

## **Key Deliverables from 4/12/08 Meeting**

### **Draft of Shared Interests**

- Protection of river health and ecological diversity.
- Return lost water rights to 1968 owners.
- Keep New Mexico entitlement of the AWSA water in southwest New Mexico.
- Keep river flowing.

### **Proposed list of potential projects**

- Quantify baseline ecological demand currently placed on the river.
- Understand geohydrology and geomorphology of GSF watershed.
- Assess economic feasibility of utilization schemes for additional water under AWSA.
- Create and implement a conservation plan.

### **Actions Requested to the Implementation Group for 5/1 meeting**

- Seek an outside communication czar.
- Define the responsibility of the comm. czar and communication plan (intergroup as well as community-at-large).
- Adopt the “Shared Interests” as goals for the shareholder group.
- Act on list of potential projects put forward by the stakeholder group.
- Create a formal “request” for a BoR appraisal study.

## **Minutes from 4/12/2008 AWSA stakeholder meeting**

### **Communications**

There is a general consensus that a communication effort and/or czar is needed.

Hire someone from the outside to fulfill this role.

Who will define the role of communicator? Implementation team?

The designated communicator should be the go to person.

Each team should have a designated communicator on the team that is also responsible for communicating w/ the designated entity.

ISC homepage has a bulletin: Perhaps a AWSA page that the users can click on, but it will still serve only people with internet access.

Proceed to identify someone from the outside.

How to reach out to others?

There has to be a point where we feel we have reached out to everyone. We cannot make people read newspaper or pick up the phone.

We should define when enough is enough. Not everyone will come or respond.

Communications should be reciprocal in nature.

The broad input from write-ins should find a way to the stakeholder meetings and Implementation team.

Job description should be broader rather than narrower

Distribution of work shifts from a few to many as soon as money flows in. This makes communication more challenging.

We need to find creative ways to reach out to more rural area.

Need to have a forum for people to feedback into the process.

### **Input**

How can we make this process as accessible as possible?

When is the best time to meet?

There is no best time.

Saturday mornings are better and opens to more public.

There should be some consistency. Just set up a time like every 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of every month.

If there is some way that people who cannot attend would be able to write in their comments/questions, that would be great.

Electronic comment form on the ISC website can be a medium for accepting comments.

Whose job is it to process those comments? Communication czar?

Disseminate key personnel contact information (say on one page) to people on events/web.

There are people here today who are being paid to attend the meeting who are less worthy than 5 real people in Glenwood.

How many people are here because of Mary Alice's articles?

Silver City Press >5-6

Craig Roepke 1

Emails from GRIP 2-3

Word of mouth. 2-3

There is an agreement that Mary Alice's articles serve a broad audience, but more needs to be done.

Some people are paid to come today to disseminate the information to their local constituency because it is an efficient form of communication. They serve as the eyes and ears to their local interests.

SC distribution system serves 19,000 people and public servants who are obligated to meet those peoples' needs should be present in these meetings.

GSF Water Commission meetings have attracted the same audience even though meetings have taken place in different municipalities. Having it at different locations does not necessarily attract more people.

People only want to come when there are cards on the table

A lot of these issues discussed here will be embedded into the next topic.

### **Laying all cards on the table.**

What are peoples' interests and how to bring those to the surface so we can address them.

If they are too abstract...should we proceed to projects or studies?

However, how to you proceed w/ projects and studies w/o articulating the common vision? (chicken or the egg?)

- Most people know what other peoples' interests are already, but it would still be productive to put it out on the table.

- How about generic studies – want to look at the economic cost of projects?

For example, people who want to look at offsite storage, what are the cost

What is a generic cost – if it costs \$600/AF, then automatically that cannot be done.

There are options that are unattractive just by simply looking at the economic cost.

Hydrologist would have better ideas of the type of projects and options.

Committee members will have to put proposals together with project times.

- Let's be honest with our intent, let's put it on the table

faction 1 – those who want to take the water out

faction 2 – those who want to keep it in the river

faction 3 – ??

