

MIDDLE RIO GRANDE URBAN WATERS PARTNERSHIP

September 9, 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

Next Urban Waters Meeting

Date: Wednesday, October 28th

Time: 1:00pm - 4:30pm

Place: TBD

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RELATED URBAN WATERS MEETINGS

Sunport Boulevard Extension Project Public Meeting

Date: August 27th

Time: 5:00pm – 7:00pm

Place: Herman Sanchez Community Center • 1830 William St SE

This meeting is an opportunity for further community discussion of the Sunport Extension project and the recently completed Environmental Assessment, presented to the public at an August 5th meeting. The Environmental Assessment Report for the Sunport Extension project will be used as a decision-making tool for the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to determine whether to issue a Finding Of No Significant Impact (FONSI) or whether to require an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Documents on the Sunport project can be found at: <http://www.bernco.gov/public-works/current-past-projects.aspx?1fc7eb62479a4a568e871b92638de153blogPostId=52e84a84b12f4e9c92a967416e68556f>

NOTE: the deadline for written comments has been extended to September 28th. Written comments can be sent to:

Peter Hinckley, URS/AECOM • 6501 Americas Parkway NE, #900 • Albuquerque NM 87110

OR via email to: peter.hinckley@aecom.com

Partners Needed: Happy Birthday Valle de Oro!

Date: Saturday, September 26th

Time: 10:00am – 3:00pm

Place: Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge • 7851 2nd 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 • (505) 933-3230

EPA – MS4 Permittees Workshop

Date: October 28th or 29th **DATES TENTATIVE**

Time: TBD

Location: TBD

EPA is sponsoring a workshop for the MS4 (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System) permittees to help them better prepare and implement cooperative/collaborative elements in their permits.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Michael Jensen / Middle Rio Grande Urban Waters Ambassador

michael.jensen@bosqueschool.org • (505) 362-1063

LOCAL NEWS

50 Cities Initiative (now called Let's Move! Outside)

On July 9th, 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. The program 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.

NEWS FROM OTHER URBAN WATERS SITES

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Fruit Tree Planting Foundation – Orchard in Your Community

Ongoing

The Fruit Tree Planting Foundation (FTPF) strategically donates orchards where the harvest will best serve communities for generations, including at community gardens, public schools, city and state parks, low-income neighborhoods, and Native American reservations. For more information: <http://www.ftpf.org/apply.htm>

PNM – Energy Efficiency Program Opportunities

1) Non-Profit Organizations

Closing Date: September 7th (5:00pm)

On Monday, August 17, PNM kicked-off their "Reduce Your Use" grants for 501c3 organizations. These are \$5,000 grants (\$250,000 available). Sign up for the upcoming webinar to learn more about this opportunity:

Date: August 27th

Time: 1:00pm – 2:00pm

Register: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2160127300674133761>

2) Multi-Family Units

PNM also has a "Multi-Family Energy Efficiency Program", that offers rebates to multi-family property owners. Eligible upgrades can include measures such as high efficiency lighting and lighting controls, space heating and space cooling equipment, water heating equipment and controls, faucet aerators and low flow showerheads, and refrigerators. For more information, visit <http://pnmmultifamily.com/>

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.

Project Learning Tree – GreenWorks Grant

Deadline is September 30

Project Learning Tree is accepting applications for service learning projects with an environmental improvement component. The projects should reflect "student voice", involve at least one community partner, and have a 50% match. Applicants need to attend a PLT webinar to apply. For more information: <https://www.plt.org/apply-for-greenworks-environmental-education-grant>

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

EVENTS

LOCAL

(*"Local" includes webinars and teleconferences*)

ABQ-BernCo Comprehensive Plan & ABQ Integrated Development Ordinance

Date: Ongoing (check the project website for upcoming meeting dates and comment deadlines)

August Update (from the consultants):

