

**GRANT COUNTY ECO WATERSHED PLANNING GROUP
FEBRUARY 17, 2015 MEETING**

SUMMARY MINUTES BY VICKY ESTRADA

Membership and Organization

Due to postponement of confirmation by County Commissioners at their previous meeting, this topic was tabled until next meeting.

Partnership Video Highlights/Partnership Ground Rules

Some planning group participants had been able to download and watch, while others were not able to link to the video. Vicky distributed a handout that summarized partnership video highlights. She went over common qualities identified by partners in the video that contributed to successful partnerships (See Appendix A).

Presentation of Projects Within Priority Project Area by Land Management Agencies

Vicky reviewed the long-term goals of group identified early in process - improvement of watershed health within Grant County through increased collaboration across landownerships in order to inform and engage more partners in the prevention of watershed scale catastrophic events, and increase the amount of on-the-ground treatment to improve watershed condition.

Vicky Estrada reviewed the map displayed that showed the watershed priority boundary and land ownership. Various land management agency representatives pointed out the past, current, and future planned projects already identified on the map within priority project area boundary. Representatives included Diane Taliaferro (USFS), Tonya Vowles (State Forestry), Gabriel Ramos (County)

Review of Criteria for Selection of Project Areas within Project Priority Area

Vicky briefly reviewed for new participants the group exercise to determine what criteria each participants used to identify watershed-based priority project areas. She also explained the various criteria for determining Project Priority area within Grant County.

Potential Partners and Stakeholders List by Thematic Area

Vicky passed out a handout that reflected the work done by the group at the previous meeting in identifying potential areas of collaboration by partners and stakeholders by thematic areas previously identified by the group as the broad categories where collaboration could advance watershed health within the county. Thematic categories include: 1) Emergency Preparedness and Response, 2) Education and Outreach, 3) On-The-Ground Practices, and 4) Economic Development. See Appendix B handout.

Meeting Participants Included:

Denisha Lucero	Tonya Vowles	Diane Taliaferro
Gerald Schultz	Jeanne Mondragon	Martha Schumann
Glenn Griffin	Gilbert Helton	Vicky Estrada
Cody Robertson	Leroy Holguin	
Mick Deubel	Fabian Montano	
Monte Topmilleer	Ray Torres	

Partnership Video Highlights

2/17/2015

Successful Partnerships:

- put common interests in front of position
- strength of each agency/organization brought together

Agencies Should:

- coordinate internal agency effort
- assess climate in own organization- limitations and capabilities

Multi-agency Partnerships Should:

- coordinate message that resonates with community
- help community members understand their role
- coordinate planning strategy
- understanding issues and what partners most value
- involve important local leaders to motivate and get communities involved
- help develop infrastructure of industry in place as part of partnership
- build relationships with those that have stake in the outcome-let everyone air their concerns
- build on relationships and the connections they already have established within the communities

Important to Remember:

- ideas spring up from many sources
- collective group should formulate ideas and identify concerns
- focus on what people value and not their positions
- establish discussion around goals not specific tools or objectives
- build on communication and trust
- think long term – each project builds on previous projects and each commitment builds on previous commitment
- partnerships should outlast individuals within agencies
- agency objectives can be part of agenda but agencies do not need to set agenda
- overlapping values can be gateway to agreement
- agencies can help communities understand and accept risk involved in decisions. Field visits and demonstration site visits, in addition to community meetings, can be very helpful to understanding risks

Appendix B

Feb. 17, 2015

Potential Partners and Stakeholders By Thematic Area:

Emergency Preparedness and Response

Grant County Planning Department
Community Government Representatives
Local Fire Department Representatives
Public Utilities of New Mexico (PNM)
New Mexico Gas Company

Education and Outreach

Silver City Office of Sustainability
Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)
New Mexico Department of Game and Fish
(NMG&F)
Homeowners/Neighborhood Association
Representatives
Grant Soil and Water Conservation District
(SWCD)
Gila Resources Information Project (GRIP)
Center for Biodiversity (CBD)
Home Owners Insurance Companies (Farmers,
State Farm, Progressive, Geico)
Audobon Society
New Mexico Forest Industry Association (NMFIA)
Wellness Coalition
Mule Deer Foundation Ducks Unlimited
Aldo Leopold Charter School
Public and Charter Schools Within Grant County
Western New Mexico University (WNMU)
The Nature Conservancy (TNC)

On-the-Ground Practices

Stream Dynamics
Upper Gila Watershed Alliance (UGWA)
New Mexico Environmental Department (NMED)
Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)
Freeport (Mining)
New Mexico Department of Game and Fish
(NMG&F)
Grant Soil and Water Conservation District
(SWCD) Grant County Cattle growers
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation

On-the-Ground Practices (cont.)

Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
USDA Forest Service
State Forestry
Alternative Forestry
Southwest Solutions
Gila Tree Thinners Trout Unlimited
National Wild Turkey Federation New Mexico
Forest and Watershed Restoration Institute
(NMFWRI)

Economic Development

Freeport (Mining)
Grant County Cattlegrowers
Home Owners Insurance Companies (Farmers,
State Farm, Progressive, Geico)
Gila WoodNet
Restoration Technologies
Southwest Solid Waste Authority
New Mexico Department of Transportation
New Mexico Economic Development Department
New Mexico Community Businesses (Need
Specific Names)

Grant Conservation Education Center (GCEC) -
eliminated, as no longer in existence