- One of the elements in the process is that we already lost people.  
Why are we trying so hard to bring more people in?  
We have reinvented the wheel.  
One must needed study is the study of river.

- River is not there in current model. There are no bird/fish/riparian in the model.

- We should articulate a mission statement of our project and work off of that.

Review of group goal from first meeting.

Utilize the AWSA in a cost effective manner to balance historical and future demands against uncertain supply while protecting the environment.

- ISC was involved and instrumental in making sure AWSA does not overlook New Mexico's 18K AF allotment, and we have a rare opportunity to utilize money to utilize the water while keeping the river healthy.

- How are we going to meet the growing demand?

If we do need the water, let's not do it hurting the river

If we don't plan for it, we can only hurt ourselves down the road.

The veto from governor overlooked a list of ecological studies that were put forward, we can start from that list.

Let's start from the things we do know.

- I have an interest to conserve and look at demand side of equation. The baseline study is much needed.

We must adopt conservation measures: low flow showers, cisterns,

In PA there is a farm preservation act to give incentives to farmers who do not sell to developers.

In NM such measure does not exist, and we are seeing ranchers giving up their ranch one by one to developers.

- From SF basin, that interest is already well-known. It is written on the publically accessible page.

We want to restore to that system the water rights the hasty adjudication of AZ vs. CA . we have looked at the public records and want to achieve watershed restoration, enhanced GW storage, maintain (sustain) domestic well consumption.

Have converted ag water to industrial/municipal use, have converted the water rights to recreational use ...snow lake.

We do not want to let water rights move out of our basin.

(SCHEMATICALLY DRAWN ON THE SHEET.)

SCDS gets most of the water from franks well field and other well fields.

3K of water for 19K people spread out over SC municipality plus outlying areas such as Santa Clara, Bayard, and Hurley.

We think the future lies in not relying solely on water from the Gila basin and diversify our portfolio into Mimbres to form a ...??

We see AWSA as a component of our current effort but that is not the only interest.

We do not understand why there is a block effort from the OSE??.

We want ecological study

We want the economic analysis

We want to assess the use of Mimbres GW.

- We need ecological and environmental studies.

If we don't get pass those studies, the

Nothing should be done unless the river is as healthy or more healthy than before.

- We need a wild river : no dams/no diversion.

It may be hard to assess the health of river in the context of project.

- It is difficult to conduct environmental studies unless it is juxtaposed on top of the projects.

- We need to identifying the first question that is what is the current demand.

Had a demand/use in 1968 that were not met in the adjudication.

- Water made available from CUFA is about the SW

The critical block system in Mimbres GW is in place because it was known since the 1930s that there is overdrawn on that system.

- Want to look at the SW in the context of ???

- Climate change model is not in the model. It is a grave concern in the area.

- I am a local citizen from Wind canyon. I do not want my well to run dry.

14K out of river must be taken out at high rates. Let's look at ways of achieving that without losing the river??

- Does anyone object giving back the water rights that were lost in 1968's adjudication?

The water rights in the 60s – if no one objects giving back those who lost their water rights, why can't we put it on the top of priority list.

- As a planner of Grant county, there will be a growth in the area if we follow the current trend. More people are drawn to the place because of the lifestyle living on the river provides. I grew up along the river, and my son also is following my footsteps. I want my son to be able to fish like I did when I was little.

Areas along the river will grow because the lifestyle is more appealing

1) want to see the rural community to flourish to sustain the lifestyle that brought people to the Gila the first place.

2) the Gila is for recreation use want to provide services to recreation because

there is going to be demand

3) it is viable to seek out the study and keep the resources

4) it's everyone's interest to

- I am a Local resident from Gila Hot Spring What we have is what we get, we cannot get more. We were lucky to come out of adjudication unharmed One thing we can do to hurt the river is to draw from it.

???

-The thing we can do is to meet the demand is give it back to the farmers first, then use it for other uses.

- I represent NM Wildlife Federation that represents 280million economy in the state. we need to keep the wildlife wild.

- Public needs to be educated. Climate model is getting better but there are not perfect. SW will take the biggest hit due to climate change.

