

**Appendix B**  
**Public Participation**



## Appendix B. Documentation of Public Involvement

At the beginning of the planning process, the Southwest Regional Water Planning Steering Committee drafted a public participation plan, outlining strategies for maximizing public involvement. The purpose of the public participation plan was to provide sufficient relevant information for the public to understand the regional water planning efforts and to obtain public support for and input in the planning. The plan outlined the public meetings to be held, identified the locations of the project web site, specified placement of read files in public libraries, and discussed the use of press releases, public service announcements, handouts and pamphlets, a speaker program, briefings, and community access television to ensure public involvement. The public participation plan is included as Appendix B1.

During the regional water planning process, 14 steering committee meetings, which were advertised and open to the public, were held; Table B-1 lists their dates and locations. Meeting minutes for each of these meetings are included as Appendix B2.

**Table B-1. Southwest Regional Water Planning Steering Committee Meetings**

City	Date	Time
Silver City	January 8, 2003	9:00 a.m.
Bayard	February 27, 2003	2:30 p.m.
	April 24, 2003	2:30 to 4:20 p.m.
	June 26, 2003	2:30 to 4:20 p.m.
	September 4, 2003	2:30 p.m.
	October 23, 2003	2:30 to 6:00 p.m.
	November 20, 2003	10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Deming	January 13, 2004	9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Bayard	February 26, 2004	2:15 p.m.
	April 5, 2004	9:15 a.m.
Hurley	April 22, 2004	2:00 to 5:00 p.m.
	June 7, 2004	9:55 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Deming	July 26, 2004	4:00-5:20 p.m.
Cliff	March 15, 2005	1:00 p.m.



While all steering committee meetings were open to the public, additional meetings were held in multiple locations in the region to solicit comments from the public in June 2003 and October 2004. The June 2003 public meetings were held when the water supply and demand sections were completed and discussion of potential alternatives began. The October 2004 public meetings were held after the alternatives were selected, but before preparation of the draft regional water plan. Public comments were used in the selection and ranking of alternatives.

Attendance at the meetings was variable. Generally, the meetings in large communities were better attended, but good discussions took place at all of the meetings.

In order to publicize meetings, press releases were issued to the *Silver City Sun News*, *Silver City Daily Press*, *Lordsburg Liberal*, *Deming Headlight*, and *Magdalena Mountain Mail*.

**Appendix B1**

**Public Participation Plan**

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN  
For the  
Southwest Regional Steering Committee

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of the Plan is to provide sufficient relevant information to (1) enable the public to thoroughly understand regional water planning efforts in the Southwest Region, (2) elicit public input for the Regional Water Plan, and (3) obtain public support for the Regional Water Plan.

**PLANNING PROCESS:** The following methods will be used to make relevant information available to the public:

1. *Public Meetings.* Ten public meetings-two each in Lordsburg, Reserve, Deming, Silver City, and the mining community- will be scheduled. One of the two meetings will be scheduled at 7 or 7:30 on weekday evenings to allow for maximum public participation. DBS&A will provide fact sheets and presentation materials that Steering Committee members can distribute at these public meetings and at other community meetings scheduled by area representatives. These materials will include assessments of our ground water and surface water supplies, current and future demands for this water and a water budget. In addition to the presentation of planning information, public hearings will give the public an opportunity to provide ideas, concerns, and thoughts about water planning. The public meetings will be organized by the following individuals:
  - Deming: Louis Jenkins and Jim Olson
  - Silver City: Robert Esqueda and Henry Torres
  - Reserve: Alex Thal and Howard Hutchinson
  - Lordsburg: Vance Lee and Jim Hill
  - Mining Community: Gilbert Grijalva, Ruben Moreno, and Eddie Sedillos will combine efforts for one meeting of the mining community.

The Regional Water Planning Manager and Public Participation Committee will solicit volunteers to help the representatives of the soil and water conservation districts, Columbus, Virden, Duke, Phelps Dodge and at-large stakeholders, should they wish to conduct public meetings in their areas/ organizations.

2. *Website.* The Southwest Regional Water Planning website will be accessible through both the City Of Deming website (<http://www.cityofdeming.org>) and the Daniel B. Stephens & Associates, Inc. (DBS&A) website (<http://www.dbstephens.com>). The website will be advertised in pamphlets and included in press releases.
3. *Read Files.* Files with relevant water planning information will be assembled and placed initially in the public libraries in the county seats of Silver City, Deming,

Reserve, and Lordsburg. Based upon need/demand, future locations will be considered.

4. *Press Releases/Public Service Announcements.* A series of press releases will be developed and disseminated to the local area newspapers. The probable topics of the releases will include (1) the importance of water planning, (2) the components of the regional water plan, (3) the impact of the plan on the area and the citizenry, (4) the role and composition of the Steering Committee Meeting, (5) ways on which the public can get involved in water planning, and (6) the time and location of the next Steering Committee Meeting. Likewise a series of advertisements for the newspaper and PSA's for radio will be developed to put out important and encourage public attendance at the public hearings and Steering Committee Meetings.
5. *Handouts/Pamphlets.* Written materials in the form of pamphlets and flyers will be developed and printed. These efforts will be coordinated by the Regional Water Planning Manager and the Public Participation Committee. The finished products will be made available to the public through the parent organizations of the Steering Committee membership.
6. *Speaker Program.* Members of the Steering Committee will provide presentations on regional water planning for county commissions, city councils, soil and water conservation meetings, industries, business, chambers of commerce, service organizations, Steering Committee Meetings, public hearings, and elsewhere. Presentations will be offered to the major business in the area by letter. The Regional Water Planning Manager will prepare an outline for the speeches to include purpose and the Steering Committee will be selected to respond to pre-prepare questions.
7. *Community Access Television.* The possible use of community access television (CATS) will be explored, CATS will be asked to cover informative regional water planning events or speakers. If possible, the Steering Committee will also develop programs, including initial panel discussions in which members of the Steering Committee will be selected to respond to pre-prepare questions.
8. *Individual one-on-one Briefings.* These briefings will be offered to out local legislators.
9. *TV.* A TV Subcommittee will develop a program for and explore the opportunities for the use of this medium.

**COMMUNICATION AND COORDINATION.** The Regional Water Planning Manager and the Public Participation Committee will coordinate the overall effort and insure its order is logically developed. Any member of the Steering Committee may become a member of the Public Participation Committee will coordinate the efforts of the sub-committees.

**PARTICIPATION.** All members of the Steering Committee will participate in some aspect of the Public Participation Plan.

**Appendix B2**  
**Meeting Minutes**



Notes Of  
SWNM Regional Water Planning  
Public Hearing  
Deming, NM  
October 24, 2002

I. Call To Order:

Tom Bates, Special Projects Manager for the City of Deming, called the meeting to order at approximately 2:40pm.

II. Purpose Of Hearing:

The purpose of this hearing was to reach consensus on the By-Lays (to take into consideration any changes by members), RFP Plan (also to hear any suggestions by members), to select a sub-committee (whom will be responsible for interviewing contractors who bid), and to discuss the funding of the ISC.

III. Introductions/ Attendees

Tom first started out by having all attendees introduce themselves and briefly note their interest and concerns.

IV. Attendees

Robert Esqueda – Town of Silver City, Gerald Donaldson – PD NM Operations, Jim Olson – Deming at large, George Pintar – Deming SWED, Henry Torres – Grant County, Frank Kenney – Grant SWED, Roberto Gutierrez – Columbus Trustee, Howard Hutchinson – SFSWCD, Harold Bray – Black Range RC & D, Mary Burton Riseley – AGWA at large, Tom Anderson – Hidalgo, Gilbert C. Grijalva – Village of Santa Clara, NM, Louis Jenkins – City of Deming, Tom Bates – Special Projects Manager/ City of Deming, Dutch Salmon – At large Silver City, Joe Hutto – Silver City at large, Janet Wolfe & Dominique Cartron – Daniel B Stephens & Assoc. (along with guest speaker), Gerald Schultz – Black Range RC & D, Wayne Ericson – Engineers, Inc., Alex Thal – Catron County.

V. Presentation / Open Discussions

Mike Trujillo with the Middle Rio Grande Water Resources Board started his presentation which was based on his experience through his water plan for the area. He suggests to keep the research as simple as possible. Our goal is to research supply and demand, look at alternatives then implement a plan. Mr. Trujillo then answered questions from attendees.

Tom then started going over the By-Laws and changing what was suggested by attendees until consensus was reached. The committee then went through the RFP Plan and made changes to it as agreed and consensus was reached on that also. Meeting was moved outside due to power outage, and a sub-committee was formed to interview and choose a contractor to do the research as needed. The sub-committee consists of: Tom Bates, TomAnderson, Howard Hutchinson, Robert Esqueda and Jim Olsen. All members agreed on these five to interview and agree on the contractor(s).

#### VI. Meeting Adjourned:

Meeting was adjourned by Tom Bates at approximately 5:30 pm due to power outage and cold weather, since meeting was moved outdoors.

MINUTES OF THE SOUTHWEST REGIONAL WATER PLANNING STEERING COMMITTEE  
January 8, 2003, Silver City, New Mexico

The meeting was called to order by Tom Bates, SW Regional Water Planning Manager, at 9 am. Tom introduced Joanne Hilton from Daniel B. Stephens and Associates. He explained that the Selection Committee had recommended and the Deming City Council had approved the selection of Daniel B. Stephens and Associates to write the regional water plan pending successful contract negotiations. The Selection Committee had negotiated a contract and the contract was sent electronically to the Steering Committee for approval. DBS&A had indicated a December 31, 2003 completion date in their Proposal, but agreed to complete Phase 1 NLT October 31, 2003. The State hopes to complete the State Water Plan by December 31, 2003 so the earlier completion date helps insure that the regional input will be considered in the State Plan. DBS&A also agreed to do water plans by county as much as possible. DBS&A had signed the contract January 2, 2003 and the City of Deming January 6, 2002. Tom presented Joanne their signed copy of the contract. The contractor was officially under contract, a milestone.

The others in attendance introduced themselves. Members present: Robert Esqueda, Gilbert Grijalva, Joe Hutto, Louis Jenkins, Frank Kenney, Jim Olson, Don Rauch, Harry Browne alternate for Dutch Salmon, Gerald Shultz, Eddie Sedillos, Thomas Shelley, Alex Thal, Henry Torres, Vance Lee and Tom Bates. Alex Thal recognized the work of the Selection Committee and expressed his appreciation. Larry Caldwell of Deming was the only public at large attendee. Members absent: Grady Adams, Roberto Gutierrez, Jim Hill, Howard Hutchinson, Hal Keeler, Mike Matush, Tom McArthur, Ruben Moreno, Archie Payne, George Pintar, David Ramos, Jim Redford, Mary Burton Reisely and Lauren Dunn.

The following still have not signed the Cooperative Agreement: Grady Allen, Jim Hill, Howard Hutchinson, Hal Keeler, Mike Matush, George Pintar, David Ramos, Dutch Salmon, and Mary Burton Reisely.

Tom briefed steering Committee Organization and Process. Steering Committee members represent the four counties (Catron, Grant, Hidalgo and Luna); eight municipalities (Silver City, Santa Clara, Columbus, Lordsburg, Deming, Virden, Hurley and Bayard); four of the **six** soil and water conservation districts (San Francisco, Grant, Deming and Hidalgo); two industries (Phelps Dodge and Duke Energy) and various constituencies represented by 10 to 12 citizens at large. The water planning process involves a four-way partnership between ISC, Deming, the fiscal agent, Daniel B. Stephens and Associates, and the Steering Committee. Deming is responsible for the deliverables to ISC, DBS&A is responsible to Deming. The main responsibility of the Steering Committee is to provide oversight and to review and advise Deming and DBS&A on the development of deliverables. Alex suggested that the Steering Committee's role was more than oversight. Tom agreed and the contract with DBS&A does give the Steering Committee approval authority, which makes the Steering Committee also responsible to Deming and ISC for deliverables.

Hand outs provided included: A fact sheet on Regional Water Planning and Public Welfare, Packets for the October 24, 2002 Steering Committee Meeting for those who missed the meeting, the 61 page study "Analysis of Effects of Ground Water Development to Meet Projected Demands in Regional Planning District 4 Southwest New Mexico, drafts of the proposed legislation on Regional Water Planning, and Colfax Public Involvement Plan; and Joanne provided a handout titled Public Participation in Regional Water Planning and led the discussion on public involvement.

Based upon Joanne's presentation and discussions, the Steering Committee agreed that our Public Involvement Plan should contain the following:

1. A web site. Gerald suggested that we publicize the fact that we have a web site. Wayne suggested we look to WNMU for a possible web master.

2. That documents and correspondence pertaining to regional water planning and the work of the Steering Committee be made available to the public. Libraries rather than governmental offices were determined to be an appropriate location for this

documentation. As a starting point, libraries in Silver City, Deming, Lordsburg and Reserve will be used.

3. The availability of handouts to the public. Larry suggested that we check with the Interstate Stream Commission for handouts. Henry suggested we start with a press release. Included in the press release would be the purpose of the water plan, the purpose of the Steering Committee, the importance of water planning to the public, etc. The release would go to all papers, chambers of commerce, business and civic organizations and any other organizations that could help get the word out.

4. A Speaker Program. Wayne suggested that the press be invited to the steering Committee meetings. We agreed to investigate the use of Community Access Television Stations? (CATS).

5. Public Meetings. Our contract with DBS&A calls for their participation in four public meetings. Consensus was that DBS&A attendance would be most profitable after they have completed the three deliverables. They could present the deliverables and get the public input BEFORE getting Steering Committee approval. Larry and others wanted to prevent the perception that the presentations were a done deal. Wayne thought that the public meetings should take place on evenings or weekends when there might be greater opportunities for attendance. Tom suggested that the location of the meeting be rotated within the region. Jim suggested that each member of the Steering Committee that represented a constituency, brief that Council, Commission or Board on Regional Water Planning. All agreed. Louis suggested the representatives from the various areas hold public meetings. This way we could maximize the opportunities for public input. For example, Louis, Jim and Hal could conduct the public hearing in Deming. Those in Reserve, Lordsburg and Silver City could do likewise. There was general consensus that this too was a good idea. Since the Steering Committee meetings are also public meetings, Engineers Inc will make presentations as well as DBS&A. Alex requested that Joanne provide the Steering Committee with a Gantt Chart outlining the when deliverables will be available, suggested dates for public meetings, etc. Tom briefed that we had conducted public hearings in Silver City, Deming and Reserve. The purpose of those hearings was to get public input and concerns and to solicit membership for the Steering Committee. We discussed in detail the pros and cons of doing another Scopeing round and decided not to undertake another round at this time, although Louis' idea of local public hearings would meet this goal.

We also agreed to use as applicable the Public Involvement Plan developed by the Black Range RC&D. Tom and Joanne are to draft the plan for approval at the next meeting of the Steering Committee. The Steering Committee would like to have the draft plan several days in advance of the meeting.

Resolution 01-03 agreeing that the organizations represented on the Steering Committee would provide DBS&A with documents important to their development of the Plan was approved.

The next meeting will be February 27, 2003 at the Bayard Community Center. Meeting was adjourned.

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.

# **Southwest Regional Water Planning Steering Committee Meeting Minutes on April 24, 2003**

## **Attendees:**

Tom Bates- Planning Manager, Louis Jenkins-City of Deming, Mary Jo Lopez, Recording Secretary/City of Deming, Robert Esqueda- Utilities Director for Silver City, Gerald Schultz - Tyrone, Gilbert Grijalva- Santa Clara, Howard Hutchinson – San Francisco SWCD, Frank Kenney – Grant County SWCD, George Pintar- Deming SWCD, Don Rauch – At large, Dutch Salmon – At large, Gerald Schultz – At large, Eddie Sedillos- Bayard, Thomas L. Shelley- Phelps Dodge, Alex Thal- Catron County, Henry Torres- Grant County, Don Hartman- NRCS/Farmer, Wayne Ericson- Engineers, Inc., Dominique Cartron – Asst. Project Manager for DB Stephens, Vance Lee- Hidalgo County, Mark Koffler-Drilling Water Service, Victor Ruiz-SWNM Council of Governments.

## **Call To Order/Introductions/Roll Call:**

Meeting was called to order at approximately 2:30 pm by Tom Bates. Introductions took place then Roll Call was taken by Mary Jo Lopez.

## **Minute Approval:**

Discussion on minutes approval began. Tom stated that any changes of minutes would be changed as suggested. No suggestions were made. Minutes were moved to be accepted by George Pintar, seconded by Louis Jenkins; carried unanimously.

