

Middle Rio Grande Regional Water Plan Update **Key RWP Update Considerations**

When the MRG RWP was presented to the ISC in August 2004, it was also given a list of unresolved issues in the region. On March 3, 2015, Bob Wessely gave a presentation to the MRG RWP Steering Committee which included this list together with other update considerations. Issues included "Coordination of Actions," "ESA Requirements" and "Lack of Completed Adjudications." More than ten years later, those issues have not been resolved. Several issues were also presented by the ISC team in January, including "Compact compliance" and "Already permitted water rights requiring water right transfers for offsets." Below are the two presentation lists.

I. Presentation of March 3, 2015

A. List of Unresolved Issues (Copied from presentation to ISC, August 2004)

1. Primarily Local Issues

- Inter-Jurisdictional Coordination of Actions (intra- and multi-level)
- Public/Political Support for Making Difficult Choices/Decisions
- Economic and Wet Water Impacts from Water Rights Transfers
- Export/import to/from Other Regions
- Shortage of Local Resources to Implement Needed Actions

2. Primarily State and/or Federal Issues

- Means to Resolve Impending Rio Grande Compact Shortfall
- ESA Requirements (e.g., silvery minnow, willow flycatcher)
- Ambiguity of Native and Non-Native Americans' Water Rights
- Lack of Completed Adjudications
- Fundamental Policies such as Domestic Wells, Use It/Lose It
- Appropriate Methods/Constraints for Transferring Water Rights
- Authorization for Albuquerque Drinking Water Project
- Funding Mechanisms for Local Plans and Projects

B. What's Changed? Why Update?

- Urban Use of Surface Water (ABCWUA / DWP)
- MRGCD Water Diversion Upgrades
- Improved User Conservation – Agricultural and Urban
- Population Changes – Quantity and Distribution
- Legal Decisions and Statutory Changes
- Improved Hydrological and Climate Knowledge
- Experience with Periodic NM Drought and Climate Change
- Impending and Approved Development Projects
- Known Shortfalls in 2004 Plan; e.g., implementation

- Stationarity Assumptions Flawed; Plan for Extremes

C. Objectives for RWP Update

- Manage Water to Maintain Our New Mexican Values
- Sustainable Water Supply for the Region -
At Reasonable Price, Very Long Term
- Identify and Account for Infrastructure, Behavioral,
Informational and Attitudinal Changes Since 2004
- Deal with Known, Unaddressed Items in 2004 RWP
- Address and Adapt to Climate Change Impacts
- Guide Managers and Others to Cooperate and
Coordinate Land Use and Water Plans and Actions

II. 1/23/15 ISC Presentation

Key Issues in the Region

- Rio Grande Compact limitations
- Already permitted water rights requiring water right transfers for offsets
- Drought, especially in 2011, 2012, 2013
- Kirtland Air Force Base jet fuel spill
- Watershed and Bosque health
- Many small drinking water systems with infrastructure needs outside of ABCWUA
- Endangered Species Act compliance
- Others?