

Minutes of the Southwest Regional Water Planning Steering Committee Meeting held on February 27, 2003 at 2:30pm at the Bayard Community Center.

Those in attendance were as follows: Tom Bates- Planning Manager, Mary Jo Lopez, Recording Secretary/City of Deming, Robert Esqueda- Utilities Director for Silver City, Gerald Schultz - Tyrone, Ruben Moreno - City Council Town of Hurley, Vance Lee - Hidalgo County, Tom Shelley - Phelps Dodge, Bill Webb – SF SWCD, Alex Thal – Catron County, Joseph F. Arrellano- Grant County Commissioner, Ray Barton- PA Resident, Eddie Sedillos - City of Bayard, Jason Jacquez - City of Bayard, Mary Alice Murphy- SC Daily Press, Robert C. Morales, Sr.-Self, Frank Kenney- GSWCD, George Pintar- Luna Co. SWCD, Jim Olson- Luna Co At Large, Louis Jenkins- City of Deming, Wayne Erickson- Engineers, Inc., Joe Hutto- At Large, Larry Caldwell- Self, Gilbert Grijalva Jr.- Santa Clara, Walter R. Biebelle- San Lorenzo, NM, Tom Schultes, Silver City Sun News

Meeting was called to order at approximately 2:30 pm by Tom Bates. Introductions took place then Tom took Roll Call. Discussion on minutes approval began. Alex Thal suggested that Joanne should have been available for discussion on the Water Plan. George Pintar motioned to continue on with the agenda on approving the minutes as adjusted. Frank Kenney seconded motion. Minutes were approved with amendments made at approximately 2:40pm. Jim Olson brought to discussion that he thought additions to the minutes should include a request made by Larry Caldwell for Tom to distribute a letter typed by himself to the Steering Committee. Tom approved to have this included in the minutes. Minutes were approved unanimously.

Regional Water Plan Update: Tom went over bill from Daniel B. Stephens & Associates, Inc. which were billings for Public Participation, Water Supply Analysis, Quality Assurance, etc. which totaled \$ 2,454.00 and has been paid. Wayne Erickson with Engineers, Inc. took over by explaining the studies which are underway, and passed out handouts for examples. Wayne suggested to combine meetings and hold a public meeting in Reserve in which Joanne would be present with some materials to show progress of the water plan. DBS has used and developed forms to use on our project as well to be reviewed by the Steering Committee for approval. Wayne passed out a copy of a pamphlet developed by Tom and Joanne. Comments on the pamphlet should go to Tom. Tom stated that Wayne will be used as a focal point whether in meeting with people or by phone conferences to answer any questions he can help with. “Wayne suggested finding people in communities which could help with topics such as population and growth projection, as well as residential and industrial type subjects, this would also speed up the project somewhat. Tom stated that he would rely on the input of the Steering Committee members to find contact people who could help with the study. These contact can be sent to Tom then he will forward them to Joanne. Gerald stated that the committee needs to work together with other groups and not independently. Discussion on the Annotated Table of Contents began, Tom started by asking if anyone had suggestions to take back to Joanne.

Suggestions on 4.1 – Alex suggested to add water rights, state publication, information up front. Different kinds of water rights available. Tom Shelly suggested that the various 40 year plans probably have descriptions of water rights which could be used by the contractor. Tom Bates emphasized that making your information available to the contractor was important for that reason.

Suggestions on 4.1.2- Vance Lee suggested to keep an eye on ongoing legislation especially Senator Kyle's bill since the Gila River goes through Hidalgo County. And three components to be studied: supply, demand and budget. Suggestions on 5.1 – Alex suggested that the plan be formatted so that the three main components (i.e. supply, demand and water budget) stand out.

Tom Shelley - when I look at this table. The available dates don't seem to match. Fort Bayard since 1880 and yet available dates here for Fort Bayard were from 1946 to the present. Tom wonders if the reason is because they're using data that's available electronically.

On 5.1.3 on Evaporation and Evapotranspiration:- Louis Jenkins questioned if the study should include stations in Silver City, Deming, Lordsburg, Florida and the Reserve Ranger Station stating that he thought these locations were more relevant. Animas and Cloverdale were suggested as being helpful in the study. Gerald Schultz explained that those areas may be representative. Alex requested that Wayne check and see if data might be available on other areas. Wayne requested that as you think of comments that you email them to Tom or write them on the Table of Contents and mail them to Tom. Alex- I think we need a discussion on watershed management. Frank Corn has a base map that you need to get that spells out the various watersheds. On 5.2.1 on Streams and Rivers: should include Bill Evans which has high tech equipment to record data. Also mentioned was to research the flood in 1993. On 5.2.2 Alex Thal stated that there are some ponds and tanks that are significant for emergency situations that should be considered in the study.

On 5.3.1 on Groundwater Supply: Gerald Schultz suggested that there is need for better assessment on this ground water issue to determine the truest ground water situation in this area. Gerald Schultz – this is the crux of the whole report we need to have a better assessment of our ground water supply and this will require some field work. George on 5.1,2 & 3 – I see nothing about international problems caused. Jim Olson- where under 5.3 will the report tell us how much water we have. I agree with Gerald that this is the crux of the plan. Tom Shelly- I think the outline is a logical presentation of the information and your question will be answered by the time you get to 5.3.6. Robert Esqueda- asked if there would be any field testing of wells, aquifers, ground well modeling? Wayne responded that there would not. This is one of the limitations of the funding. Tom said that doesn't mean that we can't do some field work on our own. 5.3.2 George Pintar and Joe Hutto Questioned about international problems, should they be added, due to the impact on it'll have on Mexico, being that the Mimbres Basin goes into Mexico.

