

## Upper Rio Grande Basin Water Operations Review Executive Committee meeting, September 20, 2000

Bataan Building, 1:30 – 3:00 p.m.

*In attendance:*

LTC Col. Midkiff, Corps

Dale Groenwald, Corps

Norman Gaume, NMISC

Rolf Schmidt-Peterson, NMISC

Mike Gabaldon, BOR

Gail Stockton, Corps

Rhea Graham, NMISC

Leann Towne, BOR

- The Executive Committee discussed revisions to the meeting notes for the August meeting and decided that notes would be reviewed at the following meeting for corrections. If corrections are needed, corrected notes would then be reviewed for publication on the website at the following Executive Committee meeting. Therefore, at the next Executive Committee meeting the June meeting notes, the corrected August meeting notes, and the notes for this meeting will be reviewed.
- Regarding the Steering Committee meeting planned for December 6, 2000, in Albuquerque, the goal will be to send in about two weeks, letters jointly signed by the three Executive Committee members on a special joint lead agency letterhead. So far 12 members are confirmed. Additional calls inviting the remaining 15 or so members are anticipated to be completed in about 10 days. The letter will confirm the telephone call to the participant inviting their attendance, and will include as an attachment copies of the MOA, Fact Sheets, and newsletter.
- Regarding cooperating agencies, the suggestion was made that BLM reconsider being a cooperating agency, and that they consider being a co-lead w/Corps on Recreation Team. It was suggested that San Juan Pueblo co-lead w/Reclamation on the Cultural Resources Team. NMISC was suggested for co-lead for Riparian Team, with a specialist in the biology of the southwestern willow flycatcher. NMISC also wanted to change to co-lead with the Corps on the Land Use Socioeconomic, Environmental Justice Technical Team.
- A follow-up letter will be prepared for the Fish & Wildlife Service and the NM Department of Agriculture thanking them for being cooperating agencies. A signing ceremony is anticipated at the December 6, 2000, Steering Committee meeting. The meeting time will be 3:00 p.m. instead of 1:30 p.m. due to a conflict with the Water Banking workshop immediately following the WRRRI conference.
- A letter inviting consultation by tribes on this project was sent out, date stamped by Reclamation on September 14, 2000.
- Regarding the public scoping meetings (one tonight in Santa Fe), the management team will be developing a database to address comments, and preparing a scoping summary of the comments, as part of new RFP to be issued. Facilitator for all meetings from today on except for El Paso. Scoping comments summarized to date were reviewed and corrections suggested.

- The three project managers will be attending NEPA training (Shipley Group) next month. Project Managers thanked Executive Committee for supporting them, their staff and contractors working on the Technical Teams, and in attendance at the public scoping meetings. Continued support, especially during the next three months for development of the Plans of Study, with both staff support to spend the time, and for resources, was noted as critical. All project members will be especially busy developing integrated plan of study between 12/31/00 and 2/28/01 (for managers and team leads).
- Administrative Record and responsibility for postings on website should be under the approval of the Technical Team Leader/Assigned Project Manager. Meeting notes are reviewed and concurred by joint lead agency Project Managers via electronic communication. Executive Committee added request for Technical Team meeting reporting on a more rigorous basis (possibly written summary = required). Gave direction to managers to be conscious of quality and very deliberative about what is posted on the website.
- Discussion on the limitations of analysis below Elephant Butte Reservoir due to recent ruling in litigation. Reclamation needs to discuss with Department of Justice; 60-day appeal process not yet closed. Issues haven't gone away.
- Jemez y Sangre Regional Water Planning outreach meeting was held. Cross-fertilization from public outreach was discussed, and encouraged. Suggestion was that an outreach presentation is needed with San Juan Chama contractors.
- Executive Committee asked Project Managers to address Administrative Record procedures. Action = develop policies and procedures. Project managers indicated that only one official Administrative Record will be kept, despite three joint lead agencies.

Approved by the Executive Committee at the March 9, 2001 meeting.