## **Regional Water Plan Update- by Dominique Cartron:**

Tom Bates introduced Dominique Cartron, Assistant Project Manager for Daniel B. Stephens, and handed the meeting over to her for her presentation. Dominique began by passing out handouts to be used during her presentation. Dominique gave updates on the progress report: laid out similar to contract. The deliverables is information that is delivered to the committee as part of the contract along with the progress that was made. Dominique also stated that they are helping Tom out, along with Wayne Ericson from Engineers, INC., with public involvement, providing the necessary materials. Dominique stated that Daniel B. Stephens will be attending the quarterly meetings of the SWRWPS to provide information. She stated that they are open on getting any input from the Steering Committee on the Annotated TOC. Dominique suggested that the Committee take their time looking at the TOC, make any suggestions and inform her of them. Dominique informed the Committee that the TOC follows the ISC's template, therefore it should not be reorganized. However, key issues or areas of concern should be noted by the Steering Committee. Dominique stated that the August 2002 population projections from the Bureau of Business and Economic Research at the University of New Mexico, will be used to do the demand study until the BBER revisions to that document are available. However, for the June fact sheets, DBS&A will rely on the August 2002 study. Dominique stated that SW Planning and Marketing is researching most of the studies at this time.

Wayne stated that he has met with communities within our region and is compiling the raw data to assist in the study. Some data was gathered from Robert Esqueda, Louis Jenkins, and Lori Martinez on well information. Rancho Grande, Lordsburg and Rodeo are waiting for more information from Tink Jackson and Tom Watley on irrigation information and the status of the water data base. Wayne stated that he has collected the 40 year water plans from some areas that have them. He plans to meet with George Jackson,(who's had a long history on water information), as well as Bayard representatives and Tom Shelley from Phelps Dodge on the irrigation and water rights. The Water Budget will come after determining the supply and demand of water. Dominique clarified the timelines of the studies. The fact sheets based on research completed to date will be provided in June to the Steering Committee. The deliverable for Tasks 2 and 3 in the contract, the water supply and demand study, will be issued in August to the Steering Committee two months earlier than the contract schedule date of October.

### **Water Budget Estimates by County- Proposal presented by DBS&A**

Dominique distributed a proposal for develop Water Budget Estimates by Counties. Gerald Schultz said that there could be some problem with the public interpretation of the way that the "Water Supply and Demand in Example County" graph is shown. He is concerned that the increasing uncertainty of the future year projections will not be adequately addressed and presented which will create a false sense of interpretation by the public. Dominique stated that the demand will provide a high, a medium and a low. And with water supply availability, they will look at a 10, 50 and 90% available supply which will take into account uncertainties. For regional water planning, identifying gaps between supply and demand under drought scenarios is important. She stated that DBS&A would note uncertainties in the water budget when the study is presented.. Dominique asked for more questions or issues. She stated that the ISC has approved two other Regional Water Plans DB Stephens had been working on.

Louis Jenkins asked if it was beneficial to do the water plan County by County vs. Regional. Dominique stated that it was difficult to evaluate the water supply by County since the hydrology in the region is complex and the data is not organized by county.. She also stated that the water budget by county task, if funded, would be incorporated into the regional water plan.

Gerald asked that in task 4, if the drought conditions would be included into the averages of the water supply. Dominique, stated that they are focusing on when the water supply is not available. Dominique will mention Gerald's question to Joanne.

Tom asked how they were going to do implementation. He stated that this was an important part of the plan. Dominique stated that after the supply and demand has been determined, Phase II of the regional water plan involves identification of alternatives for meeting future demand by the Steering Committee and stakeholders. Generally, implementation of the alternatives identified in the Regional Water Plan is undertaken by the local governments of the Regions. Implementation is not part of the regional water

plan is not funded by the ISC. Phase II of the Regional Water Plan for the Southwest has not been funded by the ISC.

Tom asked if there were any other questions for Dominique. Howard asked when talking about water budgets, you're talking about how to allocate water to the uses determined. Dominique stated that water budget does not determine the allocation of water. The water budget determines the demand and supply of water. The gap between the supply and demand is identified and alternatives to address this gap are identified in Phase II of the Regional Water Plan. Tom stated that the surface water is less, and the aquifer keeps going down.

As an example of alternatives identified by other regions, Dominique also stated that in 10 to 15 years the placement of surfactants on reservoirs could be considered limit water evaporation. Educating children, over time would also help with water conservation. Wayne stated that he will do studies on pumped and metered wells. He will also try to capture major water right holders.

Dutch Salmon asked how the entities which own, but do not use their water rights, are being fit into the demand study. Dominique stated she didn't think this information would be apparent in the demand study since it looks at actual use of water. To determine whether individuals with paper water rights are actually using their water rights would require a hydrographic survey of the entire region which is a multi-million dollar process.

Dutch also stated that by not including the water rights not in use would show a lower amount of water supply. Dominique clarified that the Regional water plan shows *physical* not legal water supply. She noted that a portion of the regional water plan addresses legal limitations on the water supply and that this issue can be mentioned in that section.

Mary Helen Follingstad stated that the water rights which aren't used could be targeted for future use in the Region.

Gerald Schultz asked if the public law was not to identify resources and to protect the resources. Once it is protected will this stop Texas from getting our water. Dominique stated that the way to block a transfer was for the State to demonstrate that the water is needed for the region as part of the regional public welfare. If the State of New Mexico can demonstrate the need for the water through the regional water plans, it could block water transfers out-of-state.

Dominique asks for any other questions, then, concluded her presentation.

#### **Public Involvement Participation Update:**

Tom gave an update on the progress of DB Stephens, which has completed 23% of the work. Tom stated that they have concentrated and completed 15% of the water supply analysis. And they have completed 2% of the water demand analysis.

#### **Committee Reports-Technical Review, Water Rights/Legal Public Participation:**

Tom states that there has been two new subcommittees formed. One being the Technical Review Committee, including Louis Jenkins, Tom Shelley, Gerald Schultz, Howard

Hutchinson, Wayne Ericson and Robert Esqueda. This committee is composed of the technical people on the Steering Committee.

The Water Rights/Legal Committee is composed of: Howard Hutchinson, Alex Thal, George Pintar, Vance Lee, Tom Shelley, Sherry Tippett, and Bob Rogers.

Tom stated that a draft of the plan will be issued and public meetings will be held to gather comments.. Tom asked if additional funding will be needed to have DB Stephens get involved. Dominique stated that current budget does not included DBSA participation in public meetings to gather comments. Howard asked if the final plan deliveries would be delivered to the counties. He states if there will be a joint county commission meeting or a council type of meeting to sign off on the final plan. Howard states that these meetings, if held, may be open to the public to attend. Dominique states that one draft should be issued then gather all comments. Then it would be in favor of the budget to issue the final draft including all comments.

Tom stated that the legal committee has not met. The technical committee has met. Howard states that everybody who is working on the committees can make it hard or easy for the contractors. However, if it is made easier for the contractor it will be beneficial in budget and information.

**Membership Attendance Report:**

Tom skipped the membership report due to the fact that the by-laws weren't being enforced. This will be discussed at the next meeting.

**Request for Documents:**

Tom stated that there was a request from Larry Caldwell for information on aquifers. The information will be of access to Mr. Caldwell. Dominique provided copies of information to Tom, which will be accessible in the two most central locations for the public to look over.

**Public and Membership Input:**

Tom asked if there was any public or membership input. There were no further comments.

Meeting was adjourned by Tom Bates at approximately 4:20pm, setting the next meeting for June 26, 2003 at the Bayard Community Center.

# **Southwest Regional Water Planning Steering Committee Meeting Minutes on June 26, 2003**

## **Attendees:**

Tom Bates- Planning Manager, Mary Jo Lopez, Recording Secretary/City of Deming, Robert Esqueda- Utilities Director for Silver City, Gerald Schultz - Tyrone, Gilbert Grijalva- Santa Clara, Howard Hutchinson – San Francisco SWCD, Frank Kenney – Grant County SWCD, George Pintar- Deming SWCD, Don Rauch – At large, Dutch Salmon – At large, Gerald Schultz – At large, Eddie Sedillos- Bayard, Thomas L. Shelley- Phelps Dodge, Alex Thal- Catron County, Henry Torres- Grant County, Don Hartman- NRCS/Farmer, Wayne Ericson- Engineers, Inc., Joanne Hilton Project Manager for DB Stephens & Assoc., Inc., Vance Lee- Hidalgo County, Mark Koffler- Drilling Water Service, Victor Ruiz-SWNM Council of Governments.

## **Call To Order/Introductions:**

Meeting was called to order at approximately 2:34 pm by Tom Bates. Mr. Bates started with introductions.

## **Minute Approval:**

Discussion on minutes approval. Tom stated that there would be one correction on the minutes under the Legal and Technical Committee to include Dutch Salmon. No further changes were suggested. It was motioned to approve the Minutes as amended by Vance Lee, seconded by Dutch Salmon; carried unanimously.

## **Regional Water Plan Update- by Joanne Hilton:**

Mr. Bates stated that the meeting in Lordsburg on June 25<sup>th</sup> organized by Vance Lee went as planned and there were good comments by the public as well. Mr. Bates stated that the presentation which was given in Lordsburg is the same as will be given at this meeting and at the meeting in Reserve. Mr. Bates stated that Ms. Hilton was very receptive to the input of the attendees. Mr. Bates introduced Ms. Hilton and she started her presentation. Ms. Hilton passed out handouts on her presentation and began with the background. Ms. Hilton stated that the Water Plan is a statewide program with 16 planning regions focusing on how much water is available physically and legally and the demand of water. Ms. Hilton stated that the region would cover Catron, Grant, Hidalgo and Luna Counties, in which the City of Deming is the fiscal agent for the project. However, the Steering Committee is the overseer of the planning process and will review the draft documents. Ms. Hilton states that the final outcome is to have a plan that will be approved by the Interstate Stream Commission Guidelines. Ms. Hilton states that the sections to be completed during Phase I would be: Introduction, Public Involvement, Background Information, Legal and Water Rights Issues, Water Supply Assessment and the Water Demand and Budget (being the how much supply there is and the need for it). Phase II would be Water Budgets by County, Alternatives for Meeting Future Demand, and Recommendations. Ms. Hilton stated that the plan would eventually be implemented by the Counties. Ms. Hilton stated that DBS&A and Engineers Inc. are working on the

plan being overseen by the Steering Committee, getting input from the members as well as the public to help in the planning process. Ms. Hilton stated that the Water Supply Assessment has four major components on climate, surface water, groundwater, and water quality, various climate stations were looked at and some maps will be included for this study. Mr. Hutchinson stated that the use of the assumption that stream flows match the climates would be misleading. Rather than using an annual log, it should be isolated from the last wk of Sept. to the end of Oct. in which there is a wide rainfall event in this time frame. Ms. Hilton stated that she could look at some of that data and that there will be some more analysis on this part. Mr. Bates asked if there was a correlation of the highs all in the same year. Ms. Hilton states that there is a correlation however it isn't 100 percent, there are some variability's and some drier years. Mr. Bates asked if the stream flows were measured in CFS. Ms. Hilton stated that it is measured in CFS converted to acre feet. Mr. Salmon asked what the difference was from the average to the medium. Ms. Hilton stated that the medium was where half the flows are below and half the flows are higher. Ms. Hilton went over the Water Supply Assessment and briefly explained some highlights of the plan. Ms. Hilton showed graphs to show the water depletions and projected population by counties. Ms. Hilton stated that she would include the documentation of projections on population.

Ms. Hilton stated that Daniel B. Stephens & Assoc., Inc. will try to have a draft report ready in August for comments to be gathered. This report will be distributed along in the read files so that the public will be able to review the draft.

Meeting was adjourned by Tom Bates at approximately 4:20pm, setting the next meeting for September 04, 2003.

# **Southwest Regional Water Planning Steering Committee Meeting Minutes on September 04, 2003**

## **Attendees:**

Tom Bates- Planning Manager, Robert Esqueda- Utilities Director for Silver City, Gerald Schultz - Tyrone, Gilbert Grijalva- Santa Clara, Howard Hutchinson – San Francisco SWCD, Frank Kenney – Grant County SWCD, George Pintar- Deming SWCD, Don Rauch – At large, Dutch Salmon – At large, Gerald Schultz – At large, Eddie Sedillos-Bayard, Thomas L. Shelley- Phelps Dodge, Alex Thal- Catron County, Henry Torres- Grant County, Don Hartman- NRCS/Farmer, Wayne Ericson- Engineers, Inc., Joanne Hilton Project Manager for DB Stephens & Assoc., Inc., Vance Lee- Hidalgo County,

## **Call To Order/Introductions:**

Mr. Bates called the meeting to order at approximately 2:30 pm.

## **Minute Approval:**

Mr. Bates asked for the approval of the minutes from the previous meeting. Howard Hutchinson moved to approve the minutes as written, seconded by Gerald Schultz; carried unanimously.

## **Regional Water Plan Update Phase I**

Mr. Bates turned the meeting over to Joanne Hilton for a summary of Phase I, which is essentially a supply and demand study. Tom stated that summary information on the supply and demand work was also presented at the June steering committee meeting and at the public meetings, in which Joanne went over the main points of the plan.

Ms. Hilton stated that she is going to go over the progress report and go over the water budget as well as the review and comments process.

Progress Report: Ms. Hilton stated that on the public involvement, Daniel B. Stephens & Assoc., Inc. have participated in attending the steering committee meetings, and have attended several other meetings as well. Ms. Hilton stated that they added on the public meetings to go to the communities and present information as to what the Regional Water Planning is, what the supply and demand studies are showing, and to gather public input. The fact sheets and brochure were also prepared by DBS & A.

Ms. Hilton stated that Tom had asked for copies of the supply/demand study for each community, and that additional CD-Rom copies are available as well. Mr. Bates stated that he would make the copies available to the Public Libraries as well for the public to view. Ms. Hilton stated that the plan will also be available on their website, [www.dbstephens.com](http://www.dbstephens.com) Ms. Hilton stated that a draft of the report would be supplied as part of phase I, which will be finalized when the regional water plan is produced in phase II. Ms. Hilton stated that if any comments that are controversial should come up, the steering committee will be involved in determining the corrections. Mr. Schultz



questioned the time frame on the plan's finalization as per the State's requirements. Ms. Hilton stated that there isn't a deadline rush as per her knowledge. The group agreed to complete comments by November 15, 2003, but will revisit this deadline at the next meeting.

Ms. Hilton stated that water budgets are sometimes talked about for ground water basins in regard to budgeting how much pumping can be done each year without damaging the aquifer, however in this situation the budget refers to the reconciliation of the regional water supply and the demand. Ms. Hilton stated that the most meaningful way to view this budget would be by counties. The stream flows were presented both as average flows and as flows that are representative of drought conditions. On the irrigation, the state engineers office as well as local agricultural sources helped with this information. Gerald questioned the significance of the return flow to this region. Ms. Hilton stated that the return flow was one of the things that can have larger error bars.

Mr. Schultz asked if the reservoir evaporation is based on numbers such as net evaporation or if it was a gross evaporation. Ms. Hilton stated that estimates are provided by the OSE based on surface area of the reservoir and an applicable evaporation rate. Mr. Olson stated that there shouldn't be any number on this. Ms. Hilton stated that it would be fixed. Ms. Hilton stated that for the past fifteen years there hadn't been any records on the evaporation studies. Mr. Schultz stated that the evaporation number is a very significant number for the study. Ms. Hilton stated that Elephant Butte evaporates between 100,000 and 250,000 acre feet per year, in which the highest years were when the pool was high. Ms. Hilton stated that if anyone had some additional information on reservoirs she could include it.

Ms. Hilton stated that it was decided on that that the most accurate way to get numbers on the water budget would be to use the more downstream gauges, correcting the numbers for the amount of irrigated acres, in which there may still be error, working with only the information that could be gathered. Mr. Schultz stated that unless there was some detailed reason to have a Regional Water Basin study, the gauging stations pretty well represents any factor that influences any water passing that gauge.

Ms. Hilton stated that she will work on the technical memo including all the comments that have been made. Ms. Hilton stated that to fill the data gaps the two biggest parameters that are most uncertain are the riparian evapo-transpiration and the amount of water needed to address the fish and wild life and endangered species issues. Ms. Hilton stated that this is a data gap and is important to the study. Ms. Hilton stated that if anyone wanted to try to do a little more quantification on what the actual precipitation verses stream flow, there would be some uncertainty because we are working with old maps from WRRI. If more drought year records are available, it would be helpful.

