

# MIDDLE RIO GRANDE URBAN WATERS PARTNERSHIP

July 28, 2015

*Vision – Through our partnership, we will revitalize urban waters and the communities that surround them, transforming overlooked assets into treasured centerpieces and drivers of urban revival.*

## URBAN WATERS PARTNERSHIP MEETING [2<sup>nd</sup> Notice]

**Please RSVP to Michael Jensen (contact info below)**

**Date:** August 12<sup>th</sup>

**Time:** 1:00 pm - 4:30 pm

**Place:** West Mesa Community Center • 5500 Glenrio Road NW (about ½ mile south of Coors/I-40)



### **Draft Agenda**

- 1:00 – 1:15 Sign-in (*Refreshments provided*)
- 1:15 – 2:15 Partnership Updates (*about 5-7 minutes each, please*)
- 2:15 – 2:30 Break
- 2:30 – 3:00 Presentation on a Bernalillo County-wide *El Camino Real* Proposal  
Steve Burns, National Park Service
- 3:00 – 3:15 Summary of MRG Urban Waters Partnership & National UW Focus on Local Efforts  
Michael Jensen, MRG Urban Waters Ambassador
- 3:15 – 4:25 Open Discussion on Building a Local Urban Waters Partnership
- 4:25 – 4:30 Set Date, Time, and Location for Next Meeting

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:  
Michael Jensen / Middle Rio Grande Urban Waters Ambassador  
[michael.jensen@bosqueschool.org](mailto:michael.jensen@bosqueschool.org) • (505) 362-1063

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### RELATED URBAN WATERS MEETINGS

#### Climate Resilience Charrette – Green Infrastructure & Low-Impact Development

***This is by invitation to MS4 permittees and other stakeholders, but there will be a report we can share later***

#### 50 Cities Workshop

**Date:** Wednesday, August 13<sup>th</sup>

**Time:** 8:30am – 12:00pm

**Place:** Balloon Fiesta Event Center

The workshop participants will help plan and organize the new 50 Cities initiative here in Albuquerque (see below under Local News).

#### E3 Alliance Meeting

**Date:** Tuesday, August 18<sup>th</sup>

**Time:** 9am-11am

**Place:** Rio Grande Nature Center, Education Building • 2901 Candelaria Rd NW

This month we will be focusing on the perspective of the environmental educator and on developing an education ladder that will be passed out to MRG educators so that they may utilize the environmental education services we've worked so hard to develop! If environmental education is a part of your organization, please prioritize this meeting and plan to share.

**Contact:** Larisa Chavez, 505-721-9029, [larisa@conservationlegacy.org](mailto:larisa@conservationlegacy.org)

### LOCAL NEWS

#### South Valley's Pop-Up Visitor's Center

**Place:** 840 Bridge Blvd. NW

The Pop-Up Visitor's Center is a free, public celebration of groups that wish to better serve their community. It is an opportunity for MRGE3 stakeholders to reach out to the community and a chance for the community to talk directly to express their wants and needs. If you would like to showcase your organization with a display, you are welcome to do so in exchange for 4hrs/week hosting the Visitor Center.

**Contact:** Larisa Chavez – (505) 721-9029 • [larisa@conservationlegacy.org](mailto:larisa@conservationlegacy.org)

#### Pueblo of Santa Ana Water Quality Standards

The Pueblo of Santa Ana has gained authority to administer its own water quality standards and certification programs under the Clean Water Act. The announcement was made at the Regional Tribal Operations Committee (RTOC) meeting on July 21<sup>st</sup> at the Pueblo of Isleta. EPA will review and take action on the tribe's water quality standards in a separate agency action.

#### EPA Air Quality Monitoring Grant to CABQ

EPA recently awarded \$151,996 to the city of Albuquerque to monitor fine particulate matter that measure 2.5 micrometers or less (PM2.5) in diameter (about thirty times smaller than a human hair.). The tiny particles or droplets in the air come from a variety of sources, such as vehicle exhausts (including locomotives and construction equipment), other operations that involve the burning of fuels, and natural sources such as forest and grass fires. Fine particles also form from the reaction of gases or droplets in the atmosphere from sources such as power plants and can occur miles from the original source.

