

Appendix 1a - Public Involvement Program - Phase I

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PROGRAM - PHASE I REPORT	3
Introduction	3
Acknowledgements	3
Chapter 1 - History of the Planning Process	3
Chapter 2 - The Public Involvement Process	4
A. First series of meetings - January 6, 2000, through July 28, 2001	4
B. Second series of meetings - July 28, 2001 through December 17, 2002.....	6
C. Progress Report.....	7
D. Workshops.....	7
Chapter 3 - Interim Results	8
A. Mission Statement	8
B. 2002 Workshops.....	8
C. Interim Goals and Objectives	8
D. Preliminary Water Management Alternatives.....	9
Chapter 4. Where Do We Go From Here?	11
Appendices	11
Appendix 1- Steering Committee - January 6, 2000, through July 28, 2001.....	11
Appendix 2- Steering Committee - July 28, 2001 through December 17, 2002.....	13
Appendix 3 - Workshop Notes.....	15
Appendix 4 - Progress Report	15
Appendix 5 - Preliminary Alternatives	15
Appendix 6 - Bylaws and Cooperative Agreement.....	15
Workshop Results - Cañon, 1/19/02	16
Workshop Results - Cuba, 2/23/02	21
Meetings, Notes, Agendas - January 2000 to July 2001	24
February 26, 2000	24
March 29, 2000	26
Minutes From The 7/18/00 Meeting	28
August 22, 2000 Meeting	30
September 19, 2000 Meeting	31
Saturday December 2, 2000 Meeting	32
Saturday January 6, 2001 Meeting.....	33
Saturday, March 17, 2001 Flyer.....	34
Saturday March 17, 2001 Meeting.....	35
Saturday April 7, 2001 Meeting.....	37
June 9, 2001 Cuba Meeting.....	38
July 28, 2001 Meeting.....	39
Cuba News - May 2000 Through July 2001	40
05-19-00	40
06-16-00	42
07-21-00	44
07-21-00	47
09-15-00	48

11-17-00	50
12-15-00	51
01/19/01.....	53
01/19/01.....	55
02/16/01.....	57
06/15/01.....	58
Water Planning Meetings Participants 2000	61
Water Planning Meetings Participants January – July 28, 2001	63
Miscellaneous Notes & Agendas	64
February 14, 2000	64
Meeting on Friday April 21, 2000.....	65
June 21, 2000.....	66
July 19, 2000 [Albuquerque].....	67
Saturday, November 4, 2000.....	70
Saturday, March 31 st 2001.....	73
Meetings, Notes, Agendas - July 2001 - December 2002.....	77
August 10, 2001	77
Friday September 21, 2001	79
Friday, October 19, 2001.....	80
Friday November 16, 2001.....	82
January 12, 2002	83
Workshop Agenda - Saturday, January 19, 2002.....	84
Reminder Note for February 16, 2002	86
Saturday, February 16, 2002	87
Workshop Agenda - Saturday, February 23, 2002.....	88
reminder notice for March 15, 2002.....	91
Saturday March 16, 2002	92
May 9, 2002, Canon	93
October 30, 2002	94
Goals & Alternatives - October 30, 2002.....	95
Wednesday November 20, 2002	98
Tuesday December 17, 2002.....	99
Cuba News August 2001 - December 2002.....	100
08-17-01	100
10-19-01	101
12-21-01	103
01-18-02	104
06-21-02	105
Rio Puerco y Rio Jemez Watershed Participant List	106
Water Planning Meetings Participants- August –November 16, 2001	107
Water Planning Meetings Participants 2002	108
Phase I Participants’ Affiliations.....	111
Addresses Of Participants Phase I, 2000-2002	114

Public Involvement Program - Phase I

Introduction

Regional water planning in the Río Jemez and Río Puerco sub-regions has been underway since January 6, 2000. Phase I's activities, which ended at the end of December 2002, have included meetings and workshops to identify issues, concerns, values, problems, and goals and objectives related to developing a regional water plan. The following report documents the public involvement program and process in Phase I, then summarizes the interim results. These results reflect the input by citizens who gave of their time and energy to ensure that the plan represents the values and visions of the Río Jemez and Río Puerco watersheds. It is the sincere desire that this report will stimulate more public involvement as Phase II begins.

Acknowledgements

This report is a product of the work and support of Mike Wirtz, Cuba Soil & Water Conservation District, the Mid-Region Council of Governments, and the Interstate Stream Commission. Thanks also to the Steering Committees of the Rio Puerco and the Rio Jemez watersheds, and to the Middle Rio Grande Water Assembly, for adding their thoughts and guidance to the process.

Chapter 1 - History of the Planning Process

As part of its mandate to protect New Mexico's water, the Interstate Stream Commission (ISC) is to prepare a state water plan. Prior to doing so, the ISC designated sixteen water planning regions throughout the state, and then asked them to prepare regional water plans in accord with the *Regional Water Planning Handbook* and §72-14-44 NMSA. The legislature recognized and directed that water planning is most effectively done at the local level. Regional water planning allows all stakeholders to help determine the direction of water use within the region. Broad public participation is necessary in the development of regional water plans to enhance their acceptance locally and to increase their potential contribution to state decision making in regard to "public welfare" and "conservation" determinations. This effort is overseen by the ISC and funded through the Commission and local entities.

The Middle Rio Grande Water Assembly, a non-profit, all-volunteer, grass-roots organization, was formed in late 1997 to develop a regional water plan through an open, inclusive, and participatory process. The region, as designated by the ISC, included the Middle Rio Grande, the Rio Puerco, and the Rio Jemez watersheds. In 1998, the Water Assembly and the Middle Rio Grande Council of Governments (MRGCOG), now the Mid-Region Council of Governments (MRCOG), agreed to work together in this planning process.

In the spring of 1999, the ISC and the MRCOG entered into a Scope of Work to fund Phase I of the Region Water Plan. The Rio Puerco and the Rio Jemez watersheds were included in the tasks to be accomplished:

Subtask 2.1 - Urban and Rural Sector Participation; Linkage between watersheds. - Subregional committees will represent the rural interests of the Jemez watershed, the Rio Puerco watershed, and the rural sectors of the Middle Rio Grande watershed to provide input to the regional water plan. These subregional committees will serve to involve rural sectors in all phases and activities of the water planning process.

Several small communities are located near the headwaters of the Rio Puerco and Rio Jemez and are included within the larger Middle Rio Grande Water Planning Region. Mr. Emmett Cart of the Cuba Soil and Water Conservation District (CS&WDC) felt that it was important for these stakeholders to be able to voice their concerns and opinions and to participate with residents from the urban centers such as Albuquerque, Bernalillo, and Rio Rancho. The CS&WDC agreed to be the a fiscal agent for the process and arranged with MRCOG to undertake Phase I of the program for the smaller subregions. That, in turn, formed the basis of the agreement between the CS&WDC and Mike Wirtz, the project coordinator.

Beginning in January 2000, a series of meetings were held, and the Río Jemez and Río Puerco Joint Watershed Steering Committee, as well as a set of Bylaws, were created. These meetings have been a part of the public involvement process described in more detail below. Appended to this report are the outcomes of the structural portion of the meetings, the Steering Committee Agreement, the Bylaws, lists of meeting attendees, and minutes from those meetings. Furthermore, there have been a number of articles in the local newspaper about regional water planning (Appendix 1 and 2).

Chapter 2 - The Public Involvement Process

The *Regional Water Planning Handbook*, available through the ISC, provides guidance as to what should be included in the regional water planning process, particularly with regard to public involvement. As is noted in the *Handbook*, “a critical element of the regional water plan is public participation in the planning process. Planners must demonstrate that reasonable and diligent efforts have been made to reach the public so as to invite, value, and reflect public comment.”

The Rio Puerco y Rio Jemez Joint Watershed Steering Committee has worked carefully to fulfill this mandate. For the past three to four years, residents from the small communities of Jemez Springs, Ponderosa, La Cueva, Cuba, La Jara and Regina and the Pueblos of Jemez and Zia, New Mexico, have attended meetings and seminars to learn about water planning. Throughout the process, the intent has been to involve local residents as stakeholders in all phases of the water planning efforts.

A. First series of meetings - January 6, 2000, through July 28, 2001

From January 6, 2000, through July 28, 2001, community residents and the project coordinator held a total of eleven separate meetings, six in Cañon and five in Cuba, New Mexico. In addition, members of these communities and the project coordinator attended two Water Assembly meetings in Albuquerque, and the Goals and Objectives Forum at the Albuquerque Convention Center on November 4, 2000. A list of the participants and the minutes from those sub-regional meetings is included in Appendix 1. At the March 31, 2001, Water Assembly meeting in Albuquerque, the project coordinator presented an interim report on behalf of the sub-regions to all attendees. During this time, community members worked on developing a Steering Committee for the sub-regions, writing by-laws, identifying issues and concerns, and listing interim goals and objectives. Set out below are the meeting dates, locations, number of attendees, and key issues and concerns that were expressed during this first series of meetings.

1. February 26, 2000 in Cañon, NM. Twelve residents attended the meeting and discussed their concerns and water-related needs. Managing the watersheds for water production was a strong concern. They also listed ideas about the impending sub-region water plan. A flyer announcing the meeting had been circulated throughout the community.
2. March 29, 2000 in Cañon, NM. Ten participants including guest speaker Richard Spencer who had worked on the Estancia Basin water plan attended. The group discussion centered on how to use less water, how to conserve more, and how to keep the water within the watersheds. An agenda had been prepared.
3. April 21, 2000 in Cañon, NM. Eleven community members discussed the template set out in the ISC's *Regional Water Planning Handbook*, and how the sub-regions would become involved in the overall planning process.
4. June 6, 2000 in Albuquerque, NM. Two members from the Jemez Springs area and the Project Coordinator attended the Middle Rio Grande Water Assembly meeting.
5. July 18, 2000 in Cuba, NM. Eighteen community members from the Rio Puerco watershed area met and discussed their water related concerns and values. One of the main issues as stated by a participant was that "land without water rights is valueless; water rights must come with the land." The participants also stressed that planning should begin at the top of the watershed and address erosion control issues.
6. August 22, 2000 in Cuba, NM. Nine stakeholders attended the meeting and viewed excerpts of the video, "Cadillac Desert". They also discussed how to get the word out so more community members could become involved.
7. September 19, 2000 in Cuba, NM. Nine residents attended and voiced concerns about how small communities could lose their water if they didn't participate in planning efforts. They also were concerned about getting their individual water rights records and certificates in order.
8. December 2, 2000 in Cuba, NM. Thirty-two stakeholders were present and discussed water rights and how to protect them. They also reiterated the need to protect and manage the watersheds. An agenda had been prepared and circulated throughout the community prior to the meeting. One of the community organizers of the meeting stated that "we're here to make water resource management plans and it's up to you to help us".

9. January 6, 2001 in Cuba, NM. Ten members discussed the formation of a Steering Committee that would represent both the Rio Puerco and the Rio Jemez watersheds. Discussions centered on whom should be on the committee.
10. March 17, 2001 in Cañon, NM. Twenty-three stakeholders attended this meeting. Flyers had been circulated and an agenda prepared. There was a recap of the watershed water planning efforts, a Steering Committee status report, and a review of the Cooperative Agreement and Bylaws.
11. March 31, 2001 in Albuquerque, NM. The program coordinator presented a report to the Middle Rio Grande Water Assembly about the Rio Puerco y Rio Jemez sub-region planning activities and the formation of a Steering Committee. The belief stated by a meeting participant “Speaking from the heart is real power” has been an underlying value from the stakeholders in those two sub-regions.
12. April 7, 2001 in Cañon, NM. Ten members discussed the structure of the Steering Committee. One comment that was voiced was “we need to be self protective of our water demands so MRGCOG won’t take our water”.
13. July 28, 2001 in Cañon, NM. Nineteen stakeholders were present when the Steering Committee Agreement was finalized and the Bylaws ratified. In addition, an update of the sub-regions’ water planning efforts was presented.

B. Second series of meetings - July 28, 2001 through December 17, 2002

Since July 28, 2001, when the Steering Committee was established, there have been eleven meetings involving the Steering Committee. Appendix 2 includes the participant lists, notes, and comments from these meetings. In addition, at the April 2002 Annual Water Assembly meeting in Albuquerque, two basin members presented an interim report on behalf of the sub-regions. A list of the eleven Steering Committee meetings since July 28, 2001 follows:

1. August 10, 2001 in Cañon, NM. Eleven participants attended this meeting including a representative from MRGCOG. Discussions centered on whom would be co-chairs of the Steering Committee.
2. September 21, 2001 in Cañon, NM. Thirteen members attended and it was decided that Marion Woolf from the Rio Puerco watershed and Emmett Cart from the Rio Jemez watershed would be co-chairs for at least the next six months. It was also recommended that the Steering Committee look at the goals and objectives developed by the Water Assembly and Water Resources Board.
3. October 19, 2001 in Cañon, NM. Fifteen members of the Steering Committee were present and discussed the format of the two planned public meeting scheduled for early 2002.
4. November 16, 2001 in Cañon, NM. Nine members were present for a discussion about assignments for the public meetings. Also an update on the public notification process involving the Rural Electric Association was presented. Flyers announcing the meetings were to be enclosed in the next electric bill.
5. January 12, 2002 in Cañon, NM. Ten members were present including two from the Regional Water Assembly. Final plans were made for the public meetings and an agenda was prepared. The meetings would inform the public of past planning efforts, identify the members of the Steering Committee, provide for a formal

- statement of the problem regarding water supply and demand, allow participants to describe what they value concerning available water, and formulate a process for working together to overcome obstacles during the planning process.
6. February 16, 2002 in Cañon, NM. Ten members present including two from the Water Assembly and one from MRGCOG. Final preparations were made for the Cuba public meeting by reviewing the results from the Jemez public meeting.
 7. March 16, 2002 in Cañon, NM. Thirteen people were present and discussed the funding situation and the process for receiving money from MRGCOG. Members also discussed developing a Memorandum of Understanding between MRGCOG and the CS&WCD to cover planning expenses for the sub-regions.
 8. May 9, 2002 in Cañon, NM. Sixteen members were present including two members from the Water Assembly. Further discussions were held concerning the funding situation and ways to overcome the problem. A recap of the joint list of goals and objectives from both public meetings was also presented.
 9. October 30, 2002 in Cuba, NM. Fourteen members were present. The Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) between MRGCOG and the CS&WCD was discussed. A few changes are necessary for it to be acceptable. Discussions also covered the interim report that the sub-regions will make to MRGCOG by the end of the calendar year.
 10. November 20, 2002 in Cuba, NM. Five community members were present and discussed a list of draft alternatives that will be discussed at future meetings. Managing and restoring our watersheds was the major concern.
 11. December 17, 2002 in San Ysidro, NM. Seven members were present including two members from the Water Assembly. The main item discussed was the format and content of the Steering Committee's interim report to MRGCOG.

C. Progress Report

In addition to reporting at the Middle Rio Grande Water Assembly's Annual Assembly, the project coordinator presented a Progress Report to the MRCOG's Water Resources Board in May 2002. The Progress Report included a summation of the public participation process up to that point, and reviewed the main categories of issues and concerns elicited through the process, identified a draft list of goals and objectives, and explained the funding situation for the sub-regions (Appendix 4). The main categories of issues and concerns included:

1. manage the watersheds where we live,
2. provide more education to all residents within the Middle Rio Grande Water Planning Region on the conservation and wise use of water
3. provide a forum for the local citizens to express their issues and concerns that will be incorporated into the final regional plan.

D. Workshops

Two Workshops were held in 2002. These were designed to allow participants to describe what they value concerning available water, and to formulate a process for working together to overcome obstacles during the planning process. Flyers were included in the electric

cooperative's bills, to ensure that everyone received notice. Results are discussed in the following chapter as well as can be found in Appendix 3.

1. January 19, 2002 in Cañon, NM. The first of two Workshops was held. Participants were asked to list their concerns and values on flip charts under six different categories. Sub-committees were formed and each group reported back to the entire group with their concerns and recommended actions to be taken to reach the desired goals.
2. February 23, 2002 in Cuba, NM. The second public Workshop for the sub-region watersheds was held on Saturday afternoon. Formal presentations were made and a recap of issues and concerns from the Jemez public meeting were discussed. Participants were asked to list their visions and values and begin listing alternative management strategies.

Chapter 3 - Interim Results

A. Mission Statement

On July 28, 2001 in Cañon, New Mexico, the community members agreed on the revised wording of the Cooperative Agreement that formed the Río Puerco y Río Jemez Steering Committee. They also agreed on the Bylaws and signed these two documents (Appendix 6). At that time, the Steering Committee developed a Mission Statement, which is:

The Río Puerco y Río Jemez Steering Committee promotes the enhancement of watershed restoration efforts that will benefit communities and it's residents by increasing water production and improving water quality.

B. 2002 Workshops

Workshops were held January 19, 2002 in Cañon and February 23, 2002 in Cuba. Based upon the meetings held in 2000 and 2001, the steering committee created six separate categories of previously identified water related issues:

1. Agriculture/ranching
2. Acequia/cultural
3. Development/growth
4. Watershed management
5. Community involvement
6. Other

These were first explained at the Workshops. Then participants were asked to expand on the list. Finally, they formed small sub-committees and discussed a desired state for their communities within the next 40 years. Appendix 3 recaps the citizens' concerns and suggestions from both of the Workshops.

C. Interim Goals and Objectives

The Steering Committee developed a list of goals and objectives for each of the two sub-regions, based upon earlier input. These lists were then consolidated to include comments and concerns from both groups. The list will be reviewed and amended where necessary, and submitted for acceptance in the next Phase II Workshops in 2003. The accepted goals and objectives will be submitted to the Water Assembly for consideration and inclusion in the overall Middle Rio Grande Regional Water Plan. Listed below are the interim goals and objectives:

1. Manage the watersheds for increased water production and improved water quality
2. Insure that traditional values and use of water is preserved
3. Educate all citizens about the need to use water wisely
4. Provide for reaching public participation in the water planning process
5. Promote the conservation of water and incorporate these concepts in the local schools' curriculum

D. Preliminary Water Management Alternatives.

During the summer and fall of 2002, members of the Steering Committee and the project coordinator developed a draft list of water management alternatives. The list reflected the concerns and comments expressed by stakeholders throughout the entire planning process and as presented at the October 3, 2002 meeting in Cuba, NM. The list will be reviewed and amended where necessary and submitted for acceptance at the first Phase II Workshop in 2003. The accepted alternatives will be submitted to the Water Assembly for consideration and inclusion in the overall Middle Rio Grande Regional Water Plan. The list (also Appendix 5), in no order of priority, follows:

- 1. Manage and Restore our Watersheds.**
 - reduce wildfire hazard
 - minimize negative vegetation effects on water quality using Best Management Practices (BMPs)
 - improve stream channel health
 - create local employment and economic benefits
- 2. Reduce Water Demand**
 - every customer (user) has his or her own water budget
 - incentive pricing can generate significant water savings
 - allow for greater water availability for other users
- 3. Increase Water Storage Capacity in Rural Areas**
 - additional storage protects from drought
 - adds flexibility in water management
 - a regional approach would be beneficial
- 4. Reduce Water Loss in Acequias**
 - lining and repairing existing acequias can reduce or eliminate contaminant into groundwater supply

--some of the water savings would otherwise have recharged groundwater

5. Protect Water Rights

--rural communities and their way of life cannot be sacrificed to provide water for growing municipalities

--“acequia and Tribal issues for water use and management should be recognized at all times

6. Use Surface and Groundwater in Combination

--common sense alternative

--use surface water in wet years, groundwater in dry years

7. Manage Growth and Land Use Together

--helps maintain a sustainable community

--it is important to base reasons for growth management or constraints to water availability

--a regional approach is important

--growth management is important to acequias

8. Manage Drought

--drought is a recurring cycle

--planning ahead is important in avoiding crisis management

--proactive planning approach is beneficial to all parties

9. Capture Flood Flows

--reduce and protect against flood flows, manage the hydrograph

--reduce flood damage

--depends on availability of storage and diversion points

10. Reuse Wastewater (Gray)

--reuse for irrigation

--inject as artificial recharge

--reduces demand and eliminates discharge to stream

--two to three times more expensive for small communities than larger urban areas

11. Remove Trace Elements From Water to Increase Supply

--arsenic is the most prevalent and presents the most important concern

--if enacted, more water will be available because water with high concentrations of arsenic and other constituents is not being used

12. Install Domestic Supply Wells

--this involves managing a well field that may consist of one or more well sites

--groundwater generally needs less treatment than surface water

--groundwater will be more reliable during drought periods

--domestic wells may be only alternative in isolate areas

Chapter 4. Where Do We Go From Here?

Phase II of the Scope of Work between the Middle Rio Grande Council of Governments and the Cuba Soil and Water Conservation District will include: 1. Monthly meetings of the Steering Committee; and 2. Two Workshops per watershed to focus on (1) reaching public consensus on goals and objectives, and prioritizing alternative actions, and (2) investigating the feasibility of the alternatives and hopefully creating scenarios for the alternatives in order to attain the goals of the subregion and provide for project ideas suitable/appropriate for funding from the Water Trust Fund. In addition, the Steering Committee will meet monthly to ensure that the regional water plan includes the visions and values of the Rio Puerco and Rio Jemez sub-regions.

