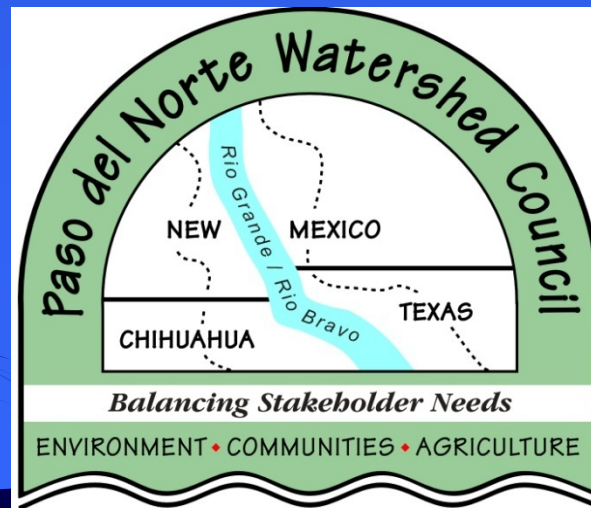


Activities of Paso del Norte Watershed Council

Briefing for IBWC Rio Grande Citizen's
Forum – IBWC Offices

8 September 2008



Overview of Presentation

- ◆ Brief history of the Council
- ◆ Review of major projects being advanced
- ◆ Discussion of progress to date in range of areas
- ◆ Discussion of future work being proposed
- ◆ Questions from audience



Background of the Council

- ◆ New Mexico Texas Water Commission developed out of long term Texas/New Mexico water conflict
 - Settlement commission to resolve conflict
 - Commission advanced regional water planning → EP/LC Regional Sustainable Water Project
- ◆ Environmental concerns of project drove establishment of the Paso del Norte Watershed Council
- ◆ Council convened in late 2000 to address these environmental concerns

Council's Mission

- ◆ PdNWC Mission - As an advisory body to the New Mexico/Texas Water Commission,
 - the Council investigates, develops, and recommends options for watershed planning and management
 - exploring how water-related resources can best be balanced
 - to benefit the Rio Grande ecosystem and the interests of all watershed stakeholders.



Coordinated Database & GIS Project

- ◆ Historically, large numbers of agencies collected wide range of water resource data
- ◆ Access to data lacked much coordination
- ◆ Goal of the Project is to provide coordinated access to wide range of data via web-based access and GIS interface
 - Project facilitates greater sharing of data among both providers and end users
 - Overall goal is to enhance water resource management via regional approach in the PdN region

Components of PDNWC project

Outcomes of the Project

- ◆ Functional Web portal providing access to range of geo-spatial water resource data -
- ◆ Establishment of active user community that share data & collaborate on research projects
- ◆ Foundation for advanced modeling activities that examine operation of Rio Grande Project
 - Actively working with the USACE on URGWOM
 - Active interest in groundwater/surface water interactions
 - Zhuping Sheng to provide more details in his talk

