

The Paso del Norte Watershed Council

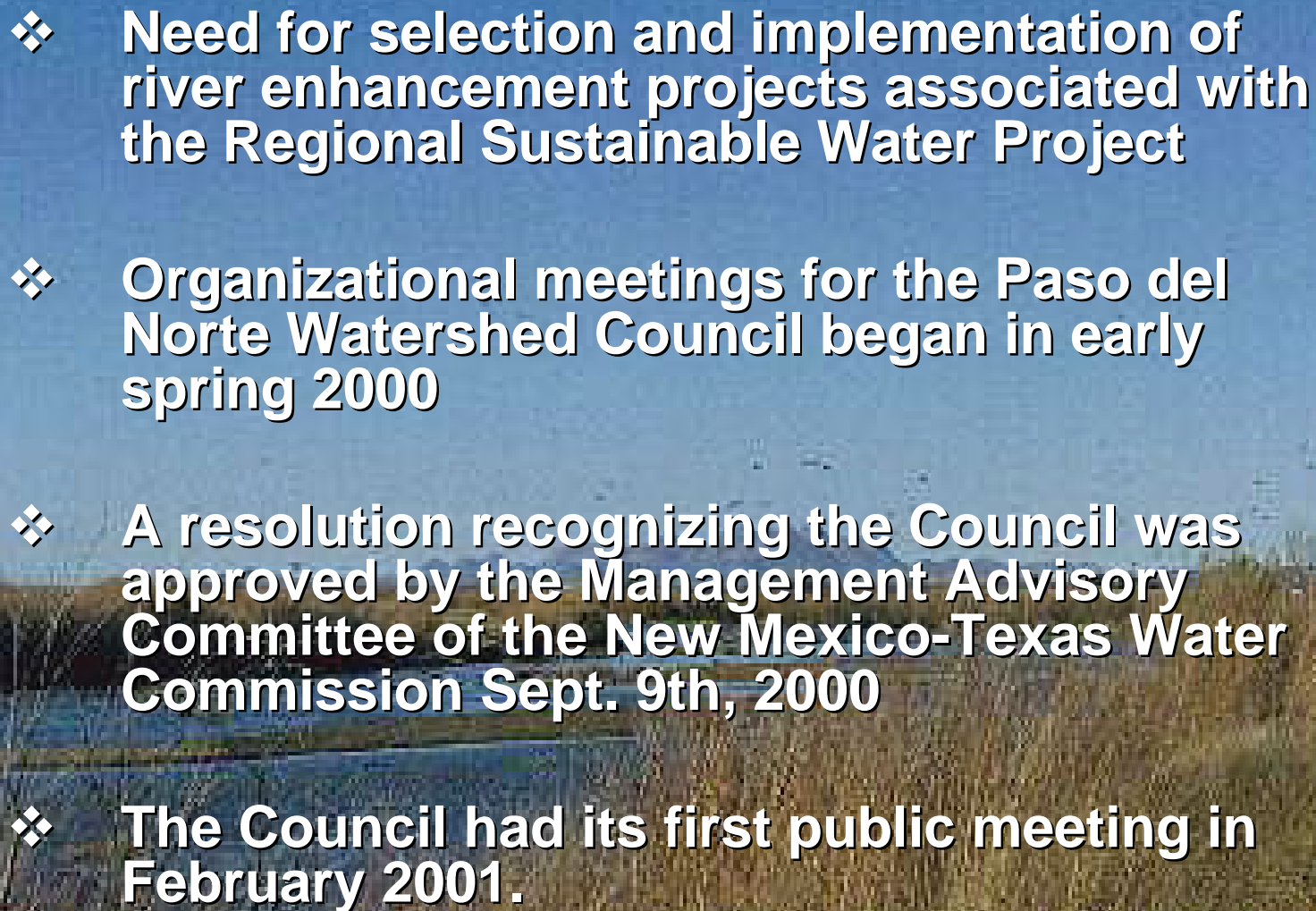


Promoting ecosystem health and economic sustainability in the Paso del Norte Watershed



