**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

**Appendix A**

**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**

**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

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**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