- I represent the Farm Bureau and we advocate for restoring the water they lost and maintain their way of life.

- I represent a private consultant. I am interested in reuse of water – reuse of municipal water. Bayard/Santa/Hurley are retreating the water and re-injecting into the ground and possibly utilizing algae to treat the water. Algal biofuel shows some promise as well.

- My father and I own a ranch in LUNA. We want to protect, preserve, and enhance the water resources; encourage the riparian restore damage in farming practice and overgrazed land.

Discern whether or not there can be water taken out of the Gila  
Give directions to the implementation group to act on the interests represented here.  
One element of this new group would be having a technical committee that can select expertise. We have an opportunity. I hate to see us fumble the ball *again*.

- I represent Bayard and Hurley because it has been marginalized  
Oldest families in this area are hurting and facing crises TODAY. We must do something about it.

- Legislature allocated money because consensus was reached. We must maintain consensus

- I represent the interest of one NGO conservation representing 80 households. I am not convinced that legislation has not answered how the GW

- Water resources in the region must stay within the regions. Do not want to see the water leave the area. Want to see protection of farm and health of river: wetland restoration

acknowledge free-flowing river has uncertainties. want to dedicate a riparian area to minimize the damage.

- TNC is about preserving nature. Historically we have advocated biodiversity. The observations of TNC have occurred in three stages – take water, cap water, and return water. We are in a unique position of not getting to stage III. Let's make sure we plan stage I carefully.

- Everything is going dry. The river is going dry, GW is going dry  
Thick forest here in GSF. We are surrounded by trees, grass puts water into the ground, we have no grass here. I have no way to irrigating w/ 12 siphons even half-way down the field (when I used to be able to do w/ 4 siphons).

Clearwater creek is going dry. Everywhere we look, folks, there is no water.  
We have to do something about it. We should thin the forest to allow the water to flow into the river.

Why do we have minnows around here?

Something has to be done to the watershed.

Dutch agrees to concentrate on watershed.

- Environmental groups have called for prescribed burns and are working with Forest Service (?) NGO invested in 200K in forest thinning.

- Interest in stable supply of water in the river. If we can revisit the water rights later,

Deming – do things wisely..there's ongoing effort to cut back on irrigation w/ Mimbres aquifer saving 20,000 AF through drip irrigation

- Did not hear from economic development board – bottle Gila water and selling it to California.

- No mention of who will pay for each study.

- Like everyone else, our interest lies in keeping the water in the region

– have a preservation plan

We want to play the cards ...

**We should quickly put two agenda items forward first before getting to the projects/studies: 1) AWSA readings 2) Leadership**

### **1) AWSA literature**

ISC will receive \$66 millions in 2012 .... pretty certain that we cannot get the money w/o a NEPA. The language for utilizing the money is “water utilization”; hence, we do not have to be explicit about a dam.

Need advice for implementation of the AWSA.

Pass out two handouts

- Gila River Issues
- AWSA from Deming

Citizen also pass out part 3 of GSF Water Planning Commission minutes from 2005.

Should each interest group put their interests on the table and bring it to the next meeting? That would take too long. Peter Russell has already typed up his list.

Catron county interests are posted on the web. We have gone around this too long. The State is about to update the 2<sup>nd</sup> Water Future for SW New Mexico.

Every person who lives here represents an interest in NM. It would be difficult to get everyone's interest.

How about let's work on creating a shared interests.

Carl and Amy should take a first cut at the list and pass it out in the meeting minutes.

It's a consensus process when it can be.

Can we get a legal opinion of what implementation of AWSA?

Answer these questions first.

There may be 3-4 projects on the table and meet before next 3 months.

What the interests are should feed into the what are we going to do?

We should have a meeting to discuss the projects.

In light of our discussion on interests, let's spend the last hour on specific project or study.

## **2) Leadership**

If we select a leader amongst ourselves, we run into a popularity contest. This is the best structure. The group is effectively entrusting Carl and Vince to run the meetings.

This group is the leadership group. Implementation group is serving/supporting as the leadership group.

