



Minutes
Paso del Norte Watershed Council
Executive Committee Meeting
July 13, 2017 | 2:00-4:30PM
US IBWC Headquarters
1471 N. Mesa, Suite C-100 | El Paso TX

Conrad Keyes, Chair Sue Watts, Secretary Zhuping Sheng, Treasurer

Present:

Kevin Bixby-SWEC; by phone
Christopher Brown-NMSU; by phone
Corey Durr-BLM; by phone
Gary Esslinger-EBID
Woody Irving-USBR
Conrad Keyes-NMSU (retired)
Zhuping Sheng-TAMU Agrilife
Elizabeth Verdecchia-USIBWC
Sue Watts-ecologist
Chris Canavan-NMED

Leslie Grijalva-USIBWC
Xochitl Aranda
Delbert Humberson-USIBWC
Gilbert Anaya-USIBWC
Connie Maxwell-NMWRRI
Zack Libbin-EBID
Greg Torell
Marc Sidlow-USACE
Nabil Shafike-USACE

1. The meeting of the Paso del Norte Watershed Council was called to order by Conrad Keyes. Quorum was met. Introductions were made and the agenda was approved.
2. Decisions
 - a. Minutes of the December 9, 2016 and April 13, 2017 meetings are to be reviewed over next week and an email vote for approval will be taken.
 - b. Election of Asst Chair. No volunteers or nominations.
3. Upper Rio Grande Water Operations Model (URGWOM), Annual Operating Plan and Representation of the Rio Grande Project Operations-Nabil Shafike, USACE. Riverware modeling for allocations and releases from Caballo for EBID, EP#1, and Mexico underway. Also includes calculations for Rio Grande Compact accounting. They are developing an annual operating plan and are testing a forecasting model of the daily hydrograph using info from the weather service and years with similar volumes and pumping activity. URGWOM is ready to be used and they want to develop a way for stakeholders to run scenarios.
4. Proposed Drain Health Project—Zach Libbin. EBID plans to apply for 319 funds to reduce E.coli levels in targeted drains. The project will involve an outreach campaign to reduce illegal dumping into drains. They will need a letter of support and in-kind support from the Watershed Council to meet the 60:40 match requirements. They will also need help with stakeholder meetings, help with clean-up day(s), and mailing lists for distribution of brochures and meeting announcements.
5. The Stormwater Coalition Rincon Arroyo project: Reducing sediment load into the Rio Grande through collaborative watershed restoration—Connie Maxwell. NMWRRI needs input and a support letter from the Watershed Council for a WRRRI grant addressing sediment transport issues. They propose to do baseline monitoring and study the stormwater runoff dynamics in the watershed. They hope to identify areas and crops that would slow runoff flow and improve soil recharge.
6. Overview of the Transboundary Aquifer Assessment Program—Gilbert Anaya, IBWC
7. Reports
 - a. PdNWC Financial Report—Zhuping Sheng. No new funding. Working on getting a no-cost extension for Kevin's and Chris's projects funded by USBR.
 - b. Technical Committee Report—Woody Irving & Zach Libbin

- c. Environmental Committee—Leslie Grijalva. Met in June. Discussed EBID drain health project and future wetland project.
 - d. Website update—Chris Brown. Chris requests that members provide educational materials providing up to date information on stormwater management, green infrastructure, water conservation, and ecosystem restoration. Send to brownchr@nmsu.edu . The website will soon have links to the Lower Rio Grande Regional Water Plan and the Far West Texas RWP. The Council approved the motion to have a single webpage with topics presented in both English and Spanish, rather than maintaining two separate sites, one in each language. A video tour of the watershed is in the planning stages. Photos and videos are being sought. Liz and Brian will help support website updates.
- 8. Next EC Meeting – proposed for 12 Oct 2017 at Las Cruces City Hall, 2:30-4:30pm.
 - 9. Meeting adjourned at 4:40pm.