

Draft Charter for MRGWA Interdisciplinary Expert Team

The Interdisciplinary Team is to develop a graphic description of the Middle Rio Grande's water future in 2025, assuming no new measures are taken to balance the water deficit; in other words, what the region will look like overall, including the water situation. The team is to prepare and deliver a presentation of that detailed description during the 14th Annual Water Assembly in June of 2010.

The description should recognize the Regional Water Plan and the average annual excess of consumptive water use over renewable supply. It should recognize that since the RWP in 2004, numerous actions or interventions have been taken and will be continuing. The description should assume that no new or enhanced interventions (technical, managerial or institutional) are undertaken, beyond those already funded or in progress. (This might be thought of as a "no new action alternative."). The 2025 date was chosen to reveal key effects, but not be so far into the future that for the need for early action is not compelling.

The description must have a sound scientific basis, duly considering influences by and impacts upon the fields of expertise represented by the team members.

The Water Assembly plans to use the description and information the team develops as a baseline in a second phase to construct other "alternative futures", each with a key new or enhanced intervention or combination of interventions. This exercise would be accomplished through a series of workshops with local leaders representing a broad spectrum of stakeholder perspectives.

Possible approach:

While the expert team should start by developing its own process, we would guess that the following steps might be included, leading to the team's collective best judgment description of the MRG in 2025. The steps along the way would be documented by a "story coordinator" working with the team:

- o Group discussion of team members' initial perceptions about the water-oriented future
- o Review the MRG RWP to understand its main points and data
- o Understand and record the progress and water balances that have been achieved since the RWP
- o Identify the key content types of a 2025 description for the MRG
- o Group discussion of revised perceptions about the water-oriented future
- o Brief written analyses of the influences by and impacts upon of individuals' expertise fields
- o Group discussion and coordination of the diverse input sources
- o Story coordinator's drafting the description of 2025
- o Group review, critique and edit of description draft
- o Design and delivery of the Assembly presentation of 2025 description

It may prove more efficient in the way of elapsed time for the team to split in two, with one group addressing the progress and water balances since the RWP and the other group creating the initial description of 2025.