

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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