Appendices

Appendix 1- Steering Committee - January 6, 2000, through July 28, 2001

Appendix 2- Steering Committee - July 28, 2001 through December 17, 2002

Appendix 3 - Workshop Notes

Appendix 4 - Progress Report

Appendix 5 - Preliminary Alternatives

Appendix 6 - Bylaws and Cooperative Agreement

Appendix 1- Steering Committee - January 6, 2000, through July 28, 2001

Steering Committee Meeting - July 28, 2001
agenda; sign-up sheet

Steering Committee - June 9, 2001
Notes

Agua Por Vida o Agua Perdida
Cuba News; June 15, 2001; article describing June 9, 2001 meeting

Steering Committee - April 7, 2001
notes; sign-up sheet

Water Assembly - March 31, 2001
Presentation; Agenda

Steering Committee - March 17, 2001
agenda; notes; sign-up sheet

Agua Por Vida o Agua Perdida

Cuba News; February 16, 2001; article announcing upcoming meeting

Regional Water Planning

Agua Por Vida o Agua Perdida

Cuba News; February 16, 2001; Review of process

Steering Committee - January 6, 2001

notes; sign-up sheet

Middle Rio Grande Regional Water Plan Goals and Objectives Forum - November 4

Agenda; Notes

Agua Por Vida o Agua Perdida

Cuba News; December 15, 2000; Review of December 2, 2000 meeting

Water Planning meeting - December 2, 2000

notes; sign-up sheet

Agua Por Vida o Agua Perdida

Meeting Announcement for December 2, 2000 meeting

Cuba News; November 17, 2000

Water Planning meeting - September 19, 2000

notes; sign-up sheet

Agua Por Vida o Agua Perdida

Cuba News; September 15, 2000; Article and Announcement for September 19, 2000 meeting

Water Planning meeting - August 22, 2000

notes; sign-up sheet

Agua Por Vida o Agua Perdida

Regional Water Planning

Cuba News; July 21, 2000; Water Planning Article; review of July 18, 2000 meeting and announcing August 22, 2000 meeting

Water Assembly Action Committee - July 19, 2000

Minutes

Water Planning meeting - July 18, 2000

sign-up sheet; minutes; Letter to Mr. Cheney

Agua Por Vida o Agua Perdida

Cuba News; June 16, 2000; review of June 7, 2000 meeting

Water Assembly Action Committee - June 21, 2000
Agenda

Agua Por Vida o Agua Perdida
Cuba News; May 19, 2000; Water Planning Article

MRG Water Planning meeting at MRCOG - April 21, 2000
sign-up sheet

Water Planning meeting - March 29, 2000
minutes; sign-up sheet; agenda

Water Planning meeting - February 26, 2000
minutes; sign-up sheet; agenda

Water Planning meeting - February 14, 2000
notes

Appendix 2- Steering Committee - July 28, 2001 through December 17, 2002

Water Planning meeting - December 17, 2002
minutes; sign-up sheet

Water Planning meeting - November 20, 2002
minutes; sign-up sheet

Water Planning meeting - October 30, 2002
minutes; sign-up sheet; handouts: "Planning Goals" "Alternatives"

Agua Por Vida o Agua Perdida
Cuba News; June 21, 2002; Water Planning Article

Water Planning meeting - May 9, 2002
minutes

Water Planning meeting - March 16, 2002
minutes; sign-up sheet

Water Planning meeting - February 16, 2002
minutes; sign-up sheet

Water Planning Workshop - February 23, 2002
agenda

Water Planning reminder notice - for March 15, 2002

Water Planning meeting - February 16, 2002
sign-up sheet

Water Planning reminder notice - for February 16, 2002

Water Planning Workshop - January 19, 2002
agenda

Water Planning reminder notice - for February 16, 2002

Water Planning Workshop - January 19, 2002
Community Involvement Notes
Agriculture / Ranching Notes
Acequia / Culture Notes
Watershed Management Notes
Other Notes

Water Planning meeting - January 12, 2002
minutes

State Mandated Water Planning
Announcement for January 19, 2002 Workshop
Cuba News; January 18, 2002

Water Planning meeting - January 12, 2002
sign-up sheet

Rio Puerco Y Rio Jemez Watershed Committee
Announcement for January 29, 2002 Workshop
Cuba News; December 21, 2001

Water Planning meeting - November 16, 2001
minutes; sign-up sheet

Water Planning meeting - October 19, 2001
minutes; sign-up sheet

Agua Por Vida o Agua Perdida
Cuba News; October 19, 2001; review of September 21, 2001 meeting and announcement
of October 19 meeting

Water Planning meeting - September 21, 2001
minutes; sign-up sheet

Agua Por Vida o Agua Perdida

Cuba News; August 17, 2001; review of August 10, 2001 meeting and announcement of September 21 meeting

Water Planning meeting - August 10, 2001
sign-up sheet; notes

Appendix 3 - Workshop Notes

Water Planning Workshop - January 19, 2002
Development / Growth Notes
Community Involvement Notes
Agriculture / Ranching Notes
Acequia / Culture Notes
Watershed Management Notes
Other Notes

Water Planning Workshop - February 23, 2002
Other Notes, Acequia / Culture Notes, Community Involvement Notes, Watershed Management Notes, Agriculture / Ranching Notes, Development / Growth Notes

Appendix 4 - Progress Report

Progress Report presented to MRCOG's Water Resources Board on May 16, 2001.

Appendix 5 - Preliminary Alternatives

Preliminary Alternatives, October 30, 2002

Appendix 6 - Bylaws and Cooperative Agreement

Rio Puerco and Rio Jemez Watershed Planning Steering Committee Bylaws, July 28, 2001

Cooperative Agreement for the Rio Puerco and Rio Jemez Watershed Planning Steering Committee, July 28, 2001

WORKSHOP RESULTS
Saturday, January 19, 2002, Cañon, New Mexico

DEVELOPMENT/GROWTH
(Action Committee Notes and Comments)

- Policies with conservation, require natural landscaping' put in covenants of development
- Identify current demand; what do we need? Idea" in or, (bend)??? They have to inject treated wastewater to the aquifer, managing the resource
- Price of water, is it enough? Should the domestic well have a cost? With the "postage stamp" you should pay more after immediate needs.
- 40 years from now: keep it the way it is, population stable.
- Incentive program; develop a system with 50-100M gallon tanks (in the name of fire safety) where there are clusters of water systems. They tie in, + big \$ for replacing pipes to homes. (The tanks serve a dual purpose: water for homes and for fire protection. Unknown number of mini systems + bad, or unknown quality.
- Increase awareness amongst people here about growth happening + potential growth right here. Old lands will become potential subdivisions. Hwy. 126 may be paved and that will make "vacation" communities and homes more year-round.
- ISSUE: allowing septics and wells on small lots, (1/2 acre) so (?) require community well system.
- ISSUE: small lots should be restricted to five acres (more or less) (to keep water)
- Limit new businesses and job development to communities down stream; don't attract more people here.
- Control tourism department that brings in outside businesses that don't keep profits here.
- Limit real estate and commercial development on agricultural land. (See County planner Brad Stebleton, for maps, plans, etc.

Nancy Blecha 829-3529, email
Larry Rogers 834-1962, email
Jack Crane 829-3648

M a n a g e m e n t

- r e s o u r c e

- l a n d d e v e l o p m e n t

OTHER
(Action Committee Notes and Comments)

- Members are appalled by the water waste in Albuquerque.
- Reasonable price per gallon for sustenance water; huge price for water above that; jail beyond that.
- No water meters. (*Please explain: does this mean you want water meters on all users, especially businesses, or what?*)
- Look at road building effects on water use.
- Increase (the public's) awareness about potential development.

- Upset about laws on arsenic - no scientific support.
- Mandate no new lawns; go to xeriscape.
- Route water to agriculture' not to recreation.
- Law on State books making it a felony to contaminate a drinking water supply above and beyond SWDA.
- Make gray water systems more easily available and with environmental restriction for a gray water development separate from septic rules.
- Anyone who adds chemicals to a system must be certified.

Susan Burritt, PO Box 288, Jemez Springs, NM 87025, 829-3330; email: aguamadres@yahoo.com

Education (aw ar eness)

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT (Action Committee Notes and Comments)

- The school (Jemez Valley) has the worst water in the State, arsenic and fluoride. Use the school as a water educational resource. Use it in the summer to teach adults -- certified water operators.
- Protect drinking water sources (legislation).
- Get mothers involved -- tell stories together.
- Training re: water quality in schools, a joint effort of High schools and agencies to train and learn.
- Project del Rio.
- Environmental education.
- SIPI and Jemez need to work together (*include Zia Pueblo also*).
- Reach into clinics.
- Communities control development re" subdivision; their are the decision makers, not just the Counties.
- Notify acequia associations etc. of plans regarding water.
- Acequia Cleaning Day - adopt a student.
- Soil Conservation District; their knowledge is not being considered or utilized.
- Get WRRI, etc., to agencies - water education (flow reengineering), curricula; draining water from underneath us with community counters (?)
- Educate our representatives; how to counter the propaganda from special interest groups; with agency's assistance.
- List of web sites for information.
- Build a library with link to NMSU re: grazing techniques, marketing prices.
- Education and involvement is the only way to keep our way of life.

Nancy Blecha 829-3529, email: aguamadres@yahoo.com

Education - r e p r e s e n t a t i v e s

- students, parents
- Protection
- water sources

AGRICULTURAL/RANCHING (Action Committee Notes and Comments)

- Maintain rural community; farms stay intact. Use non-irrigable land for development.
- Remove salt cedars and Russian olives from around stock tanks, etc. including ranch lands.
- Restriction of propagation of non-native species.
- Assure water supply (ground and surface) for livestock.
- With transfer of rights from acequia associations, buyer will pay fees to association for those rights as long as the association exists.
- Percentage of water rights must be maintained in community "pool".
- Assure water for irrigation of crops.
- Government agencies (BLM, USFS, New Mexico State, etc.) must manage the land for optimum production in a sustainable way, not political correctness.
- Educate urban people on the realities of rural/agricultural life.
- Identify historic acequias; names and their water rights with physical inspection (have existing staff).
- Monitor contamination of acequias and ground water.
- Construct irrigation dam to catch spring run-off; irrigation delivery system from Jemez Springs past Zia Pueblo.
- Maintain ability of senior rights holders to place call on Jemez river water.
- Reform condemnation law; protect water rights and include all property condemnation to protect water rights.
- Education should begin at Kindergarten and continue; (includes water, local economies, etc.)

Peter Pino 135 Capitol Sq. Dr., Zia Pueblo, NM 87053-6013 867-3304

Steve Lucero 1219 Hwy 4, San Ysidro, NM 87053 834-7431

Sam McDaniel PO Box 164, San Ysidro, NM 87053 834-7010

Susan Burritt, PO Box 288, Jemez Springs, NM 87025, 829-3330

Management (same emphasis as Watershed Management)
Education

ACEQUIA/CULTURAL (Action Committee Notes and Comments)

- Legislatively protect water rights by tying them to the land (no transferred or specified water rights)

- Protect acequias from condemnation or take over through legislation (acequias is no eminent domain) (*This goal would also fit under the Agricultural Action Committee heading.*)
- Protect easements of acequias.
- Declare New Mexico a "National Treasure"; meaning, don't disrupt its historic character and use.
- Investigate becoming a Critical Management Area; (*This Action Committee may want to consult with the US Forest Service because a large part of the upper Jemez watershed area is included in a Congressionally designated National Recreational Area. This designation includes certain, rather restrictive, management constraints that may enhance water quality and quantity by limiting the kinds of activities authorized on National Forest lands.*)
- Pueblos are unique in this area; we should facilitate their continued existence. (*The Action Committee should also include them on the committee and work with them on all water related issues, concerns, and goals.*)
- Safeguard water supplies and usage for rural lands; LOOK AT THE BIG PICTURE
- Pray for rain: be mindful of the true source of water supply.
- Kids leave the area; how can we keep them here? Values, can we educate?

Diana J. Clark, P.O. Box 115, Ponderosa NM 87044 834-7339

Steve Lucero 1219 Hwy 4, San Ysidro, NM 87053 834-7431

Mary Caldwell, PO Box 108, Ponderosa NM 87044

R.W. Johnson, Cuba, NM

Marion Woolf, facilitator.

Protect water rights

Protect acequia easements

WATERSHED MANAGEMENT (Action Committee Notes and Comments)

- Do erosion control in and out of streams (arroyos, rivers, streams)
- Reduce the number of stems/acre (*this refers to the number of trees growing on any given acre within the watershed, regardless of land ownership. The idea is to improve the amount of rain and snowfall that reaches the ground.*)
- Manage basin's forests for maximum water output; use prescribed burns.
- Return commercial use and harvest of timber to reduce (*overstocking*) and properly manage this renewable resource.
- Remove non-native trees from water courses; i.e., Russian olives, salt cedars
- Pressure the US Forest Service to manage OUR timber resource thus removing and reducing stems/acre.
- Educate residents on "management" (*refers to the Best Management Practices, BMPs, when managing the land.*)

Management of watershed

- erosion control

- prescribed burns
- reduce stems/ acre
- remove non-native plants

Education

- management (reasons for)

WORKSHOP RESULTS
Saturday, February 23, 2002, Cuba, New Mexico

OTHER

(Action Committee Notes and Comments)

- Preserve the quality of Northern New Mexico; cultures and values, way of life, environment (this is unique in USA). Get Congressional recognition of this. *You may want to check into Congressionally designated Jemez National Recreation area: it has certain restrictions and land management emphasis that might relate to these concerns.*
- Prevent loss and erosion of traditional languages and cultural/religious practices.

ACEQUIAS/CULTURAL

(Action Committee Notes and Comments)

- Educate the communities and ourselves about condemnation issues
- Acequias to remain for our families
- Our culture is our livelihood and our heritage
- Keep our water rights; "ours is an old water right" (before 1907)
- Secure funding

ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN

- Need good legal representation for acequias as political subdivisions of the State
- Involve County Commissioners in the acequia/watershed support
- Involve reps and Federal level to look into the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo
- Lobby legislature to "stop" condemnation; acts of late 1800's - investigate; land use agencies now in court and losing!
- Look at potential tools; pros and cons. Conservation easements, Transfer of Development Rights/water regulations (not separate from land), agricultural conservation areas, traditional community designation, critical watershed management area
-

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

(Action Committee Notes and Comments)

- Education at the National, Regional, State and local levels about what restores watersheds; judicious lumbering, prescribed burning, erosion control
- Legislation; citizen's demand for land use law and for water rights protection; citizen's demand to maintain our cultures and way of life. How do we connect and get the word out? (Web sites, phone trees, contact reps, teenagers work acequias). We don't need to bring in Disneyland to create(?) us.
- In the schools: show children and teachers how watersheds and agriculture work; show how it must all be balanced! (Imbalanced environmental demands actually destroy the environment.
- Live in a style appropriate for the desert.
- Learning about natural resources, the limitations they impose, and then be able to base decisions about the future for the future.

WATERSHED MANAGEMENT (Action Committee Notes and Comments)

- Reduce fire danger by cutting "dog hair thickets" and conduct prescribed burns.
- Reduce road density
- Water slow-downs at junction of pediment (mountain) and desert floor.
- Conduct erosion control/planting; soil stabilization
- Work to obtain tax incentives for land owners who want to "manage" their land: Timber Stand Improvement, burning, etc.

ACTIONS THAT CAN BE TAKEN

- Educate individuals who benefit from management of land and have them work with legislators
- We want speakers knowledgeable in resource management to discuss topics of concern, interests. (Angus McIntosh (?) @NMSU)
- Existing laws are being ignored; know your rights and protect them
- Land management agencies must work with private land owners (USFS, BLM, SCS)

AGRICULTURAL/RANCHING (Action Committee Notes and Comments)

- Maintain agriculture culture and lifestyle keeping our water top priority to do this. Teach understanding of importance of agriculture products raised by irrigation locally
- Understand the importance of agriculture to rural communities and their economies
- How to keep our kids on the ranch
- Build alliances with traditional agriculture production (ranching) with diversified agriculture production ideas
- Support local farmers markets; reduce importation
- Educate farmers/ranchers to be educators
- Promote integrated resource management

ACTION ITEMS

- Give economic incentives for agricultural land owners/ranchers
- Give agriculture value for open space habitat and green belts
- Conduct feasibility studies to evaluate cause/effects of land uses
- Lessons learned: Baca Ranch Management Board
- Look at the impact (effect) of water transfer on the point of transfer: like an EPA study. Double dipping: if you sell the water off the land and a well goes in it's double dipping.
- Look at the Farm Policy Protection Act (Federal) and make NM write their Act to comply with the Feds.

DEVELOPMENT/GROWTH (Action Committee Notes and Comments)

- Any and all growth has to take into account the necessary and importance of water for all needs; water budget.
- Water should not be piped from one area to another re: Mono Lake and Owens Valley in California
- Saline water levels moved upstream as water was "moved" downstream
- Can't separate land use and water use

ACTION ITEMS

- Develop a "local" land use plan; refer to the Sandoval County Land Use Plan.
- There are three types of growth: economic, population and land development

RP Y RJ SUBREGIONAL WATER PLANNING

[Meetings, Notes, Agendas -
electronically entered, and edited where necessary, by Jennifer Johnson]

RIO JEMEZ REGIONAL WATER PLANNING
FEBRUARY 26, 2000
2:00 P.M.
JEMEZ VALLEY COMMUNITY CENTER

WELCOME
SELF INTRODUCTIONS
PURPOSE OF REGIONAL WATER PLANS
IDENTIFY CONCERNS
IDENTIFY NEEDS
SET DATE FOR NEXT MEETING

SPREAD THE WORD!!!!

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT MINUTES FROM THE 2/26 MEETING [with sign-in sheet]

On Saturday, February 26, 2000 a meeting was held at the Canon Community Center to address the impending study of the Rio Jemez and Rio Puerco watersheds. Members from various communities within the watersheds were in attendance. (A list of those participants is enclosed).

Listed below are the concerns, needs, comments and ideas that were recorded at the first meetings of the Cuba Soil and Water Conservation district's Steering Committee.

CONCERNS

Need more information about the Indian Water Suit
Things should stay the way they are regarding flowing water, reservoirs
Building and construction is occurring with no real plan for conserving water
The United States Forest Service has "Water Reserves" that need to be addressed (do they have the right to do so?)
Metered water; give it up or buy it back: domestic use versus irrigation use
More people moving in means more water demands; Will this reduce the amount entitled to (for) Jemez Pueblo: the water may not be there in the future-there's no guarantee
We have to honor the amount of water promised to Texas and other down stream users
Rio Rancho, NM; Water is running off into drainage ditches; can't conserve water in one place and not in other places
Riparian transpiration' USFS's timber stand improvement (TSI) work. (Refer to page 6 in a handout given to committee members).
Manage for water production

State Engineer continues to issue drilling permits with no apparent concern for future growth, development, etc.

Albuquerque and Rio Rancho is estimated to reach a population of 1 Million people within 20 years; they are not particular on where they get the necessary water

Environmentalists have a big clout with the USFS and therefore, how the forests' are managed
Grazing reduces trees that invade meadows; therefore, water and forage is increased and soil erosion is decreased

Albuquerque and Rio Rancho are putting demands (control) on the water leaving the Rio Jemez and Rio Puerco Watersheds; as a result WE are becoming a Rare and Endangered species

Water Right: determine capacity first before allocating downstream water use and consumptions

Need a community of people that work together and help each other out

“Seller” or subdividers see money signs; farmlands are being subdivided for domestic uses which increases water demand

Sandoval County Commissioners often ignore rural community's concerns; growth equals revenue

Santa Ana, Zia and Jemez Pueblos need to become unified and supportive of the other rural communities in the Rio Jemez drainage

Downstream users will be out most vocal adversaries

State Engineer (Legislation) seems to be an adversary

NEEDS

Get all communities involved and organized to evaluate new ideas that are being presented; i.e. Scenic Byway, Jemez National Recreation Area. These initiatives increase traffic, trash, vandalism, poaching. There's no Overseeing Entity for increased water demand.

Form a lobby group to confront the State Legislature regarding the existing water laws(s)

No “underground” water measurement has been established

Need to determine those lands without water rights that may be sold or subdivided, thereby increasing water demand; so many Ac. ft./lot

need to determine how much water we have, how much we're suing, and how much water we'll need in the future

We must get “our” publics involved

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

Need to meet with the ISC regarding: where we're at in the watershed studies, our role in those studies, where's the funding, and our relationship with the Middle Rio Grande Group (MRGG)

Obtain data on existing water rights, allocations of downstream water, irrigation and acequia uses, and spring/wells demands

What's the relationship between Cuba Soil and water Conservation District and MRGG and the ISC?

Do we need to raise our own money to do our own studies? If so, how?

THE NEXT MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29, 2000 AT 7:00 PM AT THE JEMEZ VALLEY CLINIC IN CANON, NM. PLEASE PASS THE WORD TO YOUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS.

RIO JEMEZ REGIONAL WATER PLANNING MEETING
March 29, 2000
7:00 PM
JEMEZ VALLEY COMMUNITY CENTER

AGENDA

WELCOME

INTRODUCTIONS

PURPOSE OF REGIONAL WATER PLANS

GUEST SPEAKER- RICHARD SPENCER

REVIEW PROGRESS FROM FEBRUARY MEETING

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

PROPOSAL FROM DEL AGUA INSTITUTE- PLACITAS

SET DATE FOR NEXT MEETING

RIO JEMEZ REGIONAL
WATER PLANNING MEETING [with sign-in sheet]
March 29, 2000

A meeting was held in Canon, NM this evening. This group and a group from the Cuba area will help plan with MRGCOG for the regional water plan. One of the members stated that we will do our planning to insure that water is available for our uses.

