

Notes from Upper Rio Grande Basin Water Operations Review Interdisciplinary NEPA Team Meeting; July 12, 2001; 1:00 PM; Corps of Engineers Conference Room, Albuquerque

In attendance:

Scott Anderholm, USGS

Ellen Dietrich, SAIC/Corps

Don Gallegos, Corps*

Susan Goodan, SAIC/Corps

Chris Gorbach, USBR

Rhea Graham, NMISC

Sterling Grogan, MRGCD

Brian Hanson, USFWS

Conrad Keyes, Jr., Corps consultant

Steve Kolk, USBR

Russ Macrae, USFWS

Mike Marcus, SWCA/NMISC

Clay Mathers, Corps*

Nic Medley, NMGF

Claudia Oakes, SWCA/NMISC*

Christine Pacheco, NMED/SWQB

Gary Rutherford, Corps*

Gail Stockton, Corps

Julie Tsatsaros, NMED/SWQB*

Doug Wolf, Corps*

Mark Yuska, USBR/URGWOM

* = Team Leader or Co-Team Leader

- ❖ Gail Stockton introduced Steve Kolk, the new Project Manager for the Bureau of Reclamation, replacing Leann Towne.
- ➔ ❖ Gail asked everyone to **review the outline of Chapter 3, Affected Environment, in the new Preliminary Draft EIS Notebook** that was distributed to each Technical Team representative that was present, and to the Project Managers. Sections from each technical team's work plan products will be inserted into these notebooks as they are written. She cautioned that **all pages written by technical team members must have dates before they are added to the notebook so everyone knows which is the most recent version.**
- ➔ ❖ **If a technical team representative present at an ID Team meeting is not the team leader, that representative is responsible for sharing information and documents with the team leader.**
- ➔ ❖ The notes from the June ID NEPA Team meeting were distributed. **Technical team members should notify the Project Managers by July 20 if they have any changes to the June 8 meeting notes.**
- ❖ Chris Gorbach reviewed the project schedule to identify tasks for the technical teams.
 - **By 7/31:** Technical teams have completed all single objective alternatives and the definition of the No Action Alternative.
 - **8/9:** ID NEPA Team meeting—begin developing multi-objective alternatives.
 - **8/21:** Executive Committee meeting—No Action and the single objective alternatives will be presented for discussion.

- **12/6:** Steering Committee meeting—all alternatives will be presented by technical team leaders and Project Managers.
- ❖ No Action Alternative and Alternatives Matrix
 - The Project Managers led the discussion of the No Action Alternative presented in the Preliminary Alternatives Matrix. Several recommendations from technical team members were suggested. The Preliminary Alternatives Matrix was projected onto a large screen in the meeting room. The Project Managers indicated that future ID Team meetings will be working sessions using this format to share information and gather input.
 - The Project Managers will make the changes to the matrix and discuss with the URGWOM Integration/Water Operations Technical Team at their next meeting, on August 2, 2001 at 1:00 p.m. at the Corps.
 - After the single objective alternatives are added to the matrix, the Project Managers will send it out to the technical teams.
- ❖ Technical team reports
 - Riparian and Wetlands—Claudia Oakes
 - The team did not meet since the last ID NEPA Team meeting, but worked on developing their alternatives by e-mail.
 - The next technical team meeting will be held on July 18 at a location to be announced.
 - GIS—Clay Mathers
 - The team did not meet in June, but will hold their regularly scheduled meeting on July 26 at 9:00 a.m. at the Corps.
 - Aquatic Systems—Nic Medley
 - The team is working on their alternatives and on finalizing the statement of work for the aquatic habitat modeling.
 - They canceled their June meeting and their next meeting is scheduled for August 7 at the Corps.
 - Water Quality—Julie Tsatsaros
 - The team met on July 11 and developed a water quality single objective alternative.
 - They are working on filling in their database on water quality information, which is available for use by other technical teams if needed. Technical teams should ask Scott Anderholm for a login to access remotely. Currently, the database contains STORET and USGS data, and Corps reservoir and NMED data are being added.
 - Hydrology and Hydraulics—Doug Wolf
 - Gail told the group that this would be Doug's last meeting and thanked him for all of his hard work for the Water Operations Review effort. The Project Managers will discuss the reassignment of the work for this team.
 - Doug reported that he has been working on refining the Flo2D model from Cochiti to Elephant Butte. The grid from Cochiti to the confluence with the Rio Chama has been completed, but the maximum flows need to be identified in these reaches.

- He has been developing the high flow model with help from the Bosque Hydrology Group.
 - River Geomorphology, Sedimentation, and Mechanics—Doug Wolf
 - Doug has also participated with this team and reported that they are continuing to define the river characteristics identified in their Study Plan.
 - Land Use, Socioeconomics, Environmental Justice, Recreation, Agriculture—Gary Rutherford
 - The team plans to finalize their alternatives at their next meeting via teleconference on July 17 and further discuss this at their August 9 meeting.
 - Three people have been working on writing the Affected Environment sections.
 - URGWOM Integration/Water Operations—Don Gallegos
 - The team has concentrated on developing the No Action Alternative discussed earlier in the meeting. The team met by teleconference with USBR and IBWC staff to discuss flood control operations (only) at Elephant Butte and Caballo reservoirs, during their July 11, 2001 meeting.
 - Cultural Resources—Clay Mathers
 - Several meetings with tribal groups were held recently. This has been the focus of the team in the near term.
 - Additional meetings will be scheduled when co-team leader Neal Ackerly returns from travel next month.
 - ❖ Cooperating agencies
 - Rhea Graham reported that the NMED is now officially a cooperating agency.
 - The Project Managers will be meeting next week to discuss the comments to proposed revisions to the Memorandum of Agreement for San Juan Pueblo to become a cooperating agency.
 - The Project Managers expressed hope to include MRGCD as a cooperating agency in the future, and have received indications that the City of Albuquerque is also working on details to become a cooperating agency.
 - The Project Managers would appreciate recommendations on potential cooperating agencies from the ID NEPA Team.
-  ❖ **The next ID NEPA Team meeting will be held on August 9 at the Corps conference room at 1:00 p.m.**