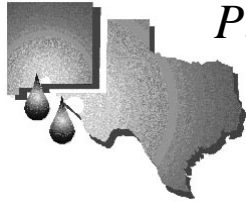


New Mexico – Texas Water Commission



Public Entities in Partnership for Sustainable Water Resources

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MEETING OF THE NEW MEXICO – TEXAS WATER COMMISSION

**El Paso Water Utilities
4th Floor Board Room
1154 Hawkins
El Paso, Texas
915-594-5681**

**June 25, 2004
9:00 A.M.**

Welcome

Ed Archuleta welcomed everyone and chaired the meeting. A copy of the sign-in sheet is attached as “**Exhibit “A”**”. Those members of the Commission attending were as follows:

Karl Wood – NMSU-WRRI
Tony Tarquin – UTEP
Ed Archuleta – EPWU
Sue Padilla - DAC

Tanya Trujillo – CLC (for Jorge Garcia)
Zhuping Sheng -TAMU
Mike Fahy – EPWU

I. Review and Approval of Minutes from June 25, 2004, New Mexico-Texas Water Commission Meeting

Ed Archuleta asked if anyone had comments on the June 25, 2004 Commission meeting minutes. The minutes were approved unanimously.

II. Presentation on the Rio Grande Project 2004 Irrigation Season Closing, Water Supply and Allocation Forecast (Wayne Treers, BuRec).

Wayne Treers provided his customary update on the water supply situation and runoff

forecast. Copies of his handouts are attached as “**Exhibit “B”**”.

Mr. Treers reviewed the snowpack and runoff levels at each of the major drainage basins for the project. He presented the spring runoff forecasts for the Rio Grande Basin and the short-term precipitation and seasonal drought outlook. Mr. Treers also discussed the reservoir inflows and storage levels, credit water status, reservoir operating plan, and the current and projected allocations for 2004. The 2004 irrigation season closed with an allocation of 38% of a full staff supply, compared to the 2003 closing of 34%.

III. Progress Report by the Paso del Norte Watershed Council (PdNWC) (Nancy Hanks, Watershed Council Coordinator).

Nancy Hanks updated the Commission on the latest activities of the Paso del Norte Watershed Council (PdNWC). She informed the Commission that the Council approved the revised Bylaws (**attached as Exhibit “C”**) at the July meeting and posted them via email for a 30 day review. At the next Council meeting, the Bylaws will be voted on for approval. Nancy discussed the objectives under “Goal B” of the Strategic Plan and informed the Commission of the following three working groups arranged by the Council:

1. Working Group for Technical Support for Watershed Planning and Management
2. Working Group for Biological Support for Watershed Health
3. Working Group for Education/Outreach/Communication

Nancy added that by the August 30th Council meeting, each group will disclose a short term, draft business plan. Because of questions and interest in Watershed Council funding requests and other activities by Commission members, Ed Archuleta suggested EPWU prepare an update on the Watershed Council’s funding expenditures and funding awards for the next New Mexico-Texas Water Commission meeting.

IV. Review of Proposed and Completed Presentations of GIS Coordinated Database Program to Congressional Staffers (Zhuping Sheng, TAMU)

Zhuping Sheng provided a brief background presentation of the GIS-Coordinated Database Project (**attached as Exhibit “D”**) by describing the roles the New Mexico-Texas Water Commission and the Paso del Norte Watershed Council played in developing Phase I and the current Phase II of the project. Zhuping described the objectives for the PdNWC Database project is to provide coordinated access to a wide range of data via web-based access and GIS interface. Zhuping explained the components of the Internet map server and ongoing enhancements such as improving the GIS user interface and integrating data from new monitoring stations and equipment. He discussed the August 4 demonstration to Mike Conner to request funding for future ideas which include:

- Groundwater and source water protection data
- Storm water runoff and best management practice data

- Land use data for future land use and economic/demographic and other modeling efforts

Zhuping would also like to link the EPWU database projects to other regional water resource projects. He informed the audience that they will need additional funding to continue the development and maintenance of the water resource database. Mr. Archuleta questioned whether the Rio Grande Compact Commission members were aware of this project and encouraged the PdNWC prepare a draft challenge Grant proposal to BuRec for Phase III funding. The website is available at <http://www.pdnwatershed.org>.