Tom stated that the cost for Phase II will be about \$200,000. Once Phase II is completed and the public input is collected, Phases I and II, including the alternatives and the recommended solutions for the shortfalls, will be finalized and integrated into a complete regional water plan. There are 16 regions in the State; four of them have not been funded

for completion of phase II . Tom provided the copies of the letters he wrote to the water trust board and the copy of their denial, also Joanne drafted a letter for the ISC requesting money. Mary Helen Follingstad has mentioned to Mr. Bates that they do have \$800,000 allocated for planning, but she thinks the plan is to use that for the state water plan then once they have a pretty good idea how much that will cost they may break some of those funds loose for regional water planning. Mr. Bates stated that the concern of the members is that they keep the effort going.

There will be a meeting in October. He stated that they will come up with some alternatives during this time until the next meeting, when they will be prioritized. Mr. Bates stated that if the funding is granted they can start working on a regional water authority, which Howard is already working on. Mr. Bates states that the final task is to work with our Legislators, John Smith and Ben Altamirano.

Mr. Bates stated that there are different ideas on volumes one and two. Mr. Bates stated that one plan be given to each county then the county could make maximum utilization of it. The plan would be taken to the meetings and left at the libraries when it is not in use. Mr. Schultz asked if everyone on the technical committee should review the reports. Mr. Bates stated that the steering committee would go over the documents and make suggestions and comments.

Mr. Bates stated that he wants the steering committee to have an opportunity to view the documents and they will put the documents in libraries as well.

### **Public Input/ Membership Input**

Regional Water Authority- Howard

Mr. Hutchinson stated that the COG will draft the letter for signatures from each one of the political subdivisions represented on the COG. The letter will be sent to our congressional delegations emphasizing that we support the acquisition of the 18,000 acre feet in Southwestern NM, and also requesting that the congressional delegation protect NM's interest in the 18,000 acre feet by amending the Arizona Indian's Settlement Act that is currently in the Senate and in the House and the COG agreed to do that.

Howard will be contacting Mike Connor at senator Dominici's office; he is the chief of staff for the senator on the Energy Committee to discuss the details.

The State of New Mexico is looking primarily at trying to prioritize the State Plan rather than delivering funds to regional efforts and trying to keep up with little projects in every Community. They are also looking at what rises up to State Action.

Discussion continued on the subject.

Mr. Bates adjourned the meeting and next meeting was set for October 23, 2003 at 2:30 p.m. in Bayard, NM.

# **Southwest Regional Water Planning Steering Committee Meeting Minutes on October 23, 2003**

## **Attendees:**

Tom Bates- Planning Manager, Louis Jenkins – City of Deming, Wayne Ericson- Engineers Inc., Gerald Schultz- Black Range RC&D, Dominique Cartron- DBS&Assoc., Jerry Donaldson- PD NMO, George Pintar- DSWCD, Vance Lee- Hidalgo County, Howard Hutchinson- SFS&W, Jim Olson- At Large, Larry Caldwell, Don Hartman- DSWCD/Farmer, Elmer Veeder, Henry Torres- Grant County, Murry Ryan- Former Representative, Craig Roepke- ISC, Bob Rogers- OSE, Donald Bouton, Bill Woodward- GSWCD, Alex Thal- Catron County, Robert Esqueda- Town of Silver City, and Mary Jo Lopez- City of Deming

## **Call To Order/Introductions:**

Mr. Bates called the meeting to order at approximately 2:30 pm. Suspending the roll call to a sign in sheet and introductions, due to time.

## **Minute Approval:**

Mr. Bates asked for the approval of the minutes from September 04, 2003 meeting. Gerald Schultz moved to approve the minutes as written, seconded by Louis Jenkins; carried unanimously.

## **Presentation by Craig Roepke- 18,000 Acre Feet**

Mr. Bates turned the meeting over to Mr. Roepke. Mr. Roepke stated that the bill he is talking about is the Senate Bill 437 otherwise known as the Arizona Water Rights Settlement Act, introduced by Senator Kyle and has had its first hearing. There are two sections (1) Virden valley settlement, which allows the irrigators and Virden valley to pump with disregard to priority, up to 6 acre feet. (2) The Gila River Indian community is suing well owners upstream from them for affecting flows in the stream and impairing the senior water rights. The settlement allows Mr. Roepke states that the settlement is a very important bill to be accepted. The CAP is also a very important bill to get approved. Mr. Roepke states the importance of New Mexico is to stand united to protect future Water Supply for the State. The Globe Equity Issues include the apportionment of storage in San Carlos, which must include diversion in New Mexico. The settlement will include provisions to storage changed to include that amount of water stored in New Mexico. Funding- the NM Project is, as has been a part of the Central Arizona Project. The settlement act takes 2.4 billion dollars of the lower basin development fund that was originally intended for other things in New Mexico. Mr. Roepke stated that the New Mexico Senators and Representatives were very vocal in the hearings that NM would get its funding. The original cost estimate for an off-stream storage facility was 70 million dollars The proposed amendments are asking for 150 million dollars. The proposal is under negotiation.

Mr. Bates stated that getting the 18,000 acre feet was the most important issue at hand, then the issues of allocating it would come into prospect.

Mr. Bates questioned the timeline in which the settlement would be placed in effect. Mr. Roepke stated that Congress should approve the settlement by the end of the year.

Ms. Tippett stated that the Water Plan would state the need of water for New Mexico.

Ms. Tippett also stated the importance of some one from each county to represent New Mexico on the water issues at hand. Mr. Roepke suggests having two representatives at the same time with similar interests, as not to argue over the allocation of the water. Mr. Roepke states that a unified front is the key to helping Congress approve the settlement. Discussion on the Settlement continued in reference to the representatives and the CAP. Commissioner Henry Torres suggested putting together an Authority.

### **Alternative Water Sources-Dominique Cartron**

Mr. Bates stated that one of the things to be done in Phase II, will be to come up with alternatives to meet water shortages. Mr. Bates handed the meeting over to Ms. Cartron. Ms. Cartron passed out handouts on Examples of Water Plan Alternatives in the Colfax and Jemez y Sangre Regions.

Ms. Cartron went over the power point handout she provided, going over the planning process and alternatives. The Steering Committee will identify alternatives for meeting future water supply needs during Phase II of the study, in which the public's input will be incorporated. Under the Alternative Categories will include improvement of water-use efficiency and management, planning for future growth, reducing urban and agricultural water demand through conservation, developing new water supplies and to protect or improve water quality. Some of the samples of alternatives include: improving irrigation conveyance efficiency, controlling vegetation along canals and drains, improving reservoir storage- addressing sedimentation, removing exotic vegetation, implementing water conservation programs, ensuring representation of the SW region in the State Water Plan, establishing water users association or other entity to contract with DOI for the 18,000 ac-ft, desalination, wastewater reuse-stretching minimal supplies and identifying water rights available for transfer. The Alternative evaluation process would include: ranking and screening of alternatives, identifying selection criteria and weighting factors, charrette approach for ranking and screening of alternatives in which the subcommittee will identify the priority alternatives. Ms. Tippett stated that in New Mexico desalination has not been funded as of yet. Ms. Cartron stated that there is a location in El Paso that is doing desalination.

Mr. Thal stated that the population projection is assuming that there will be more retirees coming to the areas in question. He stated that this is wrong due to the fact that these counties are in a depressed area. Mr. Thal states that in this period of time it is very difficult to project the population. Mr. Thal stated, for example Stream International, Inc. has closed, thus losing population. Ms. Tippett asked if Mr. Thal is suggesting that the study go back to DBS&A for more analysis or if he is suggesting that there is no way to project the population. Mr. Thal stated that there is a wide variation and the study seems very optimistic. Ms. Cartron stated that there is uncertainty in the study and thus there is a low and a high. Mr. Schultz stated to keep in mind that this is a regional plan and not a county plan. Mr. Thal asked how the water budget would be used in the counties in

terms of form. Ms. Cartron stated that the gaps will need to be filled. Mr. Thal stated that there should be some kind of methodology to get more precise numbers for the study. Ms. Cartron asked if the numbers were wrong. Mr. Thal stated that the numbers were assumptions not precise, and hoped that there would be more work on them. Ms. Cartron stated that there is uncertainty on the supply and demand and thus there are highs and lows. Ms. Tippett stated her concern in the matter of the Regional Plans being useful in litigations.

Ms. Tippett asked when Phase II would start. Ms. Cartron stated that the funding would have to be available and that there would have to be a negotiation contract that could last up to three months to be accepted

Mr. Bates stated that he will be taking public input until Phase II is complete. Mr. Hutchinson stated that the purpose of regulating the water is to prevent exporting of water to other areas. Ms. Cartron stated that it would be helpful to state the references that are used in the research.

A ten minute break was taken.....

Meeting was called back to order at approximately 4:35 p.m.

Mr. Bates stated that he will allow extra time for the review on the appendices due to time matters allowed on reviewing them. Mr. Bates suggested that there would be a second meeting to discuss the appendices.

Ms. Cartron suggested to give specific explanation on the technical disagreements to better help DBS&A change them.

Discussion continued on the Water Quality Assessment- Mr. Olson had concerns on the arsenic levels, he thought that the levels were a problem in the Northern part of the state and was not aware it was a problem in the southern part. Mr. Bates stated that this comment is a valid one. Mr. Hartman stated that there could be a standard level to determine if the levels were normal. Mr. Thal stated that on Pg. 26 dealing with local government, it talks about enabling statues for counties and municipalities. Mr. Thal stated that he would like to incorporate the local issues. He stated that this should be incorporated in section 1-4-4 on page 26.

Discussion on the appendices continues in which a meeting is being scheduled to further discuss the issues of concern on November 20, 2003 at 9:30 am at the Bayard Community Center, to better accommodate the committee with enough time to review the appendices.

Next Meeting set for November 20, 2003 at 9:30 a.m. following the RC&D meeting at the Bayard Community Center.

Meeting was adjourned at approximately 5:59 p.m.

**Southwest Regional Water Planning  
Steering Committee Meeting  
Minutes on November 20, 2003**

**Attendees:**

Tom Bates- Planning Manager, Louis Jenkins – City of Deming, Wayne Ericson- Engineers Inc., Gerald Schultz- Black Range RC&D, Joanne Hilton- DBS&Assoc., John Burkstaller- DBS&A, Inc., George Pintar- DSWCD, Vance Lee- Hidalgo County, Howard Hutchinson- SFS&W, Jim Olson- At Large, Elmer Veeder- Deming Soil & Water CD, Alex Thal- Catron County, G.R. Donaldson CMC/ PD, Gilbert Grijalva- Village of Santa Clara, Mike Matush- NMED/SWGR, Frank Kenney- Grant SWCD, Robert Esqueda- Town of Silver City, and Mary Jo Lopez- City of Deming

**Call To Order/Introductions:**

Mr. Bates called the meeting to order at approximately 10:00 am. Suspending the roll call to a sign in sheet and introductions, due to time.

**Minute Approval:**

Mr. Bates asked for a motion to table the minutes from the October 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting due to lack of comments captured that would be important to put in the minutes. It was motioned by Gerald Schultz to table the minutes, seconded by Gerge Pintar; carried unanimously.

Mr. Bates stated that there would be a discussion of Phase I study and in order to keep the meeting orderly, he has asked Mr. Jim Olson to facilitate the meeting.

Mr. Olson stated that there were two objectives; the first being to get some input on the comments given to Joanne about the report itself. The second objective would be to review sections of the report and decide if there be a need for further discussion or if they are acceptable. Mr. Olson introduced Ms. Hilton and Mr. Burkstaller.

Mr. Olson stated that Ms. Hilton would be going over the handout on comments and questions that were gathered.

- a. How many water rights are allocated to the region? How many are senior and junior water rights? Ms. Hilton stated that they have the water rights summarized for the region. Ms. Hilton stated that this section can be misleading in the fact that the show of water rights could make someone think that they are all being used. Mr. Bates suggested that the review be expanded to determine how many of the water rights are Jr. and Sr. rights and that a 3-D model of the aquifer would be helpful with this. Ms. Hilton stated that she could give Mr. Bates information to apply or a grant to get the model.
- b. Ms. Hilton stated that she would like to address the Anderson well in reference to results of the OSE modeling study on the projected draw downs. Ms. Hilton will go back through this section and add footnotes to clarify this better.

- c. Ms. Hilton stated that she would go back and make some changes to text that are not understandable to the general public, (ex. 6@480) which means six different parcels with 480 acre feet of water rights each.
- d. Why isn't there a Glossary of Concepts and Terms? Ms. Hilton stated that this is a very good idea. She will be adding a glossary to the Phase I study from the OSE.
- e. Pueblos. Ms. Hilton stated that we do not have pueblos and thinks that a review of information that does not apply to our region for elimination will make the Study more regionally specific.
- f. The chart on hydrograph wells shows test well reported on for Luna County mainly along the Mimbres River. Why didn't you report on other test wells? Ms. Hilton stated that she would fix this part adding shorter periods of record.
- g. Appendix E2, "Deming is not metered", Mr. Burkstaller stated that some of the people who review this part would assume that Deming does not have pumps. They will fix the statement to correct this.
- h. Information requested on page E4-16, on how Luna County was able to increase the irrigated rights. This was determined by the crops that were reported. The water rights could not be increased.
- i. Appendix A it is suggested that if the author is "unknown", the agency responsible for the report he listed as the author. This could be taken out if necessary.
- j. Mimbres Basin, there was not much information on this.
- k. Study shows that we need the 18,000 acre-feet, these numbers need to be reconciled to show an increase in water use with Appendix D4 that shows no essential draw downs in most wells. Ms. Hilton stated that the study may want to include water uses for recreation and for endangered species. Mr. Hutchinson stated that there should be a general statement in reference to the recreational and endangered species population.
- l. How deep is the productive saturated thickness of the aquifers? Ms. Hilton stated that there could be a more general statement for basins included and that a discussion on this could be added.
- m. Table 7-1, would it be possible to add fish, game and recreational use or is that number insignificant? Ms. Hilton stated that this is a very important comment in that the numbers would show our increase in demand.
- n. Is there any validity to considering discharge from WWTP's to water supply? Ms. Hilton stated that the waste water is being reused.
- o. Will the new ED discharge regulations regarding gray water have any effect on the water budget? Ms. Hilton stated that it is a minor impact and it may lower the municipal demand. It does not effect consumptive use and could affect diversions.
- p. Suggest adding a note where maximum allowable concentrations have been exceeded. Ms. Hilton stated that she could add something on WRI Mass.

Jim questioned if Ms. Hilton had enough time to review questions. Ms. Hilton replied yes and stated that she has discussed them with the sub-contractor and could schedule a conference call with the groups. Mr. Olson asked Mr. Thal if he would be content with a

conference call. Mr. Thal said he would be content with a conference call. Mr. Thal questioned if this was the last day to discuss the Appendices. Mr. Olson stated that it was not due to the length of time it is going to take in reviewing them.

It was motioned by Mr. Thal to continue the meeting and figure out by the end of the day how to address the questions, seconded by Mr. Lee, carried unanimously.

Mr. Hutchinson stated that the industrial and agricultural numbers are very important comments to review. Mr. Hutchinson also stated that the need for water in Catron County has been underestimated. Mr. Ericson stated that the numbers did include the mining project for CO2. A five (5) minute break was taken.

It was motioned by Mr. Jenkins to have a special meeting in January (date to be set) to continue critiquing the appendices, seconded by Mr. Hutchinson, carried unanimously.

Mr. Olson stated that there should be a sub-committee to monitor the state water plan and development to insure regional concerns are considered. Selected were: Howard Hutchinson, Frank Kenney, Tom Bates, Vance Lee, and Gerald Schultz. It was motioned by Mr. Jenkins to accept the selections for the sub-committee, seconded by Mr. Esqueda, carried unanimously.

Mr. Bates asked Mr. Esqueda if he had adequate time to review his section of the appendices, Mr. Esqueda replied with a request to have an extra week to review his section and e-mail the concerns to Mr. Bates. Mr. Bates then asked Mr. Jenkins, his response was the same as that of Mr. Esqueda, he has not had enough time to review his section.

Mr. Bates stated that the purpose of the reviews were to study as good as possible before going on to Phase II. Mr. Thal stated that he wouldn't want to vote today until the whole committee is content with the study and then vote on it at that time. Mr. Thal also stated that there should be a legal review done. It was motioned by Mr. Thal to search and obtain a specialist in State Water Laws for the legal review, seconded by Mr. Hutchinson, carried unanimously.

Mr. Olson adjourned the meeting until 1p.m. A lunch break was taken.

Mr. Bates called the meeting back to order at approximately 1:10 p.m. Mr. Bates stated that Ms. Hilton would have the chance to respond to the questions submitted by Mr. Lee and Mr. Hutchinson.

