



Minutes

Paso del Norte Watershed Council Annual Meeting and Executive Committee Meeting December 09, 2016 – 11:30AM-1:30PM USIBWC Headquarters 1471 N. Mesa, Suite C-100 | El Paso, TX 79902

Conrad Keyes, Chair

Sue Watts, Secretary
Ari Michelsen, Treasurer

Present:

Brian Hanson-private citizen
Christopher Brown-NMSU
Elizabeth Verdecchia-USIBWC
Girisha Gunjgunte-TX Agrilife
Kevin Bixby-SWEC (phone)
Gary Esslinger-EBID
Chris Canavan-NMED
Yvette McKenna-USBR
Jerry Melendez
Benjamin Kalminsor-USFS
Delbert Humberson –USGS

Bert Cortez-USBR
Zach Libbin-EBID
Leslie Grijalva-USIBWC
Sue Watts-ecologist
Woody Irving-USBR
Conrad Keyes-NMSU (retired)
John Gahr
Katey Driscoll-RMRS
Anna Jaramillo-Scarborough-USFS
Mike Natharius-USFS

1. The Annual Meeting of the Paso del Norte Watershed Council was called to order by Conrad Keyes at 11:30 am. Quorum was not attained. Everyone present introduced themselves.
2. Agenda approval: Add additional items 3d and 3e to include additional reports.
3. Reports
 - a. Assistance from the PdNWC to prevent plugging of intake structure at Caballo Dam-Woody Irving.

Personnel from USBR and the Forest Service presented information about major problems with sediment deposition into Caballo reservoir from watersheds on both the west and east sides of the reservoir. In 2016, after wildfires in the uplands, USBR had to remove sediment at the intake for the first time in many years. USBR is interested in working with stakeholders on watershed issues and controlling inputs from arroyos entering Caballo. The presentation can be found on the Council's website www.pdnwc.org.

- b. PdNWC projects supported by USBR funds -Chris Brown

Chris reported that contracts are in place between TAMU, NMSU, and the Council. gave an update on the two projects and projected timelines for completion (September 2017). One project involves updating the PdNWC website and includes posting watershed maps and providing Spanish translations of web materials. The second project is a fish study organized by the Southwest Environmental Center which will include a literature review, conceptual approaches to improve fish habitat, and identification of funding sources/stakeholders for future work.

- c. EBID perspective on the status of the Supreme Court action: Texas vs New Mexico-Gary Esslinger

Gary Esslinger presented information about the background, history, and current status of the Rio Grande Project. The presentation can be found on the Council's website www.pdnwc.org

- d. Environmental Committee: requesting a letter from the ExComm to meet a Dec 22 deadline. Approval vote to be done by email.
 - e. Other – Kevin Bixby provided an update on the La Mancha wetland. Youth Conservation Corps and FWS Partners for Wildlife Grant supported the completion of the pond, removal of non-native vegetation, and the planting native species. Still working on establishing a connection to the river.
- 4. Decisions
 - a. Election of new Executive Committee members (2017-2019 terms) and Asst Chair-Conrad Keyes. Those with expiring terms agreed to stand for election again. Motion and second to approve whole slate of nominees. No Asst Chair was elected.
 - b. Approval of minutes from July 14, 2016 (only EC members) - Sue Watts. To be done by email since quorum not attained.
 - 5. Next EC Meeting – All. Proposed for Feb/Mar at La Mancha Wetland. (Later decided to be LC City Hall)
 - 6. Adjourned at 1:34PM