- **Workshops & Survey Results.** Results of the May county-wide Community Workshops are up on the [project website](#). Fregonese – the Comp Plan consultants – digitized each table's maps from the May workshops and analyzed them individually and collectively. These maps will help guide the revised community vision for the Comp Plan. Instant polling at each workshop has been analyzed compared to the online survey in both English and Spanish. Results are posted [here](#). Fregonese has also digitized all the comments mapped at the June quadrant workshops. These will be available as an interactive map on the project website soon.
- **Focus Groups.** Over 350 staff and community members attended one or more focus groups July 13-22. These working sessions provided important discussions on topics to be updated in the Comp Plan. The consultant team is now drafting updates based on focus group input and workshop results. Look for the **first installment of Comp Plan revisions in September**. The full draft is expected to be available for public review in November. Presentations and notes from each focus group are available on the project webpage here: <http://abc-zone.com/documents>
- **Integrated Development Ordinance.** Clarion Associates – lead consultant on the "Z" (zoning) portion of ABC-Z project – is working on Module 1, the first of three modules that will become the Integrated Development Ordinance. Module 1 will propose new zoning districts and the uses allowed in each. The

module is *expected to be released for public review in October*. In the meantime, you can still get up to speed by reviewing Don Elliot's presentation of key items in the Zoning Diagnosis [here](#). Or review the entire [Zoning Diagnosis](#) online.

Green Infrastructure Planning - Introductory Webinar and Two-Part Training Course
[Rethinking Our Land: Growing Sustainable and Resilient Communities](#)

Date: September 2, 2015

Time: 11:15 pm to 12:00 pm Mountain Time

Place: *Free webinar*

The Security and Sustainability Forum and the Green Infrastructure Center (GIC) present a new way of thinking about natural resources as our infrastructure. GIC creates green infrastructure planning guides for states and communities; formed in 2006, it has developed GI guides for the states of Virginia, Arkansas, New York, North Carolina and South Carolina. The Webinar will describe GIC's six-step field tested process to demonstrate how community needs for clean air, clean water, and healthy local food can be met by a green infrastructure-based strategy which also furthers economic vitality.

If you are interested in taking a more in-depth online green infrastructure training course (*\$100; early-bird special before September 10th is \$79*), the Security and Sustainability Forum is offering a two-session webinar. It promises participants can learn the steps to create community green infrastructure maps and plans, how to put plans into practice, how to engage the community and grow support, and real world examples for on-the-ground implementation from rural to suburban to urban settings. Here is the information:

Date: September 21st & September 28th

Time: 11:15am – 12:45pm Mountain Time

Place: Webinar

For more information, contact Edward Saltzberg: (703) 992-3848 •

esaltzberg@securityandsustainabilityforum.org and to register: [Strategic Green Infrastructure Planning: A Multi-Scale Approach](#)

US Forest Service - Urban Forest Inventory and Analysis: Bringing the nation's forest census to urban areas

Date: September 9

Time: 11:00am – 12:15pm Mountain Time

Place: Free Webinar

Last year, the U.S. Forest Service's Forest Inventory & Analysis (FIA) program began developing an urban inventory program in recognition of the need to include urban forests in its nationwide forest census and in response to legislative direction in the 2014 Farm Bill. This webinar will present an introduction to the new Urban FIA program, key information on Urban FIA methods, and the very latest on efforts currently underway in Baltimore MD, Austin TX, Madison and Milwaukee WI, Providence RI, and other "first" cities. Speakers will discuss early successes, future developments, and how the US Forest Service plans to work with partners to implement the program across the nation.

Please use the information below to connect to the webinar:

1. **FIRST TIME USERS: MAKE SURE YOU CAN CONNECT**

If you have never attended an Adobe Connect meeting before, test your connection before the webinar. Go to:

https://usfs.adobeconnect.com/common/help/en/support/meeting_test.htm

2. **CONNECT TO THE WEBINAR ON YOUR SYSTEM**

Go to: <https://usfs.adobeconnect.com/ucf/>

3. **AUDIO**

Broadcast audio through your computer or use the information below to connect via telephone conferencing:

Toll-free: (888) 621-9649 or (617) 231-2734 • Participant code: 420361

4. **TROUBLESHOOTING**

Unable to join the meeting? Call Adobe Connect at: (800) 422-3623

Need help with telephone conferencing? Call AT&T Connect Support at: (888) 796-6118

