

*Pecos River Ecosystem Advisory Committee  
Minutes for the Meeting of July 21, 2005*

*Monahans Convention Center  
400 East 4<sup>th</sup> Street  
Monahans, Texas*

**Attendance:**

Cindy Breiten	Upper Pecos SWCD #213
Michael McCulloch	Pecos County WID #3
Charles Hart	Texas Cooperative Extension
Calvin Gerke	Upper Pecos SWCD #213 and Ward County WID #1
Will Hatler	Texas Cooperative Extension
Ronnie Cooper	Pecos County WID #3
Arnold Braden	Upper Pecos SWCD #213
Bill Thompson	Texas Cooperative Extension
Mark Muegge	Texas Cooperative Extension
Darrel Brown	For Texas Senate
Philip Dickerson	Texas Parks and Wildlife
J. W. Thrasher	Pecos River Compact Commission
Doug & Bertha Howell	Concerned Citizens
John I Carr	Ward County WID #3

Available for the meeting are copies of the agenda, the financial statement and the minutes from the June meeting.

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Charles Hart.

Dr. Hart introduced Darrell Brown. Mr. Brown is running for the Texas State Senate and is aware and concerned about what is going on in West Texas. He is interested in the status of the Pecos River Ecosystem Project and was here today to make this group aware of that. He is also interested in the workshop that Pecos County is hosting on August 23rd in Ft. Stockton and has plans to attend.

- **Burn Report**

Bill Davis is not in attendance today because of the forest fires. Also discussed was the fact that since Tom Nance is no longer employed by Ward County WID #1, who could be Bill's contact when he gets ready to burn the test plot. Calvin Gerke will be that contact for now.

- **Clean Rivers Program – Red Bluff Continuous Monitoring Station (s)**

The monitoring equipment for this site has been purchased and Cory and USGS will be scouting for the location of this site on August 10<sup>th</sup>. Ronnie Cooper will be assisting. The project is moving right along on the installation of this continuous monitoring station above Red Bluff which will measure herbicides, fertilizer, salinity, water quality etc. and the results will be on the website on a continuous basis. A more detailed report will be available for the next meeting.

- **Pecos River Basin Assessment Program**

The assessment survey is complete and the results are in. The website access for the results is not quite ready yet, however. 80% of the people that responded were landowners and a lot of information was received in the comments section of the survey. There will be additional results after the surveys are received that were sent with the workshop invitations. There will be another survey released in the near future and suggestions are welcome.

- **Carlsbad Project Vegetation Management Program Meeting**

This meeting will be held on September 20 and 21<sup>st</sup> in Carlsbad, New Mexico. The committee discussed who may be able to attend and Mr. McCulloch expressed interest in attending. Further plans will also be discussed at our next meeting in August.

- **Pecos River Ecosystem Project Workshop – Pecos County-August 23, 2005**

The letters and invitations have been sent. Several different experts and field representatives will be available and we are anticipating a good attendance. Cindy Breiten will coordinate with Judge Shuster on the RSVPs. Charlie Hart is going to see about having a North Star Helicopter representative attend. This goal of this workshop is to gain support from all of the counties along the river. The County Judges could provide valuable support letters, lobbying, and possible funding to the project. Improving communications is the key.

- **EPA Grant Update**

A letter from Senator Cornyn was received regarding support for our nomination of the EPA Grant application. Michael McCulloch reviewed this letter with the committee. The grant proposal application can be accessed through the website <http://pecosbasin.tamu.edu>. We should find out if our application will advance to the next step in September. Larry Brown continues to work on the long range plan and will obtain further information after the workshop. He also has been making contacts and doing research regarding other grant opportunities, but before any further action is taken, we need to find out about the outcome of the EPA Grant application.

- **Biological Control**

Mark Muegge is the representative of the Texas Cooperative Extension in charge of the biological control project and is here today to update the committee on the status of the biological control testing. The beetles in the Ft. Stockton test plot defoliated the plants, but were recently wiped out by predators; therefore, additional beetles will be obtained. The research objectives are to determine the most effective and efficient procedures for establishing the salt cedar leaf beetle and the effect and the establishment of the salt cedar beetle on the salt cedar re-growth. The research procedures involve selecting sites along the Pecos River with re-growth and seedlings and to establish the cage populations. There are two release methods which are sleeve bags and cages. The site measurements will be for soil texture, salt cedar density, vegetation diversity and predatory insects. The off-site measurements will consist of running transects along the river bank, to establish permanent sentinel trees, and estimating defoliation.

- **Michael McCulloch – Plan for Irrigation System**

Dr. McCulloch has contacted BOR to check into assisting with planning an irrigation system. He has spoken with Chris Gorbach and he has agreed to meet with the committee regarding this issue. Dr. McCulloch believes that would also be a beneficial project for the Pecos River as well. Discussion was held on whether a program of this type would go through this committee or the irrigation districts. Comments and feedback are needed and also support from Red Bluff. There was a study done in 1990 that was about improving the irrigation systems. This project will need to be a part of our long term plan; therefore, Larry Brown will need to be involved.

- **Financial Report by Cindy Breiten**

The report was available and was discussed. The report will be forwarded to the water districts that did not have a representative present at the meeting. Nothing had changed from last month's report. The first Upper Pecos meeting in August, Larry Brown will need a payment of \$1,500.00. Anyone that is interested in obtaining a copy of this report may contact Cindy Breiten at [upperpecos213@hotmail.com](mailto:upperpecos213@hotmail.com).

J. W. Thrasher discussed with the committee - water, irrigation, reservoirs, available water and the fact that Malaga Bend is shut down.

The next meeting will be August 18, 2005 at 1:00 PM at the Monahans Convention Center in Monahans, Texas. Anyone that is interested in the Pecos River Ecosystem Project is encouraged to attend. The Advisory Committee meets on a monthly basis the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month.

The meeting was adjourned.

Minutes prepared by Cindy Breiten

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