meeting October 16, 2012 | 3:00-5:00 PM International Boundary and Water Commission 4171 N. Mesa | Suite C-100 | El Paso TX

Conrad Keyes, Chair
Hilary Brinegar, Asst Chair

Sue Watts, Secretary
Ari Michelsen, Treasurer

Present:

Bill Hargrove-UTEP CERM
Cesar Bezares-UTEP
Conrad Keyes, Jr.-Corps consultant
Ed Hamlyn-UTEP
Garisha Ganjgunte- Texas Agrilife
Gilbert Anaya-USIBWC
Hilary Brinegar-NMDA
Kevin Bixby-SWEC

Kevin Von Finger-Keystone Park
Mike Landis-USBR
Shane Walker-UTEP
Sue Watts-ecologist
Valerie Beversdorf-EBID
Woody Irving-USBR
Zhuping Sheng-Texas Agrilife

1. Introductions - The meeting of the Paso del Norte Watershed Council was called to order by Chair, Conrad Keyes, at 3:07PM. All present introduced themselves. A quorum was not attained.
2. Agenda approval- add item 5.d-- report of IBWC ROD working group. Request to move item 6 up earlier on agenda.
3. Decisions
 - a. Approval of minutes from August 7 2012 meeting. No edits recommended. Since quorum not present, Sue will send out for an email vote.
4. Presentation from Frontera Land Alliance-to be re-scheduled
5. Reports
 - a. Report on 319(h) grant activities—Hilary Brinegar reported that because they previously obtained a no-cost extension, that the deadline for the watershed based plan was December 31, 2012. She is in the process of combining the WRAS from the previous 319(h) grant with the final reports generated from the present grant into a single document. It will hopefully be ready for review

by the EC in early Nov. Conrad asked Hilary to find out if new RFP's will be coming from NMED in the near future.

- b. PdNWC Financial Report-Zhuping Sheng. No new funds to report but a new cooperative agreement with USBR is being drafted which would bring up to \$15,000 in new funds. Final decision by early 2013. Potential projects were described in letter to Commissioner.
 - c. Technical Committee Report-Zhuping Sheng. The technical report for the last phase has been submitted to the Corps and was distributed by email to the Council. The previous cooperative agreement between the Corps and TAMU expired and the next phase of Corps funding required competitive bidding. A firm from Colorado was awarded the contract instead of TAMU. URGWOM technical team support is still in place and Zhuping will give a talk at EBID Nov 8. There is a water quality meeting on Nov 7. Members are encouraged to call into the Oct 24th meeting to demonstrate the Council's continued interest in the project.
 - d. IBWC ROD implementation committee-Kevin Bixby reported that he had attended the last meeting. EBID and Beth Bardwell (representing NM Audubon) have worked with IBWC to develop a conceptual restoration plan which will take up to 10 years to complete. They are willing to provide the Council with progress reports. This is only one part of the 553 acres of riparian habitat restoration required in the ROD. Liz Verdecchia will lead these efforts and she provided details of the plans at a recent Citizens Forum meeting. IBWC has contracted for a hydrologic modeling study before they begin any channel maintenance activities.
6. Announcements-Hilary announced she has resigned from NMDA and will be working for an environmental consulting firm in Las Cruces. She hopes to be able to continue as a member of the EC but will give up her position as vice chair. Ed Hamlyn invited everyone to a talk he will be giving at the desalination plant on Oct 23 at 5:30 which will address water issues from a global perspective.
 7. Next EC Meeting –Time for annual meeting. Sue will send out a doodle to determine members' availability for Dec 3, 4, 5. Hilary and Kevin offered facilities at NMDA and SWEC, respectively.
 8. Meeting adjourned at 4:16PM