Richard Spencer, from Mountainaire, NM gave a presentation about his involvement in water planning in the Estancia basin region. He stated that if we (the sub-regions of Rio Puerco and Rio Jemez) wait for MRGCOG to decide how the water will be allocated that it will all go to Albuquerque. This led to a discussion about how we, the sub-regions can get involved in the planning efforts.

Conservation of water was also discussed. How to keep the water safe and unpolluted were mentioned as points to address in future meetings. We also need to establish our uses, needs, etc. or else Rio Rancho will take it. Someone mentioned that "that water runs uphill to money". We need to check out and assess our current uses and get a trend for future water demands over time.

Three alternatives were discussed as acceptable criteria: holding water at the status quo, go back to 1910 use levels, and develop additional alternatives that are appropriate to our communities in 2000. We need to agree on a Vision Statement similar to the one that the Estancia Basin folks developed. Their direction and vision focused on determining future needs, ensuring a future water supply, increase conservation of water, and developing a wise and prudent ethic of water use that fits the life style and culture where we live.

A question was raised by a member who asked, "When the final decision is made for each of the regional water plans who, what entity, will make the ultimate choice or decision?" Discussion centered around the ISC and/or the State Engineer making that decision.

Someone mentioned that MGGCOG is fighting with each other and that it would be a good idea if we, the sub-regions, got situated and on track first. Water rights need to be adjudicated, water needs to be kept up high in our watersheds, we need to use less and conserve more were comments made by the participants. We also need to begin leveraging with the ISC because they need more success stories with the State legislature.

CUBA WATER MEETING
MINUTES FROM THE 7/18/00 MEETING [with sign-in sheet]
[w/Letter to Richard Chaney, ISC Chair]

On Tuesday, July 18, 2000 a meeting was held at the Cuba Senior Citizen Center in Cuba, New Mexico. The intent of this first meeting was to address water supply and demand issues within the Rio Puerco watershed. Members from surrounding communities were in attendance. (A list of participants is attached).

Listed below are the concerns, needs, comments and ideas that were recorded at the first meeting with Cuba residents.

CONCERNS

- ❑ Texas residents are eager to get more of “our” water
- ❑ In the late 1980’s a refined water study was conducted within the Rio Grande basin that showed that less water was available than originally believed.
- ❑ How are we going to live with growth? (Increased water demands)
- ❑ There’s a problem with the Rio Costillo in Colorado
- ❑ 60,000 acre feet of water is allocated to Mexico, then 57% to the lower part of the State and 43% is allocated to El Paso (after the first 60M has been allocated)
- ❑ Waste water in Albuquerque is the fifth largest water tributary
- ❑ The water goes downhill too fast; we need to slow it down and conserve it
- ❑ Water from waste water treatment plants need to be used for watering golf courses and to be recycled
- ❑ Residents need to learn to conserve potable water, treat sewage, gray water, and their rain water
- ❑ We need to develop on-site water control impoundments
- ❑ “Past generations” should have a voice on how water is used downstream; water should be kept “on top” of the mountains where it’s cooler and impoundments are smaller. (Elephant Butte lake loses 180,000 acre feet/year from evaporation)
- ❑ Erosion problems have created a decrease in on-site water; more run-off and soil is being transported off-site.
- ❑ Land is being subdivided and owners want their own water wells; they must work through the Cuba Soil and Water Conservation District. Each well is allocated 3 acre fee/year”
- ❑ Land without water is valueless”; water rights must come with the land
- ❑ More public education is needed: rural-urban, government conservation, rare and endangered spp., and our own education regarding agriculture. (We need to educate the youth too and leave a legacy of wise land use and water conservation)
- ❑ Politicians need to attend our public meeting and listen to US!
- ❑ Rio Rancho is about to explode (population) and the completion of the four lane highway between Bernalillo and Farmington may result in a population growth in Cuba (We need to clamp down on the Sandoval County regarding zoning)
- ❑ We need to plan from the top down for controlling erosion in the drainages; neighbors need to work with neighbors

- ❑ Salt cedars are a big concern because of the amount of water they use in riparian areas; Russian olives too

VALUES

- ❑ Agriculture, livestock, and crops are a large part of the local tradition and value system; need to keep the local culture in tact
- ❑ On-site water impoundments for water control are also an important consideration
- ❑ Acequia Associations are critical for maintaining and preserving the traditional values of the area. They should be self-governing with no state or federal involvement. Leasing of water from acequias was mentioned. If acequias are preserved, maintained, and improved locally for the users benefit it will also benefit downstream water users. We need to establish a WIN WIN situation.

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

- ❑ Need to work with the Interstate Stream Commission for continued public involvement meetings and funding
- ❑ Spread the word to your neighbors about the next meeting and the importance of it

THE NEXT MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR TUESDAY, AUGUST 22, 2000 AT THE CUBA SENIOR CITIZENS CENTER, CUBA NEW MEXICO. BRING THREE FRIENDS WITH YOU AND SPREAD THE WORD

RIO PUERCO REGIONAL
WATER PLANNING MEETING [with sign-in sheet]
August 22, 2000

A meeting was held this evening in Cuba, NM to discuss how local residents, stakeholders, can become involved in the regional water planning efforts. Nine community members were present.

The over riding concern from the participants was how to get the word out so that more residents will become in this worthwhile water planning effort. It was mentioned that newspapers don't really work and that brochures that are posted at stores, post offices, and gas stations in the small communities works better.

A discussion about who's involved in the planning effort occurred. MRGCOG was mentioned as the lead agency for the region that includes the Rio Puerco and Rio Jemez watersheds. In order for the small communities to have their concerns addressed by MRGCOG they need to develop their own set of goals and objectives and start working with the Water Assembly and the Water Board. A suggestion was made that representatives from the small communities attend the various assembly and board meeting in Albuquerque to provide input and learn what they're doing.

A discussion about funding occurred. Apparently a proposal for \$23,000 was submitted to MRGCOG of which \$9,000 was to be set aside for the sub-regions for coordination between MRGCOG and the sub-regions. This item will be pursued at future meetings.

RIO PUERCO REGIONAL
WATER PLANNING MEETING [with sign-in sheet]
September 19, 2000

A meeting was held this evening in Cuba, NM to discuss water diversions and water rights. Someone asked, "Where is the water going"? Also discussed was the acequias and is the water that has been used years for generations protected by state law. Downstream users, especially businesses are pushing big time, for more and more growth at the expense of some residents in the sub-regions possibly losing their water rights. It was expressed by some participants that we need to get involved to voice our opinions otherwise small communities stand to lose those rights.

It was recommended by a community member that those of us owning water rights should get their water rights in order and insure that their documents are valid. Apparently in these small communities it isn't the custom or tradition to document rights as they are handed down from generation to generation. Often times there's no paper trail. Outsiders try to take advantage of us.

RIO PUERCO SUB-REGION
WATER PLANNING MEETING [with sign-in sheet]
Saturday December 2, 2000

On this Saturday morning meeting 32 community members met in Cuba, NM. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the status of the planning efforts with MRGCOG. Over the past two months both the Regional Water Assembly and the Water Board came out in support of the sub-regions doing their own water planning. These plans would be separate from the work being done in the rest of the region but the sub-regions would still be involved and provide input into the overall regional water plan.

Water rights were discussed and members were asked if they wanted help in applying for rights if they didn't have them or felt their records were incomplete. In addition, members were told that a Steering Committee would need to be formed that would represent the concerns and interests of both the Rio Puerco and Rio Jemez watershed. A set of Bylaws and a Cooperative Agreement would be prepared.

Members that expressed interest to serve on the Steering Committee included:

Armand Groffman, a ground water geo-chemist from Los Alamos
Joseph Crespín, an administrator at LANL
Elmer Morales, District Manager for the Rural Electric Association
Melvin Aragon, NM highway Dept. and farmer/rancher
Marion Woolf, Special Ed teacher and land owner
Peggy Ohler, CS&WCD employee and rancher

A discussion about who else should be on the committee followed. Other names mentioned included: Betty Jane Curry from Cuba, Charlotte Mitchell and Mary Caldwell from Ponderosa, and representatives from Jemez and Zia Pueblos.

Past comments, issues, and concerns from previous meetings were presented and additional comments recorded. Elaine Hebard, from the Water Assembly, gave an overview on the water planning efforts in the past. A contract between the ISC and MRGCOG was entered into in 1997 to do water planning in the Middle Rio Grande region. The sub-regions from the Rio Puerco and the Rio Jemez need to get involved.

Emmett Cart stated that over three years ago he told MRGCOG that the small communities in the sub-regions were not being represented. A year ago he approached the CS&WCD to help us secure funding from ISC for water planning. Community participation would be necessary along with a Steering Committee with their own Bylaws.

More discussions ensued pertaining to water rights, public involvement, how we can help make plans, and suggestion on how we can make better use of the available water.

RIO PUERCO REGIONAL
WATER PLANNING MEETING [with sign-in sheet]
Saturday January 6, 2001

A meeting of the Rio Puerco sub-region was held this morning in Cuba, NM. Ten community members were present and the discussion focused on the development of a joint Steering Committee for the two watersheds, Rio Puerco and Rio Jemez. Items discussed included what the purposes of a Steering Committee should be. Answers from the participants ranged from the SC would work with the CS&WCD as the fiscal agent, education of community residents about our water planning efforts would be a major emphasis, and the SC could help people obtain water rights.

Dear Rio Puerco y Rio Jemez Watershed Joint Steering Committee:

PLEASE COME TO OUR SAINT PATRICK'S DAY MEETING, SATURDAY, MARCH 17, 2001 AT THE CANON SENIOR CITIZEN'S CENTER AT 10:00 A.M. WE PROMISE GREEN FROSTED, HOME MADE CINNAMON ROLLS AND COFFEE.

This is one of two extremely important meetings we'll be holding in the next two months. As you know, our immediate mission is to get agreement from the Interstate Stream Commission to recognize us as a duly constituted, independent sub-region of the Middle Rio Grande Planning Region for the purpose of *obtaining direct funding*.

This is essential because the legislature gives appropriated planning moneys to the Interstate Stream Commission and the ISC has previously given them to the Middle Rio Grande Council of Governments who have:

1. Done absolutely nothing for planning in the watersheds
2. Provided no funding, even though we are independently beginning the public conversions required by the ISC prior to planning.
3. A very urban outlook and little comprehension of the needs and desires of people who live in the two water sheds.

The two meetings will be:

The first (on March 17, 2001) to ratify (no more than 30 minutes) the bylaws to form the joint steering committee, and to sign the cooperative agreement to work together. The bulk of the meeting (no more than 2 hours total) will be to strategize our meeting with the ISC commissioners.

The second meeting (date to be set on March 17, 2001) will be the actual meeting with one or more commissioners.

If we want to be successful we must prepare. We must be in agreement about:

1. Needing to get input from all watershed constituents.
2. The desires and needs as reported to us.
3. The future care and use of the watersheds.
4. The actions we need to take to get there.
5. Why we are the best qualified to do our own plan.

At present, from the small meetings we've had, it appears most people are talking about keeping a way of life going, not changing the watersheds, and using our water to benefit the local people and environment. This means essentially restoring the watersheds.

RIO PUERCO Y RIO JEMEZ
STEERING COMMITTEE
Saturday March 17, 2001 [with sign-in sheet]
Canon, New Mexico

I. Introductions. Each participant was asked to sign the attendee list and give their name and a short statement of why they were at the meeting. (A complete copy of the attendees is attached).

II. Reasons for being at the meeting:

- ❑ To discuss the water planning efforts that are currently underway for the Middle Rio Grande water planning region and to explain how the Rio Puerco and Rio Jemez watersheds, as sub-regions, are an integral part.
- ❑ To establish a Steering committee for the sub-regions.
- ❑ To develop a Cooperative Agreement and Bylaws for the Steering Committee.

III. Discussion and Statements

- ❑ Watershed restoration should be one of the main goals for the Steering Committee to consider during the planning process.
- ❑ Acequia associations are one of the oldest forms of government in New Mexico.
- ❑ This group of individuals as a nucleus should form a Steering Committee that is separate, but part of, the Middle Rio Grande Council of Governments (MRGCOG).
- ❑ Ernie Torres doesn't support being part of MRGCOG; he, like others, is concerned about protecting his family's water rights.
- ❑ The small communities within the sub-region need voting representation on the Water Board. (Once the Steering Committee is formally established a written request will be made to the Water Board for this consideration).
- ❑ We want control of our own destiny.
- ❑ We will never have a say during the planning process unless we have voting power.
- ❑ The Interstate Stream Commission (ISC) isn't "the only cash cow".
- ❑ The Steering Committee needs to consult with the ISC to determine how the sub-region fits into the overall water planning template and how the sub-region may be funded to provide timely and accurate input. (Refer to the Regional Water Planning Handbook produced by the ISC in December, 1994).
- ❑ The Jemez side of the sub-region feels they don't have the funds to do their own planning; this is related to the time, effort, and expense spent on water adjudication over the past several years.
- ❑ The sub-region needs to start earning "respect"; this may occur through the Steering Committee and its' involvement with the ISC and MRGCOG.
- ❑ We all need to look at the "bigger picture" such as how the watersheds are harvested for timber, cattle are grazed, and soil erosion is corrected. The areas have to be managed. With proper management of our forest resources we will increase water production and reduce soil erosion.

- ❑ The status of water adjudication was raised. Gilbert Sandoval addressed the attendees and explained his involvement over the past 18 years and his recent visit to all of our Congressionally leaders in Washington D.C. (Ask Gilbert for a copy of his nine points that were presented to our representatives.
- ❑ It's State Law: "Use it or lose it".
- ❑ It's not: "us against them". We're all in the same boat.
- ❑ "We have all made mistakes in the past; land owners, governments, etc.
- ❑ Working with the large cities will be an uphill struggle; they have the money and all we have is time, although limited. We might pursue obtaining grant money and using law students to help us out.
- ❑ "Whiskey is for drinking and water is worth fighting for"
- ❑ How do we make the playing field level?
- ❑ We (residents within the sub-region) are not sitting still, but we somehow need to be heard from and gain some respect.
- ❑ Speaking from the heart is real power.
- ❑ The best investment today is land with water rights.
- ❑ If we decide to do our own planning it will require lots of time, money, expertise, commitment, support, etc. It will also require ISC approval.
- ❑ The country needs to be cared for regardless of the various activities that are occurring there.

IV. Where to from here?

- ❑ The Rio Puerco y Rio Jemez Steering Committee will be established within the next three weeks. The meeting will be held at: Canon Community Center, Saturday, April 7, 2001, beginning at 10:00 AM.
- ❑ Joseph Crespín has graciously agreed to chair the committee.
- ❑ The committee should be an odd number of members, (seven or nine) although everyone in the community is a valuable member and should express their concerns, ideas, and suggestions.
- ❑ Some of the early items the Steering Committee should address include; adoption of the Cooperative Agreement and the Bylaws, determining the members of the committee, steps necessary to restore our watershed to a productive condition, water rights training for all residents to insure their legal claim to water, and emphasizing that our cultural and historical values are tied to water.

**PLEASE ATTEND OUR NEXT MEETING
SATURDAY APRIL 7, 2001 10:00 A.M.
CANON COMMUNITY CENTER
BRING YOUR NEIGHBORS AND FRIENDS**

RIO JEMEZ REGIONAL WATER
PLANNING MEETING [with sign-in sheet]

Saturday April 7, 2001

A sub-region Steering Committee was held this morning in Canon, NM and ten community members were present. The main discussion centered around the steps necessary to create the Steering Committee, All members would be strictly volunteers and would require their time and commitment. Emmett Cart said that the Cuba Soil and Water Conservation District would act as the fiscal agent. Proposed members of the Steering Committee would set up a meeting with the ISC to discuss the structure of the Steering Committee.

During the meeting comments made by participants included:

- We can't let downstream users take the water out of the bottom of the bucket; it affects the ground water too,

- The urban centers continue to grow and increase the demand on water which decreases the available water upstream,

- We need to be self-protective of our demands or MRGCOG won't take our water

- If we increase water yield through watershed management and improvements are we obligated to provide that increase downstream?

- The Steering Committee needs to address water rights issues regarding acequias, springs, and wells,

- Currently we are not getting help or guidance from MRGCOG concerning the input they want us to provide.

[June 9, 2001 Cuba]
Mike Wirtz's handwritten notes [no sign-in sheet?]

1. A set of Goals- Let people express themselves (start with quality of life)
ID whole (land base)
Know people who affect or are effected
Economics) harvest water shed
\$ in \$ back

Minds are like a parachute, they only function when open
We can accomplish anything as long as no one wants the credit

2. Look at landscape (This is what we want the environment to look like)
What will support this landscape?
Look at economic system, and tools
(ownership)
Then go to planning

Land is dead, needs cattle: microbes> decay
 organic matter into soils
 trampling
 timing is key

1 inch of rain on 1 acre = 28,000 gals of water
Getting the water into the ground and keeping it there.

Need a broader base of constituents
Add:
12 Separate Acequias
Livestock Associations
Nacimiento Economic Action Team
Cuba Regional Economic Development Board
Benson Munosar Greer [?]
Johnny Hernandez? timber

Delete:
Bernalillo and Valencia Counties
Santa Ana
BIA

Sub Committees (to develop a land base)
USFS
BLM
State Forests
Land Owners
Groups need to work together: Rio Puerco Management Committee
 USFS
 BLM
 BIA
 MRGCOG
 Cons Dist

AGENDA
Rio Puerco Y Rio Jemez Watershed Committee
Steering Committee Meeting
July 28, 2001
Community Center
Canon, New Mexico [with sign-in sheet, no notes]
10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

1. Introduction of delegates and the communities they represent
2. Ratification of Joint Watershed Steering Committee Bylaws
3. Brief history of the Joint watershed Committee and work done to date
4. Presentation (15 minutes each):
 - a. Hydro-geology of this area and restoration suggestions
 - b. Timber management to restore the watersheds
 - c. Range management and watershed restoration
5. Action Plan Goals
 - a. Public notification and conversations
 - b. Compilation and report of results
 - c. Use of \$10,000 worth of Grant Writer's time
 - d. Filing workshops to assure all water rights are current in both watersheds
 - e. Goals for restoration projects in each watershed

CUBA NEWS
MAY 2000 THROUGH JULY 2001

05-19-00

AQUA POR VIDA O AGUA PERDIDA

By Marion Woolf

Water planning has come to Northern New Mexico, whether we're ready or not! In 1987, when New Mexico lost to Texas in Federal Court, our state had to give Texas ground water New Mexico could have used. The reason we lost this case was because New Mexico had no water plan. Now we need to plan so we can hold on to our water. Let's now allow that to happen again.

The next question that comes up is, who does the planning? Do we want to turn it over to people sitting behind desks in the capitol? Or do we want to be able to participate? Can someone who never lived here know how we feel and what we value?

The Interstate Stream Commission, which is appointed by the Governor and works under the State Engineer, has been instructed to come up with a water plan for the state. Fortunately they are required to work with a locally led committee to hear community needs, wants, and concerns.

Abenicio Casaus, Chairman of the Rio Puerco Watershed Committee for the past six years, and Emmett Cart, Chairman of the Cuba Soil and Water Conservation District, have been working with Mary Helen Follingstad of the Interstate Stream Commission to establish the organizations they represent as the agents to solicit and record public input.

At a meeting with Ms. Follingstad on April 11, 2000, she announced that a water supply study was being done by assembling US Corp of Engineers data. This is data only and does not include field observations. From this data a predictive model of water supply and future water needs will be done. Will it account for all our actual water? Can we be sure nothing will be overlooked and later adjudicated downstream to developments or Texas?

Ms. Follingstad stated that a part of this process was "public conversations". The planners realize the values for water and its use are very different in rural and urban areas. This gives us, here in the Cuba area, an opportunity to describe our values, usages and way of life. If we do not want to see northern New Mexico lose its character and traditions, NOW IS THE TIME TO SET ITS FUTURE.

Acequias are unique in New Mexico alone. The communities along them bonded by the need to tend and share a common water source, need to be maintained. The riparian environments for wildlife in the watershed need to be conserved, not preserved, which makes them static. By conserving them, we can plan the best uses of water for New Mexico.

We need to understand our water supply and how it is distributed. What for instance, does it take to recharge an aquifer? If we practice conservation measures along the acequias and get additional flow, how can the acequias themselves benefit from that new water? Can we design

win/win scenarios? There are many critical decision to be made that will establish our future. Will you make an active attempt to be a part of them?

It's been said the price of liberty is eternal vigilance. This seems to be one of those points in time. What New Mexico establishes in its water plan will determine the freedom we have in using the water. It will take all of us who live and work in this watershed, speaking up, to set the pattern we want for our own home location.

Public meeting, using an ISC grant, are being organized by Mike Wirtz, retired USFS, with strong interest in local control of water usage. When they are announced, please take the opportunity to come and report your needs and desires.

06-16-00

AQUA POR VIDA O AGUA PERDIDA

On June 7, 2000, the Rio Puerco Management Committee held a meeting with citizens of the Cuba area to discuss plans for projects in the Rio Puerco Watershed.

Merle Lefkoff facilitated the conversation, which was an inquiry about the projects already done in the watershed and how the local people viewed them.

The discussion included the brush control that has been done, the acequia repair and maintenance, and some erosion control. Ed Singleton, BLM Field Manager of the Albuquerque office, commented that since he started 25 years ago as a your field office, he had seen lots of improvement in the range.

Abenicio Casaus, past Chairman of the Rio Puerco Watershed Committee, spoke about the projects that had been completed on Los Utes and La Jara acequias. RW and Elizabeth Johnson spoke about the success of the brush control they've experienced. Worth Smelser discussed a proposed flood diversion system consisting of small check dams that would direct water out of the channel onto the range.