Ms. Hilton stated that she knew some data is off and that it is beyond scope to go back and verify this data. Mr. Hutchinson stated that the numbers are not close to accurate.

Ms. Hilton stated that they could take it out or footnote each page with where the information came from. Mr. Lee stated that it should be more current or taken out completely. Ms. Hilton stated that it would be helpful to take some of the numbers and summarize them. Mr. Lee stated that the Gila River area is not even listed on the study.

#### Section D Discussion

Mr. Lee stated that the owners listed on the water rights were not correct, therefore should be eliminated if it cannot be made current. Ms. Hilton stated that she knew some data is off and that it was beyond scope to go back and verify it. Ms. Hilton stated that she could either take the whole section out or footnote each page with the provider of the information. It was decided to eliminate the narrative. Mr. Lee



questioned if the activity on the Border area, in which our population projects are going to be affected a great deal. Ms. Hilton stated that things do change over time and that the water demand projections are to determine how much water we need here. Mr. Schultz questioned the increase of activity since the Homeland Security project in comparison to how it was before the project. It was stated that the increased activity is assumed to be active to present on the border lands.

Mr. Lee stated that the Hidalgo water use is dropping with more people in the area.

Mr. Hutchinson stated that our area is located in the middle of the fastest population growing centers in the U.S. open area, thus bringing people to recreate here.

Mr. Hutchinson stated that the global warming has been enhanced and that it should be taken out. Ms. Hilton stated that there is no problem in taking that out.

#### Discussion on Catron County Concerns

Mr. Hutchinson stated in his concerns that there weren't sufficient extensive interviews in Catron County and that there are no Catron County representatives in the list of contacts.

Mr. Hutchinson also stated that Catron County is a recreation destination and visitor days will only increase, being that Catron County is the geographical center of the fastest growing population centers in the nation.

Mr. Hutchinson stated that Catron County has little capacity and few assets in terms of transportation, infrastructure, natural resources, or labor force that would lend themselves to either industrial development or power generation. Catron also currently has little or no mining activity.

Mr. Hutchinson went on to state that livestock has and continues to be the primary economic driver of the economy of Catron County, despite the irrigated agriculture in the County.

Mr. Hutchinson stated that there were very poor assumptions in the drought areas. The drought will continue for the next 10, 20, 30 and 40 years and go against the historic record. Even with the assumption of this absurdity, the only conclusion would be that there would be an increased demand for new water.

Ms. Hilton stated that she will revisit the high estimates and make the changes as necessary.

Mr. Hutchinson stated that the global warming has been enhanced. Ms. Hilton stated that she could take this out as well. Mr. Bates suggested leaving it in. Ms. Hilton stated that it created uncertainty.

Mr. Ericson stated that he spoke to Extension Agent Ron Lan and he seemed concerned about the numbers in livestock in the Gila Forest. Ms. Hilton stated that low holding isn't unreasonable but that the high would go up.

Mr. Hutchinson stated that in the Climate Set on the selection of gauging stations he didn't see a reference to the actual use of snowtel. Ms. Hilton stated that the MGS actually takes a wide scale data set of twenty five (25) different items.

Mr. Bates called a ten (10) minute break. Meeting was called back to order by Mr. Bates.

#### Discussion on Phase II Proposal

Mr. Bates passed out handouts of the Draft Proposal for Phase II Work. Ms. Hilton stated that Ms. Follingstad sent an email asking for Phase II Work Proposal and needed it as soon as possible, therefore she put the proposal together quite quickly and is looking for any suggestions on the proposal. Ms. Hilton stated that the two other Phase II Plans she worked on were accepted by the ISC and she also feels that this plan will be accepted as well. Mr. Hutchinson stated that on task two, the water should be done by County but also by basin. Ms. Hilton stated that she agreed so that the outcome would be more accurate, and that the breakdown is a good idea. Mr. Bates stated that more funds will be needed. Mr. Hutchinson stated that on table one, the data is uncertain. Mr. Hutchinson is concerned about the figures that are five and below, he questioned what it would take to raise it to a six minimum. Ms. Hilton stated that the fish and recreation would be highly likely to help. Ms. Hilton stated that the ISC is sitting on money that belongs to the Southwest Regional Water Plan and these funds will expire in July. Mr. Ericson stated that maybe Mr. Bates would have luck in asking the ISC for funds that are available. Ms. Hilton suggested doing an amendment on the current contract in time for another four months or so to continue on the final reviews. Mr. Bates stated that he would look into finding more funds and would look into the amendment process as well.

Next Meeting set for January 13, 2004 at 9:30 a.m. at the City of Deming Council Chambers.

Meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:00 p.m.

# **Southwest Regional Water Planning Steering Committee Meeting Minutes on January 13, 2004**

## **Attendees:**

Vance Lee- Hidalgo County, Jerry Donaldson- NM O-PD, David Mc Sherry (for Don Hartman)- Luna County (Luna Co F &LB), John Burkstaller-DBS&A, Inc., Tom Bates- City of Deming, Wayne D. Ericson- Engineers Inc., Louis Jenkins- City of Deming, Gerald Schultz- Black Range RC&D, George Pintar- DSWCD, Rick Olson- NRCS Black Range RC&D coordinator, Bobby Creel- WRRI, Mary Helen Follingstad- ISC, John Sweetser- Luna County (F&LB), Walter R Biebello III- S.W.N.M, Robert Esqueda- Town of Silver City, Walter Biebelle Jr.- Self , Mary Jo Lopez- City of Deming.

## **Call To Order/Introductions:**

Mr. Bates called the meeting to order at approximately 9:30 am. Suspending the roll call to sign in sheet and introductions, due to time.

## **Minute Approval:**

Mr. Bates asked that everyone review the minutes for October 23<sup>rd</sup> and asked for any corrections and/or changes. Mr. Lee motioned to approve the October 23<sup>rd</sup> minutes with the suggested corrections, seconded by Mr. Jenkins, carried unanimously.

Mr. Bates then asked that the committee review the November 20<sup>th</sup> minutes for any corrections. After some time reviewing the minutes it was motioned by Mr. Pintar to approve the minutes with the suggested corrections, seconded by Mr. Jenkins, carried unanimously.

## **Ms. Follingstad- ISC Regional Water Planning Report**

Mr. Bates introduced Ms. Follingstad and gave her some time to speak on the funding and the process of the water planning process.

Ms. Follingstad stated that the process started by the Law Suit between Texas and New Mexico over pumping the ground water and the wells that El Paso wanted to drill. New Mexico had to plan to show that the demand for water was greater than the supply of water. The State of New Mexico is looking to the regions for the plans. Ms. Follingstad stated that the funding would be approved on January 21, 2004. Ms. Follingstad stated that each region is an important part of the State water plan. Ms. Follingstad stated that there are two components in working with the alternatives, which are management and conservation and determining implementation. Ms. Follingstad stated that the importance of the alternative and feasibility analysis is the funding to implement the project.

Ms. Follingstad stated that the 18,000acre ft. is very important for the state of New Mexico to present a unified front to try and capture the water then work on the allocation of it. Mr. Jenkins asked why Ms. Follingstad thought it was questionable

about getting the 18,000 acre ft. Ms. Follingstad stated that if New Mexico wants the water we have to make our presence and be obvious that we need the water.

Mr. Bates stated that Mr. Torres would take the lead in organizing the group who will contract for the 18,000 acre ft. He also stated that the Steering Committee would help with that.

Mr. Bates stated that he met with Jerry and Tom Shelley on exploring the possibility of using Bill Evans Lake as storage. Mr. Bates stated that the important thing is that there is the lake, which has the storage capacity of 2 acre feet for the settling of the sediment as well as the pipeline. The pipeline has a diversion capacity of 14,000 acre feet. Mr. Bates stated that Phelps Dodge is willing to allow the region access to the pipelines and pumping with the understanding that their requirements come first. There are still some details to work on, such as the maintenance, which is expensive, and other details as well. Mr. Bates stated that Joanne feels that recharge of the aquifer is a very beneficial use.

Mr. Bates stated that Mr. Roepke has made a model and accordingly to that model there is only 12,000 acre feet of wet water as opposed to the said 18,000 acre feet of water rights. Mr. Pintar asked what the plan was to move the water to this area. Mr. Bates stated that the plan for part of it was to put a little bit into Bill Evans, and recharge the aquifers in Grant County. Mr. Bates stated that during flooding PD shuts down the pumps because of sediment and floating debris.

Mr. Pintar asked if this would require some kind of holding damn on the Gila. Mr. Bates stated that only a reservoir would be able to capture the flood water. Mr. Bates asked if Jerry knows the maintenance cost for the system. Mr. Donaldson stated that he did not know the exact cost, however it is very costly. Mr. Pintar questioned if the water that goes into the Bill Evans Lake goes into different aquifers. Mr. Bates stated that it goes into two basins, the Mimbres Basin and the Gila-San Francisco Basin.

Mr. Bates asked that Joanne make comments on the Draft Supply and Demand Report.

Ms. Hilton stated that a lot of the comments she got were very helpful. She stated that although they are not addressed, they will be incorporated into the plan. Ms. Hilton stated that the numbers on the water rights have been changed with the help of Wayne Ericson from Engineers, Inc. Mr. Ericson stated that he met with the municipalities as well as Phelps Dodge and asked for records to resolve these differences. Ms. Hilton stated that before publishing the Report she would give the Committee a revised copy to review and double check before going on with it. Ms. Hilton stated that the growth projections as to the comments that were made on them being too high and some stating that they were too low, could be changed. Ms. Hilton stated that they need more clarification on is the future use of irrigated agriculture.

Ms. Hilton stated that the committee would be having a conference call with SW Planning and Marketing at 11 a.m.

Mr. Bates called a short break at 10:24- Reconvened at 10:32

Mr. Bates had all attendees introduce themselves.

### **Phase I Review by Bobby Creel (WRRI)**

Mr. Bates turned the meeting over to Mr. Bobby Creel with WRRI. Mr. Creel stated that he had served on the ISC Template Committee, and was the research faculty in Ag School at NMSU until he became the Associate Director of the Water Research

Institute. Mr. Creel stated that there was an excellent job done on the information gathered by the Consultant and the team that was put together. Mr. Creel stated that they noted a lot of items, in which a lot of the are minor. Mr. Creel also stated that the comments were discussed with Tom and Joanne.

Mr. Creel's flaws as stated in the review of DRAFT were as follows:

1. Introduction- pages 4 & 5 are misleading, as there are a number of other sources utilized in addition to those listed.

Mr. Creel suggests using a more general statement concerning data sources as well as published reports relevant to the area.

2. Background- Section 3.1 General Description of the Planning Region starts with discussion of major geologic Physiographic Provinces.

Mr. Creel suggests beginning with Climate followed by land use, Economy, and then Geologic. He states that he does not feel the necessity to discuss each county separately.

3. Administrative Policies of the State Engineer- It would be appropriate to note that the Declared Underground Water Basins discussed here are administrative and their boundaries do not necessarily match the physical hydro-geologic basins in the planning region. Also there are hydro-geologic basins that are not yet declared.

4. Water Resources- The water resources of the region should be described following the physical hydro-geologic basins structure rather than the administrative basins. Mr. Creel stated that the report by Hawley et al., 2000 made estimates of extractable groundwater in storage in each of the hydro-geologic basins along the border which could help in this area. In figure 5-3, he suggests labeling the points with station name. In figures 5-4, 5-5 & 5-6, he suggests providing the source reference. In figure 5-7, the number of streams shown, are not labeled. There were many changes in section 5, as stated in the report Mr. Creel handed out.

5. Water Demand- Mr. Creel states that since the report is including withdrawals and return flows, as well as depletions in the tables and figures, he suggests pointing out that your use of the term "water use" means depletion. And the water use projections in tables in Appendix e5 should also be changed to depletions.

6. Water Budget- In the 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph on page 166 you make the important point that it would be more appropriate to develop water budgets for each of the hydrologic basins in the region. If this can be done it would be preferable to county budgets. Mr. Creel's recommendation for the water budget is that they should attempt to provide only generalized annual estimates similar to those that the Middle Rio Grande developed for their planning program.

Gerald Schultz questioned if everyone understood the differences of the different kinds of water basins. He stated that he was a bit confused in this area. Mr. Pintar asked the difference between declared and undeclared basins. Mr. Creel stated that the statues for the State Engineer to have jurisdiction must have declared basin boundaries. Without a

declaration there'd be no control and people can put wells etc. and may result in effecting an existing user.

It was stated that there is a need to study more on the consumption of water by livestock.

Mr. Lee questioned the change due to the Border Land Security Project. Mr. Hilton stated that it is being considered, and it was agreed that it will have an impact in the supply and demand.

There was a conference call with the Southwest Planning and Marketing Bruce and Doug with SW Planning and Marketing stated that for 1 acre, usually there is one well allowed. Mr. Lee stated that the subdivisions use less water than the lands being farmed.

Mr. Schultz stated that Grant county is working on a comprehensive plan, and questioned how recent was Luna County's plan, in which Mr. Jenkins stated it was only like two (2) years old.

It was motioned by Mr. Jenkins to adjourn the meeting at approximately 12:00 noon, seconded by Mr. Pintar, carried unanimously.

The next meeting is set for February 26, 2004 at 2:00 p.m. in Bayard, NM at the Bayard Community Center.

**Southwest Regional Water Planning  
Steering Committee Meeting  
February 26, 2004  
Minutes**

**Attendees:**

Tom Bates- Planning Manager, Pansy McDonald- Hidalgo Solid Water, George Pintar- DSWCD, Gerald Schultz- Black Range RC&D, Jerry Donaldson- PD NM Operations, Louis Jenkins – City of Deming, John Burkstaller- DBS&A, John Kay- DBS&A, Mary Alice Murphy- SC Daily Press, Vance Lee- Hidalgo County, Wayne Ericson- Engineers Inc., Howard Hutchinson- SFS&W, Alex Thal- Catron County, Walter R. Biebelle I- San Lorenzo, Walter R. Biebelle III- San Lorenzo, and Charity Teague- City of Deming

**Call To Order/Introductions:**

Mr. Bates called the meeting to order at approximately 2:15 pm, and introduced the members of the Steering Committee.

**Minute Approval:**

Mr. Bates asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the January 13<sup>th</sup> meeting. It was motioned to approve the minutes by George Pintar, seconded by Louis Jenkins, and carried unanimously.

**Award of Contract for Phase II**

Mr. Bates stated that the City of Deming had awarded Daniel B. Stephens, and Associates the contract for Phase II, in the amount of \$200,000.

Mr. Bates asked the members of the committee when they would like to cutoff public input portion for Phase I. Mr. Schultz stated today was a good day to cutoff. Mr. Pintar agreed, mentioning that they had gotten all the comments that they were going to get. It was agreed that it had been plenty of time, considering that they were going to give it 90 days, which was up in November. Mr. Burkstaller said the consultants would now start working on addressing the comments and start preparing for brainstorming and alternatives.

**JPA Update**

Mr. Bates gave a brief update of the three-hour meeting. Jack Hyatt, the Grant County Attorney, chaired the meeting. It was decided that four or five attorneys would get together to finalize the JPA, and bring it back to the local government entities to sign it. They will try to have it signed as quickly as possible, to start contracting for the 18,000 acre-feet. This is a once in a lifetime chance. If we don't get the 18,000 acre-feet, we won't have a second opportunity. It's important that we show a need for it, and show how we can make more effective use of the 18,000 acre-feet. Howard and Vance expressed the urgency to show that there will be a future need. Howard was disappointed that many of the issues that the different parties had were not addressed then and there.

### **Daniel B. Stephens**

Mr. Bates turned it over to Daniel B. Stephens, mentioning the 18,000 acre-feet will have to be a priority. Mr. Burkstaller said conservation needed to be considered as part of the regional planning process. He believed the 18,000 acre-feet was out there, also mentioning that the argument could be made that we have lots of groundwater in storage, so we can mine for a number of years more. However, we don't have a lot of recharge, so that's the source that would keep us sustainable. Howard mentioned that trying to surface store the water was not the logical thing to do. He also stated that the Mimbres basin has all the geologic characteristics for recharge capacity. Tom stated that negotiations could possibly be made. Rather than taking it out of surface and putting into the aquifer, use the surface water and leave the aquifer.

