

# **Historical Archive F**

## **Working Team Reports**

**YEAR 2000 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE  
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND COMMUNICATION  
WORKING GROUP  
July 8, 2001 Draft**

The Public Participation and Communication Working Group (PPC) of the Action Committee maintained a busy schedule in the year 2000, meeting twice a month and sponsoring, along with the Middle Rio Grande Council of Governments, a series of community conversations in the three county planning region. The input received at those meetings provided the foundation for the regional water plan, and by year's end a mission statement, goals, and a draft set of water planning objectives had been drafted. The community conversations and other PPC activities in the year 2000 are summarized below.

**Assembly**

In the first three months of 2000 the PPC was largely occupied with organizing the fourth Middle Rio Grande Water Planning Assembly on March 25<sup>th</sup>. As in previous years, the UNM Master of Water Resources program served as the Water Assembly's on-campus sponsor and we received staff assistance from the Middle Rio Grande Council of Governments. Approximately 150 people attended the one day Assembly. The Assembly agenda included presentations on the framework of water supply in the middle valley, current and historical demand for water, and small group discussions on living within our water budget.

**Community Group Presentations**

In 1998, the PPC developed a traveling slide show presentation on water planning dubbed the "Road Show." Nearly thirty such presentations were conducted throughout the planning region in 1999. These presentations continued at a reduced pace in the first half of 2000, with presentations to the Los Pinos Acequia Association and at the Tijeras Water Fair. The Road Show also was revised, updated, and renamed the Water Picture Show. Other community outreach activities included an Earth Day booth at La Montanita Food Coop in April and an earth day booth at the New Mexico State Fair in September.

**Web Site**

The PPC got the Water Assembly's web site up and running in early 2000. The site includes general information on the Water Assembly, meeting notices, planning reports, and other pertinent information. Our hope is that the site will become a central point of contact for the Water Assembly and for input into the plan as it is developed. The site currently is undergoing revision to accomplish this objective.

**Community Conversations**

The major focus of the PPC's work in 2000 was organizing a series of "community conversations," public meetings that were designed to: 1) identify issues and problems in

local communities; 2) develop water planning goals and objectives; and 3) begin to identify preliminary alternatives for balancing supply and demand. Staff with the Middle Rio Grande Council of Governments provided invaluable assistance with organizing, advertising, and conducting these meetings.

The facilitated conversations consisted of three separate meetings held in each one of four different locations in the three county planning area. Following the conclusion of the first two meetings in the series, a regional forum was held at the Albuquerque Convention Center to consolidate planning goals and objectives. This meeting was held on November 4th.

The meetings were advertised by two separate mailings to the Water Assembly's 2,500 plus mailing list, by flyers, some electronic media coverage (KGGM-TV in particular, which included provided notice of the regional forum in conjunction with its airing of the documentary Middle Rio Grande water issues entitled *Hell or High Water*), and by a feature series of articles that ran over the course of several weeks in the Albuquerque Journal. Although participation in the meetings varied from the well-attended Valencia County meetings and Regional Forum to sparsely attended sessions held in December following the Forum, the PPC achieved its goal of alerting people to the existence of the regional planning process and to the need to address the problems presented by the region's Water Budget.

### **Newsletter**

The PPC produced two newsletters and sent out a special mailing of the Water Assembly's Water Budget. These mailings went to the Water Assembly's 2,500 plus mailing list. The PPC also produced a general information brochure for the Water Assembly.

### **Conclusion**

Despite very limited funding and no staff of our own to call on, the PPC last year accomplished its major objectives and completed all but one of the public participation requirements under the contract with the Interstate Stream Commission (although this requirement, which was to conduct focus groups, was later waived). As the planning process moves on to the difficult work of making the tradeoffs and choices that balancing the budget will require, however, additional efforts must be made to ensure broad public participation. For an informed and engaged public will be essential not only to crafting a plan that reflects the community's interests, but to adopting and implementing such a plan once it is developed.

## DRAFT PROGRESS REPORT OF ALTERNATIVES WORK GROUP

The Alternatives Work Group has the following progress to report:

- Working with 267 Proposed Alternative Actions, the Alternatives Work Group Combined Duplicates and Closely Related Alternative Actions
- Performed Initial Technical Feasibility Analysis - Alternatives Group and Analysis Team
- Developed Criteria for Measurement – Descriptors
- Developed a Scope of Work for Evaluation of the Alternative Actions. An RFP/SOW was issued by the COG on June 4 for this work.

Starting with 267 alternative actions, including 169 from Public Participation Meetings and 98 from Constituency Groups and Alts Work Group, the Alternatives Work Group combined duplicates and closely related actions into 42 Alternative Actions. Initially, the alternative actions were divided among eight categories: River/Bosque Management; Agricultural, Cultural and Historic Water Use; Urban Water Management; Watershed Management; Groundwater/Aquifer Management; Public Policy Actions; and Data Collection.

After the consolidation and deferral process, the resulting 42 alternative actions were divided among the following seven categories:

- Increase Water Supply
- Decrease or Regulate Water Demand
- Change Water Uses to Increase Supply or Decrease Demand
- Water Rights Regulation
- Water Quality Protection
- Implementation of Plan and Management of Water Resources
- Funding

The alternative actions will be characterized or described using the following criteria for measurement and then rated based of their attributes.