Roberto Rodriguez, USFS District Ranger, said that he felt it would be imperative to work from the top to the bottom of a drainage. His idea was that acequias in a given drainage should do projects to recover water and increase down stream flow, but then ranchers need to carry on with the projects in that drainage, watering the range and further down, there must be flood control and diversion. This would serve as a pilot project that could be assessed for its impact on overall watershed health.

Marion Woolf, present Chairman of the Rio Puerco Watershed Committee, spoke about the lack of incentive acequia associations feel when it comes to recovering water which will likely then be adjudicated down stream. This is a lose/lose proposition. She suggested the recovered water belong to the acequia associations to be sold to downstream users but that the money from those sales be earmarked only for repair and maintenance of the acequias, and enhancement of the upper watershed. Since that would mean access to water we do not presently have, it would be a win/win situation.

Richard Becker, of the Wildlife Federation, spoke about his organization's efforts to work with the Rio Puerco Watershed Committee. He deplored groups like Forest Guardians. His group wants to work with all the users, with the intent of getting a balance in the watershed area.

Merle Lefkoff commented, and those present agreed, that the net effect of the Cerro Grande (Los Alamos) and other fires has been to make forest mangers re-examine the possibilities of tree thinning. Nearly everyone agreed we must begin to harvest the wood again to prevent dangerous fuel buildup, but also to release water into the watershed runoff.

The meeting concluded with an agreement to meet again. The Rio Puerco watershed Committee hopes for a larger turnout next time, They want to be sure they have heard from all interested

citizens. To get more information about the next meeting, call Debbie Harrington at (505) 761-8713.

Please come and share your views about how the ground water in the Rio Puerco watershed can best be managed to benefit the land and people who live here.

Submitted by Marion Woolf

07-21-00

AQUA POR VIDA O AGUA PERDIDA

OPEN LETTER TO RIO PUERCO WATERSHED STAKEHOLDERS

Acequia Parcientes, Citizens, Farmers, and Ranchers

Since Water Planning became a vital issue in New Mexico following the 1997 ruling that we had to give water to Texas because we had no water plan, a number of planning entities have been mandated or arisen. Consequently, it's a little hard to keep track of the Players.

INTERSTATE STREAM COMMISSION: Nine members appointed by the Governor from watershed around the state. The State Engineer is the secretary of the Commission. The principal duty of the ISC is Management and Development of New Mexico's groundwater. They also manage the interstate Stream compacts and two large trust funds: 1) Improvement for the Rio Grande, and 2) Acequia Irrigation Works Construction Funds. They are responsible for Regional Water Planning. The ISC oversees the future use of New Mexico's ground water.

In their Regional Water Planning Handbook, the ISC states in Section 11, under the Heading "Required Assumptions":

1. An adequate plan for public participation shall be a prerequisite for regional water planning.

MIDDLE RIO GRANDE COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (MRGCOG):

Some member governments are involved in MRG regional water planning and others are not.

MRGCOG responded to a Request for Proposals from the ISC and put themselves forward as a contractor to carry out specific tasks in the regional water planning process. One of their strengths, they said, was that they were the only entity which could assure there were funds to carry out all the tasks of the contract. They were awarded \$151,000.

WATER ASSEMBLY: This is a self-appointed group of citizens who are very interested in assuring that there actually is adequate public participation. Like us, they realize that in New Mexico water is the "gold" of the 21st century. They volunteer to make sure the people of New Mexico have a voice in what will happen to water and water use in the future. They are made up of citizens, and include hydrologists, attorneys, planners, acequia association members, ranchers, farmers, and other citizens.

They maintain citizens and water users oversight over the regional water planning processes.

MRGCOG and Water Assembly working agreement:

Both entities agreed to work together and match the funds from ISC. MRGCOG had funds from local governments and the Water Assembly would contribute in-kind work and possibly some funds.

Public Participation as the prerequisite for regional water planning has not come to this area. No one in the Rio Puerco or Rio Jemez watershed has heard of a public meeting scheduled in local sites.

A flyer MRGCOG just mailed out shows the “Public Conversations” meetings to take place in Los Lunas, Rio Rancho, Bernalillo and the Indian Cultural Center in Albuquerque. How many of us are able to get to those meetings by 6:30 PM on a weekday? Doesn't that simply shut out the watershed areas of the Rio Puerco and the Rio Jemez?

CUBA SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT has offered to act as the already constituted public entity that could be fiscal agent and carry out the public con?... could be mailed with rural electric bills so EVERYONE would be notified and have the opportunity to attend local meetings.

RIO PUERCO MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE: established 11/12/96 by public law 1004-333 has Congressional funds allocated for improvement of the watershed. However, they have not yet been funded. Still, they keep hearing that they will be and now are conducting public conversations in the Cuba Area. The inquiry is to find out how water users and citizens want to use the (so far theoretical funds) to improve the watershed. Whoops! Doesn't it seem like this would require some planning?

Even though funds are to be allocated for specific projects, wouldn't it been nice to have some coordination of projects so the whole watershed is more productive? What good does it do to improve acequia flow if the water is lost in eroded arroyos downstream? Or, vice versa, what good does it to build check dams if there's not enough water getting there?

At present the Rio Puerco Management Committee, working through the BLM, does not appear to have a formal working connection with regional water planning entities. So, don't confuse public conversations with them as pertaining to regional water planning.

RIO PUERCO WATERSHED COMMITTEE: This is a local citizen's committee that grew out of the Future Search process initiated in Cuba by the US Forest Service. Ben Casaus has been chairman for six years, and just recently resigned. Marion Woof has accepted the chairmanship. We seek monies from the allocation made to the Rio Puerco Management Committee, but not yet funded. We also apply to the US Forest Service for a small grant to do several projects on the acequias and for erosion control in our area.

This is a citizen's committee and you are urged to attend and to voice your opinion. We hope to be involved in a pilot project that could be funded by the Rio Puerco Management committee and improve all the ground water management and yield in a specific drainage.

The important question is: Do you think you have been given an opportunity to state your views about a Regional Water Plan?

If you do not think you have been given an opportunity to express your values and needs write the Interstate Stream commissioner from this area and let them know we are being ignored and shut out.

Richard Chaney, ISC Chairman
909 West Apache
Farmington, NM 87742

Hal Engle, ISC
Chairman of Water Planning
PO Box 717
Rociada, NM 87742

Palemon Martinez
PO Box "X"
Valdez, NM 87580

Phillip R. Grant
9720-D Candelaria, NE
Albuquerque, NM 87112

Submitted by Marion Woolf

07-21-00

REGIONAL WATER PLANNING

A public meeting was held in Cuba on July 18 to begin defining the concerns of the local residents about planning their water needs.

Water planning must be done, and should be done locally, otherwise the planning will be done by people from the outside who are not aware of our needs in this area.

In a lawsuit in 1997, the ruling was made that New Mexico had to provide Texas with a given amount of water, since New Mexico had no water plan.

The meeting was opened by Marion Woolf, chairman of the Rio Puerco Watershed Committee, a local group. Emmett Car chairman of the Cuba Soil and Water Conservation District spoke of the need for the District to be involved since both the Rio Jemez and the Rio Puerco are in the District. Both of these watersheds are subregions of the Middle Rio Grande Watershed.

Another public meeting will be held in Cuba on August 22, and it is hoped that we will have a large attendance, and that local residents will be thinking about our needs. It is very important to have a great deal of input from local residents in order for our plan to be considered. Also, if we can show that we can provide a plan, we may be able to obtain some funding for the work that needs to be done. As it stands now, the Middle Rio Grande Council of Governments is the only entity that is funded.

About twenty people attended this first meeting, representing different walks of life and different cultures. All aspects of life in our area need to be heard. Be sure to attend the next meeting with your ideas about water planning.

09-15-00

AGUA POR VIDA O AGUA PERDIDA

By Marion Woolf

Did you shower this morning? Did you brush your teeth or make coffee? Do you enjoy having water? Did you look outside and see a tree or flowers in you yard? Are you a farmer? Did you admire your new hay? Or do you run cattle? Were you are ease knowing they could drink>? Come participate in the water planning process to make sure these things continue in this part of New Mexico.

Water planning for the Middle Rio Grande Area is being dominated by the MRGCOG (Middle Rio Grande Council of Governments). Their members are not rural people. They don't understand what is valuable to us. They never will if you don't make your values known. We are not a population of rich and powerful people. Our only hope, guaranteed by our Constitution and state law, is that we have freedom of speech and we have the right to contribute to the water plans for our area.

Emmett Cart (Chairman of the Cuba Soil & Water Conservation District), Marion Woolf (Chairman of the Rio Puerco watershed Committee), and Mike Wirtz (Retired USFS facilitator) met with Jim Gross, MRGCOG's water planner, on July 19, 2000. Mr. Gross agreed to fund a mailing to Rio Jemez and Rio Puerco watershed residents. He also agreed to help with printing a brochure explaining the process.

Cart, Woolf and Wirtz commented that attendance in the Cuba Area has been very poor. We believe it is because there's no good way of notifying everyone of the meetings, unless we put individual notices in the mail. We can't get our work finished until we talk to most of the stakeholders (that's you) in this area.

Mr. Gross agreed that the initial meeting facilitated by Mike Wirtz are just the preliminaries. We designated that small contract as Part A of the whole process. Part B is the widespread mailing. Part C will be meetings to inform you of the outcome of information gathering and to explain the Interstate Stream Commission's (ISC) guidelines for water planning. Then we'll ask you to come back with your ideas on how water use should be planned.

Part D will include meeting to consolidate the plans and prepare to present them to a session of the Water Assembly, November 4, 2000 in Albuquerque. He agreed our work would be considered preliminary and there would be a later date for our input to the middle Rio Grande meeting with the Water Assembly.

Is this important? You bet your water it is. Do you realize three new golf courses have been okayed by Albuquerque City planner? A subdivision south of Rio Rancho for 500,000 people has been planned. It may, at this time, even have been approved. Ask yourself just one question: Exactly where is the water for all this going to come from? Do you know Albuquerque, right at this present time, is using 70,000 acre feet more water than they can replace into the aquifer. That means a 70,000 acre foot water deficit!

You can't spend your water savings any more than you can spend your cash savings and still have something left. How long before Albuquerque gets as hungry for water as Los Angeles?

In case you think they're going to get water from some new source like the newly discovered East Mountain aquifer, think again! In last spring's general meeting of the Water Assembly, Frank Titus, a hydrologist, spoke about that. He said geologists have known about that formation for years. There is water there, and it does show up on a seismic reading, but it's not in sandstone, it's in clay. It's there, but it can't be recovered. He also says it's brackish, not drinkable.

Frankly, this looks to me like another developer's push to get building permits, without any thought for the future. I remember when I was in UNM's School of Architecture, there was a story going around that the developers on the west mesa had showed the city planners a seismic picture of the North Sea, instead of the real aquifer under Albuquerque. Now it looks like it might be a true story.

Mike Wirtz, who has been conducting information-gathering sessions in the Cuba and Jemez area, has acquired the program Cadillac Desert. It is a documentary about the way Owens Valley above Los Angeles was turned into a barren desert when its water was exported to fill swimming pools and water golf courses in the city.

There will be a Regional Water Planning Meeting for the Rio Puerco subregion on Tuesday, September 19, 2000 at 7:00 PM. Following the meeting, the first part of Cadillac Desert will be shown.

11-17-00

AQUA POR VIDA O AGUA PERDIDA

THE ONLY WAY TO SECURE YOUR WATER IS TO FILE ON IT AT THE STATE ENGINEER'S OFFICE. If you have not filed properly, whether it be acequia water rights, springs, sinkholes, stock tanks, wells, creeks, rivers, etc., someone else can legally file on it!

WE NEED ADVICE FROM THE STATE ENGINEER ABOUT WHAT CONSTITUTES DEVELOPMENT.

WE MUST BECOME LEGALLY KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT WHAT IT TAKES TO SECURE WATER AND WATER RIGHTS.

UNLESS WE GET TOGETHER AND WORK TOGETHER WE MAY FIND OURSELVES WITH AQUA PERDIDA BEFORE WE HAVE TIME TO TURN AROUND.

PLEASE BECOME PART OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE. IT'S IN YOUR OWN INTEREST, AS WELL AS THAT OF THE WATERSHED.

RIO PUERCO REGIONAL WATER PLANNING MEETING, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2000.

THE SENIOR CITIZEN'S CENTER IN CUBA, 10:00 A.M. PLEASE COME. WE MUST SET GOALS, DESIGN AN ACTION PLAN & SET TASKS. SEE ARTICLE ON PAGE 20. [?]

12-15-00

AQUA POR VIDA O AGUA PERDIDA

The Rio Puerco Watershed Committee met on December 2, 2000 at the Senior Citizen's Center in the old magistrate courtroom. The meeting was convened to establish a steering Committee for control of water rights in the Rio Puerco Watershed. It was promoted by the fact that the Rio Puerco and Gallina area was being adjudicated.

Adjudication is done by the State Engineer's Office. Basically, staff from the State Engineers Office evaluate local acequias. Then, based on their judgment, water rights are affirmed or reduced. They never add water rights. Now, they do have to base this on some logic, so acequias that are obviously cleaned and in use, that have headgates in repair and from which water is put to beneficial use, cannot easily be divested of the water rights.

In addition, if the water rights have been filed on, in the State Engineer's Office, they are more secure. Not only acequia water rights must be on file., but rights to use streams, wells, springs, stock tanks, sinkholes, and any water that has historically been used by you or your family. That is, the fact that your family has been using the water for a hundred years doesn't automatically give you the water rights.

The second thing driving this committee is the water planning process that has been mandated by law by the New Mexico state legislature. Most of us feel we want to "nail down" our water rights before we are adjudicated! That is the first reason for forming a steering committee. The committee will find out how to secure every user has legal claim to water rights. To do this we will:

talk with technical advisors and water attorneys.

set up presentations in the Cuba area to have these people answer your questions.

sponsor a workshop where we have the necessary forms and step by step procedures to file your water rights.

The second reason the steering committee was formed is to meet with one or two of the interstate Streams commissioners and petition to become an independent water planning subregion within the Rio Grande water planning area. We will be working with Rio Jemez and will form a joint steering committee with them. We both are the watersheds that supply downstream users, and we believe our concerns and values are different from downstream users, and certainly from the urban planners. We want the right to control the planning for these watersheds.

HOWEVER BEFORE PLANNING BEGINS, WE WANT EVERY WATER USER TO SECURE THEIR WATER RIGHTS, AND THAT HAS NOT PREVIOUSLY BEEN DONE.

Following the effort to make all water claims legally secure, and if approval of independent status is granted, the steering committee will be taking a look at water planning. We'll investigate some other region's plans to understand what they consist of, and we'll be holding more public conversations (meetings where you speak about what you want to see). Don't think

planning means some big change. It may be that we plan to stay as we are. That will require letting our desires be strongly heard by the state!! There's no longer any guarantee that we can just continue undisturbed. If you want the old way of life to continue, if you want to preserve the character and culture of this area, you must participate. These decisions will be made based on what the local people want.
Submitted by Marion Woolf

01/19/01

REGIONAL WATER PLANNING

RIO PUERCO WATERSHED COMMITTEE SPONSORS WATER RIGHTS SPEAKER

By Marion Woolf

Many of you have talked to people in Gallina, where the acequias are being adjudicated. People are fighting to prove their rights to water that may have been used by their families for generations. They have a water attorney and a technical advisor, Wilfred Rael. He is an acequia parciante, and has been involved in the Questa en Red River adjudications. His purpose in speaking to the Rio Puerco Watershed Committee meeting was to inform us about the things we need to do to preserve our water rights.

1. The water right must be in the Owner's Name. Make sure the water right(s) have been transferred to reflect present ownership.
2. The paper you file must show the location of the water rights with two identifiers: a map and tract number. These will be included in the original licenses for your acequia.
3. The filing must show the number of irrigated acres allotted. This will be shown on the original license, but must also be substantiated on the ground.

During the adjudication process, someone from the State Engineer's office will walk your land with you. You must be able to demonstrate that you are willing and able to irrigate. In other words, the ditches must be clear and able to carry water to every point in the identified irrigation area. (This process must often be used to counter the State's Hydrographic surveys, which are seldom accurate.) **THIS IS THE MOST CRITICAL CONDITION TO PREVENT FORFEITURE OF ANY WATER RIGHTS!**

4. The filing must show the point of diversion onto your property. The point of diversion can be changed, but that change must be published.
5. Priority of water rights is based on who first started using the water. The oldest acequia gets first use of the available water, then the next oldest, and so on.
6. The concept of custom is extremely important. The courts will accept the Customs on your acequia if they have been practiced regularly, and if every parciante agrees that they have been the custom(s). The state adjudicates by irrigable acres, yet you may have a different custom of assigning water turns. It's suggested that you document these customs, and have all Parciantes sign the document to have effective proof of custom.

7. Duty of water is another important concept. It refers to three things:

Crop Irrigation, which is the amount of water a given crop actually takes up. Different crops require different amounts of water.

Farm Delivery refers to the amount of water required at your headgate. For example, if your water rights allocate 1 acre foot per acre, but the lateral to your headgate is only 50% efficient, then 2 acre feet per acre must be turned into the lateral so that the allocated 1 acre foot per acre reaches your fields. (Of course, as we know, that depends on water availability).

Project Delivery refers to the yearly amount you are allowed to take from the stream.

Hopefully, this will provide some guidelines for your acequia association. In the near future the Rio Puerco Watershed Committee will provide a water rights filing workshop.

01/19/01

AGUA POR VIDA O AGUA PERDIDA

By Marion Woolf

There have been a number of meetings that will affect water planning in the Rio Puerco Watershed. If you are a water user, these will affect you.

January 6, 2001: Rio Puerco Watershed Committee met with Cuba Soil & Water District to form a steering committee for this watershed. Later this month the Rio Puerco steering Committee will meet with the Rio Jemez steering committee to create a joint steering committee for water planning in both watersheds.

Our first action will be to meet with members of the Interstate Stream Commission to petition to become an independent subregion of the Middle Rio Grande Planning Region. We believe local people will be more conscious of local needs and better able to get input to complete the planning process. We will also spend planning money more efficiently. Cuba Soil & Water District is acting as our fiscal agent. You are welcome at any Rio Puerco watershed Committee meetings. We're talking about your water and your future!

You can get information about committee meetings and other events by calling 289-3950 and talking to Peggy Ohler.

January 10, 2001: The Water Resources Board (a division of the Middle Rio Grande Council of Governments-MRGCOG) met to ratify Goals set by the Water Forum (a recent meeting of most of the water planning groups in the Albuquerque area). The Goals were discussed and altered somewhat. Two citizens later spoke to the Board and expressed disappointment with the changes. This may have been because the business community had a large number of people present.

Folks! Either you get involved or the business community will do your planning.

Fortunately, Lee Brown Chairman of the Water Assembly (huge citizen's committee) titled these goals "Interim" goals, so they can still be amended. This coming Wednesday, January 17, 2001, at 3:30 PM at the USDA Building on Jefferson, the Water Assembly's Action Committee will review these goals. You are Welcome.

January 11, 2001: A meeting organized by the Water Dialogue (a citizens group) was held at the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center to discuss whether we can actually formulate a sustainable water plan for this area. We will attempt to get a report on this meeting for the next issue of the Cuba News.

January 13, 2001: The Water Assembly held a retreat at Intel in Rio Rancho to learn what an effective water plan looks like. We will get a report from Elaine Hebard of the Water Assembly in the next issue of this paper.

All these meetings are about the water in this watershed. You, as a water user, are welcome to attend any of them. There are three areas that are using up New Mexico's water:

- 1) the environment (rivers, streams, bosque, etc.);
- 2) agriculture, and
- 3) economic development.

The first two segments are diminishing, while the third is growing. If you want to see uses of water stay as they are in this area, you need to speak up. If you leave the planning to the urban groups, especially MRGCOG, they will plan for their interests which are urban, and economic development. There is no longer enough water in New Mexico for everyone to get all they want. There must be compromises. **EITHER OUR WAY OF LIFE WILL FEEL THE PINCH OR WE WILL LIMIT DEVELOPMENT TO LEVELS APPROPRIATE TO THIS DESERT ENVIRONMENT.** It will depend on which group has more members who speak out! Where will you be counted?

02/16/01

AGUA POR VIDA O AGUA PERDIDA

The Rio Puerco Watershed Committee and the Rio Jemez Watershed Committee will be meeting to form a joint steering committee for the purpose of approaching the Interstate Stream Commission for funding to come directly to us.

We will be using that funding to educate and inform the citizens of both watershed. We will be mailing information in the electric bills, courtesy of Jemez Electric Co-op.

The point of all this is so that you can have a voice in water planning for your water! If we don't participate, meaning if we fail to plan, then we plan to fail. We plan to sit passively and see our water disappear.

Right now there is a possibility of doing something intelligent and useful. We need to s? on ways that we can protect and restore the watershed. That will provide more water for ranchers and farmers raise the water table, protect the forest and riparian environment, and foster the way of life most of you say you want to preserve.

If you want to inform yourself, there is a meeting, sponsored by the New Mexican Riparian, Wetland and Watershed Habitat. The next day, Saturday, March 3, 2001, tours of local projects will be conducted. The cost is \$25.00 for both days, or \$30.00 at the door. Peggy Ohler at Cuba Soil & Water (289-9183) has details and a flyer.