Mr. Burkstaller directed a question to Jerry Donaldson, asking if there would be quality issues. Jerry stated historically they had used the diversion off of the Gila for mining purposes, and didn't think there would be quality issues. Howard mentioned Tyrone's restoration process requires a higher amount of ground water, and subsequent treatment of that water, that it might be better to switch it around. Phelps Dodge would take the surface water, in exchange for the municipality to take the treated water. Tyrone has two major production wells in that area, so it would be up to them to look at the cost benefits, and the higher quality water. Mr. Burkstaller stated those are the kind of alternatives that need to be looked at. Howard mentioned additional alternatives such as the potential water that can be taken off peak flows on the Gila. On the San Francisco side of it, right below Luna Lake, the water drops off into a steep canyon, presenting a good holding facility. It would also create an opportunity to have a negotiation point with Arizona. Howard also mentioned the storage gained from chains of beaver dams, which allows water to be released slowly over time. Alex stated that we weren't going to get anywhere if the meeting weren't going to be organized. He suggested agendas should be developed, circulated to participating entities, get it approved and stick to the agenda. He stated that the time was critical, and was wasted by having public comment drive and divert attention.

Tom turned it back over to Daniel B. Stephens. Mr. Burkstaller wanted to talk about the scope for Phase II and clear up the areas that still had questions, and the meetings going forward. He also mentioned if there was time, he had a PowerPoint presentation to show the committee. Mr. Burkstaller asked for general comments. Howard mentioned that the water budget should be by basin by county. Mr. Burkstaller stated they would do it by basin, then try to extract out balances by county as well, so that they have both figures. Mr. Kay added that they would have to start with the geologic basins to determine the water supply, taking a look at how much of each county is within that basin. A report will show the breakdown of water supply within each county, separated out by geologic basin.

George Pintar directed a question to Mr. Burkstaller, asking if breaking it out by county would do anything to discredit original planning. Mr. Burkstaller stated the plan has to be in balance. There is going to be an issue with what's feasible economically, and what people need in that particular location. He also mentioned that the way this region is split up geographically and politically, you almost have to satisfy the questions of the individual political entities. He added that hopefully it wouldn't bog them down in trying



to split up a pie that isn't feasible. Mr. Burkstaller stated that they wanted to do a balance regionally and come up with alternatives for supply that are economically feasible.

George stated that he had hoped Mr. Burkstaller understood his concern, because if we do not address this early on, we would be bogged down for more than Phase II is going to get paid for. Mr. Burkstaller agreed and said that was a good point, and stated that the key point is feasibility.

Gerald asked about the 8 alternatives, and Mr. Burkstaller answered by stating that they were going to go through a process of brainstorming alternatives, including conservation and new supply alternatives. They also want to identify decision criteria for deciding how to rank the alternatives. They will develop, in detail, 8 alternatives, with some of them not applying to all counties. He continued to say that they will look at everything, gathering the ideas that everyone has. Mr. Burkstaller added that it will be 8 or fewer alternatives.

Mr. Burkstaller asked for permission to talk to Craig about getting more budget or shuffling around more money for possible technical support of JPA efforts, and Tom agreed. Mr. Burkstaller said it would give us flexibility. Mr. Bates mentioned that he would like to talk administratively after they finished with the technical side of it. Mr. Burkstaller stated that this was a good time to start talking about how to proceed with meetings. It was discussed and agreed that it would be the afternoon of April 1<sup>st</sup>, and finish up in the morning of April 2. It was decided at a later date that an all day session starting at 9:00 am on April 5, 2004, would be a better date. The meeting will be held at the Bayard Community Center. It was asked if there was an obligation to advertise the meeting. Louis Jenkins stated we had to advertise it, but we weren't obligated to have it open for public input. It was discussed that a limit of 3-5 minutes can be set for public input.

Mr. Bates then let the members of the committee take a short break. When everyone returned, Mr. Burkstaller presented a PowerPoint presentation about groundwater recharge and aquifer storage. A printed copy of the presentation was handed out to everyone and will be attached to the hard copy of these minutes.

After the presentation, Mr. Bates informed the committee that he and Henry were approached by Dr. Turner of Lions Gate. Dr. Turner would like Henry to allow him to be a co-applicant for the 18,000-acre ft, using it for agriculture, until the region grows to the point where the growth demands it. Dr. Turner would then give it up to the municipalities. Mr. Bates mentioned this to Congressman Pierce. Congressman Pierce stated that if this thing smacks the politics, favoritism or profit by a non-government entity, it would kill the whole deal in Washington.

Mr. Burkstaller said they had been focused so far on supply and demand, that one of the things they would try to do between now and the next meeting is to look at some of the past feasibility studies, so they can be up to speed.

Mr. Bates thanked everyone for coming, especially John Burkstaller, and John Kay. Meeting adjourned.

AGENDA  
For the  
Southwest Regional Water Planning  
Steering Committee Meeting - Special Meeting  
April 05, 2004  
9:00 A.M.

Location: Bayard Community Center

- I. Roll call & Handouts
- II. Approval of the minutes
- III. 9:00am - 12:00pm - Developing alternatives with John Burkstaller, P.E. & Joanne Hilton, Daniel B. Stephens (DBS&A)
- IV. 12:00pm - 12:30pm - Lunch on site (catered by DBS&A)
- V. 12:30pm - 3:30pm - Developing criteria for ranking alternatives with Michael Bitner, CEO, DBS&A
- VI. 3:30 - 5:30 - Ranking alternatives with Michael Bitner
- VII. Public Input
- VIII. Membership Input

Next Meeting will be on April 22, 2004  
Public is invited to attend.

**Southwest Regional Water Planning  
Steering Committee Meeting – Special Meeting  
April 5, 2004  
Minutes**

**Attendees:**

Tom Bates- Planning Manager, Gerald Schultz- Black Range RC&D, Michael Bitner – DBS&A, John Burkstaller- DBS&A, John Kay- DBS&A, Joanne Hilton – DBS&A, Mary Helen Follingstad – NMISC, Tim Murrell – NMISC, Mary Alice Murphy- SC Daily Press, Vance Lee- Hidalgo County, Wayne Ericson- Engineers Inc., Howard Hutchinson- SFS&W, Alex Thal- Catron County, Sally Smith – GRIP, Henry Torres – Grant County, Mary Barton Risely – UGWA, Richard Kirby – Environmental Benefits, Robert M. Esqueda – Town of Silver City, M.H. Salmon – at large and Charity Teague- City of Deming

**Call To Order/Introductions:**

Mr. Bates called the meeting to order at approximately 9:15 am, and introduced the members of the Steering Committee, New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission, and Daniel B. Stephens and Associates.

**Minute Approval:**

Mr. Bates asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the February 26<sup>th</sup> meeting. It was motioned to approve the minutes by Alex Thal, seconded by Gerald Schultz, and carried unanimously.

**Overview of Decision Analysis Process**

Mr. Bitner defined the purpose and goals of the Decision Analysis Process, as well as how to make a decision and develop a strategy. Alternatives were considered for the following OSE planning categories:

- ID – Infrastructure Development
- WC – Water Conservation
- WQ – Water Quality
- WS – Water Supply Development
- WM – Water Management

**Definitions of Preliminary Alternatives**

The following are proposed alternatives for meeting water resource needs of the Southwest New Mexico water-planning region. The original alternatives are listed on the following page. Any modifications or additions mentioned from the April 5, 2004 meeting are noted underneath each section.

**Water Resource Infrastructure Development**

- *IDI Gila ASR: Divert New Mexico's Gila/San Francisco River Entitlement for aquifer storage and recovery.* Divert Gila water through a pipeline, infiltration gallery, or small side stream reservoir to an aquifer storage and recovery project to store the water in underground basins.

- *ID2 Gila Surface: Divert New Mexico's Gila/San Francisco River Entitlement into main stem or side canyon reservoirs.* Divert Gila water and store it in surface reservoirs
- *ID3 WW Reuse: Treat and reuse wastewater.* Recycle municipal wastewater for landscape irrigation.
- *ID4 Recycling: Recycle commercial and residential on-site water for nonpotable uses.* Implement the use of residential gray water systems and/or recycle commercial or industrial water for landscaping or industrial uses.
- *ID5 Desalination: Desalinate water in southern basins.* Pumping and treating brackish groundwater from the southern basins will increase the water supply in the areas near the desalination plants.
- *ID6 Non-Gila Surface: Develop additional surface water.* Several projects have been considered in the past on rivers in the region other than the Gila. Stakeholders should identify specific projects that the region may wish to consider.

***Suggested Additions:***

- *ID7 - Rain Harvesting*
- *ID8 - Enhance Surface Recharge*
- *ID9 - Large Scale Importation*

**Water Conservation**

- *WC1 Municipal: Implement municipal water supply conservation.* Municipalities can identify conservation opportunities and sources of inefficiencies. Leaks are often the source of significant water losses in municipal systems. Public education, promotion of xeriscaping (use of low-water-use plants in landscaping), and/or increases in block water rate structures can be used to foster household conservation. This alternative could also include requirements for water conservation in new subdivisions and water restrictions during drought.
- *WC2 Agricultural: Implement agricultural conservation measures.* Conservation measures such as laser leveling or drip irrigation can greatly improve water use efficiency in the agricultural sector. Lining ditches and encasing delivery systems will reduce the amount of water lost to seepage and evaporation between the headgate and the delivery point for crops. The fact that water savings in this area will also reduce the amount of recharge to the shallow groundwater and may reduce return flow credits must be considered.

***Suggested Additions:***

- *WC3 - Industrial*

**Water Quality**

- *WQ1 Protection: Identify, protect and monitor groundwater and surface water vulnerable to contamination.* Numerous initiatives could support this alternative. For example, drafting and implementing source water and wellhead protection plans for key water supplies would define appropriate land uses near water supply

wells, thus ensuring that nearby activities do not lead to contamination of the water supply. Aquifer protection programs in particularly sensitive areas as well as nonpoint source pollution control projects could potentially contribute to protecting water quality in the region.

- *WQ2 Replace Septic: Construct wastewater treatment systems to replace septic tanks.* Replacing septic tanks with community or individual liquid waste treatment systems may protect future water supplies by ensuring that septic systems do not contaminate shallow groundwater.

### **Water Supply Development**

- *WS1 Watershed Mgmt: Manage watersheds to improve yield and reduce the risk of fire.* Active watershed management can in some cases increase the amount of water in a watershed that is available for meeting future water demand. If done properly, thinning can contribute to watershed health and reduce the risk of catastrophic fire.
- *WS2 Cloud Seeding: Implement cloud seeding program.* This technique is used in some western states to generate winter precipitation in mountainous areas. Silver Iodine or dry ice particles are injected or launched into an upper layer of clouds.
- *WS3 Remove Exotics: Remove exotic vegetation and revegetate to reduce riparian evapotranspiration.* The presence of exotic species such as salt cedar can greatly increase evapotranspiration and thus reduce the water supply. Replacing this type of exotic vegetation with native, low-water-use vegetation may improve yields from the watershed.
- *WS4 Groundwater: Develop additional groundwater.* Municipalities and other subdivisions of the state can reserve water for the future to guarantee that it will be available for the region when the need arises. This alternative should include specific projects currently under consideration, such as well field relocation, expansion, or construction.

#### ***Suggested Modifications:***

- *WS2 – Change “Cloud Seeding” to “Weather Modification”*
- *WS3 – Change “Remove Exotics” to “Restore Riparian Vegetation”*

### **Water Resources Management**

- *WM1 Water Banking: Establish a local water bank.* Some regions have recommended developing a local water bank to allow and manage temporary water transfers to meet short-term need. The New Mexico Office of the State Engineer (OSE) has jurisdiction over water transfers and leases and therefore would be involved in the process. Water banking may not be applicable in the areas where OSE administrative criteria limit transfers from one area of a basin to another.
- *WM2 Regional Authority: Establish a regional water management authority.* This entity (e.g., a water user’s association) would act as a fiscal agent for and provide water resource management, coordination, and distribution of the Gila/San Francisco River Entitlement and other regional-scale projects.

- *WM3 Border Groundwater Mgmt: Develop a border groundwater management plan.* The purpose of the alternative is to protect groundwater supplies in the Mimbres, Playas, and Animas basins, which are located on the international boundary with Mexico. This alternative would include modeling and monitoring to evaluate the impact that groundwater pumping in Mexico has on New Mexico groundwater supplies.
- *WM4 Groundwater Mgmt Plans: Develop local groundwater management plans.* This alternative will allow for control and management of groundwater at the local level. In the basins where the OSE already has well developed administrative criteria, a groundwater management plan could be developed to recommend critical management areas if necessary. In areas where no administrative criteria exist, these plans could assist in maintaining water levels and sustaining the groundwater supply.
- *WM5 Domestic Wells: Restrict installation of new domestic wells and/or the amount of pumpage from existing domestic wells in areas outside of the Gila.* This would allow the municipalities and counties to implement ordinances that identify and regulate the number of private wells located near and potentially impacting municipal water supplies or other senior water rights holders.
- *WM6 Declare Groundwater Basins: Petition the OSE to declare undeclared groundwater basins in the region.* Once the OSE has assumed administrative control of these basins, water suppliers in the region could begin submitting applications to appropriate available water for future use. Declaration of the basins would protect existing users from impairment from future users.
- *WM7 Gila In-Stream: Set aside some of the captured New Mexico Gila/San Francisco River Entitlement for instream flow and environmental purposes in the Gila.* Gila Central Arizona Project (CAP) water would not be diverted, but would legally be reserved for instream use.
- *WM8 Water Availability Requirement: Ensure that future growth optimizes us of water resources and protects local social and cultural values.* An example is local or county ordinances that require stringent proof of available supplies as a prerequisite to approval of new developments.

***Suggested Additions:***

- *WM9 Water Rights Re-allocation*
- *WM10 Water Rights Administration*

## Ranking Alternatives

Daniel B. Stephens and Associates assisted the Steering Committee with the ranking of alternatives. Performance Criteria was established for the following categories:

- Equity of Costs and Benefits
- Regional Political and Stakeholder Support
- Social and Cultural Impacts
- Economic Vitality of Region (Economic Impact)

The performance criteria and scores are outlined below.

□ ***Equity of Costs and Benefits***

- 1-2 Much of cost paid by those who won't benefit  
 3-4 Cost paid by many users in one area of the region or by limited users region-wide  
 5-6 Cost paid by moderate number of users in most of the region, part of the region does not pay  
 7-8 Cost paid by moderate number of users throughout the region  
 9-10 Majority of cost paid by those who benefit, insignificant cost to rest of region

ID1	9	ID8	10	WS1	9	WM4	5
ID2	9	ID9	9	WS2	4	WM5	5
ID3	7	WC1	6	WS3	5	WM6	10
ID4	9	WC2	9	WS4	7	WM7	9
ID5	6	WC3	9	WM1	9	WM8	9
ID6	9	WQ1	9	WM2	5	WM9	8
ID7	10	WQ2	5	WM3	5	WM10	8

□ ***Regional Political and Stakeholder Support***

- 0-2 Limited support, high opposition  
 3-4 Limited support, limited opposition  
 5-6 Modest support, modest opposition or high support, high opposition  
 7-8 Modest support, limited opposition  
 9-10 High support, limited opposition

ID1	6	ID8	9	WS1	9	WM4	6
ID2	5	ID9	5	WS2	6	WM5	3
ID3	9	WC1	7	WS3	7	WM6	5
ID4	9	WC2	9	WS4	7	WM7	5
ID5	7	WC3	8	WM1	9	WM8	5
ID6	5	WQ1	7	WM2	6	WM9	6
ID7	9	WQ2	5	WM3	8	WM10	7

□ ***Social and Cultural Impacts***

- 0-2 Enhances values for few, harms values of many
- 3-4 Enhances values for some, harms values for few
- 5-6 Does not significantly affect social/cultural values of anyone or enhances values for many but also harms values of many
- 7-8 Enhances values of many, harms values of some
- 9-10 Enhances values of many, harms values of few

ID1	6	ID8	9	WS1	9	WM4	6
ID2	5	ID9	5	WS2	6	WM5	3
ID3	9	WC1	7	WS3	7	WM6	5
ID4	9	WC2	9	WS4	7	WM7	5
ID5	7	WC3	8	WM1	9	WM8	5
ID6	5	WQ1	7	WM2	6	WM9	6
ID7	9	WQ2	5	WM3	8	WM10	7