5.3.3 On wells providing data are working wells and are not metered, thus data is questionable.

5.3.4 on Well Fields: Concerns as to the monitoring of wells not being done the same way with the same formulas to determine production from the wells.

Question by Robert Esqueda: Is there going to be any actual testing of wells, aquifers etc.? Answer by Wayne. No, they'll be all paper studies.

5.3.5 By Joe Hutto "There should be a standard methodology to establish water column and depth of water on all wells."

Also questioned by Joe Hutto were the tree ring studies. Is this significant data in the research of floods or droughts?

Gerald Schultz stated that DBS needs to be very careful in showing the minimum and maximum projection for 4 years.

Tom moved on to the Public Participation Plan was next on agenda and discussed. Changes were made accordingly to suggestions made by Joann Hilton and Alex Thal. Purpose of the plan is to provide sufficient relevant information to enable the public to thoroughly understand the regional water planning efforts if the Southwest Region and to illicit public's input for the regional plan and to obtain public support for the regional water plan.

1. Public Meetings- to include eight public meetings when the working people could attend. DBS or Engineers Inc. would be there to make a presentation or to support a presentation. Also organize regionally for a meeting and give the public a chance to comment. The materials that will be included in the presentations are assessments of ground and surface water supplies and water budget information. Public meetings can be announced along with utility bills, by website, by flyers and advertised by media. Gerald Schultz suggested writing a column weekly in the newspapers with information on the water plan etc.
2. Website. – agreed on.
3. Read Files – will be placed in the public libraries in the county seats of Silver City, Deming, Reserve, and Lordsburg. This file includes member information such as phone numbers and email addresses. As well as documentation pertaining to the water plan.
4. Press Releases- releases will be published to five local area newspapers. Gerald would like to add something to catch the public's eye, such as "ongoing studies on Water Supply, find out about it". Jim suggested something like "We want your water", he also suggested to do radio announcements to get people concerned and anxious to participate in the plan. Ruben suggested including water conservation slips in the water bills. Joe suggested emailing announcements to CATS. Frank suggested to announce to big businesses so their employees will help with spreading the word on the water plan meetings.
5. Handouts/Pamphlets- will be sent by email or mail for Steering Committee approval then be made available to the public.
6. Speaker Program- Tom suggests getting a list of people who will speak. Jim Olson inquired of having the speeches scripted so that the speaker won't emphasize something out of context. Gerald suggested to have materials of the speech available to keep focus on the important issue at hand. Tom wonders if it is important to have speeches scripted. George felt that the speeches should be educative to the studies. Jim- a five point outline for the speeches. Ruben suggested to pinpoint exactly what is wanted to talk about then from there on it would be the speaker's job to break it up and speak about it in their own words.

Gerald suggested to not give too much information, just stimulate their thought process so that they will attend the other meetings.

7. CATS- a program involving panel discussion will be developed. Joe will be producing the program being that he is on the CATS Board.
8. Individual one-on-one briefings will be offered to our local legislatures. 9. Letters to the major businesses, radio, TV stations, etc.

Communication and Coordination- the Regional Water Planning Manager and the Public Participation Committee will coordinate the overall public involvement. Motion to approve Public Participation Plan made by George Pintar seconded by Frank Kenney, with changes approved unanimously.

CAP- was next on agenda and discussed. Howard, Gerald, Alex, Dutch and Tom himself went and got briefing. Gerald provided a limited supply of copies to the members so they could pass around. The briefing was recorded by Gerald, therefore anyone wanting a copy may contact Gerald. Gerald briefly gave input from the briefing, as did Tom. Discussion was on water rights, Indian's water rights, etc.

Reminder to the members who have not yet signed the Co-Op Agreement was made by Tom.

Next on agenda was public input: Larry Caldwell was given 3 minutes to comment. He stated that he submitted letters of which contained written comments on the 18<sup>th</sup> of November asking that Tom lay his comments in front of the committee, which was not done. He feels that Tom has been censoring the mail and that he does not want public input because he withheld Larry's comments from the committee. Larry wants a response in the question of the procedures of open public meeting act. Tom replies to Larry's comments, Tom has replied to Mr. Caldwell's letter and explained that the ISC requires that the Steering Committee prepare and oversee the proposals in Exhibit A Scope of Work. The Steering Committee has oversight but the fiscal agent which is the City of Deming has to prepare the RFP. Louis Jenkins came to Tom's defense and stated that he works with Tom everyday and that he is a very honest and hardworking man.

Mr. Caldwell distributed a letter saying that the Steering Committee had violated the Open Meetings Act by allowing the Selection Committee to select DBS & Assoc. as the contractor. Jim Olson stated that he disagrees with Mr. Caldwell. Mr. Olson being in the selection committee states that there was not anything done that should be of question referring to the selection of **D B** Stephens. Mr. Olson asked if Tom had contacted a Lawyer about this situation. Tom stated that all the RFP's were all sealed when received by the fiscal agent (The City of Deming) and they were opened in front of the Selection Sub-Committee which included Mr. Olson, Tom Anderson, Howard Hutchinson and Tom Bates and a witness being either Mr. Jenkins or Mr. McInturff. The RFP's were given to the selection committee and they were evaluated and came up with a short list. Then, the short list was invited to make public presentations then the subcommittee went in front of the City Council and recommended Daniel B. Stephens pending successful contract negotiations. The City council selected Daniel B. Stephens, the sub committee

did some of the ground work and did not select the contractor. Upon Tom contacting a lawyer, he was informed that advisory committees do not come under the open meeting act, therefore there has been no violation.

Jim made a motion to close public comments, Tom asked for any other public input. Closed.

Next Meeting will be held on April 24, 2003 at 2:30 pm at the Bayard Community Center.

Meeting was adjourned by Tom Bates.