

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

Attendees:

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

Call To Order/Introductions:

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

Minute Approval:

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

Regional Water Plan Update- by Joanne Hilton:

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

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

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

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