#### 50 Cities Initiative

On July 9<sup>th</sup>, at a press event in the Bosque at Central and Tingley, Albuquerque was named one of the first 24 locations in the Department of the Interior's "50 Cities" program. 50 Cities is part of the Interior Department's (DOI) broader Youth Initiative to engage the next generation of outdoor stewards and inspire millions of young adults to play, learn, serve and work in the great outdoors. The DOI is partnering with the National League of Cities, the national YMCA and its local affiliates, and American Express. Funding from American Express will create community coordinator positions in 50 US cities to increase awareness, support and participation in outdoor programs. These newly created positions are expected to engage thousands of volunteers in each city annually. For

more information on the youth initiative: [www.doi.gov/youth](http://www.doi.gov/youth).

### Albuquerque “Champion of Change”

The White House recently recognized Sister Joan Brown of Albuquerque and 11 others as “Champions of Change” for having demonstrated clear leadership through their grassroots efforts to green their communities and educate others on the moral and social justice implications of climate change. Joan is a Franciscan Sister and is the executive director of New Mexico Interfaith Power and Light (NMIPL), which works to educate and inspire faith communities and individuals; engage them in energy efficiency, renewable energy and local food; and emphasize the moral implications of various public policy concerns at the local, state, and federal levels. Sister Joan has worked for decades in the areas of justice, peace, and integrity of creation in the southwest, including with the Partnership for Earth Spirituality, as an OXFAM Sister Ambassador on the Planet, and on the national IPL board. The event was streamed live on the White House website ([www.whitehouse.gov/live](http://www.whitehouse.gov/live)).

## NEWS FROM OTHER URBAN WATERS SITES

### Delaware River

The Brownfields Revitalization “Community of Practice” meeting will take place July 30 in Camden, Pennsylvania. Topics to be covered at the quarterly meeting include: Federal grants update, Camden’s efforts related to economic revitalization through environmental restoration, approaches to water infrastructure challenges, and presentations related to the reclamation of the Harrison Ave Landfill, now the site of the Kroc Community Center. The group will tour the Center and the landfill, inspecting the site of a future “living shoreline.” For more information, contact [Frank.McLaughlin@dep.nj.gov](mailto:Frank.McLaughlin@dep.nj.gov) or [Simeon.Hahn@noaa.gov](mailto:Simeon.Hahn@noaa.gov).

### Los Angeles River

The City of Los Angeles’ plan to undertake an 11-mile revitalization effort along a portion of the 52-mile Los Angeles River just received a unanimous thumbs up from the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). The project centers on Union Pacific’s so-called “Piggyback Yard”, more than 100 acres in the Lincoln Heights neighborhood immediately NE of downtown near Union Station. In 2013, the City Council adopted “Alternative 20” as part of its *Los Angeles River Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study*. The project option would be the most far-reaching modification of the Los Angeles River since its channelization in the 1930s and link the restored area with adjacent neighborhoods and the Los Angeles State Historic Park. It is estimated that the restoration will cost about \$1.3 billion. Ironically, it was the USACE that poured the concrete channels that are what most people think of as the LA River. In places, though, some of the concrete washed out due to high water table and led to the spontaneous creation of some “soft-bottom” habitat, which has served as one of the inspirations for the LA River restoration.

### South Platte River (Denver)

EPA is putting together a **Google Earth green infrastructure virtual tour** on behalf of the South Platte River Urban Waters Partnership. The tool highlights green infrastructure of different types and scales within the partnership area. Requests for local site information have been sent to local partners, which will be incorporated into the tool. The South Platte location is also working to complete its **geo-mapping platform** and has requested input from local partners on projects to be added to the platform.

## FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

### National Park Service – Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program

#### **Deadline is August 1**

National Park Service staff can help local leaders: Develop close-to-home parks and greenways; manage community-led visioning, planning, and design; facilitate public involvement; and build sustainable partnerships. Find out by first reviewing the [application process](#) and exploring [current projects in your state](#). Then [call or email a National Park Service staff member near you](#) to discuss your idea, and **let them know by July 15** if you intend to submit an application by the August 1 due date.