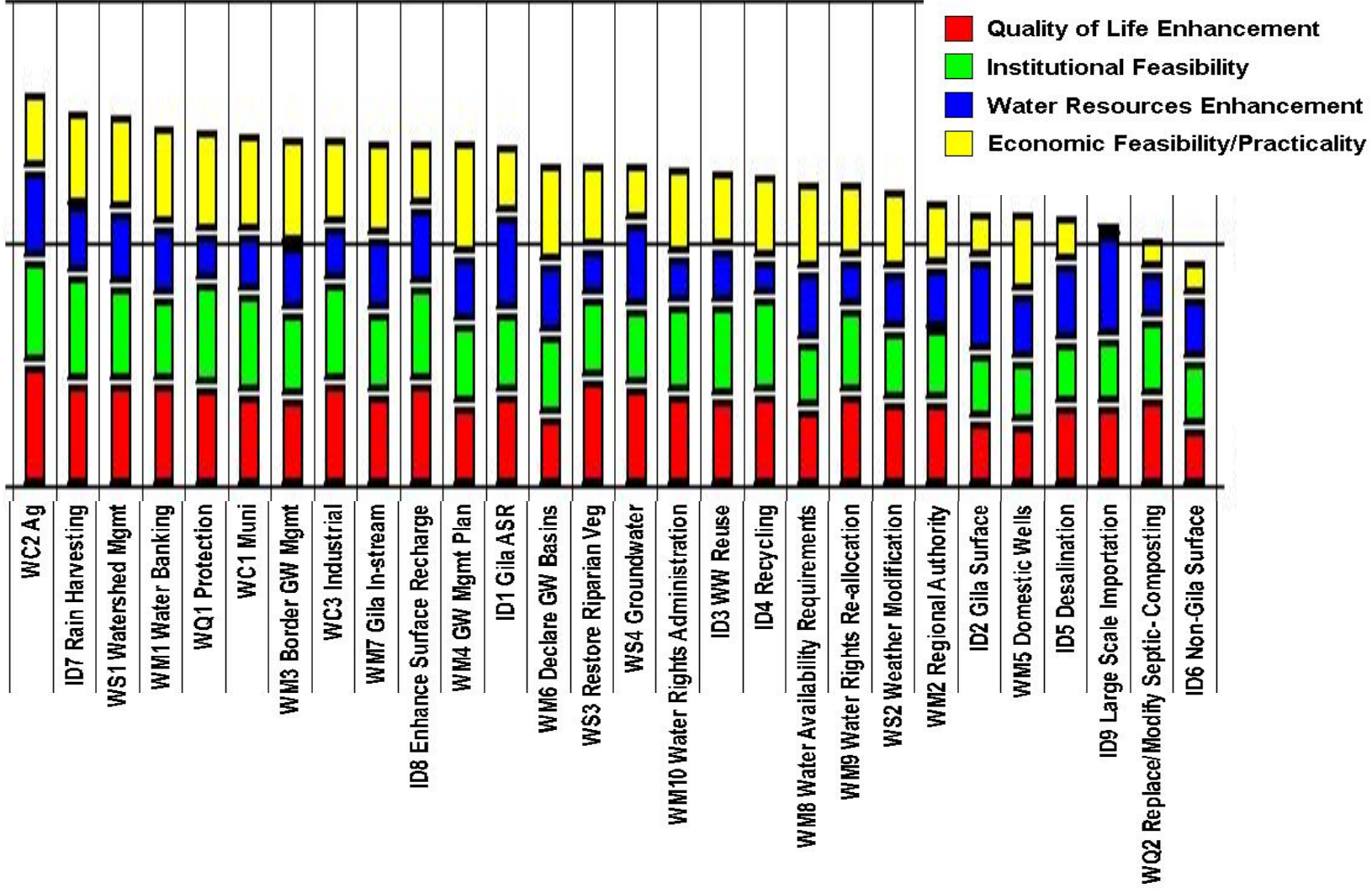
□ ***Economic Vitality of Region***

- 0-2 Very harmful to economy of region: loss of jobs, property values, revenue
- 3-4 Harmful: will decrease economic and job growth
- 5-6 No economic impact or minor benefits/impacts that largely offset each other
- 7-8 Large one-time economic benefit to region or minor long-term economic benefit
- 9-10 Long-term economic benefit to region

ID1	9	ID8	7	WS1	9	WM4	6
ID2	7	ID9	10	WS2	7	WM5	5
ID3	6	WC1	7	WS3	9	WM6	5
ID4	6	WC2	10	WS4	9	WM7	7
ID5	7	WC3	9	WM1	8	WM8	5
ID6	5	WQ1	8	WM2	7	WM9	9
ID7	7	WQ2	8	WM3	6	WM10	8

Attached is a graph charting the above results. The results of these scores will be summarized at the April 22, 2004 meeting.







## MEMORANDUM

TO: Southwest Regional Water Planning Steering Committee

FROM: Daniel B. Stephens & Associates, Inc.

DATE: April 30, 2004

SUBJECT: Minutes from April 23, 2004 Steering Committee meeting

The meeting was held at the Hurley City Hall Building. It started at 2 PM and lasted until 5 PM. Attendees present included Tom Anderson (Hidalgo County), Gerald Schultz (Black Range), Robert M. Esqueda (Town of Silver City), Henry Torres (Grant County), Gilbert C. Grijalva (Village of Santa Clara), Don Raunch (SWNMCOG), Harold Bray (Black Range RC&D), Jim Olson (Deming), Alex Thal (Catron County Rep), Dutch Salmon (At Large), Howard Hutchinson (SFSWCD), Frank Kenney (GSWCD), Sherry Tippett (Grant County), Jim Redford (Grant County), Tom Bates (Deming), John Burkstaller (DBS&A), and John Kay (DBS&A).

The focus of the meeting was on the selection of alternatives that will receive additional analysis for inclusion in the Water Plan.

DBS&A started the meeting with a presentation of the alternatives selection process to date. John Kay presented the decision analysis model used at the April 5, 2004 meeting of the Steering Committee. He gave a brief overview of the decision analysis process, described the technical model development aspects, and recapped the events of the April 5 Steering Committee Meeting. At the April 5 meeting, the Steering Committee had reviewed DBS&A's technical scoring of each alternative, and contributed quality of life scores to the objectives and performance criteria that were not technically oriented. Mr. Kay then described how DBS&A incorporated comments received at the April 5 meeting, including the addition of new alternatives, into the model.

John Burkstaller then presented the results of the decision analysis model resulting from incorporation of the steering committee comments and suggestions. A graph of the relative scores of the alternatives was presented. Mr. Burkstaller then indicated that it appeared there was a natural break in the scores, which occurred after the 12th highest scoring alternative. The alternatives beneath this break scored somewhat lower. It was proposed to the Steering Committee by Mr. Burkstaller that 8 of the top 12 scoring alternatives be chosen for additional analysis and inclusion in the Water Plan, and the remaining 4 of the top 12 alternatives be included in the Water Plan, but with more limited analysis. The proposed list of alternatives was as follows:



**Alternatives initially proposed by DBS&A for inclusion in the Water Plan based on decision analysis model scores**

**Thorough Analysis**

WC2 Agricultural Conservation  
ID7 Rain Harvesting  
WS1 Watershed Management  
WM1 Water Banking  
WC1 Municipal Conservation  
WM7 Gila In-Stream  
ID8 Enhance Surface Recharge  
ID1 Gila ASR

**More Limited Analysis**

WQ1 Protection  
WM3 Border GW Management  
WC3 Industrial  
WM4 Groundwater Management Plan

Steering Committee members, in particular Deming representatives and Howard Hutchinson, had presented results from the April 5th meeting to governing bodies and/or otherwise received input or commented on the criteria scores and alternatives list.

The Steering Committee agreed that rather than try to resolve differences in opinion regarding model input (scoring, weights) that they would first see if a consensus could be reached in reconciling the lists of alternatives for analysis. Discussion followed, and a list that would make everyone satisfied developed. The list is as follows:

**Alternatives for inclusion in the Water Plan developed by Steering Committee during April 23, 2004 Meeting**

**Thorough Analysis**

WC2 Agricultural Conservation  
WS1 Watershed Management  
WM1 Water Banking  
WC1 Municipal Conservation  
WM7 Gila In-Stream  
ID8 Enhance Surface Recharge  
ID1 Gila ASR  
WS4 Groundwater

**More Limited Analysis**

WQ1 Protection  
WM3 Border GW Management  
WC3 Industrial  
WM4 Groundwater Management Plan  
ID7 Rain Harvesting  
WM5 Domestic Wells

The key changes were:

ID7 Rain Harvesting was moved from primary list to secondary list  
WS4 Groundwater was added to primary list



WM1 Water Banking and WM9 Water Rights were combined into a single alternative in the primary list  
WC1 Municipal Conservation became WC1 Municipal Conservation and Management, and will include  
discussion of policy/management factors that will promote conservation and reuse  
WM5 Domestic Wells was added to secondary list

To verify adequate representation throughout the region, DBS&A asked representatives from each county or interest group to identify the two alternatives they felt would be most beneficial to their respective constituencies. The results were as follows:

Luna County: WC2 Agricultural Conservation, WC1 Municipal Conservation and Management

Hidalgo County: WC2 Agricultural Conservation, ID1 Gila ASR

Grant County: WC1 Municipal Conservation and Management, ID1 Gila ASR

Catron County: ID8 Enhance Surface Recharge, ID1 Gila ASR

Environmentalists: WM7 Gila In-Stream, MW1 Water Banking/ WM9 Water Rights Reallocation

In addition, all agreed that while not in the top 2, WS1 Watershed Management was important and should be a high priority.

Deming pointed out in their review of the decision analysis output that establishing a regional water authority was an important issue, but we all agreed that the process underway for a regional memorandum of understanding was the best vehicle to pursue regional mechanisms for governing and allocating the exchange of the Gila River allocation for Central Arizona Project water and that the South West Regional Water Plan should focus on alternatives (ID1 and WM7) for beneficially using the water rather than researching regional authority mechanisms.

**Southwest Regional Water Planning  
Steering Committee Meeting  
June 7, 2004  
Minutes**

The meeting was held at the Grant County Commission Meeting Room. It was called to order at 9:55 AM and was adjourned at 12:00 PM. Attendees present included Gerald Schultz (Black Range RC&D), Tom Shelley (Phelps Dodge NM Ops), Wayne Ericson (Engineer's Inc), Vance Lee (Hidalgo County), Alex Thal (Catron County Commission), Louis Jenkins (City of Deming), John Burkstaller (DBS&A), Howard Hutchinson (San Francisco SWCD), Dutch Salmon (At Large), Jayna Boyle (SC Daily Press), Mary Alice Murphy (SC Daily Press), Richard Dinwiddie (At Large), Rebecca Summer (Land & H2O), Allyson Siwik (Gila Resources Information Project), Todd Lopez (Gila Resources Information Project), Craig Roepke (Interstate Stream Commission), Tim Murrell (Interstate Stream Commission), Robert Esqueda (Town of Silver City) and Charity Teague (City of Deming)

The focus of the meeting was to give a progress report on the finishing of Phase I and water budgets, as well as review the list of alternatives that will be analyzed in more detail.

John Burkstaller started with a PowerPoint presentation, which defined the alternatives that will be fully analyzed, and those that would be briefly analyzed. The alternatives are as follows:

**To be fully analyzed:**

- ID1 – Gila ASR
- ID2 – Gila Instream
- WC1 – Municipal Conservation
- WS4 – Groundwater Development
- WC2 – Agricultural Conservation
- WS1 – Watershed Management
- WM1 – Water Banking
- ID8 – Enhance Surface Recharge
- 

**To be briefly analyzed:**

- WQ1 – Water Quality Protection
- WM3 – Border Groundwater Management
- WC3 – Industrial Conservation
- WM4 – Groundwater Management Plan
- ID7 – Rain Harvesting
- WM5 – Domestic Wells

Summaries of the alternatives, as well as the subcommittees formed, are listed below:

### **Full Analysis Alternatives**

#### **Gila Instream**

- Consider dedicating some or all of the Gila CAP water to instream flow
- Would require analysis by legal team
- Consider exchange for additional groundwater pumping

It was suggested to add the consideration of groundwater/surface water interaction.

#### **Municipal Conservation and Management**

- Evaluate existing conservation programs
- Investigate unaccounted water and condition of municipal systems
- Evaluate existing municipal rate structures
- Present conservation alternatives
- Recommend any conservation enhancements and ordinances or rate ordinance modifications

It was suggested to add markets, education, and regulation.

Subcommittee Advisors: Louis Jenkins, Howard Hutchinson, and Wayne Ericson

#### **Groundwater Supply**

- Locate additional groundwater resources for future development
- Focus on areas for large scale development
- Brackish, deep GW, potential municipal supplies
- Discuss costs, legal issues, regulatory issues, political issues

It was suggested to increase supply to industrial, consider impact on agriculture, as well as various actions and incentives.

#### **Agricultural Conservation**

- Identify current practices in significant irrigation areas
- Identify known on-farm measures to increase efficiency
- Examples: laser leveling drip irrigation, lining channels, scheduling, leaks, retiring fallow land
- Discuss costs, legal issues, regulatory issues, political issues

Subcommittee Advisors: Dutch Salmon and Alex Thal

### Watershed Management

- Consider potential yield increases due to thinning projects
- Consider water quality impacts

Subcommittee Advisors: Alex Thal, Howard Hutchinson, Dutch Salmon

### Water Banking

- Establish water banks within common watershed/basin

Subcommittee Advisors: Robert Esqueda, Gerald Schultz, Dutch Salmon, Howard Hutchinson

### Enhance Surface Recharge

- Consider check dams or channel adjustments to slow flow in ephemeral or perennial streams, allowing for enhanced recharge
- Consider effects on water rights and new stockpond legislation

Subcommittee Advisors: Alex Thal, Howard Hutchinson, Dutch Salmon

### Gila ASR

- Confirm best aquifer storage locations
- Identify potential recharge locations
- Examine recharge methods
- Evaluate potential practical regional service area
- Evaluate long term demand and needed supply
- Evaluate diversion methods
- Evaluate necessary surface equalization storage
- Evaluate transfer facilities
- Funding and institutional factors
- San Francisco River uses
- Studies required
- Staging considerations
- Tasks and timeline
- Other?

Subcommittee Advisors: Alex Thal, Dutch Salmon, Gerald Schultz, Robert Esqueda, and Tom Shelley

## Brief Analysis Alternatives

### Water Quality Protection

- Assess significance of identified ground water pollution sources
- Assess significance of pollution in listed streams and reservoirs
- Assess septic tank/nitrate pollution sources
- Identify source water protection possibilities
- Identify non point source pollution prevention possibilities

### Border Groundwater Management

- Coordinate with trans-basin aquifer study
- Obtain and review available information on current and projected use of aquifers in Mexico
- Outline saturated thickness, quality and aquifer parameters near border
- Discuss possibilities for and implications of possible management strategies

### Industrial Conservation

- Review current significant industries and their water use patterns
- Compare current industrial use to accepted conservation practice for that industry
- Discuss potential major industrial acquisition with Steering Committee
- Brief presentation of range of demands and conservation practices
- Identify any appropriate targets for consultation/regulation

### Groundwater Management Plan

- Describe process of developing groundwater management plan
- Identify areas in the region that would benefit from this, and explain how
- Discuss costs, legal issues, regulatory issues, political issues

### Rainwater Harvesting

- Identify key issues
- Estimate household water used that could be met with rainwater harvesting

### Domestic Wells

- Identify areas where a regional water system could replace new and existing domestic wells
- Discuss costs, legal issues, regulatory issues, political issues
- Rough estimate of how much water could be saved

Mr. Burkstaller stated that draft material by basin and county should be available by the next meeting. The next meeting is tentatively set for July 22, 2004 at 1:30 p.m., and the City of Deming Council Chambers.



## **Minutes from July 26, 2004 Meeting of the Southwest Regional Water Plan Steering Committee**

The meeting was held at the Virden City Hall and began at 4:00 PM in the afternoon. Members present were Robert Esqueda, Gerald Schultz, Alex Thal, George Pintar, Howard Hutchinson, Vance Lee and Tom Bates; alternates present were Jerry Donaldson, Allyson Siwik and Peter Russell; consultants John Burkstaller and John Kay were also in attendance. The minutes from the previous meeting were approved, and the floor turned over to John Burkstaller of DBSA.

Mr. Burkstaller began the meeting by indicating the need to establish a schedule for distributing a draft water plan to the steering committee and for holding public meetings. It was indicated by the steering committee that it would like to see a draft version of the plan prior to the public meetings, so that they could have time to review the report and prepare. After discussion of schedules, it was determined that DBSA should strive to have a draft version of the water plan ready to distribute to the steering committee by September 17, 2004. The steering committee members would then have over two weeks to review the report and prepare comments for DBSA before the next steering committee meeting, to be held in Deming on October 4, 2004. Howard reported that the Energy (water) and Natural Resources Interim Legislative Committee would have a tour in Grant County on Sunday October 3 and then meet October 4 in Deming. He suggested that we make a presentation to the Committee.

