

Middle Rio Grande Water Assembly
University of New Mexico Water Resources Program
New Mexico Water Dialogue

First Annual Forum on The Rio Grande Compact

April 26, 2006 from 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Science and Technology Park Rotunda at the University of New Mexico
801 University Boulevard SE, Albuquerque, NM

Rio Grande Compact

- **Welcome**
- **Introductory Remarks**
- **Rolf Schmidt-Peterson**
NM Interstate Stream Commission
- **Kevin Flanigan**
NM Interstate Stream Commission
- **Discussion**
- **Final Announcements**



Welcome

Ed Payne,

Chair of Water Assembly



Introductory Remarks


Along with others in the state, the middle Rio Grande Valley has been engaged in Regional Water Planning for seven years.

To develop the plan, we debated issues from various perspectives. During the process, we learned much about the region and about each other. The results of our efforts can be found in the Regional Water Plan, 2000-2050.

Shortfall

In 1999, the Assembly published the Regional Water Budget. It helped us realize that we were using substantially more than is being renewed.

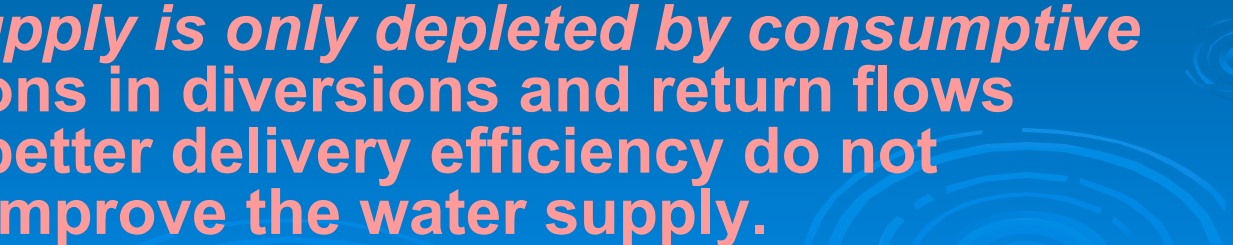
That conclusion was reiterated in the Middle Rio Grande Water Supply Study, Phase 3, prepared for the New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission and issued in November of 2004.

The background of the slide features several concentric, glowing blue circles that resemble ripples on water, positioned in the lower half of the frame.

Summary of Conclusions

- *On average, the historically available water supply is not adequate (including San Juan-Chama Project water and groundwater withdrawals) to meet the present demands in the Middle Rio Grande region.*
- *To achieve a balance between renewable supply and Year 2000 demand, a minimum of 71,000 acre-feet per year, and perhaps as much as 110,600 acre-feet per year of additional supply or reduction in demand is required.*
- *Given the historic variability of water budget terms, under Year 2000 conditions Rio Grande Compact debit conditions are expected to occur 3 out of every 5 years.*
- *Under drought conditions, annual Compact debits increase in frequency and magnitude, and water availability limits irrigated agricultural usage 1 year out of every 5.*

More Conclusions

- *Under conditions of increased water use in any sector, a reduction of water use from other sectors is required to avoid increasing the Rio Grande Compact debit.*
 - *The groundwater supply within the Study Area is not an independent, disconnected water supply. Use of groundwater, regardless of location, results in diminished flows of the Rio Grande that will occur in the present and continue into the future.*
 - *The water supply is only depleted by consumptive use; reductions in diversions and return flows resulting in better delivery efficiency do not necessarily improve the water supply.*
- 

constraints

We learned that we have constraints on our usage:

- **fiscal,**
- **physical,**
- **legal and**
- **ethical**


Rio Grande Compact

One constraint on our usage is the limitations imposed by the Compact.

To talk about the Compact are:

- **Kevin Flanigan**
NM Interstate Stream Commission
- **Rolf Schmidt-Peterson**
NM Interstate Stream Commission

Discussion & Questions

- **Why is the Rio Grande Compact important to *you*?**
 - **How will the requirements of the Rio Grande Compact affect life in the region?**
 - **How might this year's drought-driven decisions affect all basin residents?**
- 

The 10th Assembly

Adjudication: Curse or Salvation

Saturday, June 10, 2006

Dane Smith Hall, UNM

Registration begins at 8:30

Program begins at 9:00

Thank you for attending and
participating!

www.WaterAssembly.org