### Funders’ Network for Smart Growth and Livable Communities RFP

#### **Extending application deadline to August 10<sup>th</sup>**

The Funders’ Network revised its earlier RFP to more clearly emphasize that a focus on equity and equitable outcomes is fundamental to sustainability. **Partners for Places** creates opportunities for cities and counties in the

United States and Canada to improve communities by building partnerships between local government sustainability offices and place-based foundations. National funders invest in local projects to promote a healthy environment, a strong economy, and well-being of all residents. The grant program will provide partnership investments between \$25,000 and \$75,000 for one year projects, or \$50,000 and \$150,000 for two year projects, with a **1:1 match required by one or more local foundations**. Please visit the [Idea Bank](#), which has summaries of all the proposals submitted in prior rounds including the winning projects. The Network anticipates that Partners for Places will support another eight to twelve projects in Round Seven. Awards will be announced on October 26, 2015. Please visit the [Partners for Places](#) webpage for more information and to download the updated [Request for Proposals](#) and access the updated [Proposal Form](#). There is also a [Frequently Asked Questions](#) for answers about definitions, the process, and to find out what's new in Round Seven and a webinar to answer questions about the grant program (you can watch a recording of that presentation by [clicking here](#)). If the RFP and FAQ documents don't answer all your questions, you may contact Adrian Martinez at [adrian@fundersnetwork.org](mailto:adrian@fundersnetwork.org) for more information.

#### *American Forests – Three New Community ReLeaf Cities*

**Deadline is August 21, 2015** (9:00 p.m. Eastern Time)

*Urban Waters locations are uniquely positioned for selection. As a new NGO partner of the Urban Waters Federal Partnership, American Forests – through the ReLeaf initiative – seeks to leverage the resources already invested in urban waters communities. Therefore, cities involved in the Urban Waters partnership will be given special consideration in the selection process.*

This program provides an average of \$100,000 in technical and financial resources to provide cities or metro areas with an assessment, survey, or site analysis to provide a scientific foundation, funds for tree canopy restoration, and outreach and policy support to help establish long-term improvement to the local tree canopy and its management. If you have any questions, feel free to email Ian Leahy, Director of Urban Forest Programs, at [ileahy@americanforests.org](mailto:ileahy@americanforests.org). RFP information available [here](#).

#### *Bureau of Land Management – Comprehensive Trails Education, Data And Information*

**Deadline is September 14**

To enhance the public's recreation opportunities, the Bureau of Land Management is announcing the availability of financial assistance in support of entities offering comprehensive trails education, data, and information to the recreating public and trails professionals. Access to information increases public use of trails, which leads to a variety of personal, social, community and economic benefits. For more information: <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=277826>

#### *USDA & Other Agencies – Local Foods, Local Places Technical Assistance*

**Deadline is September 15** (11:59 p.m. Eastern Time)

Supporting local food production can improve economic opportunities for local farmers and businesses, give residents better access to healthy fresh food, and spur revitalization of a main street, downtown, or neighborhood. Communities are invited to apply for technical assistance from the Local Foods, Local Places Program, which will provide direct technical support to selected communities. The assistance process features a community workshop that brings people together to develop shared goals and steps to achieve them. Representatives of communities anywhere in the United States are eligible to apply, especially communities that are economically challenged and in the early phases of their efforts to promote local foods and community revitalization. Special consideration will be given to communities in federally designated Promise Zones or USDA StrikeForce counties. For information and a link to the application, visit <http://www2.epa.gov/smart-growth/local-foods-local-places>.

#### *NEA – Placemaking Grants*

**Deadline is September 21**

The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) is accepting applications for the "[Our Town](#)" grant program, which supports creative, arts-centered placemaking projects. "Creative placemaking" is when artists, arts organizations, and community development practitioners deliberately integrate arts and culture into community revitalization work, such as land-use, transportation, economic development, education, housing, infrastructure, and public safety strategies. Our Town offers support for projects in two areas:

- **Arts Engagement, Cultural Planning, and Design Projects** represent the distinct character and quality of their communities and require a partnership between a nonprofit organization and a local government entity, with one of the partners being a cultural organization. Matching grants range from \$25,000 to \$200,000
- **Projects that Build Knowledge About Creative Placemaking** are available to arts and design service

organizations, and industry or university organizations that provide technical assistance to those doing place-based work. Matching grants range from \$25,000 to \$100,000.

