

Notes from Upper Rio Grande Basin Water Operations Review Interdisciplinary NEPA Team Meeting; January 10, 2002; 1:00 PM; Corps of Engineers Conference Room, Albuquerque

In Attendance:

Neal Ackerly, Dos Rios/Corps	Art Martinez, BIA
Carolyn Brumfield, Corps	Clay Mathers, Corps
James Chavez, City of Albuquerque	Claudia Oakes, SWCA/NMISC
Ellen Dietrich, SAIC/Corps	Linda Oyenque, Pueblo of San Juan
Darrell Eidson, Corps	Dennis Oyenque, Pueblo of San Juan
Rhea Graham, NMISC	Robert Padilla, USBR
Brian Hanson, USFWS	Garret Ross, USBR
Conrad Keyes, Jr., Consultant to Corps	Gary Rutherford, Corps
Steve Kolk, USBR	Gail Stockton, Corps
Charles Lujan, Pueblo of San Juan	

- ❖ Rhea Graham opened the meeting and requested that everyone introduce themselves.
- ❖ The draft notes from the December 2001 meeting were reviewed. Rhea asked that any comments or edits for the notes be provided to a Project Manager by next Thursday. After that, the notes would be finalized and posted on the web site.
- ❖ At the public meetings, the Project Managers will present the draft alternatives and take comments.
 - Announcements were printed in the *El Paso Times* and the *Las Cruces Sun News* for the first two meetings. A list of the upcoming meetings was also faxed to each tribe, posted on the public web site, and faxed to Steering Committee members. An e-mail of the public notice was also sent to the Paseo del Norte Watershed Council E-mail list developed by its Secretary that resides at EPWU.
 - The latest newsletter, mailed January 8, 2002 explains the alternatives and includes the meeting dates and locations.
 - **The locations and people to whom meeting announcements were sent should be documented.**
 - Staffing of public meetings by tech teams.
 - The Executive Committee did not think it necessary for every team to attend every meeting, when attendance at scoping meetings was discussed in 2000.
 - The Project Managers have left meeting attendance to the discretion of each team. If the tech team would learn something about the public concerns or issues at a specific meeting location, a team member should attend.
 - Rhea suggested that, if a meeting will be held at an agency office (like the USBR at Socorro), then representatives of that agency should try to attend.

- Steve Kolk went quickly through the slide presentation that will be given at each meeting.
 - Other visual aids include cards summarizing the No Action and draft Alternatives, and posters summarizing the project.
- Tech team members scheduled for the meetings:
 - The Water Operations Tech Team will be represented at each meeting.
 - Land Use, etc. Tech Team—Julie Maitland will attend Las Cruces meeting; most likely will have a person attend Albuquerque and Abiquiu; a recreation person will attend the Pilar meeting.
 - Cultural Resources Tech Team—either Neal Ackerly or Dennis Oyenque will attend all meetings.
 - Riparian and Wetlands Tech Team—committed to the El Paso, Socorro, and Alamosa meetings so far.
 - Aquatic Systems Tech Team—committed to attend Socorro, Albuquerque, and Abiquiu.
 - Water Quality Tech Team—unknown.
 - Geomorphology Tech Team—Socorro, Albuquerque, Santa Fe, and Abiquiu commitments.
 - GIS Tech Team—Ellen Dietrich will attend all meetings.
 - Hydrology and Hydraulics Tech Team—will be covered by the Geomorphology Tech Team.
 - Other ID NEPA Team members.
 - Art Martinez will attend the Albuquerque meeting and will request BIA attendance at El Paso and Española.
 - FWS staff will try to attend some meetings.
- ❖ Tech Team reports
 - Cultural Resources—Neal Ackerly
 - Neal and Dennis are trying to schedule 5 more tribal meetings with the Project Managers in February-March 2002. The public meetings do not substitute for the tribal consultation meetings.
 - Art suggested that the team coordinate tribal consultation meetings with other consultation efforts, possibly through the BIA.
 - Clay Mathers reminded the group that all requests for data to tribes from tech teams must go through the Cultural Resources Tech Team.
 - The team is updating their study plan.
 - Hydrology and Hydraulics—Carolyn Brumfield
 - The team is reviewing data needs for modeling.

- Riparian and Wetlands—Claudia Oakes
 - They would like an update on the status of the Flo-2D model development.
 - A draft of Chapter 3 will be posted on Team Link
- Water Operations
 - The next meeting is scheduled for February 7.
 - They are developing narratives of flood control protocol for Elephant Butte and Caballo.
- Water Quality—Rhea Graham
 - Chapter 3 will soon be posted on Team Link
- GIS—Clay Mathers
 - Team members have been meeting with other teams to assist in determining data needs.
 - The FWS has scheduled a flight for obtaining aerial photography of the Rio Chama. URGWOPS will fund digital orthophotography from this flight.
 - LIDAR is needed for the Rio Chama in order to develop the grid for Flo-2D modeling. This may be possible with BIA help. In order to be used for URGWOPS, the data must be collected soon (this spring).
 - The documentation and coordinates of every reach end point have been posted on Team Link. Anyone needing the GIS coverage should contact Clay.
 - The scanners are now ready to process documents for the Administrative Record. Documents should be supplied to Clay.



- ❖ **Rhea will provide a list of tech team members' phone and fax numbers upon request.** She requested that information shared among technical teams be faxed to the FWS, USBR, and BIA team members until they get Internet access again.



- ❖ **The next URGWOPS Interdisciplinary NEPA Team meeting will be held on February 14, at 1:00 p.m. at the Corps.**