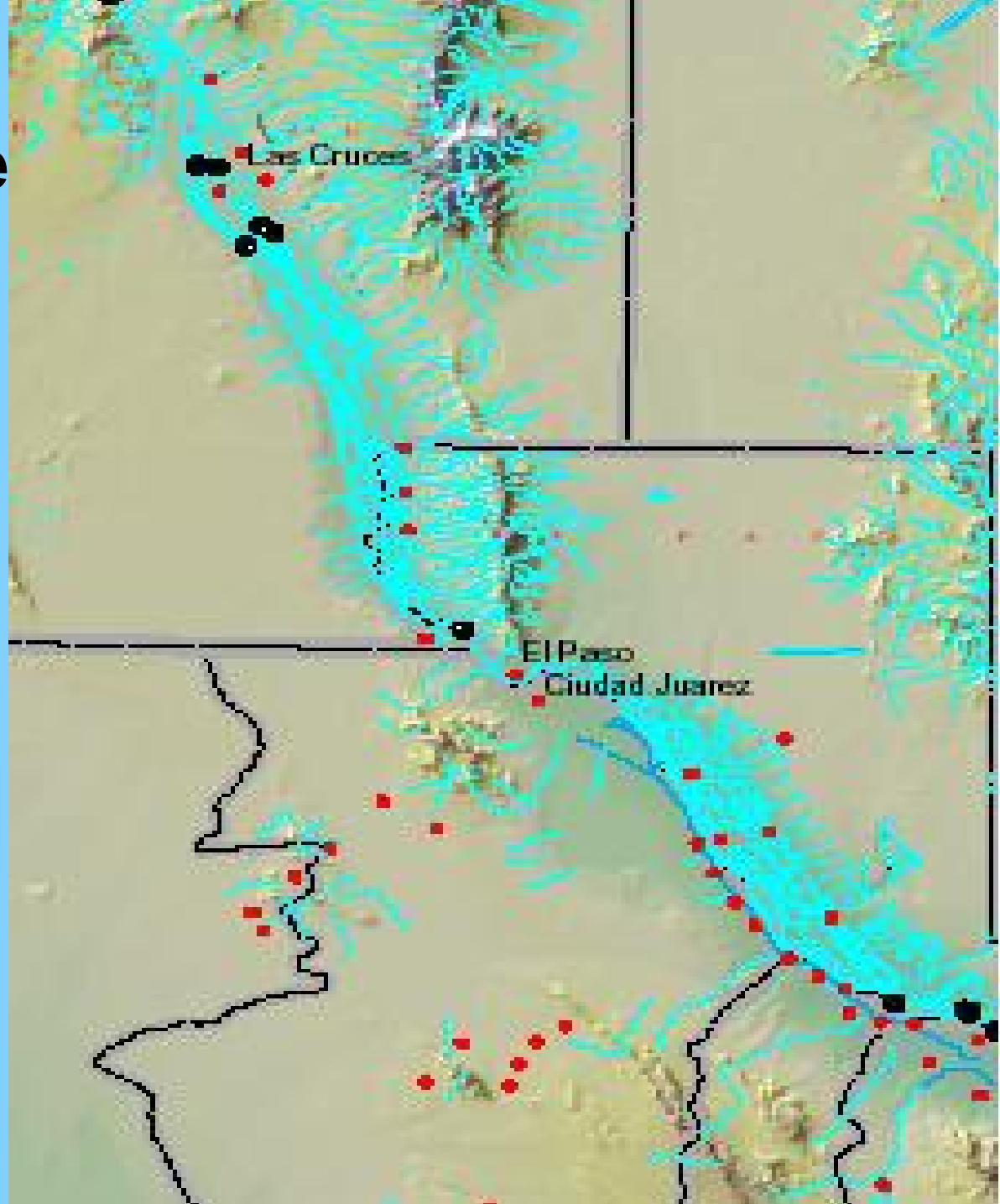
Number of organizations in region interested in improving the Rio Grande and its riparian areas