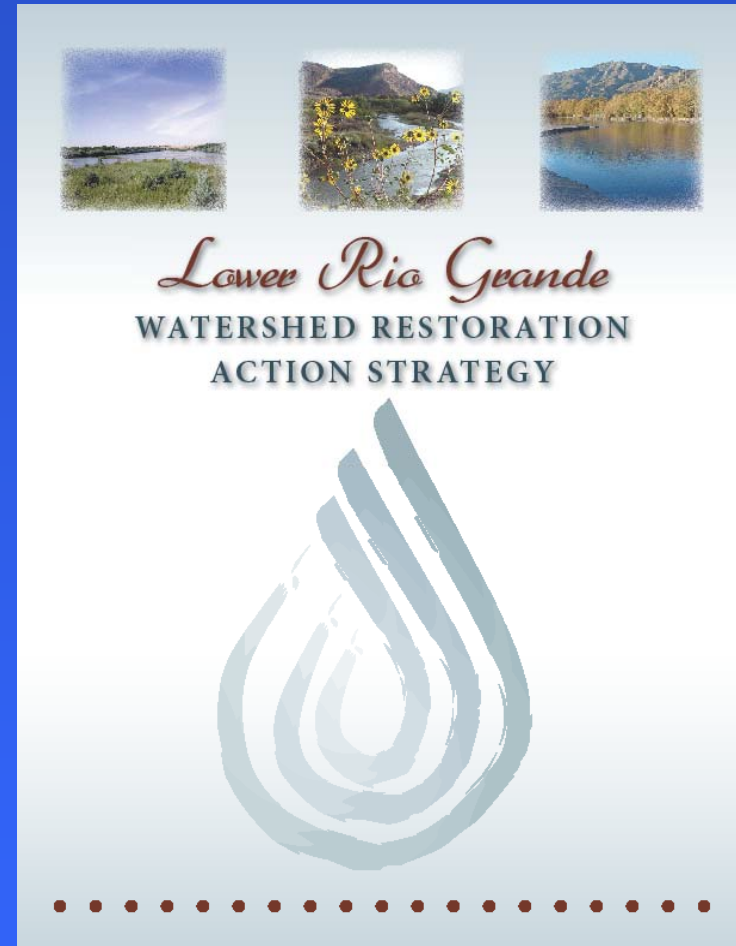
CWA 319(h) Water Quality Grant



- NMED 303(d)/305(b) water quality impairment reporting in 2004
- EPA-approved Total Maximum Daily Load for *E. coli* in two reaches of the lower Rio Grande
- CWA 319(h) funding for addressing non-point source pollution
- Water quality data and biological analyses
- Stakeholder outreach coordination
- Cooperators: PdNWC, NMDA, NMED, WWF, U.S. FWS, NMSU, TTU, SWEC, EBID, regional stakeholders, many others

EPA 319(h) Project Details

- Product: Watershed Restoration Action Strategy (WRAS)
- WRAS recommends Best Management Practices (BMP's) aiming at non-point source pollution abatement in the Paso del Norte watershed
 - Living document
 - EPA approval forthcoming



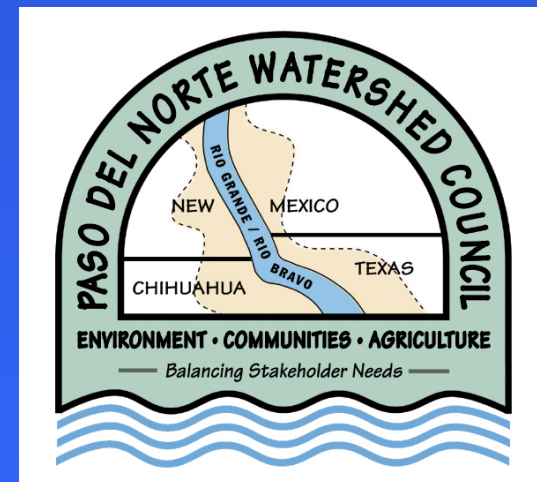
EPA 319(h) WRAS Recommendations

- Recommendations include
 - BMP's for pathogen abatement
 - Extensive recommendations from regional watershed stakeholders
- Analyses concluded that optimal geographical locations for BMP's are unknown until further data can be collected and analyzed
- Final WRAS document to be released pending EPA approval



EPA 319(h) Water Quality Grant, Future Direction

- Additional funding is being pursued for the continuance of the WRAS, filling data gaps, estimating BMP load reductions, and maintaining stakeholder outreach
- Monitoring and water quality data analyses
- BMP implementation



Future activities of the PDNWC

- ◆ Coordinated Database and GIS Project continuing modeling work with USACE
- ◆ Continued research into surface water and groundwater interactions
- ◆ Further research into the specifics of the WRAS to be advanced
 - Council members interested in future funding within the 319 (d) program
 - Stakeholders interested in advancing specific BMPs in various parts of the watershed
- ◆ Larger discussion ongoing concerning river restoration ideas in the basin

Any questions?

