

NEW MEXICO RIPARIAN COUNCIL  
OCTOBER 8, 2009  
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), Bill Zeedyk, Stephen Bohannon, Nina Wells, Rich Schrader, Roy Jemison, and Adrian Oglesby (Secretary).

Agenda & Previous Meeting Minutes

The agenda was reviewed and approved with minor changes.  
The minutes of the previous NMRC meeting were approved.

Treasurer’s Report

Scott provided the Treasurer’s report including an update on payment for our post office box.

NMRC 2010 Goals and Objectives

Past NMRC activities and plans for NMRC’s future were discussed at length. The Arizona and NMRC’s historic activities were oriented towards educating the public about the loss of riparian ecosystems in the Southwest. Recognizing this function has largely been fulfilled requires that NMRC refine its mission and role. We discussed the need for our educational focus to shift towards new science and techniques related to riparian conservation. The group also discussed the value of service projects and potential benefits of partnering with other organizations.

The group talked about the capacity of members to commit to NMRC projects and activities. It is clear that currently active NMRC members are generally overburdened already and are not in a position to take on significant new responsibilities. The group took a look at the structure of the Arizona Riparian Council (“AZRC”) for inspiration. The AZRC holds an annual technical meeting (generally a retreat) and has four standing committees to manage the following issues: Activities (workshops, trainings and social events), Conservation, Education, and Policy.

We discussed that eventually the NMRC could become a source of information about the increasing variety of riparian conservation practitioners, possibly providing information about ongoing projects, funding sources, techniques and science, and stakeholder groups through our website or newsletter.

Recognizing the current lack of NMRC member capacity and the pressing need to foster the comradery and enthusiasm of NMRC members, the Board passed a motion adopting the following goals for 2010:

- 1) Three of the NMRC's four meetings in 2010 shall be field trips to visit significant riparian conservation projects;
- 2) NMRC will begin to compile information about ongoing riparian restoration projects in New Mexico;
- 3) NMRC will continue its tradition of presenting awards to leaders in riparian conservation;
- 4) NMRC will engage in a membership drive, including attempts to gain attention through other organizations' publications and newsletters.

In an effort to begin achieving the 2010 goals the following commitments were made: Nina and Adrian will attempt to develop a preliminary database of riparian conservation projects by the NMRC January 2010 meeting. This database will serve as a menu of possible venues for the three NMRC field trips in 2010. They will circulate a format for the project descriptions before the January meeting.

Scott will draft a dues request letter to the NMRC general membership describing our activities this year (funding Waterwiser) and our plans for 2010.

Debbie has graciously agreed to continue her tenure as NMRC President through 2010 to help us reach these goals.

#### Next Meeting

The next meeting of the NMRC will take place from 10am to noon on Thursday, January 21<sup>st</sup> at The Nature Conservancy office in Santa Fe.

TNC is located in the Radio Building, located at 212 E. Marcy St., two blocks east of the Santa Fe Library, one block west of Paseo de Peralta. There is free parking in the lot behind the building, which can be identified by the large radio/cell tower on its roof.

#### Notable Events

All NMRC members are strongly encouraged to attend the Quivira Coalition's Water Symposium on November 4<sup>th</sup> to support Bill and Van Clothier as they release their new book Let the Water do the Work: Healing Incised Channels with Induced Meandering. You can register for the Water Symposium for a mere \$45 at:

[http://www.quiviracoalition.org/Annual\\_Conference/index.html](http://www.quiviracoalition.org/Annual_Conference/index.html).