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**Tularosa Basin Desalination Research Center - Feasibility Study
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
New Mexico Water Resources Research Institute
Las Cruces New Mexico
July 12, 2002**

Attendees

Lorenzo Arriaga - USBR/EI Paso	Mike Landis – USBR/EI Paso
Bobby Creel – Assoc. Dir. NM WRRRI	Eddie Livingston – Livingston & Assoc.
Ed Fierro – El Paso Water Utility	Andrea Mendoza – NM State Engineer Office
Jim Sizemore – NM State Engineers Office	Mike Norris – USBR/Yuma WQIC
Tom Jennings – USBR/Denver	Bruce Johnson – Tucson Water Utilities
Mike Hightower – Sandia	Karl Wood – Dir. NM WRRRI
Rick Huff – USGS/Las Cruces	Del Holz – USBR/Denver

Welcome/Goals and Objectives- Mike Hightower

Mike welcomed members of the Executive Committee (EC) to the meeting for the. Mike had everyone introduce themselves and then reviewed the proposed meeting agenda, and presented the following meeting goals and objectives:

- Provide overview of recent outreach activities,
- Review Feasibility Study Web Site developed through WRRRI,
- Review Research Facility concept site selection, site layout, facility design,
- Review proposed facility operations and management plans, and
- Identify schedule for updated draft report, and future activities through October

Tularosa Basin Outreach Activities – Mike Hightower and Tom Jennings

Mike and Tom reviewed outreach activities since the last meeting in the end of May. Presentations and tours of the proposed Research Center sites were provided to both Sen. Domenici's (Shelly Vaughan Randell, May 30th) and Sen. Bingaman's (Jeff Steinborn, July 11th) staffers. The tours were hosted by the Alamogordo City Manager, Pat McCourt and also included a short presentation on City's plans for a 10 mgd desalination facility. Both seemed pleased with the progress of the feasibility study.

Tom also presented information on a National Desalination Technology Roadmapping effort being conducted. Sandia and the BOR are coordinating that effort with support from desalination researchers and associations around the country. Tom noted that inland desal is one of the major research areas being identified in the roadmapping activities. He noted that the Tularosa Center would help provide a location to help address these needs.

Bobby Creel also gave a presentation to the New Mexico/Texas Water Commission on the feasibility study on June 10th. He mentioned that they would like another update sometime in September.

Feasibility Study Web Site – Bobby Creel

Bobby reviewed the WRRRI website for the feasibility study. He handed out copies of the web site screen captures. There were about 200 hits in June and already over 400 hits in July. We discussed some minor updates to the website including:

- Adding a program overview section first,
- Rearranging some of the missions and goals and add outreach and public education as goals,

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- Highlighting some of the major information, like the study report and concept paper in the beginning,
- More links to other desal web sites, such as the BOR's, and
- Add a section for frequently asked questions.

Feasibility Study Draft Report- Mike Hightower

Mike handed out copies of the preliminary draft report of the feasibility study for review by the Executive Committee. Mike went over the layout and format developed with Tom Jennings and Mike Norris of the USBR and the expected use of the report. We are trying to keep the report to less than 30 pages so it can be read easily and quickly. The report content was discussed by the EC section by section as we went through the scheduled design review. Comments and suggested changes to each section were discussed and a new draft with the suggested changes will be available by July 22nd. We have scheduled a conference call to discuss the latest draft then on Friday, July 26th at 10:00 a.m. MDT.

We also discussed the need for a color brochure for the proposed center as a marketing tool. Mike Norris agreed to have some of his staff look into the feasibility of developing this type of brochure. Mike Norris will work with Mike Hightower to get a brochure developed.

Feasibility Study Progress

Site Recommendations and Issues-

There were lots of discussions on possible sites. There are issues with some the originally top ranked site, predominately environmental issues. These were identified and discussed by Tom Jennings of the BOR. Also, an additional private site has been offered north of US 70 and near Lavell Road. This site also needs to be investigated closely but has been looked at by the BOR. Based on these reviews, it is possible that the recommendations may change.

Eddie also discussed some of the water quality concerns. For economies of pumping and to get the best variable water quality, his hydrologist has suggested that we move more westerly in the basin, at least a few miles west of the originally highest ranked site. This would make the state-owned site the most attractive.

It was determined that the top three sites may need to be looked at more closely since there now appears to be no clear choice in site preference. Issues of overall cost for utilities, depth to varying water quality, environmental concerns, etc. will be used to make a final recommendation. The BOR will take another tour of the area to look at these sites in more detail in a couple of weeks, probably around the first week in August.

Site Layout and Design-

John Layman of Nims-Calvani, an architectural firm in Albuquerque, discussed some of his concepts for the facility design using input from the last EC meeting. He had added a water feature in the front of the building and changed some of the office and lab locations and expanded the resource area. There was lots of discussion of the changes and recommendations on new changes. He will make some design changes and have them ready for the next meeting.

Operational and Management Plans-

The EC did not like the detail in the preliminary draft and suggested additional detail be added about the roles of each group in the organizational structure. Mike Norris suggested that the

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advisory group, which has a formal connotation in federal language, be changed to the program review board. This was agreed to by the EC. Another main issue was identifying the roles for the daily operations. Another figure is needed showing day-to-day operations and roles and responsibilities. This will be added to the next version of the report.

Projected Facility Costs-

Eddie identified a list of expected costs for the effort, including construction, grading, well drilling, water system, utility upgrades, etc. This amounted to around \$5 million. These costs will be entered into the next draft version of the report.

Study Next Steps

NEPA and Cultural Investigations–

Information on facility operations and their environmental impact needs to be provided to Del Holz as part of the NEPA investigation. Because of the issues with the sites, environmental investigations will be conducted at the three sites. This is also true for the cultural investigations.

Permitting –

The following permits will need to start moving forward-

- Prepare to drill to do hydrologic studies at the three sites
- Injection well permit
- Well drilling permits
- Discharge plan for test well
- Water rights permits

These will begin to move forward once the site hydraulic analysis information is finalized and site identification is completed.

Facility Design/Build and RFQ Issues

Based on typical conditions, we will need dimensional data for the site plan and design layout, topographical information, and hydrology information before going out for an RFQ. This information needs to be the focus once a top site is selected, to insure a better product for the RFQ.