

**South Central New Mexico Stormwater Coalition
Regular Meeting
January 28th, 2016
Held at the EBID Board Room in Las Cruces
Minutes**

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

Participants introduced themselves. Attendees included:

[Zack Libbin, Chairman](#)

[John Gwynne, DAC Flood Commission](#)

[Joe Delk, DASWCD](#)

Dwaine Solana, Sunland Park

Michael Villa, Office of Emergency Management

Wayne Hancock, DAC Commissioner

Peter Bennett, City of Las Cruces

Paul Pompeo, Souder Miller and Assoc.

Jessica Knopic, BLM

Lacy Levine, NMDA

Conrad Keyes, Paso del Norte Watershed Council

Paul Dugie, DAC Flood

Michael Garza, DAC Flood

Daniel Sombrano, DAC Engineering

Rene Molina, DAC Engineering

Dennis McCarville, EBID

Dan Robillard, Parkhill Smith Cooper

Joshua Rosenblatt, CLC Utilities

Bridgette Fuller, Wilson and Co

Karen Ray, EBID

[\(Blue color indicates Coalition member representative\)](#)

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 pm by Chairman Zack Libbin and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance

Member entities, Dona Ana County Flood Commission (DAC Flood), Elephant Butte Irrigation District (EBID), and Dona Ana Soil and Water Conservation District (DASWCD) were present

Past meeting minutes and bylaws were not yet prepared and will be distributed as soon as possible.

Initiations to other entities who are potentially interested in joining the Stormwater Coalition will be sent by the Chairman. Entities discussed to invite include: City of Las Cruces, Mesilla Park, Sunland Park (expressed interest), NMSU, NMDOT, BNSF, Dona Ana County, and Commissioner Hancock suggested the Empowerment Congress-Institute for Social Justice. The benefits of including additional entities was discussed by the group.

The projects prioritized at the November Stormwater Coalition meeting were reviewed and discussed. Specifically:

- Watershed Project for the Cothorn Dam and Butler Dam area.
 - Sediment control, small checks could be beneficial
 - Reseeding not feasible
- Rincon Arroyo sediment traps
 - A beneficial project could take place where DAC Flood already has an easement
 - Sediment capture and maintenance upstream of the Rio Grande could help with a lack of river channel maintenance
 - Past maintenance has not been proactive
 - Phased project will need to include grade stabilization and annual maintenance
- Avillar Structures
 - Evaluate dams and potential projects

A discussion pertaining to flood hazard outreach and development code concluded that the Stormwater Coalition can help with public outreach, provide input on development/design code changes, and provide input on broader changes such as the WOTUS changes. It was added that it is important for the group stay attentive to opportunities for input.

Many topics for future meetings were discussed and discussed the concept of utilizing more specialized committees to address certain topics such as projects. It was decided that the group would continue to meet at 1:30 pm on the 3rd Thursday of each month.

The group decided on the following list of meeting dates, topics, and tentative locations:

- February 18th – Emergency Action Plans, O&M Manuals, and funding for Dam Safety Bureau requirements of Dam Sponsors/Owners – ~~at OEM~~ (EBID)
- March 17th -- Cothorn and Butler Watershed Project, Rincon Arroyo Project – at BLM
- April 21st – Entity projects update, Project funding opportunities – at ~~CLC~~ (EBID)
- May 19th – DFIRM and Rio Grande levee update – at DAC Government Complex
- June 16th – Rincon Village flooding, Railroad sediment issues, Rincon Arroyo – at Rincon
- July 21st – Hatch area projects, Placitas arroyo, dam projects – at Hatch
- August 18th – Unified Development Code, Subdivision code concerns – at Sunland Park
- September 15th – Watershed Districts, Hill, other Mesilla valley problems – at EBID
- October 20th – BLM dam requirements, other dam sponsor concerns – at EBID?

A roundtable discussion followed with an update on EBID's rain gauge proposal, La Union flooding issues, and the potential Rocky Acres water shed district.

Dennis McCarville and Jessica Knopic updated the group that BLM is currently working and assisting EBID with their proposal to install rain gauges in important watersheds on BLM land. Both confirmed that progress had been made and the process is ongoing. Success with cooperation was also expressed by both.

Commissioner Hancock and Paul Dugie explained that a public meeting had been held in the community of La Union to discuss the recent flooding and community outcry. Options were discussed and the preferred option was explained.

Joe Delk updated the group that the Rocky Acres area residents have met and are collecting the required signatures to form a Watershed District under the Soil and Water Conservation District. Watershed

Districts were discussed and Commissioner Hancock asked if this idea could help area colonias with funding solutions to their flooding problems. The group discussed that Watershed Districts could potentially be a benefit to many areas with flooding concerns and that the Rocky Acres area would serve as a good example.

Meeting adjourned 3:35 pm.