### USDA – Innovation Challenge

#### **Deadline is October 27**

USDA and Microsoft have launched a competition, called the Innovation Challenge, to help farmers and local food systems adapt to climate change. The Challenge is meant to encourage software developers to create applications that will use more than 100 years of USDA data on weather and climate, markets and consumer trends, and a wide range of other information to explore how our food system can achieve better food resiliency and help preserve existing farms and encourage new entry into agriculture. For more information: [“Innovation Challenge”](#) and [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ON\\_wlfIwZBg&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ON_wlfIwZBg&feature=youtu.be)

### USDA – Rural Microenterprise Funding

#### **Ongoing**

USDA is accepting applications for loans and grants to support business expansion, create jobs, and increase economic opportunities in rural communities through USDA's [Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program](#) (RMAP). Details about how to apply for this are on page 35299 of the [June 19 Federal Register](#). Application forms may be obtained from any [USDA Rural Development State Office](#)

### USDA – Protect and Restore Critical Wetlands

#### **Ongoing**

\$17.5 million in financial and technical assistance is available through the Wetland Reserve Enhancement Partnership (WREP) to help eligible conservation partners voluntarily protect, restore and enhance critical wetlands on private and tribal agricultural lands. WREP is a special enrollment option under the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program's (ACEP) Wetland Reserve Easement component administered by the Natural Resources Conservation Service. Visit NRCS's [ACEP](#) webpage to learn more about NRCS's wetland conservation options.

## **EVENTS**

### **LOCAL**

(“Local” includes webinars and teleconferences)

#### *Environmental Education: Opportunity to influence school curriculum!*

**Date:** August 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup>

ACE Leadership High School, in order to make all of our classes as relevant and successful as possible, would like to invite you to Curriculum Collaboration sessions, an opportunity for you to provide us with insight into the current trends in your field. *Please email the contact which date you are available: August 3<sup>rd</sup> or August 4<sup>th</sup>.*

**Contact:** Anthony Medina - [anthony.medina@aceleadership.org](mailto:anthony.medina@aceleadership.org)

#### *Partners Needed: Happy Birthday Valle de Oro!*

**Date:** Saturday, September 26<sup>th</sup>

**Time:** 10:00am-3:00pm

**Place:** Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge • 7851 2<sup>nd</sup> St SW

Valle de Oro NWR is turning three, and we are looking for partners to help us celebrate! We’re expecting nearly 500 people at this event, so it’s a fantastic outreach opportunity.

**Contact:** Teresa Skiba – [teresa\\_skiba@fws.gov](mailto:teresa_skiba@fws.gov) • (505) 933-3230

### **OTHER**

#### *Livable Communities Through Urban Forestry Conference*

**Date:** August 6<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup>

**Place:** Washington DC

Casey Trees’ *Livable Communities through Urban Forestry Conference* is a two-day opportunity to connect with leading experts working on groundbreaking city greening projects and cutting edge urban forestry research. Discussions will center around the environmental, social, and community health benefits of increasing green spaces and ways to incorporate those strategies in Washington DC. Learn about local initiatives such DC Water’s large-

scale green infrastructure implementation and how green roofs are being used as a storm water management tool. For more information: [Learn more and register](#)

#### 2015 Tribal Lands & Environment Forum

**Date:** August 17<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup>

**Place:** Minneapolis-St. Paul MN

The annual Tribal Lands and Environment Forum (TLEF) will feature special trainings, field trips, and breakout sessions focused on solid/hazardous waste management, brownfields, UST/LUSTs, Superfund sites, and emergency response; new this year will be breakout sessions related to tribal water programs – water quality, drinking water, and habitat restoration (including wetlands, streams and fisheries). For more information: [http://www7.nau.edu/itep/main/Conferences/conf\\_tlef/](http://www7.nau.edu/itep/main/Conferences/conf_tlef/)

#### One Water Leadership Summit

**Date:** August 26<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup>

**Place:** San Francisco, CA

Join the movement toward One Water Management, to strategize and show models of success in integration, innovation, and collaboration. This is the conference where leaders from all sectors (water, forest, landscape architects, community and business leaders) come together around the notion of water as an integrating and organizing strategy for building resilience in the urban environment. Green infrastructure and resource recovery techniques point the way to the triple bottom line, environmentally, economically, and socially. For more information: [Registration](#)

#### **River Rally 2016 – Call for Workshops is Open**

**Proposal Deadline is October 15**

Do you have a proven approach or innovation that could help achieve healthy rivers and other waters that sustain all life? *We need you!* River Rally provides an excellent opportunity to share your experience with a broad audience. Please review the guidelines and instructions on River Rally's website before submitting a workshop proposal for next year's event. **In 2016, River rally will be in Mobile, AL.** Submit your proposals via our online form [here](#).