However, you use water in this watershed, be careful to refuse to be divided and conquered. We must work together. Many people are "against" one group or another. This plays right into the hands of people down stream who want to use our water for development. Ask yourself if you don't have more in common with everyone up here who wants a healthy watershed. We may have to negotiate agreements, but we ARE ALREADY IN AGREEMENT about the health and restoration of the places we live.

It's up to you to become informed and actively participate. What I hear a lot is that there are "no people up there". Personally, I beg to differ and I'll bet you do too. We are here. We have lived a certain way for a long time and we have a right to maintain our values, environment and way of life. But we must gather in a large enough, united group to make a difference to the legislators and those that are planning for the use of New Mexico water.

Hopefully the joint steering committee will meet in mid March in Canon. Watch for flyers advertising the time and place. This is a citizen's committee and open to you.

Submitted by Marion Woolf

06/15/01

AGUA POR VIDA O AGUA PERDIDA

The Rio Puerco y Rio Jemez joint Steering Committee met June 9, 2001 in Cuba to gather information and discuss future actions. We feel that we need better outreach to all of you, the stakeholders and residents of these two watersheds. We all agreed that people in the watersheds do not want another round of meetings that do not accomplish anything. We agree that each meeting will have specific objectives and take no more than two hours. Please participate when you can; we're talking about your water and your future. You may want to have a voice in this. The June 9th meeting was convened with the objectives of:

1. Getting information on watershed restoration.
2. Consulting with the Village of Cuba, Cuba Soil & Water District, and the Forest Service.
3. Assessing our process towards the objective of forming a legally constituted joint steering committee.
4. Setting objectives for our next meeting.

The information we have gathered so far (although we are determined to make a better outreach so everyone has a way to express needs and desires) suggests that most people would reach their personal goals if this committee takes on the mission of restoring the Rio Puerco and Rio Jemez Watersheds. Remember, this all came about because the State of New Mexico must, under law, create a water plan. If we hang together and take care of the whole watershed, we will have more leverage than if we individually go after our own water needs.

Once we can truly say that most people in the watersheds support the idea of restoring them, we immediately keep the water up here! Second, we can begin to work on reducing the fire danger, because the forests have been let go into dangerous conditions. Not only is the fire danger increased but the ability of the watershed to recharge and hold water has been greatly reduced. We need to look at ways of clearing and restoring the forests. Third, we can begin to address serious erosion issues. When there is insufficient ground cover, water cuts deep arroyos, dropping the water table. We now have evidence that, with proper management, the ground water can contribute to old streams and restore them. The water table can be raised.

Terry Wheeler, a professional and experienced range manager and a rancher, spoke and showed slides of watershed restoration. Mr. Wheeler recently conducted a watershed restoration seminar in Bernalillo for Quivera Coalition. He came to Cuba to observe the results of cattle on the mine tailings up Senorita Canyon. He reports good results with new vegetation. Mr. Wheeler has documentation of successes on various sites. He is willing to come speak in this area if you would like to hear him.

This is just one model of watershed restoration the steering committee is investigating. But it has favorably impressed several local ranchers and the Forest Service. We will be looking at as many tools and methods as we can, and hope that you will be one of the decision makers about what we decide to do. This watershed is home to all of us and we must agree on the ways we want to go about restoring it. Our committee is a citizen's committee and open to all. The

steering committee is to assemble information and prepare it so every meeting can be more to the point and each one help us move forward.

One of Mr. Wheeler's points was that in making a plan for a landscape, people must be included. We are, after all, part of the ecosystem. He and Roberto Rodriguez, District Ranger, both mentioned that the economics of the area must be considered so our families, especially the young people, can work here. If that is not included in our over-all plan, it will fail. Those of us who live here have seen official policies interfere not only in our lives, but with the health of the ecosystem itself. Now the government is beginning to recognize that right here we all have a window of opportunity to control our own destinies. We need to be the decision makers. As Mr. Rodriguez said, he and various private groups have studied the San Pedro Parks and found that the old communal ways of herding and forest management were the best for the environment. Most of us probably say, "of course". But that's not enough. Now is the time for everyone to step forward and support this idea. Be willing to put in some work to get the future you want.

The joint steering committee coordinator, Mike Wirtz, has a set of bylaws and a joint agreement between the two watershed ready for us to adopt. Once we have done that formally, we can approach the Interstate Stream Commission for allocation of funds directly to us and not to Middle Rio Grande Council of Governments. Cuba Soil & Water District will act as our fiscal agent. If you want control of the planning process to be in the Cuba-Jemez area so you can attend meetings, come out and support this! The price of liberty is not only eternal vigilance, but eternal effort. If you won't make the effort to decide for yourself, there are others in the urban areas who will happily make you decisions for you, but they may not be in your favor. We want to work with the planning district, but we want to be herd so our needs and values are part of the plan.

In order to talk to the ISC commissioners, in addition to becoming a legally constituted citizen's committee, we need to sketch a scope of work. Therefore we are seeking information from people experienced in watershed restoration and hydrogeology. The steering committee has been fortunate enough to enlist the assistance of one of the hydrogeologists who has worked this area for about twelve years. He is officially employed by the North Carolina consortium of Universities, and has led field cam[s] here for a number of summers. He will speak to the steering committee, giving us a sound scientific basis on which to base our scope of work. With an idea of the hydrogeology of this area, and a method of watershed restoration, we can approach the Interstate Stream Commission with a better chance of success.

Mr. Rodriguez talked about several grants that would be available for this work, because of the national concern about forest fire diner. Marion Woolf, Rio Puerco Committee Chairman, and Emmett Cart, Rio Jemez Committee Chairman, will be meeting with Mr. Rodriguez to pursue these grants. In addition, we will be working with Darrien Cabral., a grant writer engaged by Nacimiento Economic Action Team, to obtain funds that will advance watershed restoration. Also, Mike Wirtz is working with Joe Quintana of MRGCOG to complete a memo of understanding that releases funding they have promised towards planning outreach.

In cooperation with Jemez Electric co-op, the joint watershed Committee will be sending a mailing in your electric bill, letting you know about meetings. Your suggestions and participation is more than welcome—this is your home, your life and your future.
Submitted by Marion Woolf

WATER PLANNING MEETINGS PARTICIPANTS 2000

**Jemez (J) – Puerco (P) – Joint (J-P) – Torreon (T) – No Sign-in (?)
Steering Committee (S) – Workshop (W) – Open House (H) – Outreach (O)**

First Name	Last Name	February 26J	March 29J	July 18P	August 22P	September 19P	December 02P
Melvin J.	Aragon						X
Rudy	Benavidez						X
Mary F	Caldwell	X					
Dave	Carlson	X					
Emmett	Cart	X	X	X	X		X
Brenda	Chavez			X			
Eustacio	Chavez						X
Robert	Cordova				X		X
Clyde	Crespin						X
Joseph	Crespin						X
Betty Jane	Curry	X		X	X	X	
Carlota	Eichwald						X
F Kenneth	Eichwald						X
Carmen	Garcia						X
John	Garcia		X				
Ralph	Garcia		X				
Armand	Groffman						X
Arthur	Gurule						X
Jeffrey	Gurule						X
Melvin	Gurule			X			
Robert	Gurule						X
Gene	Harty	X					
Rosemary	Harty	X					
Elaine	Hebard			X			X
Herman P	Herrera	X					
Bill	Hines						X
Jim	Hines				X	X	X
Mary	Hines				X	X	
Victoria	Hines				X		
Elizardo	Jaquez						X
RW	Johnson						X
Mark	Kannon			X			X
Max	Kruichak			X		X	

First Name	Last Name	February 26J	March 29J	July 18P	August 22P	September 19P	December 02P
Pat	Kutzner			X			
J Leonard	Loretto	X					
Rey	Lovato						X
David	Lucero		X				
Luis	Lucero			X			
Steve M	Lucero		X		X		
Charlotte	Mitchell		X				
Edna	Morales			X			
Elmer	Morales						X
Fred	Morales			X			X
Frank A	Murphy						X
Peggy	Ohler	X		X	X	X	X
Fidencio	Olivas						X
Bobby	Putt						X
Sophie	Salaz			X			
David	Sanchez						X
Bryan	Sandoval			X			
Gilbert M	Sandoval	X					
Sisto	Sandoval			X			X
Frances	Santillanes						X
Herman H	Santillanes					X	
Esther	Smedley	X	X				
Worth	Smelser			X			
Richard	Spencer		X				
Winona	Ward			X	X	X	
Bob	Wessely			X			
Fred	White	X	X				
H Louis	Wiese III					X	X
Mike	Wirtz	X	X			X	
Marion	Woolf			X			X
Total	63	13	10	18	9	9	32

**WATER PLANNING MEETINGS PARTICIPANTS
January – July 28, 2001**

**Jemez (J) – Puerco (P) – Joint (J-P) – Torreon (T) – No Sign-in (?)
Steering Committee (S) – Workshop (W) – Open House (H) – Outreach (O)**

First Name	Last Name	January 6P	March 17J	April 7J	June 9?	July 28J
Melvin J.	Aragon	X	X	X		
Anthony R	Armijo					X
Richard	Briesmeister		X			X
Mary F	Caldwell		X	X		X
Emmett	Cart	X	X	X		X
Leonard	Casaus Sr.		X	X		
Robert	Cordova					X
Clyde	Crespin	X	X			
Joseph	Crespin	X	X	X		
Betty Jane	Curry	X				
Carmen	Garcia					X
Armand	Groffman	X	X	X		X
Lloyd	Gronning					X
Jim	Gross		X			
Craig	Hab		X			
Ruby	Hoolihan			X		
Jennifer	Johnson		X	X		
Terry	Johnson		X			
Larry	Lippincott		X			
J Leonard	Loretto					X
Charlotte	Mitchell		X			X
Elmer	Morales	X	X			
Joaquin	Morales		X			
Peggy	Ohler	X				
Carol	Parker		X			
Peter M.	Pino					X
Joseph	Quintana					X
Roberto	Rodriguez				X	
Gilbert M	Sandoval			X		X
Esther	Smedley		X			
Sam	Smelser					X
Worth	Smelser		X			X
Keith	Stickford		X			
Ernest R.	Torrez		X			
Diana	Wheeler					X
Terry	Wheeler				X	X
Mike	Wirtz	X	X	X		X
Marion	Woolf	X	X			X
Total	38	10	23	10	10	19

RP Y RJ SUBREGIONAL WATER PLANNING

[Meetings, Notes, Agendas -
electronically entered, and edited where necessary, by Jennifer Johnson]

MIDDLE RIO GRANDE REGIONAL WATER PLAN (MRG)

[Mike Wirtz's handwritten notes]
February 14, 2000 [Albuquerque?]

Their scope of work requires that:

--A steering committee be formed to represent rural interests of the Rio Jemez and Rio Puerco watershed areas.

--To provide input to the Regional Water Plan (a subregional committee has been formed in the Placitas village area, Sandoval County).

Steering Committees Comprised of Stakeholders:

Ditch, Acequias

Ranchers

Tribes

Domestic Systems

Rural Water Users

Municipal Interests (Villages, Towns)

Industrial Interests (Mining, Utilities, Manufacturing)

Institutional Users (Hospitals, Schools)

Private Citizens

Steering Committees (Coop Agreement, Bylaws executed), Responsibilities:

Develop Coop agreement

Develop Bylaws

Provision of a liaison to MRG Water Assembly and MRGCOG

Scheduling and facilitation of regular meetings, issue scoping meetings

Documentation of public comments

Goals/Objectives

Input Re: Water Supply Data- ISC

Development of Alternatives for use and management of water

Provision of drafts to MRGCOG

MRGCOG Director:

Contact suitable individual for the MRG Water Planning Region, Rural Sector, Public Involvement Coordinator

HISTORICAL AND CURRENT WATER USE REPORT
Meeting on Friday April 21, 2000
1:00 PM, MRGCOG

Sing-in List Name	Affiliation	Phone
Lee Brown	MRG Water Assembly	898-4817
Josh Nims	John Shomaker & Assoc, Inc	345-3407
Sara Gran	JSAI	345-3407
Roger Peery	JSAI	345-3407
A. Smith	Community Water Study Group	924-9243
Marty Mitchell	MRGWA	266-1254
Bob Prendergast		857-9225
Jim Gross	MRGCOG	247-1750
Mike Wirtz	Cuba S&WCD	983-920?
Mike Kernodle	Self	822-0313
Joanne McEntire	Self & MRGWA Volunteer	247-8348

PROPOSED AGENDA
Action Committee
Middle Rio Grande Water Assembly
Corps of Engineers Conference Room
June 21, 2000

A. Program. John Brown, Institute for Public Policy, UNM, will summarize the report, "Attitudes and Preferences of Residents of the Middle Rio Grande Region Regarding Water Issues." (Presentation and discussion may take up to 75 minutes).

B. Business Meeting.

1. Call to Order
2. Approval or modification of proposed agenda.
3. Report on Public Outreach: Public Participation Committee. (15 minutes) Bob/Elaine
4. Action on contracted reports. (5 minutes)
 - a) Current and Historical Water Use: John Shomaker & Associates, Inc.
 - b) Public Opinion Survey: Institute for Public Policy.
5. July meetings. (5 minutes) Gail
 - a) LOCATION!!? *up* *down*
 - b) Upstream/Downstream (Jemez y Sangre and Socorro/Sierra regions): July 19.
Need to attend
 - c) Water supply Study (Corps of Engineers/Interstate Stream Commission):
July 26 at 6:00 PM at Smith-Brasher Hall. *SW Coal/Univ (TVI Facil)*
6. Report on ABQ Long-Term Service Plan: Bob Prendergast. (10 Minutes)
7. Monthly reports. (10 minutes) *(Popodopolus)*
 - a) Executive Director *(See attached Stmt.)*
 - b) Treasurer
 - c) Middle Rio Grande Council of Governments
 - d) Working Groups
 - e) Constituencies
8. Open Comment Period
9. Adjourn

Middle Rio Grande Water Assembly
Action Committee
July 19, 2000 [Albuquerque]

In attendance: A.C. members Lee Brown, Emmett Cart, Jacqueline Gilbault, Elaine Hebard, Danny Hernandez, Lisa Robert, Frank Robinson, Gail Stockton, Bob Swartwout, Frank Titus, Bob Wessely, Ed Whaley, and Jean Witherspoon; and guests Mark Ankeny, John Carangelo, Sandra Chaloux, Bob Grant, Jim Gross, Sharon Hausam, Carlos Madrid, Bob Marley, Bob Prendergast, Joe Quintana, A.J. Smith, Nyleen Stowe, Mike Wirtz, and Marion Woolf.

Presentation: "Upstream, Downstream: What Our Neighbors are Doing About Water Planning"

Amy Lewis, Coordinator for the Jemez y Sangre Water Planning Council, whose time is donated by the City of Santa Fe, said the region's water plan was initiated in 1997 with a \$20,000 grant from the ISC to create the council. Then, another grant was obtained "to do the heart of the planning work." The Council has 22 voting members, bonded by a cooperative agreement to plan. "We wanted it to be dominated by those who divert water—acequias and municipalities, primarily. We wanted to have the decision-makers who will implement this plan look at the data first," so they began by contracting water right holders. Now the Council includes advocacy groups such as Rio Grande Restoration, the League of Women Voters, and the Santa Fe Land Use Resource Center, plus seven acequias, all county and municipal governments, and six pueblos, along with a small portion of two other pueblos. The tribes come to the planning meeting but have not signed the cooperative agreement. \$61,000 was allocated to foster pueblo participation; the region hired Peter Chestnut as a liaison, and Lee Wilson as a technical expert for the tribes.

The region, which is divided into 10 drainage sub basins, did a population and demographic study last year. Three different mathematical projections were drawn up for Los Alamos, Rio Arriba, and Santa Fe Counties. "We just wanted to know what will happen if the region keeps growing as has it has been. Rio Arriba isn't expected to grow, but Santa Fe County is -up to 375,000 from 125,000 today." Most of the region's population is in the Santa Fe sub basin.

A water supply study was performed by Duke Engineering, funded by the Bureau of Reclamation and the Interstate Stream Commission. Lewis compiled data from the Environmental Department, EPA, and State Engineer Office records; Los Alamos National Labs created a database, and from it, Duke Engineering assessed the region's current supply. Surface/ground water budgets were drawn up for each sub basin, and using the budgets and the population estimates, Lewis graphed the supply and demand figures. Duke Engineering used a 1992 infrared photo of the area to calculate agricultural irrigation by sub basin. Water rights appear to exceed the acreage being irrigated.

The next stage of the Jemez y Sangre plan will be the development of alternatives. "The whole point of water planning is to figure out if we can bring the blue line up [increase supply] by importing water, or thinning our watershed to get more runoff; or if we'll have to lower the red line, and try to stop growth. We'll have to make hard decisions, and that's where the public welfare price comes in."

[Information on Jemez y Sangre public involvement program was provided by Conci Bokum, who was unable to attend the Action Committee meeting. The report is included as an addendum to these minutes.

[Jemez y Sangre Public Outreach Strategy - by Conci Bokum, see notebook for Conci Bokum's JyS details]

John Carangelo and Nyleen Stowe, of the Socorro/Sierra Water Planning Region, say the region's supply is slightly in excess of demand, and that even with a low rate of population growth, demand will overtake supply by 2020. Socorro/Sierra's first water plan, done in 1994, was "too conservative," and was updated with demographics and better supply and demand figures in 1999. With only one city, Socorro/Sierra is predominantly a farming and ranching area, with a total population of only 14,000.

A two-year proposal for \$211,000 was submitted to ISC, but the region only received funding for one year. Stowe, who is the planner and coordinator for the region, says the next big hurdle was negotiating the contract, which took six months. Then the region put out a Request for Qualifications. A 32-member steering committee (which encompasses "every entity in the area, "including Fish & Wildlife, the Alamo tribe, the Cities of Magdalena, T or C, and Socorro, Socorro and Sierra Counties, the Village of Williamsburg, and several acequias,) scored the seven RFQ's that were submitted and chose Daniel B. Stephens & Associates, combined with Hydrosphere and Site Southwest, to do the regional plan. The contractors are concentrating on the seven groundwater basins in the region, particularly the San Augustine, Alamosa creek, Jornada del Muerto and Tularosa basins, which are not hydrologically attached to the Rio Grande. Hydrosphere is working on a water demand, following up phone calls to all water distributors in the region with a survey. Site Southwest is doing demographics and public participation.

Of particular concern to people in the region are the high evaporation rate off Elephant Butte Reservoir; the water needed for the endangered silvery minnow, which some consider to be a "new" use; and pressure on local landowners to sell water rights, many of which may not be valid. The region does not yet have the money to work on the alternatives phase of the plan.

It was suggested the Jemez y Sangre, MRG, and Socorro/Sierra regions continue their dialogue. "Everyone assumes there's a mechanism for a statewide water plan," one participant noted, but currently there is none. Regions may, in fact, be "on their own," and neighboring regions will have to communicate with each other if their plans are to function.

Business Items

a) Bob Wessely reported that the first community Conversation is scheduled for July 24, in Valencia County. Lucy Moore is under contract to facilitate the series of twelve Conversations and one region-wide forum. Work is proceeding in the Rio Puerco/Rio Jemez subregion. Two meetings have been held in the Jemez Springs area, and one in Cuba. Another is scheduled for August 22. Joint meeting for the two drainages will be held before the November 4th forum, to "unify concerns."

b) El Grupo Tecnico members will meet in the next few weeks to talk about "realistic fixes" that might provide more water for the region through conservation or management. These suggestions can be ranked according to feasibility, cost, etc.

c) The Task #3 Work Group is focusing on screening criteria for a more comprehensive list of alternatives, which currently numbers around 1600.

d) A second joint working group meeting on the Long Range Water Service Plan for Albuquerque-Los Ranchos-Bernalillo County was held on June 29. The group, which includes NAIOP, Sierra Club, etc., is word smithing various policies established over the last year. The Water Assembly's representative, Bb Prendergast, says he wants to make sure the plan is "regionally oriented."

e) Results of the MRG water supply study will be presented on July 26th at Smith-Brasher Hall on the TVI campus; the document is available on the Interstate Stream Commission's web page. Also, a public scoping meeting on the Upper Rio Grande Water Operations Review will be held from 6-9 PM on August 17 at the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center.

f) MRGCOG has copies of the IPP survey, and once corrections are made to the Shomaker water demand study, that too will be available from COG.

Comments

Frank Titus: I found it fascinating that people upstream and downstream are doing their water resource planning without worrying whether any government entity is going to buy into it. I'd encourage us to not let ourselves get wrapped around the axle wondering whether the city or the county, or even the ISC will buy into our plan. Though we have contract obligations, we shouldn't let them limit the thoughts and ideas that go into regional water planning.

Lee Brown: A significant feature of the discussion tonight is the assumption being made by both neighboring regions that they can solve their water problems with the resources within their region. We [the MRG] will have great difficulty solving our own water problems without looking south, which would undercut Socorro/Sierra's supply numbers. Our marketplace is there. We're going to have a bigger task if we limit ourselves to what is currently being used in Sandoval, Bernalillo and Valencia Counties.

Frank Titus: Among those "physically doable" topics El Grupo Tecnico will be discussing is finding places to store water where it doesn't evaporate—underground, or upstream. Why couldn't New Mexico and Texas get together and go to Colorado and say, "We'll build a dam for you upstream; you'd get recreational use from it and stability for the San Luis Valley supply, and we could store our water there instead of al Elephant Butte where it evaporates...."

Elaine Hebard: "New Strategies for American Watershed" points out there are linkages between uplands and downstream areas and between surface and groundwater, and that one region's solutions" can cause problems for another region.