Discussion regarding the location and preparation for the public meetings followed. It was determined by the steering committee that four public meetings should be held, one in each county of the region. It was determined that it would be desirable to hold the four meetings within a close time frame, perhaps on four consecutive days. There was a general consensus that sometime during or after the week of October 18th would be a good target date for holding the meetings, pending scheduling arrangements. Tom Bates suggested that he contact the various municipal/county managers to check time and location availabilities for each meeting.

Public notification of the meetings was discussed, in particular, how could we generate good attendance at the meetings. A number of media options were suggested, including:

- 1) Newspaper public service announcements
- 2) Newspaper ads
- 3) Radio public service announcements
- 4) Posters put-up at public notice boards
- 5) e-mail listserves
- 6) Personal phone calls to key people (elected officials, community leaders, etc.)

It was agreed that people would be selected to do the phone canvas (item 6) by Tom Bates coordinating through the County/Municipal leaders in each County. There were no specific plans or budgets for advertising made at this time.

John Kay of DBSA briefly presented results of the revised water budgets. As requested by the steering committee following review of the Phase I report, water budgets were developed for the portion of each geologic basin within each county. Basin and County totals were also determined by summing the individual basin contributions. A graph indicating the Mimbres, Gila, and Nutt-Hockett Basins as having the greatest depletions was presented. The steering committee members were asked to review the water budgets and provide comment to DBSA. Several committee members expressed concern that the basin scale water budgets were too large scale to indicate local detail. It was indicated by DBSA that there was simply not adequate data available to enable further resolution of the water budgets, but that the water plan would include discussion and description of areas facing acute water supply issues. Robert Esqueda noted that the ground water flow for the Gila Basin on Table 1 does not include Silver City data from the Franks Well Fields. The same is true for Table 3g. John Burkstaller said that those corrections would be made and requested everyone go over the figures for their area.

John Burkstaller and John Kay briefly presented progress made on the alternatives analysis. Discussion centered on the results of the analysis of the groundwater development alternative. Six areas within the region were identified as having the

potential to provide a combined total of 7,600 ac-ft of sustainable groundwater resources for the region. There are five areas in the southern portion of the region, and one in the northern portion (Catron County). These areas are distant from likely locations where the water would be used (municipalities) and the pumping and distribution costs are likely to be prohibitively expensive at this point in time. They may prove to be more desirable in the future, if current water supplies continue to decrease and water costs increase. A conference call including members of the Gila ASR subcommittee was scheduled for August 12th at 9 am. John Burkstaller will send a conference # and code by e-mail prior to this call time.

Howard agreed to send an initial USBOR contact name from the Phoenix Office to DBS&A for follow up questions on Gila diversion feasibility studies done by the Bureau prior to and during the 1980's.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:20 PM.

# Southwest Regional Water Plan Public Meeting Summary

October 19, 2004  
Deming Meeting

## *Question and Answer Session:*

Q: On the water budget, what is the human caused inflow and outflow?

A: Those refer to human caused depletions or return flows. For example, return flow from agriculture would be a human caused input.

Q: How correct are the numbers on the water budgets?

A: Direction is correct, but estimates are uncertain. Good information on pumping. The recharge estimates and interbasin flow estimates are particularly uncertain.

Q: Where is groundwater mining going on?

A: Deming, agricultural centers South of Deming, and Silver City well fields.

Q: Will it get broken down more by area?

A: Could map major pumping centers.

Q: Will surface water actually offset mined areas?

A: Depends on how projects are implemented

Q: The cross border discussions. What is the purpose and potential outcome?

A: Outcome is Border 2012 program. Sharing information on groundwater. Also the Governor's Blue Ribbon Task Force on Water is looking at statewide water problems.

## *Comments:*

Mimbres aquifer – disagree with the scientific model quantification. Should we plan without agreement? What validity does the plan have if we don't know the numbers?

Domestic well users are concerned with dropping well levels and having to drill new wells. There is no financial help for them.

## *Discussion on the Recommendations:*

### 1. Municipal Conservation

- Growth as a consideration.
- Inverted structure – what is it? Pay more when you use large quantities.
- Xeriscaping used throughout the west. Is it done here? The government and community need to do equally.
- If most water is agricultural, what is the point?

- Deming won't make high users pay.
- "Conservation consciousness" might impact through public pressure.
- Drip irrigation and careful management would conserve more than use.
- Luna County is 90% agriculture. Does not matter what municipality does.

## 2. Agricultural Conservation

- State/feds have money. Encourage agriculture producers to go to drip. \$2 million from feds.
- Takes time to do this
- Taking 10 acres and reduce to 6 acres
- Costs as much as farming. Costs \$1600 to \$2000 per acre to switch to drip. \$500/acre to convert with feds. Must be viable. Water expensive to pump. Incentive to save.
- Legislation in last two sessions. GRT credit for conservation. Has not passed.
- Do they help small farmers?
- Elimination of noxious weeds because of water they draw. Watershed management important, too. SWCD working on these.
- Need education to understand issues.
- Leadership. To work with community to get beyond politics.
- Questions:
  - How does this process gain trust? Distrustful of politics.
  - Water Trust Board is a political appointment.
  - Why do I not see decline? Average is declining. There are monitoring wells that measure, the USGS wells can be used to measure regional declines.

## 3. Watershed Management

- Not so concerned with stream flow through noxious/invasive mitigation.
- Water quality is an issue.
- Need a better definition of watershed to avoid wasting money:
  - Recently two burns in the Gila.
  - Done in conjunction with Grant County SWCD. \$60K budget escalated to \$200K.
  - Was 4000 acres. Not successful result.
  - Not a WUI
  - Done under premise of watershed management
  - Particularly with burns and the role of burns
  - With money authorization and spending need better definition.
- Retardation dams in gullies – sedimentation and CCC check dams.
- Forest fire prevention – hand of man not helped – allow natural process to proceed – let nature go – adjust population if inappropriate.
- Don't tinker with the natural process.

## 4. Enhance Recharge

- Unpleasant byproduct of human activity

- That is what beavers do. Create ponds.
- People remove beaver dams in the Gila.
- Out of synch with natural process. Want benefits of natural but don't want it to be a natural process.
- Go with the natural processes.
- What is mitigation? Catch word for rape, pillage, loot.
- In desert areas – brush removal expensive like forest thinning.
- Should be vegetation management.
- Need to look and learn from Mimbres Indians.

#### 5. Water for riparian habitat

- Objective – flow in river for aquatic and riparian habitat.
- Pecos is using retirement of rights.
- Q: What if CAP water used for this? Could Arizona take the water?
  - A: The language is for an exchange. Could be reserved for use during dry periods.
- What is the status of water rights?
  - 10,000 for Gila, 4,000 for San Francisco, and bypass flows.
- Groundwater exchanges. Clarify relationships between offsets.
  - With restricted use areas where no outside water use is good because within means. To do otherwise would encourage negative use of limited resource.
- Some people feel restrictions too strict.
- Do not allow infrastructure to be created that encourages growth where it should not occur.
  - Negative impact on wilderness area
  - True for Deming and Silver City areas
- Political climate pro-growth.
- What about non-consumptive uses such as micro-hydrology?

#### 6. Aquifer Storage and Recovery

- Q: What about industrial and commercial need?
  - Upper Mimbres Basin
- Q: What is stabilizing drawdown?
  - If enough surface flow, if during higher flows had legal access, could take water with temperature storage. Take to Silver City, Bayard, Hurley to inject in groundwater.
  - What is the technical feasibility? El Paso is doing it and Albuquerque is planning it.
  - Some technical questions about this.
- Negative that the flooding and high flows do not have natural use. But it does regenerate bosque.
- Q: How much water could be stored? Not designed yet. Southwest Water Planning Group is looking at it.

- Q: how do you assess political, economic, environmental impacts without knowing all of this?
  - Costs too much to construct this project. Economically crazy. CAP is 18,000 acre-feet.
  - Recommendation: Be regional. Total region should be given equal consideration with division of water.
  - To add more groundwater pumping would encourage more water use. Making more water available will encourage development near the Gila.

#### 7. Water Banking

- Requires good legislation. Trying to work against use it or lose it. Is in the hands of the State Engineer and government and legislature.
- Is in hands of others. Work with who you know.
- Gila area is ground zero for yellow star thistle. Water banking would make more water available to deal with noxious weeds.
- Senior water right can be a hand-dug well. When needed to drill new well, OSE came in and monitored and adjudicated. Unfair process.
  - Is a policy decision.
  - Should talk to PD as well. Don't take it out on the little guy.

#### 8. Groundwater Development

- Based on assumption of quantity. UNCERTAIN. 3000 feet Water Trust Board proposal rejected.
- A lot of anecdotal water at that depth
- Quality is an issue.
- Q: Is part of estimate costs? \$100,000 per well. Could try to do this?
- Recommendation should be getting good data.
- One earlier meeting ruled this alternative out due to costs?
- How can we make any decision if we don't know squat?
- Don't politicize study.
- How do we implement?
  - Do studies? Test wells?
- There is not enough water for existing population. Is a zero sum game. Amount of water does not change. If worried about water, have less people.
- NMSU, OSE – there are resources available. Draft plan will do this. Released at end of year. There is also well data at OSE.
- Concern: 1 to 2 years we as a region will make decisions for \$66 million to be spent.
  - Not enough time.
  - Need as a region to understand the data. What is uncertain and certain?
  - What are key questions we need to address in short, medium, long term.
- Can we leverage \$66 million to get a loan to do real studies now?
  - A: Discussing bonding against it.
- SW Water Group was defensive move against Arizona.

- Need to live within our water budgets. If not enough chairs, no place to sit, now more growth. But who decides who stays and goes? CAP is outside those limits.
- People disregard data. Everything takes a backseat to growth/development/greed. Politics are distrustful.
- Domestic wells impact senior water users.

#### 9. Other Alternatives

- Growth management to prevent selling water rights.
- Domestic wells
  - OSE. Need water right for beneficial use and don't for domestic well. Not fair or equal.
  - Requires legislation.
  - Subdivision ordinance now limits development by requiring water rights.
  - Legislation going to be introduced – 40- to 100-year planning time frame.
- Agricultural metering
  - Part of State water plan.
- Privatization of water resources a problem internationally.
- Public works alternative. We do pipelines. Why not water?



## October 20, 2004 Lordsburg Meeting

### *Discussion on the Recommendations:*

#### 1. Municipal Conservation

- Q: How does Lordsburg compare to conservation?
  - A: Is just starting municipal conservation. People should be supportive.
- People learning about conservation. Reasons why.
- What kind of condition is system? Have minimal loss. Upgrading.
- Have credits or lower rates for xeriscaping. If incentive, people would accept and pursue.

#### 2. Agricultural Conservation

- Hidalgo County mostly groundwater.
- Water quality affected, financial concerns with switching, some places pumping costs high with groundwater.
- Virden only surface.
- Interest in sprinkler, limited in drip due to costs. Not noticing reduction in pumping costs. And installation cost also high/prohibitive.
- High efficiency sprinkler system can come close to drip; better than surface irrigation.
- Agricultural folks need to see return on investment to make it viable.
- Not necessarily useful with surface diversions since still need to pump – water quality affects water system and efficiency. Costs increase with filtrations.
- Mostly costs. Willing to do conversions if financially efficient. New systems labor-efficient since low maintenance.
- Need assurance will work. Want to see it work for a few years before adopt. Is happening with sprinkler systems.
- Need to provide assistance with managing systems (drip especially) since requires maintenance.
  - Is an issue in Deming.
  - NRCS helps fund system, but not management incentive.

#### 3. Watershed Management

- Q: Prescribed burns are used as a method; is it in conflict with improving water quality?
  - A: Less impact than catastrophic fires.
- Watershed management not only benefits high elevation.
- Vegetation management includes creosote/mesquite control that can benefit streamflows/recharge.
- Prevent creosote/mesquite. Yield recharge benefits – lower costs per acre than at higher elevation.
- Mesquite “native invasive.” Encroaching on bottom lands.

- NRCS doing creosote management to return grasslands to improve recharge/infiltration. BLM doing some public.
- Mitigation techniques
  - Chemical, mechanical treatments
  - Creosote can do successful chemical mitigation. Successful grassland regeneration. Creosote is encroaching in bottomlands.
- Don't know exactly about water yield.
- Where a lot of creosote, no understory vegetation – creates high runoff – if reduce creosote, increase organic materials and grasses/forbs, reduce run-off.
- In lower rainfall has significant percent of runoff reduced. Comparative to higher rainfall areas.
- Restoration in desert is slow recovery. Most is natural recovery/conversion. Seeding experiments would be good. Would like to see some test plots.

#### 4. Enhance Recharge

- Q: About watershed management – could CAP/Gila \$66 million be used for seeding/restoration? Probably.
- Playas – infiltration there almost nonexistent. Evaporates more than infiltrates. Keep it up higher. Will be better.
- Arroyo mitigation? Not used much in this area.
  - OSE considered check dams as “water harvesting.” Not erosion control. Thus requires a water right for impounding.
  - Some people doing on own with induced meandering slowing flows for erosion control.
- Roads
  - Allow for water to channelize.
  - Need to control runoff, soil loss, grasslands, reduce incising of streams, will increase infiltration.
  - Should be able to do this.
- The word “project” implies engineering project. Would a watershed management project be included? Don't know if limited to Gila water diversion project.

#### 5. Water for riparian habitat

- Major concern is not losing what they have now, so extra water not bad.
- Not a lot of concern over this issue. Mainly use groundwater not surface.

#### 6. Aquifer Storage and Recovery

- Q: How is seniority addressed with Gila/CAP water?
  - A: Are subordinate.
- Q: Can water be used prior to 2012 for agricultural purposes since no cost involved?
  - Exchange \$72 acre foot
  - Will be able to increase agricultural wells
  - Pumping from agricultural wells costs 1/3 of that

- Q: Is this increase pumping part of the 14000 acre feet?
  - A: No
- Q: With this water, if a diversion project like a reservoir, who gets water during dry years?
  - A: Probably not senior water. Would be the water for Gila designated users. Does that create incentive to over-pump?
- Q: What are benefits to other areas? All benefit appears to go to Silver City?
  - A: Thus far the only discussion has been about how it would help that area. Not limited to that.
  - Should be provision that other areas should have access. Don't eliminate others.
  - True of \$66 million as well. Does it all go to Silver City or it is divvied up to all four counties for meeting water needs?
- Q: Is Las Cruces off the tale? Do they have access to this water or it just for this four-county area?
  - Not excluded in legislation. Region could adopt resolution to maintain water here.
  - Seems important to do that!

#### 7. Water Banking

- Q: Could this benefit region? The active water management OSE policy?
  - A: Would allow for more flexibility with shortage sharing drought planning.
- Concern heard here is who manages it? Local or someone in Santa Fe?
- Could allow for leasing to offset Virden Valley shortfall.
- Keeping water in the basin.
- Do on annual basis to prevent shortfalls during drought.
- Has potential to be beneficial if done right.
- Temporary transfer – no transfer of ownership.
- Can part of \$66 million be used for idle rights to create new water rights/supply?
- Say PD not using water, can lease rights to someone else, water use would increase because not being used before – increase mining!
- In Gila/San Francisco decree, PD has water not being used. Same as 14,000 acre-feet. 6,000 acre-feet PD not using. Not using the full 31,000 under the Rifken decree.

#### 8. Groundwater Development

- Is private ownership land in Grant County. Not responsive to exploration on their land.
- Hachita basin. Wells are hit and miss. Every 1 in 3 wells has water. Expensive.
- Water quality is brackish.
- Q: Is OSE wanting to eliminate undeclared basins?
  - A: Maybe in the future.
- Q: What is process to develop?
  - Physical access to private land – a lot of this is Gray Ranch

- People can develop with landownership and drill well. Easy to use on own land. Harder to transport.
- Is getting these areas declared an issue to control mining?

9. Other Alternatives

- For this area, industrial would yield low benefits, but water quality would be positive.
- Don't need in this area for domestic reductions.
  - Luna County would have biggest impact due to population.
- Rainwater harvesting not a big issue here either.
- Border lowly populated – not a high priority.