Implementation group meetings do allow everyone to come in and attending  
We need a PO Box, a place from which we can anchor our thoughts.

Need a more structured leadership. The governor's office exerted some leadership a year ago and vetoed the legislative language. The fact that they have not appeared in these meetings are troubling.

Vince and/or Carl will end someday. Do we need is moving forward with something else? I'm comfortable with having a professional facilitator , I'm comfortable w/ that.

Around the country we have a transition leading from bottom up rather than top down.

??We're running into the same problem as the implementation group. We are behaving the same way as the implementation group.

The leadership opportunity is about turning to someone who can make a key decision. Leadership is very important.

It may take a few iterations of working out the wrinkles in this new working group. Consensus does take longer time.

When should we meet next?

What are we going to do before when should be decided now.

Discussions today begin to shape up the projects and

We should implement these sooner than later –

Conservation, return water to farm, to municipal use, to ecological use.

Next meeting; how those interest areas lead to studies

Let's be ready for the model.

There are like interests and shared interests

Implementation group meets on May 1<sup>st</sup>, we should meet May 10th?

8:30-1pm, BE ON TIME - groundrules

Create a free printed SIGN-UP list so everyone can check off the list and not wait by the door to sign up.

(Note: everyone's sugar level is getting low. There's a lot of impatience amongst the audience. Cookies and water should be provided next time.)

## PROJECTS and STUDIES BRAINSTORM

Why consistently talk about "studies", what do you mean by that?

Projects drive studies, so we start from a conceptual project..

Recall Deming meeting – I thought the term studies reflect the intent more (Carl, please elaborate).

What do we mean by baseline ecological studies.

What is the real supply, real demand, and what is the risk?

What are the baseline studies.

- Biological
- Geohydrology

- Geomorphology
- Really understand the health of the river.
- Want to really understand the demand on the river

Ought to look at settlement act -  
 Leased water rights  
 2014 – secretary  
 2019 – secretary decides  
 The act limits utilization of the 4-county area.

The governor wants a study process that considers all alternatives. Why do we need to consider projects per se?  
 We should not look at these projects and studies without the context of possible diversion.

How much water do we need, how much water do we have how are more pressing? As much as we want to study the river, we must understand the demand/supply.

The NM State have made assessment on this region twice and another update again. What we talked about before is what we're talking about again. We need to move forward.

If we don't have a diversion let the water running downstream, we don't have to be here. We have a CUFA and we need to understand this more.  
 Does it adversely affect the ecological functions?  
 If no diversion, we don't have to do anything and let it run down the river

After AWSA passed, we were told explicitly (esp by Joe Smith) NM will get the \$66 million whether or not we have a diversion – water utilization in the 4-county area. To go beyond the \$66 million, we must identify a project.

Luna?

Conservation is a huge component of this water resource planning. Silver City must figure out how to better understand and manage its water and its utilization of the Mimbres basin.

- 1) Baseline ecological system
- 2) water budget study, no sure what we have to do.
- 3) scalping peak flows may not impact the health of the river.
- 4) ultimately we have to be very specific project in mind that also requires “studies.”

We need to separate the into different conceptual pots and prioritize.

What needs to know what  
 1<sup>st</sup> and foremost – can we take the water from the top and how.

### Status of BoR funding

- 1) does the request have to be made from the state and is that something that the folks want to do?
- 2) can Bureau use that money for the request? Yes.

If we decide on an appraisal study, it would be requested by the ISC to BoR. BoR will confirm.

Task implementation group to make a request to BoR appraisal study to determine What is the problem we are trying to solve here based on the information that's already there, take a look at high level probing questions.

BoR may force the issues on the state through the appraisal study.

What studies would be needed to do give Farmer X back 200AF of water?

What level of analysis should be implemented? 4-county region.

Appraisal studies can quickly drop out projects that do not have feasibility.

The group is interested in moving forward with getting a list of studies/projects out right away from implementation group.

Implementation group please identify yourselves.

How much time would it take for this appraisal study? 1-2 yrs

Meeting adjourned.