Marion Woolf: People in the Rio Puerco subregion have discussed briefly the possibility of water leasing by acequias, i.e., making water appurtenant to the land and taxing whatever is leased out. The money would go to the acequia association to maintain the ditch system and improve efficiency.

Middle Rio Grande Regional Water Plan Goals and Objective Forum
Albuquerque Convention Center Ball Room B
Saturday, November 4, 2000

Agenda

- 9:00 am Welcome and Introductions- Art Barron, KRQE TV-13 New Anchor and Lucy Moore, Chief Facilitator
- Announcements
 - Purpose of this meeting-Lucy Moore, with help from representatives of the Water Assembly and Regional Water Resource Board
 - Review Agenda
 - Review of process
- 9:20 am “How can we integrate goals?” Roundtable discussion of competing interests and different perspectives.
- Eileen Grevey Hillson, economic development,
 - Cliff Sanchez, agriculture,
 - Deb Hibbard, environment, and
 - John Stomp, municipal utility
- 9:50 am Balancing Competing Interests
Participants will divide into interest/user groups (agriculture, economic development, environmental, urban users, and rural users) Focusing on p.3 of the yellow flyer,. each group discusses the following:
- Which of these goals reflect our interests?
 - How can we help lessen conflicts?
- 10:20 am BREAK
- 10:35 am Forging Regional Goals and Objectives
Participants will assemble into groups that include a cross-section from the subregions to review, add to, or delete, the goals and objectives which were developed in the community. Participants will produce a list of the goals and objectives to guide development of the Regional Water Plan.
- 11:30 am Report from groups, fusing the lists
Concluding thoughts
Next steps: Work of the Middle Rio Grande Council of Governments and the Water Assembly
- 12:00 noon ADJOURN

Middle Rio Grande Regional Water Plan Goals and Objectives Forum
Saturday November 4, 2000 [Albuquerque]
[From: Mike Wirtz's handwritten notes]

Water Assembly (Lee Brown)- To create water plan
Water Resources Board- Advisory group for MRGCOG
Robert Cordova and Ernie Torres, La Jara (Rio Puerco) "an independent unit".

Panel

Deb Hibbard (Rio Grande Restoration)
Cliff Sanchez (Ag, Native American)
Johns Stamp (City of ABQ, Water Resources Board)
Eileen Grevey Hillson (Economic Forum, business, etc.)

ERNIE TORRES (La Jara ditches)
Maintain integrity of water rights
Region is being dismissed
We need our own regions (intimately tied to the earth)
No representation on any standing committees
We practice democracy from the ground up. We will protect our rights We will be recognized.
(We want our own region)
Use us as allies (embrace us)

- - - - -
Planning process is too far along to include La Jara
Don't want to be in bed with MRGCOG. MRGCOG can/will hurt us

- - - - -
Please help us

- - - - -
Different culture. Hispanic/Navajo
Independent region with co-equal status
Freight train is rushing too fast
Rules/Regulations are being dictated/imposed on us.
(No study of where my tax \$ goes in the rural area)
Economic Analysis needs to be done.

- - - - -
E.C. started process...
Contract with MRGCOG re: Committee Cour?
enough people to speak
Need brochure- REA billing

- - - - -
ROBERT CORDOVA (acequia Commissioner) Political subdivision of state
supports ET's point of view
not a land grant, they were homesteads.

Waters not enough to keep the Rio Puerco full at all times.
Precious- used wisely...conservatively

We know what works and what doesn't (The "system" up there works)
land is tied to water and people are tied to water/land
definite need from constituents to have their own planning region
preserve life style

- - - -

Coalition of Acequias
office in Cuba
locally controlled, a basin that is separate from the urban
establish boundaries

5th Middle Rio Grande Water Assembly
Saturday, March 31st 2001
AGENDA

8:00 – 9:00 Registration and Coffee

9:00 Welcome

What is the Water Assembly & the Water Resources Board?

What is the Water Budget

Why is regional planning important?

-Dr. F. Lee Brown, professor emeritus, Chair of the Water Assembly

-Larry Blair, Albuquerque Director of Public Works, Chair of the Water Resources Board

-William Sapien, Chair of Sandoval County Commission

-Betty Behrend, Village of Los Lunas Utility Director, vice-chair of the Water Providers Council

-Mary Helen Follingstad, AICP, Interstate Stream Commission

9:30 Pueblo Perspective

-John Vincent Avila, War Chief, Sandia Pueblo, Chair, Six Middle Rio Grande Basin Pueblo Coalition

10:00 Where We've Been and Where We're Headed

Report from Rio Puerco y Rio Jemez Watersheds

-Mike Wirtz, Joint Steering Committee coordinator

What has been done since March 2000?

-Dr. Johns Shomaker, Shomaker & Associates

“Water Plan Framework-Where do we go from here?”

-Dr. Bob Wessely

10:45 Break

11:00 How computer-based models can assist with making decisions

Introduction

Middle Rio Grande Water Supply Study

Dagmar Llewellyn, S.S> Papadopulos & Associates

Model of Water Budget with scenarios

-Dick Thomas, Sandia National Labs

Noon Lunch *provided by the Water Assembly*

Noontime program

The “Evapotranspiration Toolbox,” including a screening of the video, “Pulsing the Bosque”

-Steve Hansen and/or Steve Bower, US Bureau of Reclamation

1:00 Welcome Back

Peter Neils, Native Forest Network, musician

1:10 How computer-based models can assist with making decisions (continued)

Upper Rio Grande Water Operation Model, Water Operation Review and the Environmental Impact Statement

-Gail Stockton, Army Corp of Engineers

GIS and Watershed Planning

-Dr. Julie Coonrod, Assistant Professor of Civil Engineering at UNM

What is the US Geological Survey and what is its role in the Middle Rio Grande Basin?

-Dr. James Bartolino, USGS

Putting the tools to use in the Alternatives Analysis

-Joe Quintana, Senior Regional Planner, Middle Rio Grande Council of Governments

2:00 Barriers and Opportunities

A summation of issues

-John Utton, JD, Sheehan, Sheehan & Stelzner

Thought on current processes

-Deb Hibbard, Rio Grande Restoration

Environmental Justice Issues

Becoming familiar with your neighbor's dilemma- and beginning to work together from there

-Gilbert Sandoval, Chair, Jemez River Basin Coalition

3:00 **Break**

3:15 **Negotiating a Solution to attain the mission and goals**

A panel of representative user groups giving perspectives

-facilitated by Melinda Smith, New Mexico Consensus Council

4:30 **Membership Caucus and Nomination to Action Committee**

-moderated by Lee Brown

5:00 **Final words and adjournment**

****Exhibition room will be open between 8 and 9 and during lunch****

moderated by Elaine Moore Hebard, Water Assembly

5th MIDDLE TIO GRANDE WATER ASSEMBLY

Saturday, March 31, 2001 [Albuquerque]

At this regional meeting held on the University of New Mexico campus Mike Wirtz, Joint Steering Committee coordinator, presented a fifteen minute report to the entire group of participants. The report covered such items as: who we are (the Rio Puerco and Rio Jemez sub-regions), what we've done to date, and where we're headed. The report also covered who the members of the Steering Committee are or will be, the underlying theme of the sub-regions (rural communities with strong ties to the land), and the goals of the soon to be established Steering Committee.

Included in the oral presentation were comments made by participants at the various meetings that had been in either Cuba or Canon, NM. Mr. Wirtz reiterated some of these comments, which included:

We're at the top of the watershed,
We need to protect our families' water rights,
We want control of our own destiny,
We all need to look at the "big picture" re: how the watersheds are managed,
Whiskey is for drinking, water is worth fighting for, and
The best investment today is land with water rights.

The sub-regions feel strongly that "it's not us against them--- we're all in the same boat together and speaking from the heat is real power". In closing, Mr. Wirtz restated the values that have been developed by the rural communities over several generations. These values include, rural New Mexicans have a strong cultural tie to the land, this tie to the land and water is a tradition and a way of life, and the cultural/historical value system is inherent in who they are and where they're coming from.

RP Y RJ SUBREGIONAL WATER PLANNING

[Meetings, Notes, Agendas -
electronically entered, and edited where necessary, by Jennifer Johnson]

RP y RJ WSC MEETING [with sign-in sheet]

August 10, 2001 Canon, New Mexico

[Mike Wirtz's handwritten notes]

11 Attendees

Steering Committee (Once formed and signed off by ISC)

Tasks: (conceptual plan ideas)

Water rights training and application processes

develop rapport with ISC and MRGCOG

Obtain voting status on the Water Board

Gain Support and participation from Jemez and Zia Pueblos and the two Chapter houses of the Navajo Nation

Request funding to continue the ?PI process

Steering Committee Members (Include:)

REA District Manager

Computer Specialist at LANL

Special Education Teacher

Geo-Chemist/ground water scientist

Forester/land management planner

Plus landowners/ranchers

and members of acequia associations (oldest form of government in NM)

Statements from past meetings

We're at the top of the watershed,

We need to protect our families' water rights,

We want control of our own destiny,

We all need to look at the "big picture" re: how the watersheds are managed,

It's not "us against them", we're all in the same boat together.

The best investment today is land with water rights.

Whiskey is for drinking, water is worth fighting for, and

Speaking from the heart is real power.

Differences (Urban and Rural)

Cultural/Historic values

Most rural residents have lived on and cared for their land for generations. This close tie to land/water is their tradition : a cultural historic value system that is inherent in "who they are" and "where they're coming from".

STEERING COMMITTEE:

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663-1466
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RIO PUERCO Y RIO JEMEZ
STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING [with sign-in sheet]
Friday September 21, 2001

This evening thirteen members of the newly formed Rio Puerco y Rio Jemez Steering Committee were present at a meeting held in Canon, NM. Co-chairs of the SC were chosen to serve for at least six months. The co-chairs will be Marion Woolf who will represent the Rio Puerco residents and Emmett Cart, who will represent the Rio Jemez residents.

Joe Quintana, MRGCOG representative, discussed the funding situation and the need for this Steering Committee to agree on a Joint Powers Agreement between MRGCOG and the CS&WCD. Once this has been completed funds for the sub-regions should be forthcoming.

For our sub-regions to develop goals and objectives we first need to look at those developed by the Water Board. Once we have a list that is accepted by the SC then we can request the Water Board consolidate our with theirs. IT was also discussed how our plan would fit into the larger plan being prepared by the Water Assembly and the Water Board. It would be a plan within a plan.

Rio Puerco y Rio Jemez Joint Watershed Committee Meeting
Friday, October 19, 2001 @ Canon Community Center
7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

For further information call (505) 289-3950

Water Users

Those who attended last meeting know that we agreed to include the southern stem of the Rio Puerco in this planning area. Robert Cordova volunteered to become liaison from the joint watersheds in the north. He will report on the status of the people in that southern region. We hope he will bring representatives to this meeting. If they come we will have brief introductions, statements of the committee's intent, and hear what they desire and have to contribute.

FUNDING

Mike Wirtz will report on the status of our contract with Middle Rio Grande Council of Governments. Joe Quintana hopefully will have some progress to report on the contract between MRGCOG and The Interstate Stream Commission. This concerns the \$20,000.00 to be allocated to this planning subregion over the next two years.

In addition we hope to hear when we can expect to receive, from MRGCOG, the \$5,000 which, in last year's budget, the Water Assembly declined on the condition it would be given to this subregion to assist in the water planning.

Emmett Cart will report on potential funds and in kind contributions available to this committee to facilitate a mailing to all constituents within the two watersheds, notifying them of public conversations to be held in their areas.

ACTION

Peggy Ohler has partially prepared a flyer to be mailed out. She will present it, followed by discussion directed toward adoption of this or an amended flyer to be mailed.

This flyer must accomplish three things:

- o Interest recipients enough to be sorted from their bill and read
- o Convey the problems of the joint watersheds
- o Suggest actions that can be taken by interested water users

The outcome of this meeting will be:

- o Distribute names, addresses and contact numbers to each committee member (old and new)
- o Establish a budget group to determine costs and suggest expenditures
- o Establish a group or person to track and clarify funding through MRGCOG
- o Assemble a flyer design completion and oversight groups to carry the flyer through to actual mailing
- o Set Public Conversations dates and locations
- o Establish agendas and outcomes for the Public Conversations

RIO PUERCO Y RIO JEMEZ
STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING [with sign-in sheet]
Friday October 19, 2001

This meeting was held in Canon, NM and fifteen members were present. Preliminary discussion focused on the planned public meetings to be held early next year in Canon and Cuba. Getting the word out to all resident will be a large task and the Rural Electric Association may help by allowing us to enclose a flyer in their monthly billings. The brochure should address such items as why we're inviting them to attend a public meeting for water planning, why their comments are important and to request that they bring their concerns and ideas to the meetings.

RIO PUERCO Y RIO JEMEZ
STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING [with sign-in sheet]
Friday November 16, 2001

A short meeting was held this evening in Canon to finish planning for the upcoming public meetings. The first meeting is planned for Canon, NM on 1/19/02 and the second meeting planned for Cuba, NM on 2/23/02. Ten committee members were present.

RIO PUERCO Y RIO JEMEZ
STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING [with sign-in sheet]
January 12, 2002

This meeting was held in Canon, NM to make assignments and to ensure that everything was ready for the public meeting to be held in Canon on 1/19/02. The agenda for the meeting was presented and amended. It will include:

Welcome by Emmett and Marion, co-chairs of the Steering Committee *(this will explain to the public who we are and why we're leading the charge in water planning; Janet Jarret will give an overview of the Water Plan, and Mike Wirtz will explain how the meeting is arranged and what we expect from the public.

Armand Groffman will discuss: "What is the problem?" He will cover such things as water supply and demand, shortages, and there's only so much water to go around and how we are going to deal with it.

The public will break into six small groups depending on their major concerns or interests; choices include, development/community, acequia/cultural, public participation, watershed management, agriculture, and other. The public will be asked to write down their concerns and their values regarding the various groups. They will also be asked to describe what they would like the sub-regions to look like in 40 years.

A summary of the above values and concerns will then be discussed. Members from each of the small groups will be asked to present their comments to the entire group. We will also ask them to think of actions and obstacles that will help or hinder us in reaching the desired state in 40 years.

The last step will be for each of the small groups to set up an action committee to work on their particular area of interest. They are to meet with one another and then report back to the Steering Committee with their results.

RIO PUERCO Y RIO JEMEZ
WATER PLANNING MEETING [Sign-in sheet?]

[DRAFT?] AGENDA
Canon, New Mexico
Saturday, January 19, 2002
1:00 – 5:00 PM

- I. Introductions and Welcome. Who are the role players, why we are here and the importance of water planning. (*Emmett, Marion, Mike will introduce each other and any of the politico guests in the audience and the other members of the Rio Puerco y Rio Jemez Steering Committee; try to keep this down to just a few minutes. Mike will briefly discuss the importance of respecting each others points of view even though you may not agree with their statements*).

Janet Jarret will make her presentation at this time; depending on the time it takes to do the welcoming, etc. we want to finish this part of the meeting by 2:00, at the latest).

- II. What is the Problem? Discussion of water supply and demand. (*Armand will discuss this topic in 10 – 15 minutes*)
- III. What are Our Water Related Concerns? A summary of concerns and values from previous meeting and an opportunity for today's participants to add to the lists. (*Mike will briefly cover the concerns from past meeting in Cuba and Jemez; copies of these will be given to each of the Steering Committee members who will act as facilitators at the various station in the gym*). Categories include:

AGRICULTURE/RANCHING
ACEQUIA/CULTURAL
DEVELOPMENT/GROWTH
WATERSHED MANAGEMENT
COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT
OTHER

BREAK OUT INTO SMALL GROUPS BY CATEGORY
(*Facilitators will record participant's responses*)

Participants will also be asked: What would you like this area to look like in 40 year?
(Facilitators will record responses on this question on separate sheets of paper; Mike will summarize each groups' thoughts and ideas). Try to finish this task by 3:00.

BREAK (If things are going well it should be about 3:00) After the break we can ask the participants to remain in small groups or change into another group if they wish. The idea is to save time by not having everyone move around).

IV. Summary of water related concerns. A brief recap of your concerns and a discussion of where we want to be in 40 years. (After the break Mike will report back to the entire group about the findings, similarities, and concerns). Aim for 10 minutes. (Should be about 3:30)

V. How Do We Get There? What actions can we take now to reach our future goals and what are the obstacles that are in the way? (Participants will still be in small groups; facilitators will ask the above question and record answers for both the ACTIONS and OBSTACLES).

(Facilitators should record all their participant's names, addresses, and phone numbers for future use; also, each group should pick a spokesperson who will then report back to the entire group with their responses to the questions). Aim for 4:30 to finish, at the latest.

VI. Next Step. Form sub-committees that will address the issues, concerns, and actions that need to be taken to reach our desired goals. (Facilitators will work with each group-sub committee- and have them decide who will be the chair person, how more people can become involved, and what steps they can take to provide more input in future planning efforts. They should set their meeting schedules, decide their sub-committee objectives and request help, guidance, and support from the Steering Committee).

Dear Rio Puerco Y Rio Jemez Advisory/Committee Member:

This is a reminder notice of our next meeting on **February 16, 2002** from 10:00 am to 12 noon at the **Jemez Valley Community Center in Canon**. Please, as the liaison to your community, come and contribute as well as carry information back to your neighbors. An effective network requires consistent communication and at present our watersheds are at stake.

Proposed agenda:

Develop additional guidelines for community action groups

Plan for Community Conversations on February 23, 2002 in Cuba

If you have any additions please contact Mike Wirtz at:
(505) 983-9208 or pecosbaldy@earthlink.net

If you have questions or need additional information you may contact:

Emmett Cart
(505) 829-3867 or Emmett@sulphurcanyon.com

Peggy Ohler
(505) 289-3950 or pegohler@yahoo.com

Marion Woolf
(505) 289-0178 or

RIO PUERCO Y RIO JEMEZ
STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING [with sign-in sheet]
Saturday, February 16, 2002

This meeting was held at the Senior Citizens Community Center in Canon, NM. Ten committee members were present and discussed the upcoming public meeting in Cuba, NM scheduled for 2/23/02. Also discussed were the results and comments from the public meeting held in Canon, NM the previous month. It was decided that the same format and speakers would be used.

In addition, comments were made about how to increase water yield from the watersheds, you can't separate water quantity from water quality, and the change in water yield is proportional to the basal area of stems/acre removed through thinning. Someone also mentioned that "laws are products of the past".

RIO PUERCO Y RIO JEMEZ
WATER PLANNING MEETING

[DRAFT?] AGENDA

Cuba, New Mexico

Saturday, February 23, 2002

1:00 – 5:00 PM

I. Introductions and Welcome. Who are the role players, why we are here and the importance of water planning.

--A brief history of what led up to water planning.

II. Why are we here?

--The planning process; ISC Water Planning Template (Janet Jarret)

--Supply and demand problem (Armand Groffman)

--Middle Rio Grande planning region, a description and what's been done so far, and what remains to be done.

III. How can we do it?

--Coordinate water rights condemnation (Janet Jarret)

--manage the watershed (Gilbert Sandoval)

--Steps of the water plan (Mike Wirtz)

IV. Your part in Creating the Water Plan.

--First step; Visions and Values. From past meetings numerous concerns, needs, values and hopes have been expressed; they were listed under six different categories that are on easels around the room. Those categories include:

AGRICULTURE/RANCHING
ACEQUIA/CULTURAL
DEVELOPMENT/GROWTH
WATERSHED MANAGEMENT
COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT
OTHER

BREAK OUT INTO SMALL GROUPS BY CATEGORY

(Facilitators will record participant's responses)

--Second step; Formulate Goals and Objectives

--Third step; Actions and Obstacles

--Fourth step; Management Alternative Strategies

V. Wrap Up. Each group will briefly report what they discussed, actions they plan to take in addressing their concerns, and what they will be doing in the next two months.

AGENDA

Rio Puerco y Rio Jemez Joint Watershed Committee Meeting [No sign-in sheet]
February 23, 2002

- 1:00 PM** **Why We're Here:** A brief history of water planning: State compacts, Texas lawsuits, No state water plan, formation of ISC (under State Engineer), ISC Template created via public participation and requiring an adequate plan for public participation as a prerequisite for regional water planning. (ISC Water Planning Template) – *Marion Woolf*
- 1:15 PM** **Who We Are:** Introduction to RPyRJWC, ISC, Water Assembly, MRGCOG (Water Plan for MRG Region “who’s involved” – *Bob Wesseley*)
- 1:40 PM** **What Are We Doing?** A brief description of a water plan (generic), what’s been done in the region, what’s been done in the subregions, what remains to be done. *Janet Jarrett – outline planning process, Armand Groffman – outline present conditions: supply, demand, future problems, Mike Wirtz – what’s been done so far.*
- 2:00 PM** **How Can We Do It?** *Janet Jarrett, coordinate – water rights condemnation, Gilbert Sandoval, watershed management, Bob Wesseley – brief outline of Middle Rio Grande Planning Region work so far, Mike Wirtz – why the two watersheds formed a subregional joint planning committee.*
- 1:40 PM** **Your Part In The Water Plan:** We will soon be taking a break, but before then, take a look at handout:
We will not finish this today, but must get busy in order to be included in the regional plan.
What we’ll do today is phase I (Visions and Values). Input from previous meetings has been categorized (easels). After the break there will be a facilitator at each easel to answer questions. Please add what you have to say. This can also include phase V (Barriers or Obstacles) and phase II (Projected Future in no Intervention).
Please sign up for the category, which most interests you. These groups will become action committees. The Action Committees will be asked to set meetings over the next 30 days to do phase III, which will actually be formulating Goals and Objectives.
Then we will all meet together again, in about a month to discuss and consolidate goals and objectives.
At future meetings, the action committees will create a Plan Flow Chart (actions) and further examine barriers (obstacles). Again all the action committees will then meet to discuss and consolidate those.
During the last series of meetings, the action committees will formulate action plans (alternative management strategies). Finally, we will have a series of plenary meetings to consolidate and complete our subregional water plan.

