

NEW MEXICO RIPARIAN COUNCIL
MAY 20, 2009
DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

Call to Order

President Debbie Risberg called the meeting, followed by a round of introductions.

Members in Attendance

Other New Mexican Riparian Council (“NMRC”) members present were Scott Armstrong (Treasurer), Steve Vrooman, Stephen Bohannon, Ann Watson, Nina Wells, Rich Schrader, and Roy Jemison.

Guests in attendance were Anita Walsh (Corrales activist) and Professor Peter Stacey (UNM).

Agenda

The agenda was reviewed and approved with minor changes to the order of presentations.

Membership Campaign

The group again discussed the need to identify and recruit new NMRC members and a new President-Elect. A preference that our President-Elect be selected from existing NMRC members was voiced; we agreed that sending a letter to the existing membership list to request nominations for the vacant President-Elect position and provide an NMRC update is the appropriate next step in our search.

Rapid Assessment of Stream and Riparian Ecosystems

Peter Stacey provided an overview of the technique he has helped develop for rapid assessment of riverine and riparian ecosystem health, often referred to as Rapid Stream-Riparian Assessment (“RSRA”). It is his hope that NMRC will help to obtain funding for RSRA trainings.

Professor Stacey gave an overview of the evolution of techniques for assessing riverine and riparian ecosystems. The team that developed the RSRA (organized by the Wild Utah Project) focused on techniques that will help manage entire ecosystems while also facilitating compliance with legal mandates. Therefore, the RSRA is intended to gauge the ability of ecosystems to fulfill desired functions and conditions. It also serves to provide guidance for future restoration efforts.

RSRA has been designed to be repeatable and not dependent on the involvement of highly experienced scientists. It analyzes five elements of ecosystem function: water quality, hydrology/geomorphology, aquatic habitat, terrestrial habitat, and riparian vegetation health. Professor Stacey discussed how these elements are analyzed, the scoring system and the data review process.

Professor Stacey invited NMRC members to participate in a RSRA training in the Jemez Mountains, June 13-15. See http://www.apnm.org/mailbox/may7_09.html for more information.

The RSRA User's Guide may be viewed at http://quiviracoalition.org/images/pdfs/1681-Rapid_Assessment_Users_Guide.pdf

Corrales Bosque Management

Anita Walsh, a resident of Corrales, spoke with the NMRC about the current impacts to the Corrales Bosque from road and heavy equipment use. Although there is a Corrales Bosque Advisory Commission, the current work occurring in the Bosque appears to lack coordination among the multiple agencies involved. Mrs. Walsh emphasized the need for a central oversight entity.

Treasurer's Report

Scott provided the Treasurer's report including an update on payment to Riversource for its work on Watershed Wiser.

Department of Transportation

We again discussed impacts from Department of Transportation activities, including paving occurring near Santo Domingo.

Webpage

We discussed updates to the NMRC webpage, which you can review at <http://www.ripariancouncil.org/>.

Next Meeting

10am, Thursday, July 16th at Bohannon Huston (7500 Jefferson NE).