- Technical Feasibility
- Physical, Hydrological and Environmental Feasibility
- Policy Analysis
  - Economic Impacts
  - Socio-Cultural Impacts
  - Political Impacts
- Characteristics of Legal Implications, Issues and Solutions

The next steps in the evaluation process include: 1)\_Perform Feasibility and Impacts Analyses using Contracted Services with ISC Funds: 2) Perform Feasibility Ratings; and 3) Combine these Ratings with Public Preference Ratings

# MIDDLE RIO GRANDE WATER ASSEMBLY

## ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE TEAM

### ANNUAL REPORT – 2001 - 2002

In the past year the team has performed the following major tasks:

- Prepared the Middle Rio Grande Regional Water Plan Program Schedule
- Assisted other Water Assembly working teams in the preparation of Scopes of Work for contracts for Alternative Analysis, Facilitation of Public Meetings, Public Outreach Coordination, Technical Review, Editing and Compiling, and a Public Opinion Survey.
- Assisted MRCOG personnel in the preparation of Requests for Proposals for the foregoing work.
- Prepared the Scope of Work, the Sole Source Justification, the Memorandum of Negotiation, and awarded the contract for Facilitation of Community Conversations IV.
- Arranged the time for - and the location of - the meetings of the Executive Committee and the Action Committee.
- Prepared the agenda for the meetings of the Executive Committee and the Action Committee.
- Prepared official Policies and Procedures for the conduct of the Water Assembly.
- Prepared the Water Assembly Operating Budget.
- Negotiated and awarded a contract for Development of the Water Assembly Website.
- Maintained and modified the Water Assembly website and provided content to the webpages.
- Prepared a financial assistance grant request to the Turner Foundation.
- Contributed to the operation of the Cooperative Modeling Team

As with the administration and finance function of any organization, numerous other day-to-day tasks incidental to the operation of the Water Assembly were performed.

Bob Prendergast, Chair  
Administration and Finance Team  
October 16, 2002

# MIDDLE RIO GRANDE WATER ASSEMBLY

## ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE TEAM

### ANNUAL REPORT 2002 - 2003

It is the nature of the Administration and Finance Team – as in any organization - to be responsible for the performance of numerous day-to-day tasks incidental to the operation of the Water Assembly. The performance of major individual tasks is comparatively infrequent.

Nevertheless, In the past year the team has performed the following major tasks:

- Revised the Middle Rio Grande Regional Water Plan Program Plan and prepared derivative schedules.
- Arranged the time for - and the location of - the meetings of the Executive Committee and the Action Committee.
- Prepared the agenda for the meetings of the Executive Committee and the Action Committee.
- Prepared official Policies and Procedures for the conduct of the Water Assembly.
- Prepared the Water Assembly Operating Budget.
- Maintained and modified the Water Assembly website and provided content to the webpages.
- Contributed to the operation of the Cooperative Modeling Team

**Bob Prendergast, Chair**  
**Administration and Finance Team**

The Analysis Team was originally convened in February 2002, at the request of Action Committee Chair Bob Wessely, to examine challenges to the Water Balancing Spreadsheet. The Team was asked to examine the bases for the numbers in the Spreadsheet and report back to the Action Committee, and to address other technical issues related to the water plan as they arise.

The Analysis Team consists of the following original members: Lee Brown, Howard Stone, Frank Robinson, Sterling Grogan, Howard Passell, Brian Burnett, Bob Wessely, Mike Kernodle, Michelle Henrie, Elaine Hebard, Marty Mitchel, Frank Titus, Mike McGovern, Corinne Brooks, Janet Jarratt, Ed Payne, Glenn Young, Scott Hak, Gary Stansifer, and Suzanne Mills. Other individuals, notably Steve Hansen, have contributed significantly to the work of the Team. Not all Team members have attended all meetings. Most Team conclusions and recommendations have resulted from a consensus of those present at Team meetings. In some cases, Team products have been the result of the work of a subset of Team members.

Since its inception, the Analysis Team has met approximately 25 times to evaluate, discuss, and make recommendations on the following technical issues.

1. Challenges to the numbers in the Water Balancing Spreadsheet: After many meetings of the Team, on July 17, 2002, the Team presented its report to the Action Committee. The report recommended changes in the spreadsheet, which were the subject of many subsequent Team meetings.
2. Elephant Butte evaporation: After two meetings of the Team, on March 12, 2003, the Analysis Team presented to the Action Committee an analysis by Dr. Frank Titus proposing a strategy for dividing the evaporation at Elephant Butte reservoir between the Middle Rio Grande and Socorro/Sierra regional water plans.
3. Evaluation of Alternative Actions: Following discussions via email and work outside of meetings, on March 19, 2003, the Team provided to the Action Committee reviews of the urban conservation, urban water pricing, agriculture, and growth management alternatives.
4. Bosque acreage: After one meeting and some work outside the meeting, the size of the riparian forest (bosque), 23,000 acres, was reported to the Action Committee on April 28, 2003.
5. Consumptive Use by jurisdiction: As of the date of this report, the Team is compiling a spreadsheet to depict consumptive use by political jurisdiction.