- 2:50 PM** **Break**
- 3:10 PM** **Input Sessions at Easels (Q and A).** This is the time we will actually spend in providing input at the easels.
- 4:20 PM** **Reconvene to discuss work to be done in Action Committees.** We will discuss actions to be taken by each action committee over the next 30 days. Then we will set a meeting time to gather and work on action committee input.
- 5:00 PM** **Adjourn**

Dear Rio Puerco y Rio Jemez Advisory/Committee Member:

This is a reminder notice of our next meetings on **March 15 (16), 2002 at 6:30 pm at the Cuba Village Hall and from 1:00pm to 5:00 pm at the Jemez Valley community Center in Canon.**

Please, as the liaison to your community, come and contribute as well as carry information back to your neighbors. An effective network requires consistent communication and at present our watersheds are at stake.

If you have questions or need additional information you may contact:

Mike Wirtz: (505) 983-9208 or pecosbaldy@earthlink.net

Emmett Cart: (505) 829-3867 or Emmett@sulphurcanyon.com

Peggy Ohler: (505) 289-3950 or pegohler@yahoo.com

Marion Woolf: (505) 289-0178 or

RIO PUERCO Y RIO JEMEZ
STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING [with sign-in sheet]
Saturday March 16, 2002

Thirteen members attended this evening meeting in Canon, NM. Again the discussion centered around funding from MRGCOG to the subregions and the time it has taken. The Cuba Soil and Water Conservation District would still act as the fiscal agent once money trickles down. Lots of finger pointing and who said what and when.

May 9, 2002, Canon
[No notes, with sign-in sheet]

RIO PUERCO Y RIO JEMEZ
STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING [with sign-in sheets]
October 30, 2002

This meeting was held in Cuba, NM with 13 members attending. An update from Emmett Cart was given about the Joint Powers Agreement between MRGCOG and the CS&WCD. He said that the agreement was still one sided and he would have an attorney, Dennis Smith look at it. He also met with Mike Trujillo (MRGCOG) and Lawrence Rael today. Apparently \$25,000 was originally offered and now the amount is \$35,000.

Mike Chavez from the Rio Puerco Management Committee thinks that there may be federal money available and the Steering Committee may be able to request some of it for watershed restoration work. He'll keep us posted.

PLANNING GOALS
RIO PUERCO Y RIO JEMEZ WATERSHED COMMITTEE
October 30, 2002
(A Discussion, Draft) [typed notes with *written in comments*]

1. Restore the Watersheds

- Increase water production
 - Thin trees, remove non-native species
 - facilitate aquifer recharge
 - meander rivers, creeks, and acequias
 - reduce duff on the ground
 - study recharge and acequia effect on local areas to manage acequias
 - move water storage to small, mountain sites to reduce evaporation loss
- Reduce erosion
 - prevent water rushing off the mountain pediment
 - use grazing practices that restore plant cover
 - prevent high intensity forest fires
 - effective timber management
 - use Best Management Practices for New Mexico vs. Federal Agencies
 - Use science to identify practices appropriate for arid forests
 - create legislation mandating state agencies to advocate for NM users

2. Protect Water Rights

- Inform all residents and user of the law and help them file
- Promote legislation that protects cultural values of watershed residents
- Maintain firm alliance with tribes and pueblos in the watershed

3. Reduce Water Demand

- Demand planning for sustainability
 - spearhead water/land growth legislation
- **-Obtain funding for essential studies. *ID Mechanisms to fund on-going projects*
 - change life style based on availability of water
 - urban growth indexed to availability and site appropriateness
 - xeriscape and other appropriate landscaping
 - alternative construction methods and sighting
 - limit water intensive construction, recreation sites, and businesses
 - how to modify city building codes and covenants
 - could we eliminate Elephant Butte as storage area?
(135,000 acre feet evaporated per year)

4. Education (all of this was added as notes)

Appreciation> *Awareness> provide*
Knowledge>
leads to
creates <Understanding

ALTERNATIVES *Draft as Objectives*
RIO PUERCO Y RIO JEMEZ STEERING COMMITTEE
October 30, 2002

White Paper

(These alternatives are in no order of priority nor are they a complete list. Please add your own or change, reword or modify the ones shown below). (Margin notes are *italicized*)

1. Manage and Restore our Watersheds.

- reduce wildfire hazard
- Best Management Practices (BMPs) minimize negative vegetation effects on water quality
- healthier stream channel
- local employment and economic benefits *Nancy Blecha- Coordinate local water systems*

2. Reduce Water Demand

- every customer (user) has his or her own water budget
- incentive pricing can generate significant water savings
- allow for greater water availability for other users

3. Increase Water Storage Capacity in Rural Areas *Water Storage on Zia and Jemez Pueblos?*

- additional storage protects from drought
- adds flexibility in water management
- a regional approach would be beneficial

4. Reduce Water Loss in Acequias

- lining and repairing existing acequias can reduce or eliminate contaminant into groundwater supply
- some of the water savings would otherwise have recharged groundwater

5. Protect Water Rights

- rural communities and their way of life cannot be sacrificed to provide water for growing municipalities
- “acequia” and Tribal issues for water use and management should be recognized at all times

6. Use Surface and Groundwater in Combination

- common sense alternative
- use surface water in wet years, groundwater in dry years

7. Manage Growth and Land Use Together

- helps maintain a sustainable community
- it is important to base reasons for growth management or constraints to water availability
- a regional approach is important
- growth management is important to acequias

Dr Daniels [?]

8. Manage Drought

- drought is a recurring cycle
- planning ahead is important in avoiding crisis management
- proactive planning approach is beneficial to all parties

9. Capture Flood Flows

- reduce and protect against flood flows, manage the hydrograph
- reduce flood damage
- depends of availability of storage and diversion points

10. Reuse Wastewater (Gray)

- reuse for irrigation
- inject as artificial recharge
- reduces demand and eliminates discharge to stream
- two to three times more expensive for small communities than larger urban areas

11. Remove Trace Elements From Water to Increase Supply

- arsenic is the most prevalent and presents the most important concern
- if enacted, more water will be available because water with high concentrations of arsenic and other constituents is not being used

12. Install Domestic Supply Wells

- this involves managing a well field that may consist of one or more well sites
- groundwater generally needs less treatment than surface water
- groundwater will be more reliable during drought periods
- domestic wells may be only alternative in isolate areas

RIO PUERCO Y RIO JEMEZ
STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING [with sign-in sheet]
Wednesday November 20, 2002

This meeting held in Cuba, NM five committee members participated in a short meeting. Mike Wirtz presented an interim list of twelve alternatives for the committee to review. These alternatives were developed from the issues, concerns, goals, and objectives that originated from the numerous Steering Committee meetings held in the past. Attached to these minutes is a copy of those alternatives.

RIO PUERCO Y RIO JEMEZ
STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING [with sign-in sheet]
Tuesday December 17, 2002

This short meeting was held in Canon, NM with eight members present. Now that the Joint Powers Agreement has been approved and signed it's important that the Cuba Soil and Water Conservation District submit a bill for the \$10,000 to cover the past work by the Steering Committee. The format and items that are needed in the interim report were discussed. All the past meeting minutes, sing-in sheets and results should be included in the report to MRGCOG. The document will be prepared by Mike Wirtz. Copies will be provided to MRGCOG, CS&WCD, and Emmett Cart. The original documents and rough draft notes, etc. will be kept by Mike.

CUBA NEWS
AUGUST 2001 THROUGH DECEMBER 2002

08-17-01

AGUA POR VIDA O AGUA PERDIDA

The Rio Puerco y Rio Jemez Steering Committee met at canon on Friday, August 10, 2001. At that meeting the by-laws were ratified and signed with provision for amendment. A cooperative agreement between Rio Jemez and Rio Puerco Watershed Committees was also signed. The Steering committee was assembled by invitation as a pro tem body for one year. A representative from each community in both watersheds was initiated, includes pueblos and tribes.

The purpose of the steering committee is to represent the citizens of both watersheds which are subregions of the Middle Rio Grande Planning Region. These two watersheds are the source of major tributaries to the middle Rio Grande stem. People who live and work in the watersheds have not had adequate opportunity to express needs, concerns and values. We have not been represented in the planning process, not have we been given any assurance that our voices will be heard, and our votes shape the outcome. Unless we can negotiate an agreement that they will be, we have no power over our destiny.

Several representatives spoke out strongly for citizen's knowledge and concerns to be recognized by the state and Federal agencies that manage our public lands, as well as local governments and other organizations. For example, the fire suppression policy practiced for so many years has been widely recognized, even by the agencies responsible, as ecologically unhealthy. This policy has resulted in extreme conditions that produce fires like the Cerro Grande, and reduce the effectiveness xxx and quality of water produced.

The Steering Committee has some funding and will seek further funding to hold public conversations and gather your input. The Committee will seek scientific and expert advice on watershed restoration. It will sponsor educational presentations to inform all citizens and water users in the watersheds. It will hold workshops so all watershed citizens can file on all water rights. Your local representative will inform your community of these activities.

After working together for over a year, it was clear to many members that a steering committee must begin all the processes and "steer" us through then in a timely manner. However, the Watershed Committees are open to all citizens. Please come. Please keep yourself informed. Please help us answer the question, "How much development can ancient and traditional water users be forced to support??"

The next Steering Committee meeting is September 21, 2001 at 7:00 PM in the Canon, NM Community Center. To find out who your local representative is, please contact Peggy Ohler at Cuba Soil & Water, 289-3950.

10-19-01

AGUA POR VIDA O AGUA PERDIDA

The Rio Puerco y Rio Jemez Joint Watershed Committee met at Canon, September 21, 2001, to complete the joint watershed agreement and ratify by-laws. We are please to report most communities have a representative on the committee.

Emmett Cart (Jemez Springs) and Marion Woolf (Cuba) are the Co-chairmen. Mike Wirtz will continue as project manager.

Representatives are:

Robert Briesmeister-

Robert Bootzin-

Mary Caldwell- Ponderosa

Robert Cordova- La Jara

Steve Lucero- San Ysidro

Armand Groffman- Regina

Gene Harty- Horseshoe Springs

Charlotte Mitchell- Canon

Peter Pino- Zia Pueblo

Worth Smelser- Cuba

We anticipate adding Leonard Loretto or Anthony Armijo from Jemez Pueblo, and Watson Castillo from Torreon.

Advisory members present were Bob Wessley, Chairman of the Water Assembly, and Joe Quintana, representative of MRGCOG, Middle Rio Grande Council of Governments. We look forward to working with Roberto Rodriguez, Cuba District Ranger, and John Peterson, Jemez District Ranger, of the USFS, and Elmer Morales of Jemez Electric Coop.

Official Recognition

Our persistent work has paid off in a official recognition as a planning subregion by the MRGCOG Water Resources Board. Emmett Cart is the Rio Jemez representative on that board and Robert Cordova is the Rio Puerco representative. We, water users in the two watersheds, at last have a voice in the planning process.

Planning Region extended

We are currently negotiating a contract with MRGCOG to get funds for planning functions. In addition to monies promised for the last year there are some funds for the coming two years. MRGCOG insisted that the subregion include the Rio Puerco south of Albuquerque down to Bernardo, where it enters the Rio Grande.

Robert Cordova is the liaison for that area, which includes Isleta Pueblo's Comanche Ranch, Tohajilee and possibly Acoma.

Next Meeting

The Rio Puerco y Rio Jemez Joint Watershed Committee has agreed to meet on the third Friday of each month at 7:00 PM. We will be alternately meeting at Canon and Cuba for the present. This month's meeting will be October 19, 2001.

Agenda

We will hear a report from MRGCOG about our contract; Mike Wirtz will report on MRGCOG funds allocated last year; Emmett Cart will report about funds from other sources; Robert Cordova and Joe Quintana will report on the southern area of the Rio Puerco.

We will identify the purposes of the public meeting and discuss what we want to include in inviting the public to an input meeting. We will set times, dates, and tentative meeting place.

Peggy Ohler will present a sketch for the flyer we want to send out with the Electric Coop bills. We will discuss, revise, and approve the flyer. Representatives will secure meeting places and report to the flyer editor.

Everyone welcome. This is about your water.

12-21-01

THE RIO PUERCO Y RIO JEMEZ JOINT WATERSHED COMMITTEE

The Rio Puerco Y Rio Jemez Joint Watershed Committee is responsible for notifying the Water Assembly and the Water Resources Board of the wants and needs of this area's citizens by next summer. These organizations will consolidate them into goals for the water plan in this planning district. The Interstate Stream Commission will accept these goals as being from the people.

If you have strong opinions about the way our water should be managed, or how much of it should stay in the watersheds, or how it should be used, NOW is the time to speak out, If you don't say what you want others will plan for you. Two meeting will be held in January and February in each of the watersheds for public conversations. At these meetings, local citizens may speak and ask questions. Also, we will present a brief history of our work so far, and how it fits into the overall water plan. If you want a voice, **THERSE MEETINGS ARE YOUR FORUM.**

The first meeting will be held in the Rio Jemez Watershed, at the Canon Community Center on Saturday, January 29, 2002, from 1:00 until 5:00 PM.

The second meeting will be held in the Rio Puerco Watershed in Cuba during February, 2002. Time and place to be announced in the January edition of the Cuba News.

In a nation where each of us has a right to be heard, there is no one but yourself to blame if your goals are not included. If we are to have watersheds managed for the good of everyone we must hear from everyone. Please attend your local meeting.

01-18-02

STATE MANDATED WATER PLANNING

PUBLIC CONVERSATION FOR STATE MANDATED WATER PLANNING to be held January 19, 2002 from 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM at Jemez Valley High School Auditorium. A second meeting will be held on February 23, 2002 from 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM at Cuba High School Auditorium.

New Mexico's Interstate Stream Commission (ISC), responsible for distribution of planning funds and oversight, has set 2003 as the year for completing a statewide water plan.

The state recognizes its unique composition of cultural, political and hydrological interests, and so deems water planning can be done most effectively at the local level. To that end the state has been divided into 16 planning regions. The Rio Puerco and Rio Jemez Watersheds have been recognized as a planning subregion of the Middle Rio Grande Planning Region. Rio Jemez and (the northern portion of) Rio Puerco watershed have formed a joint committee with the Cuba Soil and Water Conservation District as fiscal agent.

Many organizations have been engaged in preparatory work to gather appropriate information to make a well-considered plan. In the Middle Rio Grande planning region we are working with the Water Assembly (a citizens group established through UNM) which is p?erring with the Middle Rio Grande Council of Governments to gather information and create a plan for the local area.

The water Assembly has established a number of constituent's advocacy groups to provide input. These include Agricultural and Cultural, Urban Development, preservation of the River, Technical advisors and Educators.

Rio Puerco y Rio Jemez Joint Watershed Committee (composed of local concerned citizens) has taken on the task of getting comprehensive public input from local water users and citizens. In the next two months we will be holding two public conversations, one in Jemez and one in Cuba. The purpose is to inform everyone of work done and information gathered so far, and provide a forum for ideas, needs and values of our neighbors. Meeting notices are being mailed in the Jemez Electric Co-op bills.

When this information is collated and summarized it will go into the MRG planning region's plan. Therefore, it is now critical to share your views. How do you want our water used? Conserved? Distributed? Shared? Can we maintain our traditional way of life? Can we restore the watersheds? What do you have to say?

For more information, you may contact Emmett Cart at 829-3867.
Submitted by Marion Woolf

06-21-02

AGUA POR VIDA O AGUA PERDIDA (continued from page 5, which is missing from the notes).

This is just one of the considerations that have come up since water planning started in 1995. As a state we must use our water much more wisely than we have been. It highlights the fact that we must all work together. We need to see this as a big picture. How can our state retain its beauty and character and still provide livelihoods for our citizens?

In our area there is a beautiful model. The Pueblo of Jemez and Jemez Water Users were in legal battle for some years. Then they decided to cut out the lawyers and talk among themselves. The net result is they have an agreement that when the acequia flow is low, the farmers upstream voluntarily turn water back to the main ditch, so the pueblo has enough water.

As a result of this intelligent cooperation, representatives from Jemez Pueblo and Jemez Community were able to go to Washington, DC and get a grant to study the actual effects of downstream development on their watershed. This will prove whether or not the heavily increased use of water (well-drilling) in the Albuquerque basin diminishes supplies up here in the mountains.

We, on the Cuba side, need to get busy. We have not been adjudicated as Jemez has. We do not have the stability of pueblo water rights here to stop developers. And because many people leave here to make a living, we have not firmly established current beneficial use for all our water.

The Rio Puerco y Rio Jemez Watershed Committee will be planning for and holding some meetings this summer.

1. With help of someone from the State Engineer's office, we'll put on a workshop to help everyone get their filing up to date and correctly filed, if needed.
2. We'll bring in people to speak about ways you can lose your water rights, even if you have correctly filed on them. We'll include a little water law, what happens when adjudication occurs and a talk about condemnation of water rights.
3. La Jara Acequia Association is investigating the possibilities of forming agricultural cooperatives on each acequia, or banding together to form an area-wide co-op. They'll share information with the community and bring in speakers.

To learn more about the Rio Puerco y Rio Jemez Watershed Committee, including the schedule of meetings, call Peggy Ohler at Cuba Soil and Water Conservation District at 289-3950.

Submitted by Marion Woolf

Rio Puerco y Rio Jemez Watershed Participant List

Melvin J.	Aragon	6621 Leta Rd NE	Albuquerque	NM 87113	345-8452
Bob	Bootzin	400 Bootzin's Rd	Sierra Los Pinos	NM 87025	829-3311
Richard	Briesmeister	PO Box 269	Jemez Springs	NM 87025	829-3523
Mary F	Caldwell	PO Box 108	Ponderosa	NM 87044	834-7406
Emmett	Cart	PO Box 3	Jemez Springs	NM 87025	829-3867
Leonard	Casaus Sr.	PO Box 447	Bernalillo	NM 87004	867-5443
Robert	Cordova	5609 La Corrida NE	Albuquerque	NM 87110	837-2248, 889-4553 F
Clyde	Crespin	PO Box 215	Cuba	NM 87013	289-3860
Joseph	Crespin	PO Box 847	Alcalde	NM 87511	852-4766
Betty Jane	Curry	PO Box 143	Cuba	NM 87013	289-3747
Carmen	Garcia	5609 La Corrida NE	Albuquerque	NM 87110	837-2248, 289-3967
Armand	Groffman	121 Barranca Rd	Los Alamos	NM 87544	663-1466
Jim	Gross	317 Commercial NE, #104	Albuquerque	NM 87102	724-3623
Craig	Hab	57 Calle Sozanna	Santa Fe	NM 87501	473-0691, 665-8985
Ruby	Hoolihan	279 San Juan Rd	Ponderosa	NM 87044	834-7417
Jennifer & Terry	Johnson	PO Box 63	La Jara	NM 87027	289-9183
Larry	Lippincott	6651 Isleta Blvd	Albuquerque	NM ?	877-3206
Steve M	Lucero	1219 Hwy 4	San Ysidro	NM 87053	834-7431
Charlotte	Mitchell	3319 Hwy 485	Jemez Pueblo	NM 87024	829-3799
Elmer	Morales	PO Box 583	Cuba	NM 87013	289-3525
Joaquin	Morales	PO Box 114	La Jara	NM 87027	289-3944
Carol	Parker	57 Calle Sozanna	Santa Fe	NM 87501	473-0691, 665-8985
Peter M.	Pino	185 Capitol Sq Dr	Zia Pueblo	NM 87053	867-3304, 867-3308 F
Gilbert M	Sandoval	PO Box 61	Jemez Springs	NM 87025	829-3882
Esther	Smedley	2873 Hwy 485	Jemez Pueblo	NM 87024	829-3778
Sam	Smelser	PO Box 1284	Cuba	NM 87013	289-3810
Worth	Smelser	PO Box 1294	Cuba	NM 87013	289-0094
Keith	Stickford	PO Box 66	La Jara	NM 87027	289-9111
Ernest R.	Torrez	PO Box 4	La Jara	NM 87027	No
Mike	Wirtz	161 D Calle Ojo Feliz	Santa Fe	NM 87505	983-9208
Marion	Woolf	Box 382	Cuba	NM 87013	289-0178

WATER PLANNING MEETINGS PARTICIPANTS
August –November 16, 2001
Jemez (J) – Puerco (P) –Joint (J-P) – Torreon (T) – No Sign-in (?)
Steering Committee (S) – Workshop (W) – Open House (H) – Outreach (O)

First Name	Last Name	August 10J	September 21J	October 19J	November 16J
Anthony R	Armijo			X	
Bob	Bootzin	X			
Richard	Briesmeister	X	X	X	
Mary F	Caldwell	X	X	X	X
Emmett	Cart	X	X		X
Robert	Cordova	X	X	X	X
Carmen	Garcia		X		X
Armand	Groffman			X	X
Ruby	Hoolihan			X	
Steve M	Lucero	X	X		
Charlotte	Mitchell	X	X	X	
Lynn	Montgomery			X	
Peter M.	Pino	X			
Bob	Prendergast				X
Joseph	Quintana	X	X	X	
Sam	Smelser		X	X	X
Worth	Smelser		X	X	
Jill	Thomson			X	
Bob	Wessely		X	X	X
Mike	Wirtz	X	X	X	
Marion	Woolf	X	X	X	X
Total	21	11	13	15	9

