

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

## **Attendees:**

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

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

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

## **Minute Approval:**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Membership Attendance Report:**

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

**Request for Documents:**

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

**Public and Membership Input:**

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

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