

Paso del Norte Watershed Council Work Plan 2020-2024 (Updated March 2020)

Goal A. Promote and implement watershed planning & management.			
Objective	Action	Agency partners	Project Participants
1. Compile existing information about natural resources.	a. Continue to develop & and maintain the coordinated database/GIS	EPWU/USACE/USBR/TAMU/ NMWRR/ SCNMSM Coalition	Brown, Sheng, Environmental Committee in Coordination with Technical Committee
	b. Integrate hydrological modeling data into the database and GIS	USACE/USBR /TAMU/ NMWRR/ EBID/EPCWI D#1/HCCRD# 1	Brown, Sheng, King
	c. Develop layers reflecting biological information into the coordinated database	USFWS/ USEPA/USBL M/USIBWC/ SWEC/USBR	Environmental and in Coordination with Technical Committee
2. Identify and address water quality issues within the Paso del Norte Watershed.	a. Rio Grande salinity monitoring since Water quality variation in the Elephant Butte Reservoir impacts the sustainability of water supply downstream	USEPA/EPWU/ TAMU/UTEP/ NMWRR/ TCEQ/NMED	Sheng, King, Environmental Committee
	b. Maintain a water quality database link to the Texas Clean Rivers Program, USIBWC monitoring, and efforts of NMED, TCEQ, and PROFEPA in Mexico	USIBWC/EPWU/USEPA/ NMED/TCEQ/ USACE/PROF EPA	Brown, Sheng, King, Keyes, Grijalva Support from Technical Committee
	c. Implement recommendations from the 319(h) Lower Rio Grande Watershed Based Plan to address the <i>E. coli</i> impairment in the southern NM portion of Rio Grande	NMED/EBID/NMSU	Environmental Committee Support from Technical Committee
	d. Investigate, plan, and assist development of constructed wetlands	USBR/TAMU/ NMSU/UTEP/ EBID/SWEC	Sheng, Environmental Committee
3. Develop modeling tools for Watershed planning and management.	a. Continue to develop Riverware model for flood control and water operations planning*	USACE/USBR /MISC/TAMU/ NMWRR/EBI D/EP#1	Sheng, King, Keyes, Cortez Support from URGWOM Tech Team
	b. Assess water availability and climate variability,	USGS/USBR/ TAMU/NMSU/	Sheng, King, Keyes,

	weather modification	UTEP	
	c. Develop a watershed model to simulate sources and transport of major ions contributing to salinity (sodium, chlorides, sulfates) of the Rio Grande; URGWOM water quality assessment/modeling	USEPA/NMED/USBR/EBID/EP#1/EPWU/USACE	Sheng, King, Keyes, Technical Committee
	d. Review FLO-2D Model and its applications for flood risk assessment and storm water management	DAC/CLC/EPWU/USIBWC/USACE/TAMU/NMWRR/USBR/SCNMSM Coalition	Sheng, King, Keyes Technical Committee
4. Provide input to sponsors of activities that affect the Watershed and make recommendations for watershed planning and management.	a. Identify the Council's role in current legislative efforts to improve the Watershed	Congressional delegates and state legislatures	ALL
	b. Research watershed groups in New Mexico, the Southwest, and others in the U.S.	USEPA/NMED/TCEQ	ALL
	c. URGWOM technical review	USACE/TAMU / NMWRR/USIBWC/USBR	Keyes, Sheng, Brown
	d. Provide technical input to the Rio Grande Canalization (ROD) and Rectification restoration projects, monitor implementation, and assist with additional studies and investigations for flood protection, and riparian health monitoring*	USIBWC/USACE	Technical Committee and Environmental Committee

Goal B. Support restoration and enhancement projects in the Watershed.

Objective	Action	Agency partners	Project Participants
1. Promote Watershed restoration and enhancement ideas. Prioritize projects and make recommendations when needed to support efforts to replenish the riparian health of the Rio Grande.	a. Implement 319(h) Lower Rio Grande Watershed Based Plan BMP recommendations	NMED	Environmental Committee, 319(h) stakeholders
	b. Review and enhance existing portfolios of large and small-scale restoration projects, such as USIBWC ROD -projects, Hope for a Living River, etc	USIBWC/SWE C/EBID	Environmental Committee
	c. Assist with coordinating stakeholders, funding sources, and potential	ALL	Environmental Committee, 319(h) stakeholders

	projects		
	d. Develop 'Integrated River Restoration Plan'	USBR/ USIBWC/UTEP	Environmental Committee
	e. Participate in other stakeholder groups and watershed efforts working on restoration, such as USBWC ROD <u>Implementation group</u> <u>Rio Grande Citizens Forums</u> , Landscape Conservation Cooperatives and Basin Studies	ALL	ALL
2. Provide oversight, analysis, and reviews for restoration and mitigation actions at the Federal, state, academic and local levels; with an emphasis on sustainable long-term rehabilitation of the Rio Grande corridor.	a. Continue <u>to</u> review the <u>revisions to</u> USBWC's River Management Plan	USBR/ USIBWC	Environmental Committee
	b. Analyze relationships between current restoration activities in the historic floodplain of the Rio Grande utilizing restoration project portfolio (see Goal B, objective 1, action b)		Environmental Committee
	c. Create an inventory of all areas that have potential for restoration along the Rio Grande*.	USBR/ USIBWC	Environmental Committee, Technical Committee

Goal C. Facilitate communication, education, and outreach among stakeholders and within the Council.

Objective	Action	Agency partners	Project Participants
1. Provide opportunities for improving communication among Council members.	a. Include informational updates at Council meetings and by email distribution	ALL	Executive Committee and Committee chairs
2. Provide opportunities for improving communication among Watershed stakeholders.	a. Continue to recruit representatives from the agricultural, NGO communities, and other potential stakeholders	ALL	ALL
	b. Maintain Council website to provide information and enhance understanding on	ALL	Website Committee

	Council activities*		
3. Provide education and outreach to the public and to Council members.	a. Maintain current 319(h) water quality fact sheets on Council website	NMDA/NMED/TCEQ/USIBW C	Environmental Committee, Website Committee
	b. Support TAMU Drought Watch and USBR Monthly Drought publications	TAMU/USBR/NMDA	Sheng
	c. Update on drought contingency management plans	EBID/NMOSE/TWDB	Libbin, Sheng
	d. Conduct and participate in outreach events such as work sessions, conferences, and other watershed health-related events.	ALL	ALL
4. Provide opportunities for improving communication with watershed groups outside the region.	a. Develop new materials and revise existing materials for dissemination	ALL	ALL
Goal D. Seek and obtain funding to attain the above goals and objectives.			
Objective	Action	Agency partners	Project Participants
1. Identify potential funding sources.	a. Maintain membership on listserv and distribute information related to available funding	Partners will vary	ALL
2. Provide assistance in developing proposals.	a. Develop proposals including project vetting and a sufficient review process	Partners will vary	Committees
3. Coordinate with agencies to secure or leverage funding.		Partners will vary	PdNWC Executive Committee