The need for an organization with a watershed-level focus was articulated in the EIS for the El Paso-Las Cruces Regional Sustainable Water Project

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- ❖ **Need for selection and implementation of river enhancement projects associated with the Regional Sustainable Water Project**
 - ❖ **Organizational meetings for the Paso del Norte Watershed Council began in early spring 2000**
 - ❖ **A resolution recognizing the Council was approved by the Management Advisory Committee of the New Mexico-Texas Water Commission Sept. 9th, 2000**
 - ❖ **The Council had its first public meeting in February 2001.**

Paso del Norte Watershed

- 180-mile section from Elephant Butte Reservoir in southern New Mexico to Fort Quitman, Texas



Membership

- Representatives from 30 organizations (both US and Mexico)
- Council members are all volunteers
- Council strives for a broad membership representing a variety of stake-holders and interests



Organizations

City of El Paso • City of Las Cruces • Community of El Paso • El Paso Water Utilities • El Paso League of Women Voters • Environmental Defense • El Instituto Municipal de Investigación y Planeación (IMIP) • Instituto Nacional de Investigaciones Forestales, Agrícolas y Pecuarias (INIFAP) • International Boundary and Water Commission (U. S. and Mexico) • New Mexico Department of Agriculture • New Mexico State University • New Mexico Water Resources Research Institute • Rio Grande/Rio Bravo Basin Coalition • Southwest Environmental Center • Texas A&M University Agricultural Research & Extension Center • Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center • Universidad Autónoma de Ciudad Juárez • University of Texas at El Paso • U. S. Army - Fort Bliss Directorate of Environment • U. S. Bureau of Reclamation • U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service • World Wildlife Fund • Ysleta del Sur Pueblo

Primary Goals of the Council

- Support watershed planning & management
- Select & support restoration & enhancement projects in the watershed
- Facilitate communication among stakeholders and within the Council
- Provide education & outreach to the general public and to Council members
- Support efforts to monitor and improve water quality

Administration via Executive Committee

- Not more than twenty individuals
- Members serve for a period of at least two years
- Membership reflective of stakeholders

Current Council Funding Sources

- **El Paso Water Utilities, second year of funding for Organizational Support - \$49,119**
- **El Paso Water Utilities, second year of funding for the Coordinated Database/GIS - \$65,739**
- **US Bureau of Reclamation - \$20,000**
- **Army Corps of Engineers - \$85,000**

- **Total Funding \$219,858 (FY2004)**

Program Coordinator

- **Nancy N. Hanks, Ph.D.**
- **Coordinates Council activities**
- **Single point-of-contact**
- **Represents Council and Council interests at regional meetings**
- **Office at Texas A&M Experimental Station, El Paso**