WATER PLANNING MEETINGS PARTICIPANTS 2002
Jemez (J) – Puerco (P) – Joint (J-P) – Torreon (T) – No Sign-in (?)
Steering Committee (S) – Workshop (W) – Open House (H) – Outreach (O)

First Name	Last Name	January 12J	January 19WJ	February 16J	February 23 WP?	March 16J	May 9J	October 30P	November 20	December 17
Anthony R	Armijo			X						
Chris	Blecha					X				
Nancy	Blecha		X			X	X			
Robert	Borden		X							
Susan	Burritt		X			X				
Mary F	Caldwell	X	X	X		X	X			X
Emmett	Cart	X				X	X	X		X
Mike	Chavez							X	X	
Diana J	Clark		X			X	X			
Robert	Cordova	X	X	X		X	X	X		
Jack	Crane		X							
Grace	Drake						X			
Carmen	Garcia		X							
John H.	Garcia		X							
Jose E.	Garcia					X				
Armand	Groffman		X							
Elaine	Hebard	X		X						X
Ruby	Hoolihan		X							
Andrea	Hourigan					X				
Dar	Hourigan					X				
Elizabeth	Johnson		X							
RW	Johnson		X							
Mehrdad	Khatibi		X				X			
Jonathan	Kruichak							X		
Max	Kruichak							X		
Maureen	Lincoln		X							
Benny	Lucero		X							
Manuel	Lucero		X							
Maria B	Lucero		X							
Steve M	Lucero		X					X		X
Mike	McClannahan		X							
Sam	McDaniel		X							
Joanne	Mcenre		X							

First Name	Last Name	January 12J	January 19WJ	February 16J	February 23 WP?	March 16J	May 9J	October 30P	November 20	December 17
Susan	Minter					X	X			
Charlotte	Mitchell	X	X							X
Peggy	Ohler								X	
Edward	Oxley							X		
Derek	Padilla						X			
Charles	Pate		X							
John	Peterson					X				
Cathy	Pierce						X			
Peter M.	Pino		X							
Bob	Prendergast	X		X			X	X		X
Joseph	Quintana		X	X						
Larry	Rodgers		X	X		X	X			
Gilbert M	Sandoval		X							
Sam	Smelser							X	X	
Worth	Smelser	X						X		
Francisca	Spinivasan		X							
Tapio	Talvitie		X							
NW	Tobey		X							
Mike	Trujillo						X			
Felicie	Truscio		X							
Jim	Truscio		X							
Jeanette	Wallace		X							
Irene	Wanner		X							
Bob	Wessely	X		X			X	X		
Kathleen	Wiegner		X							
Alice	Wiese		X							
H Louis	Wiese III							X		
Mike	Wirtz	X		X		X	X		X	X
Marion	Woolf	X		X		X	X	X	X	X
Total	62	10	37	10	?	15	16	13	5	8

RIO PUERCO Y RIO JEMEZ STEERING COMMITTEE

From January, 2000 through January, 2001 a total of six public involvement meetings were held in Jemez Springs and/or Cuba, NM. The purpose of these meetings was to allow residents within the subregions of the Middle Rio Grande Water Planning Region to participate in the public involvement phase of the watershed planning process. The initial phase of this process was to obtain issues and concerns from the public living in the small communities. Three main categories were frequently mentioned: 1. manage the watersheds where we live; 2. provide more education to all residents within the Middle Rio Grande water Planning Region on the conservation and wise use of water; and, 3. provide a forum for the local citizens to express their issues and concerns that will be incorporated into the final regional plan.

The Cuba Soil and Water Conservation District, acting as the fiscal agent for the Rio Puerco y Rio Jemez Steering Committee, paid \$2992.50 to a private consultant for the initial portion of this planning program. Additional costs for in-kind time, postage, mileage and other costs are not included in this amount.

Since January, 2001, twelve additional meetings were held in Jemez Springs and Cuba. During these early meetings a Steering Committee was formed to represent the small communities within the two subregions, Rio Puerco and Rio Jemez. This Steering Committee developed it's own set of Bylaws, operating procedures and a Mission Statement which is: *"The Rio Puerco and Rio Jemez Steering committee promotes the enhancement of watershed restoration efforts that will benefit communities and it's residents by increasing water production and improving water quality."*

The Steering Committee and local citizens also developed a draft list of goals and objectives for each of the two subregions. These subregion lists were then consolidated and refined to include comments and concerns from both groups. A rough draft of some of these goals and objectives follows:

- ❑ Manage the watersheds for increased water production and improved water quality
- ❑ Insure that traditional values and use of water is preserved
- ❑ Educate all citizens about the need to use water wisely
- ❑ Provide fat teaching public participation in the water planning process
- ❑ Promote the conservation of water and incorporate these concepts in the local school's curriculum

The preliminary costs to conduct these additional meetings is \$4,642.50. This includes all salary, mileage, per diem, and out of pocket expenses for the consultant, project manger. To date the Cuba Soil and Water Conservation District has not been billed for these costs nor do they include costs incurred by the CS&WCD for their time, xeroxing, and other costs associated with Phase I of the Scope of Work.

**RP Y RJ SUBREGIONAL WATER PLANNING PHASE I, 2000-2002
PARTICIPANTS' AFFILIATIONS**

First	Last	Affiliation
Melvin J.	Aragon	LJ/Archibique Ditch Assoc.
Anthony R	Armijo	Jemez Pueblo
Rudy	Benavidez	Extension Service
Chris	Blecha	
Nancy	Blecha	
Bob	Bootzin	Realtor
Robert	Borden	Jemez Thunder
Richard	Briesmeister	
Susan	Burritt	Jemez Thunder
Mary F	Caldwell	Ponderosa Irrigation/George E Fent Ditch
Dave	Carlson	Realtor
Emmett	Cart	CS&WCD/Everything
Leonard	Casaus Sr.	Los Pinos Ditch Assoc. (Treasurer)
Brenda	Chavez	La Jara Ditch Assoc.
Eustacio	Chavez	
Mike	Chavez	Rio Puerco Management Committee
Diana J	Clark	Ponderosa Ditch
Robert	Cordova	La Jara Ditch Assoc.
Jack	Crane	
Clyde	Crespin	?Ditch Assoc.
Joseph	Crespin	?Ditch Assoc.
Betty Jane	Curry	Rancher/CS&WCD?
Grace	Drake	
Carlota	Eichwald	Garcia-Lucero Ditch
F Kenneth	Eichwald	Archibeque (Garcia?) Ditch/Acequia Unidas?
Carmen	Garcia	La Jara Ditch Assoc.
John H.	Garcia	
Jose E.	Garcia	
Ralph	Garcia	
Armand	Groffman	Hydrologist
Lloyd	Gronning	
Jim	Gross	MRCOG
Arthur	Gurule	La Jara Ditch Assoc.
Jeffrey	Gurule	La Jara Ditch Assoc./Rancher/Gonzalez-Gurule Ditch
Melvin	Gurule	Bureau of Indian Affairs
Robert	Gurule	
Craig	Hab	
Gene	Harty	
Rosemary	Harty	
Elaine	Hebard	Program Coordinator
Herman P	Herrera	
Bill	Hines	Homeowner
Jim	Hines	Homeowner
Mary	Hines	Homeowner
Victoria	Hines	Homeowner
Ruby	Hoolihan	Homeowner
Andrea	Hourigan	Homeowner
Dar	Hourigan	Homeowner
Elizardo	Jaquez	La Jara Ditch Assoc.
Elizabeth	Johnson	Sandoval County Commissioner
Jennifer	Johnson	La Jara Ditch Assoc.

First	Last	Affiliation
RW	Johnson	Former Sandoval County Commissioner
Terry	Johnson	La Jara Ditch Assoc. /Regina Volunteer Fire Dept.
Mark	Kannon	Rancher
Mehrdad	Khatibi	Jemez Pueblo
Jonathan	Kruichak	
Max	Kruichak	Rancher
Pat	Kutzner	Homeowner
Maureen	Lincoln	
Larry	Lippincott	
J Leonard	Loretto	Governor Jemez Pueblo/Veterinarian
Rey	Lovato	La Jara Ditch Assoc./Rancher
Benny	Lucero	Rancher
David R	Lucero	San Ysidro Ditch
Luis	Lucero	La Jara Ditch Assoc.
Manuel	Lucero	
Maria B	Lucero	
Steve M	Lucero	CS&WCD/San Ysidro Village Mayor
Mike	McClannahan	
Sam	McDaniel	
Joanne	Mcentire	
Susan	Minter	Volunteer
Charlotte	Mitchell	Farm Bureau
Lynn	Montgomery	Placitas Ditch Assoc.
Edna	Morales	La Jara Ditch Assoc.
Elmer	Morales	Jemez Coop
Fred	Morales	La Jara Ditch Assoc.
Joaquin	Morales	La Jara Ditch Assoc.
Frank	Murphy	Homeowner
Peggy	Ohler	CS&WCD/Rancher
Fidencio	Olivas	La Jara Ditch Assoc.
Edward	Oxley	Parciente
Derek	Padilla	United States Forest Service
Carol	Parker	
Charles	Pate	
John	Peterson	United States Forest Service
Cathy	Pierce	
Peter M.	Pino	Tribal Administrator, Zia Pueblo
Bob	Prendergast	Water Assembly
Bobby	Putt	Los Pinos Ditch Assoc. (Mayordomo)
Joseph	Quintana	MRCOG
Larry	Rodgers	
Roberto	Rodriguez	United States Forest Service
Sophie	Salaz	United States Forest Service
David	Sanchez	Parciente/Rancher
Bryan	Sandoval	Parciente/Rancher
Gilbert M	Sandoval	Former United States Forest Service/ Jemez Ditch Assoc.?
Sisto	Sandoval	Parciente/Rancher
Frances	Santillanes	Parciente
Herman H	Santillanes	Parciente
Esther	Smedley	
Sam	Smelser	Rancher
Worth	Smelser	Rancher
Richard	Spencer	
Francisca	Spinivasan	
Keith	Stickford	La Jara Ditch Assoc., LJ Water Users Assn.

First	Last	Affiliation
Tapio	Talvitie	
Jill	Thomson	
NW	Tobey	
Ernest R.	Torrez	La Jara Ditch Assoc. (heir)
Mike	Trujillo	Mid Region Council of Governments
Felicie	Truscio	
Jim	Truscio	
Jeanette	Wallace	NM State Representative
Irene	Wanner	
Winona	Ward	CREDO
Bob	Wessely	Water Assembly
Diana	Wheeler	
Terry	Wheeler	
Fred	White	
Kathleen	Wiegner	
Alice	Wiese	Retired
H Louis	Wiese III	Parciente/Rancher
Mike	Wirtz	Facilitator
Marion	Woolf	Los Pinos Ditch Assoc./Former RPyRJ SC Chair
Total 125		

ADDRESSES OF PARTICIPANTS PHASE I, 2000-2002

FIRST	LAST	ADDRESS	CITY	ST	ZIP	HOME
Melvin J.	Aragon	6621 Leta Rd NE	Albuquerque	NM	87113	345-8452
Anthony R	Armijo	Box 100	Jemez	NM	87024	834-7942
			Pueblo			
Rudy	Benavidez	PO Box 400	Bernalillo	NM	87004	867-2582
Chris & Nancy	Blecha	714 Hidden Valley Rd	La Cueva	NM	87025	829-3529
Bob	Bootzin	400 Bootzin's Rd	Sierra Los Pinos	NM	87025	829-3311
Robert	Borden	PO Box 299	Jemez Springs	NM	87025	829-3488
Richard	Briesmeister	PO Box 269	Jemez Springs	NM	87025	829-3523
Susan	Burritt	PO Box 288	Jemez Springs	NM	87025	829-3330
Mary F	Caldwell	PO Box 108	Ponderosa	NM	87044	834-7406
Dave	Carlson	PO Box 14	Jemez Springs	NM	87025	829-9173
Emmett	Cart	PO Box 3	Jemez Springs	NM	87025	829-3867
Leonard	Casaus Sr.	PO Box 447	Bernalillo	NM	87004	867-5443
Brenda	Chavez	211 Ranchitos Rd NW	Albuquerque	NM	87114	897-9245
Eustacio	Chavez	PO Box 331	Cuba	NM	87013	289-3872
Mike	Chavez	PO Box 1510	Cuba	NM	87013	289-0016
Diana J	Clark	PO Box 115	Ponderosa	NM	87044	834-7339
Robert	Cordova	5609 La Corrida NE	Albuquerque	NM	87110	837-2248, 889-4553 F
Jack	Crane	437 Elk Trail	Jemez Springs	NM	87025	829-3648
Clyde	Crespin	PO Box 215	Cuba	NM	87013	289-3860
Joseph	Crespin	PO Box 847	Alcalde	NM	87511	852-4766
Betty Jane	Curry	PO Box 143	Cuba	NM	87013	289-3747
Grace	Drake	PO Box 72	Jemez Springs	NM	87025	829-3425
Carlota	Eichwald	PO Box 672	Cuba	NM	87013	289-3836
F Kenneth	Eichwald	PO Box 1317	Cuba	NM	87013	289-3871
Carmen	Garcia	5609 La Corrida NE	Albuquerque	NM	87110	837-2248, 289-3967
John H.	Garcia	35 Joseph Garcia Ln	Jemez Springs	NM	87025	829-3296
Jose E.	Garcia	8329 Hwy 4	Cañon	NM	87024	834-7029
Ralph	Garcia	16081 SR 4	Jemez Springs	NM	87025	829-3003
Armand	Groffman	121 Barranca Rd	Los Alamos	NM	87544	663-1466
Lloyd	Gronning	3150 Caloh Blvd, 209	Albuquerque	NM	87110	889-4525
Jim	Gross	317 Commercial NE, #104	Albuquerque	NM	87102	724-3623
Arthur	Gurule	PO Box 841	Cuba	NM	87013	289-3897
Jeffrey	Gurule	PO Box 413	Cuba	NM	87013	289-3992
Melvin	Gurule	PO Box 328	Crown Point	NM	?	786-6128?
Robert	Gurule	PO Box 414	Cuba	NM	87013	289-3840
Craig	Hab	57 Calle Sozanna	Santa Fe	NM	87501	473-0691, 665-8985
Gene & Rosemary	Harty	417 Horseshoe Lp	La Cueva	NM	87025	829-3789
Elaine	Hebard	1513 Escalante SW	Albuquerque	NM	87104	247-8767
Herman P	Herrera	697 Hwy 485	Jemez	NM	87024	829-3172

FIRST	LAST	ADDRESS	CITY	ST	ZIP	HOME
Bill	Hines	8801 L Barranca Av NE	Albuquerque	NM	87111	292-1126
Jim, Mary, Victoria	Hines	3105 Utah St. NE	Albuquerque	NM	87110	299-1314, 289-3816
Ruby	Hoolihan	279 San Juan Rd	Ponderosa	NM	87044	834-7417
Andrea & Dar	Hourigan	61 Hidden Valley Rd	La Cueva	NM	87025	829-3298
Elizardo	Jaquez	Hwy 96 Box 3	La Jara	NM	87027	289-3047
Elizabeth & RW	Johnson	PO Box 11	San Ysidro	NM	87053	252-9128, 934-0793
Jennifer & Terry	Johnson	PO Box 63	La Jara	NM	87027	289-9183
Mark	Kannon	HCR 79 Box 5	Cuba	NM	87013	289-3540
Mehrdad	Khatibi	PO Box 664	Jemez	NM	87024	834-9125
Jonathan	Kruichak	PO Box 611	Pueblo	NM	87013	No
Max	Kruichak	PO Box 611	Cuba	NM	87013	No
Pat	Kutzner	PO Box 1169	Cuba	NM	87013	289-9105
Maureen	Lincoln	37 Sage Hill Dr	Placitas	NM	87043	867-1531
Larry	Lippincott	6651 Isleta Blvd	Albuquerque	NM	?	877-3206
J Leonard	Loretto	PO Box 333	Jemez	NM	87024	834-7942
Rey	Lovato	PO Box 14	Pueblo	NM	87027	289-3417
Benny	Lucero	158 Mescalero NW	La Jara	NM	?	345-0047
David R.	Lucero		Albuquerque	NM	87107	345-2956
Luis	Lucero	1027 Solar NW	Albuquerque	NM	?	344-9766
Manuel	Lucero	212 San Andres NW	Albuquerque	NM	87024	829-3763
Maria B	Lucero	219 Los Luceros Rd	Jemez	NM	87024	829-3763
Steve M	Lucero	1219 Hwy 4	Pueblo	NM	87053	834-7431
Mike	McClannahan	349 Winter Rd	San Ysidro	NM	87025	829-3442
Sam	McDaniel	PO Box 164	Jemez	NM	87025	829-3442
Joanne	McEntire	1021 Silver Ave SW	Springs	NM	87053	834-7010
Susan	Minter	PO Box 287	San Ysidro	NM	87102	247-8348
Charlotte	Mitchell	3319 Hwy 485	Albuquerque	NM	87025	829-3912
Lynn	Montgomery	PO Box 612	Jemez	NM	87024	829-3799
Edna & Fred	Morales	PO Box 169	Pueblo	NM	87043	867-9580
Elmer	Morales	PO Box 583	Placitas	NM	87027	289-0226
Joaquin	Morales	PO Box 114	La Jara	NM	87013	289-3525
Frank A	Murphy	PO Box 1625	La Jara	NM	87027	289-3944
Peggy	Ohler	PO Box 250	Cuba	NM	87013	289-9147
Fidencio	Olivas	PO Box 1145	Cuba	NM	87013	289-3950
Edward	Oxley	PO Box 1777	Cuba	NM	87013	289-3753
Derek	Padilla	PO Box 150	Cuba	NM	87013	289-4222
Carol	Parker	57 Calle Sozanna	Jemez	NM	87025	829-3535
Charles	Pate	PO Box 2	Springs	NM	87501	473-0691, 665-8985
John	Peterson	PO Box 150	Jemez	NM	87025	829-3855
Cathy	Pierce	PO Box 79	Springs	NM	87025	829-3535
Peter M.	Pino	185 Capitol Sq Dr	Jemez	NM	87024	834-00no
			Pueblo	NM	87053	867-3304, 867-3308
			Zia Pueblo	NM	87053	867-3304, 867-3308

FIRST	LAST	ADDRESS	CITY	ST	ZIP	HOME F
Bob	Prendergast	11100 Richfield Ave NE	Albuquerque	NM	87522	857-9225
Bobby	Putt	PO Box 247	Cuba	NM	87013	289-3947
Joseph	Quintana	317 Commercial NE, Ste 104	Albuquerque	NM	87102	247-1750
Larry	Rodgers	1038 Hwy 485	Jemez Pueblo	NM	87024	834-1962
Roberto	Rodriguez	PO Box 130	Cuba	NM	87013	289-3264
Sophie	Salaz	PO Box 130	Cuba	NM	87013	289-3264
David	Sanchez	PO Box 893	Cuba	NM	87013	289-3809
Bryan	Sandoval	PO Box 2	Cuba	NM	87013	289-3468
Gilbert M	Sandoval	PO Box 61	Jemez Springs	NM	87025	829-3882
Sisto	Sandoval	PO Box 1	Cuba	NM	87013	289-3468
Frances & Herman	Santillanes	PO Box 1293	Cuba	NM	87013	289-9131
Esther	Smedley	2873 Hwy 485	Jemez Pueblo	NM	87024	829-3778
Sam	Smelser	PO Box 1284	Cuba	NM	87013	289-3810
Worth	Smelser	PO Box 1294	Cuba	NM	87013	289-0094
Richard	Spencer	PO Box 129	Mountainair	NM	87036	847-2941
Francisca	Spinivasan	117 Culebra Rd	Jemez Pueblo	NM	87024	829-3671
Keith	Stickford	PO Box 66	La Jara	NM	87027	289-9111
Tapio	Talvitie	666 Winter Rd	La Cueva	NM	87025	829-3943
Jill	Thomson	Rt Box	Ponderosa	NM	87044	No
NW	Tobey	PO Box 456	Bernalillo	NM	87004	834-7110
Ernest R.	Torrez	PO Box 4	La Jara	NM	87027	No
Mike	Trujillo	317 Commercial, Ste 104	Albuquerque	NM	87102	724-3623, 247-1750
Felicie & Jim	Truscio	77 Parkside Rd	Rio Rancho	NM	87174	891-1304
Jeanette	Wallace	1913 Spruce	Los Alamos	NM	87544	661-2575
Irene	Wanner	570 Vista Hermosa Rd	Jemez Pueblo	NM	87024	829-3357
Winona	Ward	PO Box 2276	Cuba	NM	87013	289-3166
Bob	Wessely	303 Camino de San Francisco	Placitas	NM	87043	867-326?
Diana & Terry	Wheeler	Box 2742	Globe	AZ	?	520-425-9683, 425- 3017
Fred	White	2873 Hwy 485	Jemez Pueblo	NM	87024	829-3778
Kathleen	Wiegner	PO Box 299	Jemez Springs	NM	87025	829-3488
Alice & Louis	Wiese	PO Box 147	Cuba	NM	87013	289-3851, 289-3208
Mike	Wirtz	161 D Calle Ojo Feliz	Santa Fe	NM	87505	983-9208
Marion	Woolf	Box 382	Cuba	NM	87013	289-0178
Total 125						