

Dolores River Dialogue
Science Committee
Wednesday, September 29, 2010
1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
DWCD Board Room

Meeting Notes

I) Introductions

Attendees were: Doug Pickering, Dale Smith, Chuck Wanner, Megan Maloney, Ken Curtis, Peter Mueller, Rob Anderson, Cole Crocker-Bedford, Kara Lynn Crocker-Bedford, Ann Oliver

II) Opening & Approval of the Agenda

III) Presentation by Rob Anderson: "Potential Limiting Factors to Cottonwood Regeneration at Big Gypsum and Lone Dome study sites" (*attached*)

Q and A

Discussion and Next Steps

Meghan suggested putting the findings in abstract form: summarized and easy to digest.

Cole was interested to see comparison of rampdown rates pre and post McPhee. Group agreed it is important to strengthen the correlation between ramping down and groundwater levels.

Drawdown ranges from 400 cfs/day to 200 cfs/day.

Ken suggested that we should hone in on identifying how groundwater reacts to a drawdown of 100cfs/day. Could develop a proposal around an experimental monitoring of groundwater levels during a drawdown rate of 100 cfs /day. It could be useful to strengthen the evidence around the relationship of drawdown to water table. Suggestion to establish cross –section replicates in sites representative of cottonwood establishment sites.

Chuck suggested that we focus on studies without a need for water.

Group agreed on need to hone in on actual/observed ramp down rates that support establishment.

Also, could test using artificial scour at sites.

In order to extend Rob's work, and build upon it for working conclusions, there is a need to find more funding. There is ongoing data collection to be continued: cross sections, piezometers, and veg plots.

Need to maintain relationship and work at Big Gypsum site. TNC and FLC are also working on sites at Big Gyp.

The Science Committee thought possible sources for funding for Rob's work might include the Southwestern Water Conservation District (January deadline), and the SW Roundtable as a non-consumptive project. It would be helpful to study the BOR's "Spill Operating Criteria".

IV) Review and Discussion of Draft SLOWS proposal

If the model is sophisticated enough, could combine temperature with other tools to accomplish environmental goals. Cole cited temperature manipulation trials on the Colorado that resulted in unintended consequences. There are specific windows to each fishes life stages.

V) 319 Watershed Plan update

Ann reported that Chester says the plan is due to the state in March and that he is working on a draft. He plans to have a draft ready to share with the DRD Science Committee by the end of November.

VI) Agenda ideas for upcoming meetings

This agenda item was not addressed, due to time constraints.

VII) Science Committee Meeting Schedule and Next Meeting

Proposed that Science meetings alternate with Hydrology Committee meetings, immediately following Steering Committee meetings (first Tuesday of each month).