

**Notes from the URGWOPS ID NEPA Team meeting; June 8, 2000;
1:00 PM; Bureau of Reclamation Rio Grande Conference Room;
Albuquerque**

In attendance:

Karen Browne, NMED/SWQB	Conrad Keyes, Jr., EWRI of ASCE
Ellen Dietrich, SAIC	Robert Padilla, Bureau of Reclamation
Darrell Eidson, Corps	Andrea Rivera, NMED/SWQB
Richard Fike, Corps	Nabil Shafike, NMISC
Don Gallegos, Corps	Doug Strech, MRGCD
Hector Garcia, Bureau of Reclamation	Leann Towne, Bureau of Reclamation
Rhea Graham, NMISC	Mark Treviño, Bureau of Reclamation
Steve Harris, Rio Grande Restoration	Julie Tsatsaros, NMED/SWQB
Bill Hays, NMGF	Julie Woolslayer, NMISC
Ella Mae Herrera, Bureau of Reclamation	

- ❖ Gail Stockton introduced Rhea Graham as the new Water Operations Review coordinator for the New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission, and announced that Leann Towne is replacing Chris Gorbach as the Bureau of Reclamation member of the Management Team. Rhea chaired the meeting.
- ❖ Ella Mae Herrera presented a slide show on the Closed Basin Project in the San Luis Valley, Colorado.
 - This is a project managed by the Bureau of Reclamation with water rights held by the Rio Grande Water Conservation Board.
 - There are 117 wells designed to pump water from the shallow, unconfined aquifer that is from 6 to 100 feet below the surface. By law, there cannot be more than a two-foot drawdown of the shallow aquifer from this project. Monitoring wells are used to insure this.
 - The capacity of the project, when it was constructed, was approximately 100,000 acre-feet per year, with an 80,000 to 90,000 cfs capacity for delivery to the Rio Grande.
 - Due to physical, chemical, and biological problems in the system, it is only producing about 40,000 acre-feet of water.
 - Gail Stockton asked if there are controversial issues that the technical teams should be aware of before they attend the scoping meeting in Alamosa.
 - Ella Mae responded that the communities initially opposed “taking their water and sending it to Texas,” but now there is more local support for the project.
 - Monitoring of vegetation has shown that the area has not been hurt.
 - Releases to the Rio Grande are constant and year-round.

❖ Scoping meetings

- A copy of the Federal Register announcement for the scoping meetings was distributed.
- Technical team displays are intended to provide information on the key issues for each resource and to generate discussion with the people who attend the meetings.
 - Julie Woolslayer displayed the layout of the Aquatic Systems Technical Team. She explained that the display board will be 4' by 3', scored and folded in three sections, with the basin map in the center. The Aquatic team has a modified basin map, photos of fish, aerial photos showing a comparison of one stretch of river at two different times, hydrographs, and the status of some species.
 - The Geomorphology Technical Team plans to have an explanation of the purpose of their team, a list of indicators, maps showing channel changes through time, and trends in sedimentation in different reaches.
 - Conrad Keyes recommended that the team use some aerial photographs showing the sedimentation at the San Marcial bridge.
 - Gail asked if they have any data for the Taos area, to which Robert Padilla replied that they do not have data for the upper reaches.
 - Julie Tsatsaros informed the group that NMED is working on a watershed study from the state line to Pilar, in which they will be getting samples on sediment gradation at different locations that may be useful to the Geomorphology team.
 - The Water Quality Technical Team will use a map of the sampling stations and TMDL reaches specific to each meeting location. They also plan to list the purpose and goals of the technical team, and hope to obtain data from the Texas Natural Resources Conservation Commission or the Texas Clean Rivers Office for the lower reaches.
 - The Land Use, Socioeconomics, and Environmental Justice Technical Team plans to display the analytical approach of the team, photos of irrigation systems and flood damage, identify potential flood damage, list irrigated acreage, and provide handouts about each area.
 - The Water Operations Technical Team will use the basic basin map, photos of each reservoir, a definition of water operations, the purpose of the team, and will provide fact sheets on each reservoir and project involved in water operations. The URGWOPS newsletter will be located at their table.
- Location maps for each meeting are available on the URGWOPS web site, <http://www.spa.usace.army.mil/urgwops/>.
- There was discussion on whether selected technical teams should be represented at each meeting, depending on the anticipated turnout and issues of the area, or whether each technical team should be represented at all meetings.
 - It was agreed that each technical team would be represented by one team member at each scoping meeting. **Technical teams should assign a primary and a backup person to each meeting and notify the Management Team as soon as possible before the first two meetings on June 28 and 29.**
 - The NMED members of the Water Quality team will be unavailable to attend the first two meetings. **At their next meeting on June 20** at 9:00 at the Runnels Building library in Santa Fe, **they will identify people to attend.**



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 - **Steve Harris agreed to assist the Recreation Technical Team and will attend the Alamosa and Taos scoping meetings.**
- ❖ Other Technical Team business:
 - Leann discussed the need for the **URGWOM Integration/Water Operations Technical Team**, a support team, to interact with the other technical teams. This team established a regular meeting time and location and encouraged other team members to attend so they can discuss how the Water Operations team can assist them. They will **meet on the first Friday of every month at 1:00 at the Corps building.**
 - The Geomorphology Technical Team will meet early next week.
 - The **Water Quality Technical Team is meeting June 20** as listed above.
 - The **Aquatic Systems Technical Team** has scheduled a meeting for **July 11** from 9:00 to 12:00 at the Corps building.
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 - Technical teams should **write up a summary of their meeting, documenting who attended, when the meeting was held, and what decisions were made. This summary should be e-mailed to the Management Team.**
- ➔ ❖ The **next ID NEPA Team meeting will be held on August 10** at the Corps of Engineers building at 1:00 p.m.