### **RESOURCES**

#### Water-Quality Characteristics of Stormwater Runoff in Rapid City, South Dakota

Measurements collected by the USGS during 2013-2014 showed that concentrations of total suspended solids, metals, nutrients, and bacteria decreased in runoff to Rapid Creek when stormwater was routed through wetland channels in downtown Rapid City, South Dakota. However, chloride concentrations increased, likely due to the movement of salts deposited during prior runoff events. Publication available [here](#).

#### The Bottom Line: Why Permeable Pavements are Good for the Environment and Your Pocket

Permeable pavements are one way to take advantage of financial incentives from many state and local governments for reducing stormwater fees, and they can potentially help developers and property owners qualify for credits under the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design (LEED) certification program. Read the blog [here](#).

#### Public-Private Partnership Launches AmeriCorps Program to Help Communities Build Resilience

Building on the President's Climate Action Plan, the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), the Department of Energy (DOE), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), The Rockefeller Foundation, and Cities of Service announced a new commitment to launch a Resilience AmeriCorps pilot program. More information is available: [here](#).

#### EPA – National Water Program 2015 Workplan

The *Workplan* lays out the actions that the EPA National Water Program plans to take in 2015 to implement the "EPA National Water Program 2012 Strategy: Response to Climate Change", which describes long-term goals for the management of sustainable water resources in light of climate change. It is intended to be a roadmap to guide program planning and inform decision-makers during the Agency's planning and budgeting process. More information is available: [here](#)

### *Progress Report – Building Climate Change Resilience in Vulnerable Communities*

As part of his Climate Action Plan, President Obama established the State, Local, and Tribal Leaders Task Force on Climate Preparedness and Resilience in 2013. The Task Force's [recommendations](#) emphasized the importance of supporting communities that are disproportionately affected, including those facing economic or health-related challenges. The White House is currently releasing a [progress report](#) highlighting some of the key actions taken by the Administration in support of the Task Force's recommendations.

### *DOE – Clean Energy Investment Initiatives*

The Department of Energy (DOE) announced several new and expanding initiatives as part of the Administration's Clean Energy Investment Summit, including the launch of a **Clean Energy Impact Investment Center** (CEII), which will work to make the Department's resources more readily available to the public, including to mission-driven investors. Clean energy finance is a key part of the solution set on climate change. This announcement builds off the Clean Energy Investment Initiative that was announced at the ARPA-E Summit in February, highlighting expanded private sector investment in solutions to climate change, including innovative technologies with breakthrough potential to reduce carbon pollution. More information is available: [here](#)

### *EPA – EJSCREEN*

EJSCREEN is an environmental justice screening and mapping tool that uses high-resolution maps combined with demographic and environmental data to identify places with potentially elevated environmental burdens and vulnerable populations. EJSCREEN's simple-to-understand color-coded maps, bar charts, and reports enable users to better understand areas in need of increased environmental protection, health care access, housing, infrastructure improvement, community revitalization, and climate resilience. To access the tool: <http://www2.epa.gov/ejscreen>

### *EPA – Watershed Funding Resources*

EPA has created a website to provide tools, databases, and information about sources of funding for practitioners to protect watersheds. To view the resource: [click here](#)

### *US Geological Survey – Climate Registry for the Assessment of Vulnerability*

The USGS National Climate Change and Wildlife Science Center (NCCWSC) has developed the Climate Registry for the Assessment of Vulnerability (CRAVe). The registry provides access to information about climate change vulnerability assessments. The effort is a partnership between the NCCWSC and EcoAdapt, with funding support from various federal agencies. An interagency/public-private steering group provided critical input. The purpose of CRAVe is to help leverage the investments being made by all agencies and partners in climate vulnerability assessments. Click [here to learn more about CRAVe](#).