

**South Central New Mexico Stormwater Coalition
Regular Meeting
January 15, 2015
Minutes**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Zack Libbin at 1:30 p.m.

Participants introduced themselves. Attendees included:

Zack Libbin-- Chairman

Paul Dugie, Doña Ana County Flood Commission—Vice Chairman

Sam Calhoun, DASWCD—Secretary

Slim Whitlock, Village of Hatch, Caballo SWCD

Susan Downs, Caballo SWCD

John Gwynne, DAC Flood Commission

Patrick Lopez, EBID

Conrad Keyes, Jr., Paso del Norte Watershed Council

Joe Delk, DASWCD

Jessica Knopic, Bureau of Land Management

Michael Villa, OEM

Tony Trevino, City of Las Cruces

Dennis McCarville, EBID

Naomi Ontiveros, EBID

(Blue color indicates Coalition member representative)

Paul Dugie motioned and Slim Whitlock second to approve the October 23rd and November 20th, 2014 minutes. Motion carried.

Zack introduced presenter John Gwynne from Dona Ana County Flood Commission. John presented flood warning tools, systems and stations that have and continue to be worked on with EBID and City of Las Cruces (CLC). DAC is at the first stage of installing weather stations and have developed a master plan to start from. John displayed the DAC Flood Commission website, specifically the portion developed by One Rain Inc; www.donana.onerain.com. Current readings are being collected from weather stations owned by EBID, Airports, USGS and others. The question was asked how many more stations will be added. The plan currently is for 30 stations with 5 currently paid for and 3 possibly 4 from EBID; John adds he would guess they will end up using more than the 30 planned. Discussions on whether private land or government land are preferable for locating weather stations. Advantages and disadvantages were discussed including ease of achieving an easement and ability to restrict access.

Patrick Lopez presented EBID's website which will soon include technology developed by One Rain. Patrick is currently working on adding all the data needed and hopes to go live with One Rain by next month. He is also making upgrades to the weather stations to make them RTU capable; which he hopes will be completed by April.

Roundtable Discussions: Joe Delk updated the members on the flooding aftermath for the Rocky Acres area of the Mesilla Valley. It was explained that it has been suggested to the residents of Rocky Acres that they can form a watershed district, which is authorized under State law. It seems the residents understood the benefits in becoming a group and will begin the process. Paul Dugie discussed about a

farmer in La Union who had asked the county to remove sediment. The county was unable to do so and so the farmer took it upon himself to push up the sediment and created a large berm. It was discussed that potentially nothing can be done about the berm until damages have occurred. In the meantime DAC Flood Commission intends to notify the farmer of the potential liability his berm could create. Zack asked Paul if he would be willing to visit La Union together and speak with the residents and conduct a tour; Paul agreed. Paul also advised the digital flood insurance maps are under review and are out for public input. On January 29th from 5:30 pm-7:30 pm DAC Flood Commission will be available to help residents understand the maps and what they would need to do if they would like to protest.

Old Business: MOU/Bylaws is still being worked on by legal. Paul Dugie and Rusty are still working on potential watershed projects with BLM.

Next Meeting Discussions: February 26th meet with BLM at BLM offices to discuss BLM Dam issues; upon BLM acceptance of date. March 19th meeting will be held at Sunland Park to discuss Anapara and Sunland Park issues. Tentatively scheduled for April 16th to discuss Sierra issues and to conduct an organizational meeting.

Meeting adjourned 4:00 pm.