Current Projects of the Paso del Norte Watershed Council

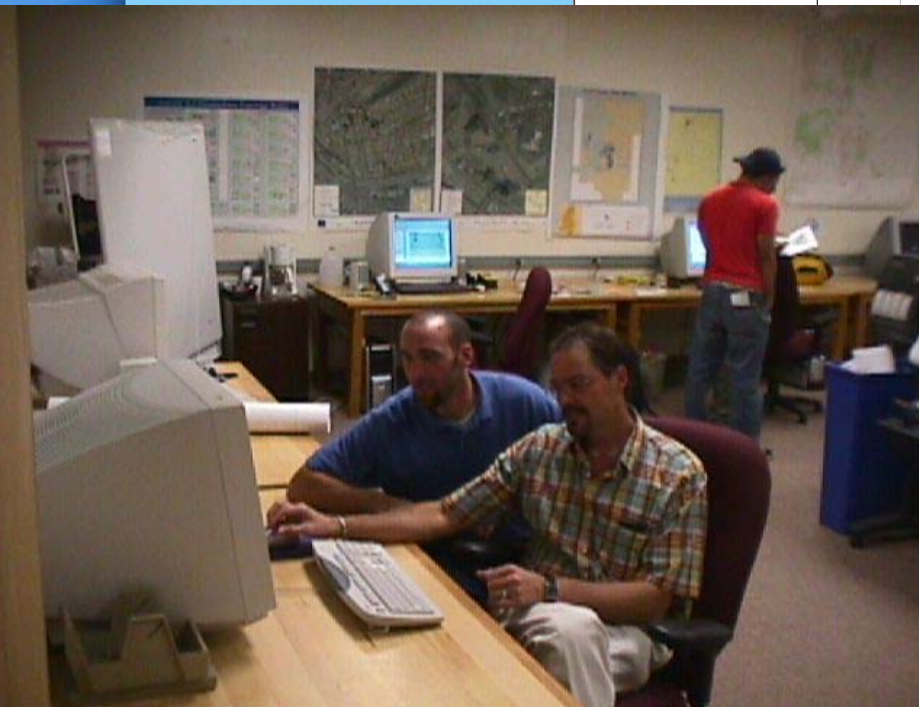


Database/GIS Project

- **Compiling database of water resource information within the watershed**
- **Database linked to multi-layered GIS map showing monitoring locations, irrigation network, gauging stations, and wells**
- **Provides access to available water quantity and quality information from variety of sources**

Sample Website (TWDB)

The screenshot displays the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) website interface. At the top, the browser address bar shows <http://www.twdb.state.tx.us/data/waterwells/>. The main heading is "Texas Water Development Board". Below this is a navigation bar with "Home | Search | Legend" and a "Water Well Levels" section. The "Water Well Levels" section includes input fields for "Well Number:", "County:", and "Aquifer:". A map of Texas is shown with various colored triangles (red, blue, yellow) indicating well locations. A red text warning "Provisional Data Subject to Revision" is visible above the map. A pop-up window titled "0517203 - Microsoft Internet Explorer" displays details for a specific well: "Water Well: 0517203", "County: ROBERTS", "Well Operator: US Geological Survey", "Aquifer: Ogallala", and "Data: View". Another pop-up window titled "Real-time data for TX001 354325100560301 WJ-05-17-203" shows a line graph of water level data over time, with a timestamp of "10/16/2002 to 10/19/2002 11:30". The graph shows a fluctuating blue line representing water level data. The x-axis is labeled "DATES: 10/16/2002 to 10/19/2002 11:30" and the y-axis is labeled "on-quality graph".



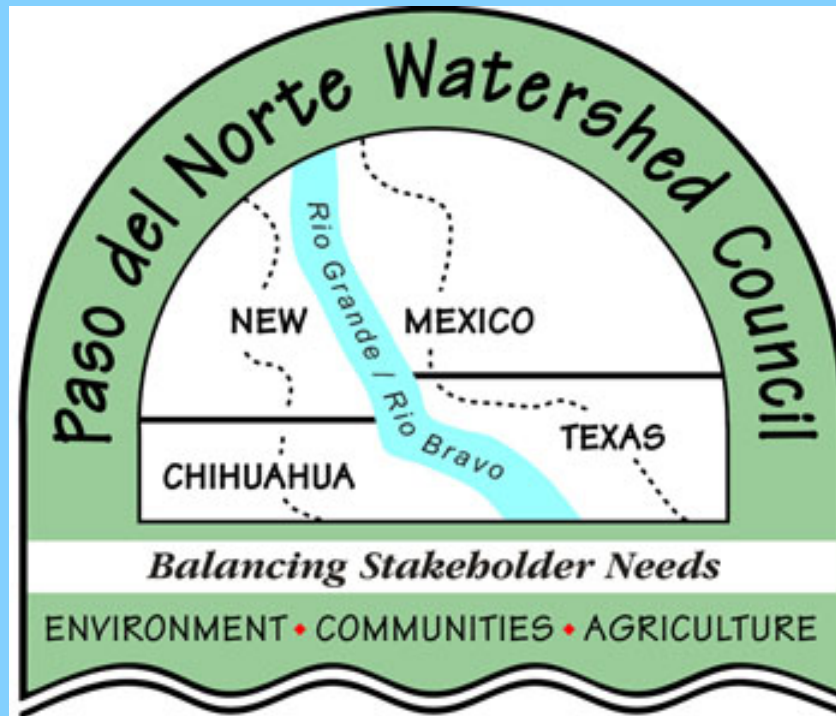
The website will be available to:

- Public**
- Irrigators**
- Regulators**
- Researchers**



New Council website

<http://www.pdnwc.org>



An organization formed to investigate, develop, and recommend options for watershed planning and management and to explore how water-related resources can best be balanced to benefit the Rio Grande ecosystem and the interests of all watershed stakeholders.

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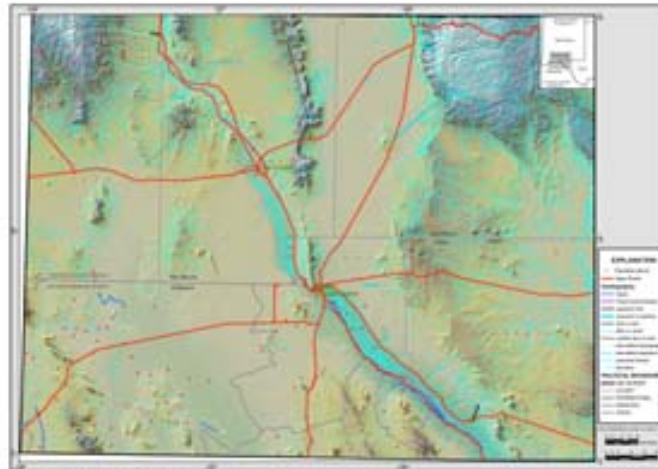
PROJECTS

[Coordinated Database Project \(pdf\)](#)

[Coordinated Database Project Fact Sheet \(pdf\)](#)

[Coordinated Database system](#)

DATA



Map 1. Map of framework data.



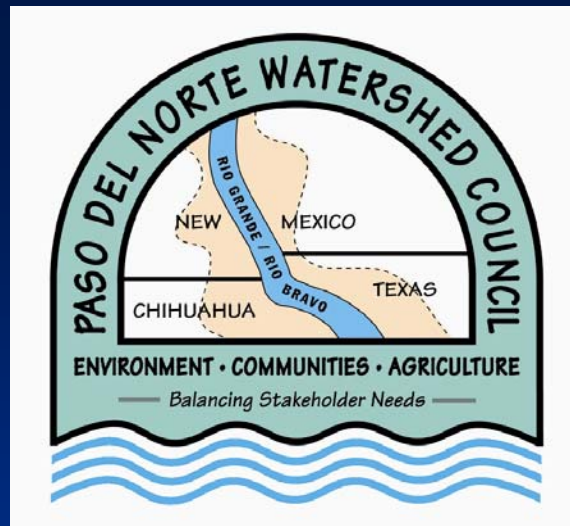
Informational Brochure

- **Spanish and English versions**
- **Information about the Council; its goals, purposes, projects, members, etc.**
- **Plans for educational materials about watersheds and their functions**

Integrated Watershed Management Plan

3 components:

- On-the-ground restoration projects at Mesilla Valley Bosque Park, Rio Bosque Wetlands Park, EBID Dam project**
- Convene stakeholder meetings and integrate comments into mgmt plan**
- Develop comprehensive biological mgmt plan based on scientific findings**



Contact Nancy Hanks

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