Related links:

[Urban Forest Inventory and Analysis \(FIA\)](#): official U.S. Forest Service web site

[The Science and Future of i-Tree](#): An *Urban Forest Connections* webinar with David Nowak

River Network - Monitoring That Guarantees Measurable Results

Date: Registration closes September 18th – Series runs through March 2016

Time: Available on registration

Place: Webinar

River Network has started a new webinar training series. There was a free Introductory Webinar on August 18th (announced in the last Newsletter). Learn what's missing in your monitoring program and how to create measurable results that make a quantifiable difference in the outcomes, storytelling and funding for your river. Data, concentrations, number of stations, or river miles monitored are not measurable results. These metrics do not make a difference, increase funding, protect or restore rivers by themselves. **Actions, decisions and changes made due to information generated are measurable results.** Monitoring programs stuck in generating numbers are not expanding organizational influence, impact, funding and fulfillment of mission. **There is a cost:** the full program (5 webinars/10 hrs. of training, 5 Q&A open office hours, 2 hours of consultation) is \$1,297 General Registration / \$997 River Network Partners. However, there is a **\$500 rebate for completed plans.** For more information and to register: <http://www.rivernetnetwork.org/monitoring4results>

EPA – Safe and Sustainable Water Resources Research Program

Date: Monthly

Time: 10:00am - 11:00am Mountain Time

Place: Webinar

EPA's Office of Research and Development is hosting monthly webinars to share information on its Safe and Sustainable Water Resources Research Program. Through innovative science and engineering, cost-effective, sustainable solutions to 21st century complex water issues are being developed. These solutions will help ensure that clean and adequate supplies of water are available to support human health and resilient aquatic ecosystems, now and into the future. The remaining webinars are:

- **September 30** – Monitoring and Early Detection of Invasive Species in Lakes
- **October 28** – Acidification of Rivers, Lakes, and Oceans
- **November 18** – Advances in Resource Recovery Technologies and Energy Efficiency, and Metrics and Tools for Life-Cycle Comparisons
- **December 16** – Ecosystem Services Approaches to Restoring a Sustainable Chesapeake Bay and its Tributary Watersheds

For more information and to register: <http://www2.epa.gov/water-research/2015-water-research-webinar-series>

EPA – Small Drinking Water and Wastewater Systems Webinar Series

Date: Monthly

Time: 12:00pm – 1:00pm (Q&A from 1:00pm – 1:30pm) Mountain Time

Place: Webinar

EPA's Office of Research and Development and Office of Water are hosting this monthly webinar series to communicate EPA's current small systems research along with Agency priorities. The series is providing a forum for EPA to communicate directly with state personnel and other drinking water and wastewater small systems professionals, which allows EPA to provide training and foster collaboration and dissemination of information.

Attendees have the option of receiving a certificate for one continuing education contact hour for each webinar. (Note: Continuing education contact hour certificates cannot be offered for watching previously recorded webinars. Acceptance of certificate is contingent on state and/or organization requirements. EPA cannot guarantee acceptance.) Recordings and presentation slides are available for past webinars, and are being hosted by the [Association of State Drinking Water Administrators' \(ASDWA\)](#). The remaining webinars are:

- **September 29** – UV Disinfections Systems: Treatment of Groundwater for Small/Medium Sized Water Utilities
- **October 27** – Decentralized High-Rate Wastewater Treatment of Peak Wet Weather Flows
- **November 24** – Treatability Databases, Cost Models, and other Tools for Water Systems
- **December 15** – Reduction of Lead in Drinking Water

For information about upcoming webinars and to register: <http://www2.epa.gov/water-research/2015-small-systems-webinar-series>

NON-LOCAL

River Rally 2016 – Call for Workshops is Open

Date: 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? 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. ***River Rally will be held May 20-23 in Mobile, AL.*** For more information and to submit proposals via an online form, go [here](#).

