

**AS ALWAYS, YOUR PARTICIPATION AND SUGGESTIONS ARE WELCOME.**

**Meeting Notes-NM Environmental Flows Workshop Planning Group**

November 19, 2009 at TetraTech Santa Fe office

Attending: Shann Stringer, Paul Tasjian, Steve Harris, Craig Roepke, Adrian Oglesby (by phone). Absent, sending regrets: Susan Rich, Sandra Postel, Susan Kelly, Leann Leith, Stephanie Carman, Alan Hamilton, Howard Hutchinson.

**1. Suggestions for possible E-Flows Study Methodology** (strawman to present to March 15, 2010 workshop): Select river gauges representing key sections of mainstem rivers, TNC (or partners) engage contractor to run Index of Hydraulic Alteration analysis (percentage alteration);

Compare results with segments/sites at risk as suggested by such sources as: 303 (d) list impaired waters, NMDGF species of concern, watershed conditions (EMNR), water shortage data, incl. groundwater (OSE). Agricultural data (NMDA)? “Riparian Wetland Vegetative Communities” (NM Natural Heritage)? Represent as various GIS maps.

The results of this approach would be inferential, not directly connecting flow regimes to agro-ecological conditions.

Advantages: manageable costs, accuracy at broad-scale?

Add gauges from lower order streams, such as Black River, Rio Chama, Santa Fe River?

Establish working group to explore data sources?

**2. Development of Workshop Agenda**

- “Making E-Flow Determinations: State of the Science”- Tom Annear, Wyoming Game and Fish Department. *Annear is not invested in particular methodologies, has presented overview survey at other conferences.*
- PANEL: “Streamflow Protection in Other States: Texas and Colorado case studies”

Texas: Kevin Mayes or Mark Wenzel, TX Parks and Wildlife; Water Development Board and Thomas Hardy, Texas State University.

Colorado: Amy Beattie, CO Water Trust; Colorado Water Conservation Board. *Two presenters from each state, one on organizational/political evolution and one on current state of the program.*

- PANEL: “NM E-Flow Projects”-Adrian Oglesby, Nature Conservancy on San Juan and Pecos endangered species flow management; Picuris or other Pueblo on narrative WQ flow standards; Brian Hansen on Rio Chama IFIM (1988); Brian Lang, NMGF on Apache Springs/Alamosa Creek protection. ?Steve Hansen, Reclamation, MRG?
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- PANEL: “River Management Priorities: Water User Perspectives”-Tribal, Ag Producer Municipal Utility, Irrigation District. Suggested presenters: Lawrence Gutierrez, Sandia Pueblo; Janet Jarratt, dairy producer; Claudia Borchert, City of Santa Fe; Steven Hernandez, EBID/CID. *Speakers would explore risks and benefits of managing streamflows from various points of view.*
- BREAKOUTS: “Designing a Reconnaissance Study”. *Discover data availability and gaps; Next Steps-Science Panel/Law and Public Policy Panel.*

### 3. Invitation to Participate

- Work with Utton Center on guest list- especially, stakeholders, policy-makers, tribes.
- Sponsorship: Water Cabinet Agencies? TNC, Trout Unlimited, Wildlife Federation? Farm Bureau? Federal??
- Design, print, mail by early January.

### 4. Further Discussion

- Reluctance on part of agencies to participate more fully: perhaps this effort is still viewed as “greens only”, needs ag and muni representation on planning committee. Recommend further outreach to administrators.
- Geomorphic data- are these well-enough developed to use in report?
- Species richness data?
- Water rights effects? Workshop should emphasize management, not legal, issues.
- GIS capability- to produce study report. Who?

- Publish relevant papers to EMNRD's "All About Watersheds" website (an e-flows forum). The link to Forest and Watershed site: <http://allaboutwatersheds.org/groups/EFWG>.

All should visit, consider registering.

#### ACTION ITEMS:

- Recruit Texas Presenters-Steve, Shann
- Recruit Colorado Presenters-Steve
- Contact Tom Fitzhugh, IHA practitioner-Adrian
- Contact Brian Lang, NMGF-Paul T.
- Post ISF papers on watershed website-Shann
- Tribal outreach-Adrian, Steve Harris
- Geomorph data-Paul

NEXT MEETING: Early-mid December at TetraTech. Steve will "Doodle" this list for best time and announce result to list.