

**GRANT COUNTY ECO WATERSHED PLANNING GROUP
MAY 19, 2015 MEETING**

SUMMARY MINUTES BY VICKY ESTRADA

Pinos Altos/Silver City Focus Area –Potential Partnerships

Various individuals within the planning group and beyond the planning group, that have interest in the vegetation treatments within this focus area, were invited to this meeting to share the activities they have on-going as well as identify other potential partners they would like to collaborate with to further advance their activities and interests.

Gabe Ramos outlined work that Grant County is developing with Western New Mexico University (WNMU) on education and training. The university and county are working to involve students in evaluating wui areas in community to help local residents know what thinning activities need to occur to reduce fire risk to dwellings. Additionally, the County, WNMU and the City are working on developing a curriculum on fire training to provide a means for local fire fighters to transition to professional fire fighting careers with the various natural resource agencies.

Jeremiah Garcia spoke about the natural gases that can fuel a fire and how we should have emergency preparedness. He would also like to know once the Water Plan is put together how often the plan will be updated.

Lucy Whitmarsh, neighborhood association representative and advocate of fire-wise community program spoke about the fire prevention training and the modifier situations.

Fabian Montano of the US Forest Service explained the “Mock Fires.” He explains how they would like for people to back up the forest on NEPA projects and help get treatments in certain areas.

Diane Taliaferro, Silver City District, USFS District Ranger, informed the Eco Watershed group about pre-assessment meetings underway to get ready for fire season and on-going efforts to engage the public. She also informed the Eco Watershed group of the various fuels reduction projects planned including a proposed prescribed burn in the Pinos Altos area.

Nick Sussillo, Silver City Fire Department representative, informed the Eco Watershed group about the nine Geographic Target Areas within the Silver City CWPP. He also spoke about the Official National Fire Protection and suggested that the County formally participant in the completion of the Silver City CWPP.

Tonya Vowels, State Forestry representative, outlined State Forestry interest in doing more treatments in Pinos Altos when funds were available in addition to presenting fuels reduction

treatment options to local residence and training Volunteer Fire Departments members to do fire risk assessments within their districts.

Interstate Stream Commission Update

Martha Cooper informed the Eco Watershed group that the Water Plan in the four corner area is complete. She explained how programs, policies and project are good to have in the Water Plan for funding. She said that the opportunity to apply for funding is once priority is established.

Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP)

Ralph Pope reviewed timeline for finalizing the CWPP (final by July). He highlighted his main concern of how the CWPP, once complete, could be accessed by the public. The hope is that the CWPP will serve as a living document and will be updated as needed with annual tracking occurring to update information on project status (completed vs current vs planned). He asked that the Eco-Watershed Planning Group take a role in reviewing and updating the CWPP. No decision on role of planning group was decided during this meeting beyond active support as many members in planning group also participated in the update process of this CWPP from 2009.

All About Watersheds Website

Vicky reviewed the list of maps and minutes that are on the all about watersheds website and how to access the site. At the Counties request along with agreement of Eco-Watershed Planning Group, final maps and summary meeting minutes will be put on the All About Watersheds website under Grant County Eco-Watershed Planning Group in the public folder. Vicky reviewed with the group how to navigate on the computer to get to this folder.

Meeting Participants Included:

Denisha Lucero
Gabriel Ramos
Lucy Whitmarsh
Tonya Vowles
Martha Cooper
Nick Sussillo
Gerald Schultz
Jeremiah Garcia
Mick Deubel
Cody Robertson
Fabian Montano
Ralph Pope
Randy Villa
Diane Taliaferro
Vicky Estrada