V. Demonstrations of the NM-TX Water Commission’s New Web Page (Valerie Provencio, EPWU), and NMWRRI’S New Web Page (Bobby Creel, NMWRRI)

Valerie, along with EPWU’s Web Site Developer, Robert Guillen provided a live demonstration of the Commission’s new web page. Valerie displayed the Home Page and explained that it will soon have animated water drops dripping into the moving water below. Next, she displayed the “What’s New” page which is a new addition to the website. In this link, upcoming events, or meetings can be posted including a contact list or a telephone number or email for public concerns. Other new additions include a navigation list on the upper right hand corner enabling three ways to return to the main menu, and drop down links. Ed Archuleta suggested a listing of regular annual events of the Commission members, such as the annual New Mexico Water Conference sponsored by NMWRRI. The NM-TW Water Commission’s new webpage is located at nm-txwatercomm.org.

Bobby Creel also provided a live link to NMWRRI’S new web page located at www.wrri.nmsu.edu. Bobby demonstrated their online mapping ability and portrayed photos from the state of New Mexico on the home page. NMWRRI has plans for a photo gallery, an historic and current events section, and a newsletter. Other links include Research, Conferences and Symposiums, Publications, Proceedings , Water Testing and a Kid’s Page. He mentioned that a lot of the new items incorporated in the web site are visual. There is also a watershed map and an interactive water map. One item Bobby plans to develop is a photo gallery organized by regions focusing on water and water uses.

VI. Presentation of Current and Future Water Supplies to Meet El Paso Demands (from the July 28th Meeting of IBWC Citizen’s Forum) (Mike Fahy, EPWU)

Michael P. Fahy provided a power point presentation (**Attached as Exhibit “E”**) on present and future water supplies to meet El Paso demands. Mike demonstrated various methods EPWU will meet demand through different water supply management strategies, including the use of fresh ground water, treated surface water, conservation, desalination of local brackish ground water, increased use of reclaimed wastewater, and ultimately the importation of fresh and desalinated brackish ground water.

Mike explained that current EPWU projects recently finished include the installation of reverse osmosis wellhead treatment units at brackish wells and installation of new wells. Furthermore, the Upper Valley Arsenic Treatment plant close to Anthony is under

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construction in order to meet the new arsenic standard for water. In addition, EPWU anticipates the Joint Fort Bliss- EPWU Desalination Facility to come on line in January of 2006. There were questions concerning the distance of the injection well from the desalination facility and the depth of the injections wells. Mr. Archuleta suggested that Bill Hutchinson provide a ground water presentation. Bobby Creel indicated that the Village of Hatch is now planning for their surface water plant and that Chaparral is considering a desalination plan and may be questioning the possibility of disposing of their concentrate at the JDF injection site.

VII. Other Business:

- Bobby Creel mentioned the up coming ISC review of the New Mexico's Region 11 Water Plan may be on the agenda in September in Las Cruces.
- EPWU will provide an update on the Watershed Council's funding expenditures and funding awards for the next New Mexico-Texas Water Commission meeting.
- Bill Hutchinson will provide a presentation on the Hueco Bolson Ground Water Model
- Status of the GIS Coordinated Database Program
- Report on a draft Challenge Grant proposal for funding for Phase III of the Coordinated Database
- Endorsement of the Draft EIS of the JDF

VIII. Schedule Next Meeting/Location - Topics for Discussion

The next NM-TX Water Commission Meeting will held at the Las Cruces City Council Chambers on September 24, 2004 at 9 A.M.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 A.M.