

**Upper Rio Grande Basin Water Operations Review Executive
Committee Meeting, August 17, 2000**
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, 1:30 - 3:40 p.m.

In Attendance:

Mike Gabaldon, BOR
Norman Gaume, NMISC
Rhea Graham, NMISC
Steve Hansen, BOR

Dick Kreiner, Corps
Gail Stockton, Corps
Leann Towne, BOR

The meeting opened with a showing of the introductory film for the Operations Review. Everyone agreed that the film was very good, and that it would be shown at tonight's meeting. KOAT TV may be there tonight since they asked for more information. The news release was faxed to the newspapers, radio and TV stations.

Scoping Meetings

There was discussion that the management team should reduce the number of technical team members attending the scoping meetings, particularly, when it appears that the turnout will be light. It was concluded, not to reduce technical team members at the scoping meeting, but have a complete representation, as desired by the teams.

The management team mentioned a specific comment from the Taos scoping meeting on how the Closed Basin Project may be modified to provide better summer for rafting activities and environmental concerns.

Albuquerque scoping meeting details were reviewed. Melinda Smith will be facilitating with Rhea Graham presenting. Next meetings will be Santa Fe, then El Paso. Lucy Moore will facilitate in Santa Fe and Melinda Smith, in Socorro and Las Cruces. Socorro will be October 18th and the last scoping meeting.

Public scoping summary will be completed after all the meetings are done.

Mediation/Facilitation

It appears that the mediator services available through the state will be satisfactory for the Review and EIS needs.

Cooperating Agency Agreements

Chris Gorbach is working on all the cooperative agency agreements. We have about eleven of them that are currently being worked on. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service agreement is ready for signature. Concern was expressed about how many entities we'll have ready for the signing ceremony. There should be a minimum of three, including at least one non-federal to go through with the ceremony on Sept. 20. The management team should coordinate closely with USFWS so they are aware of the potential delay. The next steering committee meeting will be on December 6th at 3:00pm at the Hyatt in Albuquerque, after the WRRRI conference. This could be a back up date for the signing ceremony, as well.

Action Item: A summary of the status of all the cooperating agency agreements will be completed and sent to the Executive Committee with a recommendation as to holding the signing ceremony on September 20th or not. Summary will be sent by the first week of September.

ID and Technical Team Development

Proposed NEPA ID Team Draft Strategy and preliminary membership matrix of the Technical teams were handed out and introduced by Leann. The management team is responsible for getting the ID team and tech teams functioning. There is balance among the joint lead agencies as tech team leads. The ID Team make up still needs some work to improve its functioning, balance and perspective.

Concern was expressed about balance and perspective for ID Team. Members from the City of Albuquerque, BIA, MRGCD, and San Juan Pueblo should be added to the current draft.

Action Item: Executive Committee will get any additional comments on membership back to the managers by next Friday.

Action Item: Membership will be updated based on input given at the meeting and following comments from the Executive Committee.

Steering Committee development

Gail handed out the Management teams proposed Steering Committee Membership. Input was given, and a list of members, in addition to the Cooperating Agencies and Compact Commission, was developed.

Action Item: The additional individuals/entities/agencies will be contacted by Executive Committee members to determine if they would participate on the Steering Committee.

The Chama area is not represented on the current steering committee list .

Action Item: Norm will check into someone for the Chama area by the end of the week.

Action Item: Calls will be followed up by letters prepared by the Management Team. All calls and letters will be completed within three weeks. Letters of invitation will be signed by all three Executive Committee members.

Action Item: The Steering Committee list will be updated ASAP with feedback from the Executive Committee.

Coordination with the Pueblos

Two different types of letters are being prepared for Coordination and Consultation with the Pueblos and Tribes with help from Chris: One is for Pueblos/Tribes who responded to our original letter and the other type is for no response received.

Public Involvement RFP

Leann is still working on public involvement RFP. We will need five members on the RFP selection committee. Leann will be on it; Gail will not. The Management Team will further consult with the Executive Committee on the selection committee.

Decision Support System

The Management Team is looking into a decision analysis support system: if it is needed, and if so, what to use for the Water Operations Review. The team will discuss in more detail at a later meeting when they have a basis for recommendations. Norman said that a structured Decision Analysis System would help us, but we need to use a system that is experienced in these types of issues.

Next Meeting

The next Executive Meeting is Wednesday, September 20, 2000, at the NMISC, beginning at 1:30 PM.

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