## October 20, 2004 Silver City Meeting

### *Comments:*

- Population projections – difficult to project and picture.
- Water budgets.
  - Assumes groundwater static
  - Should have component of storage/outflows in groundwater storage
  - Inflow very slow (recharge)
  - More like a savings account.
- Planning timeframe is 40 years.
  - Is CAP part of this process?
  - Part of greater statewide effort.
  - Not until looking at alternatives did CAP come into discussion?
- Mimbres – what is the cause of imbalance?
  - More pumping than recharge
  - Deficit of about 20,000 to 30,000 acre-feet.
- What are assumptions on storage estimate?
  - Depth
  - Specific yield
- Where is mining occurring?
  - Will need to look up
  - Silver City well fields
  - Deming well fields
  - Agriculture uses

### *Discussion on the Recommendations:*

1. Municipal Conservation
  - Many people on wells
  - No rebate program
  - Water bills can provide opportunity for education about water conservation
  - Silver City does provide information about conservation (from OSE)
  - Most new ordinances require low-flow toilets already
  - Most resistance comes from rich since they can afford cost increased. Need education.
  - Towns doing a good job can serve many with little. 2800 acre-feet per year. 1200 to 1500 people. Has relatively low per-capita use. Cost efficient.
  - 148 acre-feet per capita. Can do better.
2. Agricultural Conservation
  - Need to seek subsidy to assist with conversion.
    - Government should help

- Will benefit all.
- Statewide 75% water goes to agriculture. Luna County 86%
  - Drip irrigation is expensive
  - Could save 40% on water.
  - Can save 50% on energy, 50% on fertilizer.
  - Cannot afford to pay interest since that eats any savings. Need subsidy to make financially viable.
- Q: What are soil treatments?
  - A. Mulching. Decrease runoff/evapotranspiration.
- Can \$66 million be used for subsidies with conversion?
- Use \$66 million in bond?
- Q: 2012 when \$66 million comes up, what happens in the meantime?
  - A: there are other mechanisms/funding sources for implementation such as: EPA watershed grants and the Water Trust Board.  
Legislative funding.  
Individual municipalities.
- Implementation action comes from local municipality.
- Soil banking – agriculture motivated to take crop land out of production for incentive.
- Gray water can be used for domestic uses. Not enough water produced for agricultural uses.

### 3. Watershed Management

- Q: What are savings?
  - Hard to quantify. Studies do paired watersheds for results. Will be part of the plan.
  - No consistent increases in streamflow except above 18" precipitation areas. But improvements in recharge, flow velocity.
- Q: Does it have long-term erosion problems?
  - Part of mitigation/treatment.
- Thinning causes grasses to regenerate. Improves grasslands, decreases erosion.
- In upper areas, thinning not necessarily good for main course. Erosion here a problem. Need riparian buffer.
- Downstream need riparian enhancement. Particularly to reduce grazing in riparian areas.
- Q: What about people who want to channelize river instead of meander?
  - A: Meander reduces flash flooding – pushes into floodplain where can regenerate cottonwoods.
- Levees have been strongly resisted.

### 4. Enhance Recharge

- Big ditches disasters in the Depression era. No watershed management at that time. CCC built check dams. Reduced erosion. Increased infiltration.

- Beavers. Natural process. Enhance recharge. Opposition since perceived as restricting flow of water. Alter streamflow. Only conflict is in urban/human areas. Creates marshlands that cannot be developed.
- Beavers would help riparian habitat that benefits wildlife.

#### 5. Water for riparian habitat

- Use only when there are flows.
- Agriculture actually diverts water, so use water to augment natural flows to make up for agricultural diversion.
- Political feasibility?
- If goes downstream, will Arizona always demand it?
- Is it beneficial use?
- What are economic benefits to instream flows?
- Leasing and water banking.
- Maybe more feasible to dedicate specific water rights for this purpose.
- With CAP, what provisions need to be in place for critical periods?
- Economic benefits can be accrued (to fishermen, for example) from instream flows. Need to quantify.
- Use it with conservation – conserved water could be diverted to instream flows.
- What are environmental costs? What is cost/benefit analysis including environmental costs?

#### 6. Aquifer Storage and Recovery

- Theory good, but how does it really work?
  - Need to study project and costs. Could be costly.
- Process includes test.
- Concerns with how much water do you really yield? Of 14,000 acre feet, but lose to evapotranspiration.
- Depends on design; for instance, surface area of storage areas impacts evapotranspiration loss.
- Thought could be for PD to use this additional flow instead of mining the Mimbres.
- But according to ISC won't realize any savings. PD thinks won't see economic benefit. Costs to PD nearly double.
- Issue with flooding and sediment.
- This project very expensive, buying idle rights more economically feasible.
- PD not able to take out during high flows. Not technically feasible.
- Most potential for controversy. Basin integrity in important.

#### 7. Water Banking

- Right now use it or lose it. Does not encourage conservation. Now could lease/lend.
- Economic benefit accrues to leaser.
- Economically seems efficient – instead of using inefficiently can lend to someone who needs it.

- Strategic water reserve legislation. Aspect of water banking.
- See how it works where it has been used elsewhere.
- Idaho uses water banking.
- Q: surface or groundwater?

#### 8. Groundwater Development

- Make sure know what developing.
  - Requires good assessment, has been some study of southern basins.
- Inconsistent resources. (quantity, quality)
- Least favorable alternative
  - With interbasin flows, could be issue.
  - Should just do quality and depth test to identify supply.
- Desalinization. Much energy and discussion on this topic.

#### 9. Other Alternatives

- Regional includes Mexico. Not big part of discussion, but has impacts. As part of economic international trade agreements, include water.
- \$60 million going to international Mexico/U.S. aquifer studies (to the universities) under the U.S./Mexico Transboundary Act.



## October 21, 2004 Reserve Meeting

### *Discussion on the Recommendations:*

1. Municipal Conservation
  - What if other users don't conserve?
  - Not a connection with impacts of actions
    - Education?
    - Need water for food production.
  - New subdivisions – many home sites. What is impact of wells/septic on small plots?
  - Concern with water quality.
  - Subdivision regulations. Commission believes in buyer beware.
  - Local vs. state regulations on subdivisions.
2. Agricultural Conservation
  - Most in San Francisco basin is surface diversion.
  - If line acequia, may impact riparian recharge. Positive and negative with the potential of ditch lining here. Lose riparian and recharge benefits from low-volume flows with lined ditch.
  - Q: what is breakdown of crops?
    - More food agriculture in valley near Deming, Grant County; other areas have more alfalfa.
  - Hidalgo County 8800 in agriculture, a couple hundred is hay. Luna small amount alfalfa. Hard to grow food crops in higher elevations. Easier to have permanent pasture.
  - OSE does annual crop survey. Virden Valley has diverse crops.
3. Watershed Management
  - Ongoing activity in uplands and lower elevations. Already taking place.
  - Already seeing positive benefits.
4. Enhance Recharge
  - Positive, similar comment to watershed with it already happening.
  - Major project starting on Whitewater Creek. Center fire ongoing for 8 years.
  - Mostly on private lands.
  - Challenge is going through red tape of feds for implementation. Easier on private lands.
  - A lot of riparian areas on private lands due to settlement patterns.
5. Water for riparian habitat
  - Restoration perceived positively but people don't want Arizona to have water.
  - Q: Would retiring water rights for instream flows work?

- If do that, what about local food production?
- Is part of economic mix. If take water out of that use, trade economic engine for economic drag.
- Community supported agriculture (CSAs) in the area – increase people’s knowledge about food production.
- For water rights retirement, retain agricultural water rights in agricultural production. Catron county water plan policy is to prevent transfer to domestic and municipal use.
- Keep senior rights in productive mode.
- Need educational effort to gain common understanding of what water’s value is and how it should be used.
- Regional approach to looking at alternatives. For example, San Francisco Basin has flows, Grant does not, San Francisco basin can lend water. Could do for short- or longer-term lending. For example, recharging a well field, then somewhere else.
- May require regional authority for water sharing.
- San Juan Basin is creating a shortage sharing model.

#### 6. Aquifer Storage and Recovery

- Q: What about the 4000 acre-feet from San Francisco basin?
  - San Francisco SWCD, County, and Reserve have a joint powers agreement. Of 4,000 acre-feet, 2,000 acre-feet for distribution in basin (percentage to each area), 2,000 acre-feet to a reserve for environmental and recreation purposes. Limitation on what individual can purchase as right.
    - Equity was established for distribution of rights.
    - Ensure flow from upper to lower reaches.
    - Prioritization system would be set up.
    - Sets up authority for water banking. Cannot move water upstream.
    - Combined surface and ground water.
- Tularosa is degraded and incised by up to 25 feet. Have to use groundwater since no surface flow.
- With restoration aggregate streambed like on Clear fire. Small reservoir that can even out allocation.
- Aiming to get people involved in process and to take responsibility to manage. Are junior rights. Market will determine value. Prohibit sellout of sub-basin.
- The reserve will be impounded, will have evapotranspiration loss.
- Duck Creek similar to Tularosa. Potential for restoration.
- Of 14,000 acre feet (no more than 140,000 over 10-year period). If technical committee realized additional flows can be taken out for use, is technical team decision.
- Watershed management will increase surface flows.

#### 7. Water Banking

- Don’t transfer upstream
- Keep in basin

- Local authority combined with regional authority. Overall banking exchange. Interbank exchange.
8. Groundwater Development
- Issue is recharge. Gila is not deep alluvium: about 50 feet, then bedrock. Flushing river.
9. Other Alternatives
- What about limiting growth due to water limitations?
    - Political feasibility here not good.
  - Restricting domestic wells. Statewide regulations should pass. Create ability to declare Critical Management Area.
  - What about water quality issues? Can NMED enforce here?

# **Southwest New Mexico Regional Water Plan Steering Committee Meeting Minutes**

**Key Ideas - March 15, 2005**

## **Cliff Meeting**

### **Approval of Minutes**

January 25 Key Idea Minutes were not available and approval will be delayed until the next Steering Committee Meeting.

### **Introductions**

### **Process for Comment Resolution**

The Steering Committee Members present agreed that technical and editorial comments that are not conflicting or controversial will be incorporated into a final version without prior discussion before the steering committee. However, all Phase II comments will also be included in a comment summary table or response matrix that will indicate the action taken to address each comment. In addition the following issues were discussed:

- Some suggestions were already considered in the plan
- Suggestions for out of scope studies could be completed if a written amendment is received from ISC
- Comments over which DBS&A thinks there might be disagreement within the Steering committee are to be discussed today

### **Comments That Need Reconciliation**

- The Gila Conservation Coalition had asked why the Gila ASR alternative discussed in Section 8.6 was based on diversion of 8,000 -14,000 acre feet per year. The discussion in that section was based on a maximum delivery of 8,000 acre feet per year and the fact that less could be diverted was discussed in the section. The comments suggested that the section include some estimate of the difference in cost per acre foot between a 5000 acre foot per year maximum diversion system and the cost estimate provided for an 8000 acre foot per year system be included. It was agreed that we would add this estimate. Another related comment from the Coalition indicated that the “cost estimates of \$134,000,000 were completely out of date and should not be presented”. DBS&A indicated that the actual construction cost estimated in the alternative discussion was based on updates of costs from BOR and other studies to 2003 equivalent costs and actually came out about \$165,000,000 for both diversion and storage and ASR facilities. The comments mentioned that ISC had gone on record that the cost would be \$220,000,000. We discussed the fact that the cost depended on the particular elements to be used in a project, sizing of

facilities within the elements, technique used to update and extrapolate from sources of cost information and many other unknowns requiring further study to resolve. The discussion supporting the cost estimates makes it clear that cost estimates are subject to drastic change with additional planning. The estimate included, together with ISC and other cost information is still useful for an order of magnitude idea of how costly a diversion and ASR project would be. It also gives a basis for the estimate of change in cost with change in sizing, mentioned above, that was requested in the discussion.

- We discussed the fact that the Gila ASR alternative as well as a reference to it in the Executive Summary implied that an ASR project could not serve beyond the Silver City/Bayard area. A commenter asked why not have Gila water go to Hidalgo, Luna or elsewhere? We pointed out that the Silver City well fields near the Mimbres and Gila groundwater divide were a logical place to store water because of a capture zone from historical drawdown near the regional demand. Definition and subsequent discussion of this alternative has always pointed out that it would be very expensive to take water on to Deming or to Lordsburg and that other regional demand centers might want to develop water from one or more of the other alternatives discussed in the plan. In further discussion the Steering Committee agreed DBS&A should make it clear, in the 8.6 introduction and in the Executive Summary, that the ASR system storage could always be transported to other parts of the region if demand, cost and competing alternatives make it feasible.
- One of the commenters had suggested that, because there are unknowns about the confidence level concerning the amount of water divertable under the new CUFA rules and bypass requirements, information on ISC and DBS&A spreadsheet modeling studies should be dropped from the water plan. We discussed the fact that some analysis of the actual ability to divert significant water under the rules was very useful and that standard procedures had been used. The Steering Committee agreed to keep the spread sheet analysis of available diversions in the report.
- Two or more reviewers commented on whether the ranking scores of the alternatives should be included somewhere in the alternatives analysis information. DBS&A pointed out that the purpose of the ranking and decision analysis exercise was only to select alternatives to be studied from the initial list of alternatives and was not intended to judge their relative value beyond that selection process. We also discussed that the process of selecting alternatives and implementation priorities was a public process and asked if the Steering Committee wanted to make changes the Committee agreed that the alternatives should be unranked except for discussion of the overarching importance of conservation. We agreed that DBS&A should work with Gerald regarding language about local government responsibility to carry forward the implementation priorities in the plan and then run it by the Steering Committee.
- The steering committee agreed that DBS&A could work with Howard Hutchinson on appropriate per capita values for domestic consumption for people supplied by individual wells and any resulting change in demand projections in Catron County as well as Howard's comments in general, and circulate the results to the Steering Committee email list.

- We had extensive discussion regarding staff comments from ISC recommending a stronger resolution by the Region as well as all the individual local governments for action on municipal conservation. We talked about the lack of region wide government authority for enforceable conservation requirements unless the Southwest Water Planning group leads to a Regional JPA that chooses to take that on as part of it's authority. There was a desire by Dutch Salmon to include language to the degree possible in the plan indication regional conservation commitments. Alec Thal and Gerald Schultz felt that conservation was a local government (RC&Ds for Ag and Cities and Counties for Municipal) responsibility. We agreed to substitute some of the ISC recommended quotes of legislative requirements for conservation to be eligible for Water trust board funding and other ISC conservation related requirements for the language already included in the municipal conservation alternative.
- The Steering Committee agreed that little would be accomplished by additional layperson public participation but that it would be good to include a public participation appendix that will include October public meeting comments, Steering Committee meeting minutes, summary responses to comments from both Phase I and Phase II of the Regional Plan review and some discussion of how that public input influenced the alternatives discussion and implementation plans. Tom Bates agreed to provide minutes, information on public notice advertisements and other material he can provide relative to public participation. He also asked DBS&A to work up a budget estimate for putting together the appendix using a portion of the public participation budget allocated to Deming in the Regional Plan agreement.
- The Steering Committee gave endorsement to work on changes to demand projections (v. population projections) by adding a safety factor to come up with revised high use estimates for a third column in the demand table. There was considerable discussion of how that could be justified and we agreed that some sort of case by case rational, including the concept of potential lost opportunity if revisions can only be made based on subsequent experience, would have to be used.
- We discussed the fact that one commenter thought more consideration should have been given to possible use of existing Phelps Dodge water rights on the Gila as the source for the Gila ASR and other alternatives requiring new water rights. DBS&A did include discussion of possible use of both Phelps Dodge water rights and Phelps Dodge excess capacity in their existing diversion. The impediment to more thorough planning around acquisition of Phelps Dodge water rights is their inability to promise when or in what quantity they will become available. DBS&A agreed to review the existing language in the Gila ASR alternative and see if it can be modified to make partnering with Phelps Dodge look like a more viable part of this alternative.

#### Steps Prior to ISC Review and Approval

- Address comments and revise draft
- Local government resolutions, doesn't have to be unanimous but should be close
- ISC staff review, probably with Tom Bates, DBS&A and any interested Steering Committee representatives in Santa Fe

- **Plan for any needed support for implementation**
- **Acceptance by the Interstate Streams Commission**

#### **Issues Mentioned in Sidebar Conversations**

- **Catron County representatives mentioned the importance of including information on some contested stock tank water rights in the legal analysis part of the plan. DBS&A asked that supporting information be sent and we would research the issue and look at the existing legal analysis language and add to it if necessary and appropriate.**
- **We pointed out the 8.6.1.9 discussion of possible ground water diversion of CUFA water and they agreed that was important but so was the issue in the bullet above.**

#### **Next meeting**

**The next South West Water Planning Group Meeting is scheduled for the morning of April 19th. DBS&A will endeavor to have the comment responses and changes to the plan complete by that time so that a Steering committee could be held in the afternoon to consider actions for local government approvals and ultimate ISC approval. A DBS&A representative may attend if necessary, depending on level of issue resolution and other circumstances.**