RESOURCES

South Valley's Pop-Up Visitor Center

Place: 840 Bridge Blvd. NW (just east of Isleta on the south side of Bridge)

The Pop-Up Visitor Center is a free public celebration of groups that wish to better serve their community. It is an opportunity for MRGE3 (Middle Rio Grande Environment Education Employment) Alliance and other organizations to reach out to the community and a chance for the community to talk directly to express their wants and needs. For more information, contact Larisa Chavez at (505) 721-9029 • larisa@conservationlegacy.org

EPA – Safe and Sustainable Water Resources Research Program

EPA's Office of Research and Development is hosting monthly webinars to share information on its Safe and Sustainable Water Resources Research Program. Through innovative science and engineering, cost-effective, sustainable solutions to 21st century complex water issues are being developed. These solutions will help ensure that clean and adequate supplies of water are available to support human health and resilient aquatic ecosystems, now and into the future. The past 2015 webinars are:

- Diagnosing Stressor Importance in EPA's National Aquatic Resource Surveys (August 19)
- Next-Generation Community Water Systems: Sustainability of Coastal Community Water and Sanitation Service Options (July 29)
- Methane Emissions from Reservoirs: Assessing the Magnitude and Developing Mitigation Approaches (June 24)
- Pathogen Treatment Guidance and Monitoring Approaches for On-Site Non-Potable Water Reuse (May 27)
- Model for Investigating the Human Health Risks of Multi-Route Exposure to Bromodichloromethane, a Volatile Disinfection Byproduct that can Form During Drinking Water Treatment (April 29)
- The Urban Forest as Green Infrastructure for Stormwater Management (March 25)
- New Climate Adjustment Tool: An update to EPA's Storm Water Management Model (February 25)
- Urban Soil Hydrology and Applications to Improve Demolition Practice (January 28)

For links to information about these webinars (but not the webinar slides, unfortunately):

<http://www2.epa.gov/water-research/2015-water-research-webinar-series>

EPA – Small Drinking Water and Wastewater Systems Webinar Series

EPA's Office of Research and Development and Office of Water are hosting this monthly webinar series to communicate EPA's current small systems research along with Agency priorities. The series is providing a forum for EPA to communicate directly with state personnel and other drinking water and wastewater small systems professionals, which allows EPA to provide training and foster collaboration and dissemination of information. Recordings and presentation slides are being hosted at the [Association of State Drinking Water](#)

[Administrators' \(ASDWA\)](#). Past webinars include:

- Distribution Operation Options for Small Systems to Address Disinfection Byproducts (August 18)
- Corrosion Control for Drinking Water Systems (July 28)
- Biological and Microbial Aspects of Septic System Pollution (June 30)
- Current Water Treatment and Distribution System Optimization for Cyanotoxins (May 26)
- Understanding End Water Quality in Hospitals and Other Large Buildings (April 28)
- Small Water System Alternatives: Media and Membrane Filtration for Small Communities and Households (March 31)
- Innovative Biological Treatment for Small Water Systems: Ammonia, Nitrites, and Nitrates (February 24)
- Research and Implementation of Arsenic Removal Technologies at Small Community Water Systems (January 27)

For information about past webinars: <http://www2.epa.gov/water-research/2015-small-systems-webinar-series>

EPA – National Water Program Climate Change Adaptation Tools

EPA has developed a series of handouts summarizing the tools developed by the agency for state, tribal, and local governments and others to adapt their clean water and drinking water programs to a changing climate. Tools include, among others, a Storm Surge Inundation and Hurricane Strike Frequency Map; a Workbook for Developing Risk-Based Adaptation Plans; a Flood Resilience Guide for Water and Wastewater Utilities; and a National Stormwater Calculator with Climate Scenarios. For more information [click here](#)

American Meteorological Society – State of the Climate Report for 2014

The report, compiled by NOAA's Center for Weather and Climate at the National Centers for Environmental Information, provides a detailed update on global climate indicators, notable weather events, and other data collected by environmental monitoring stations and instruments located on land, water, ice, and in space. For more information, [click here](#)

National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) – Planning for Prosperity in Small Towns and Rural Regions

NADO created a clearinghouse of materials for rural regions and small towns, with publications, webinars, workshop materials and other information on a variety of topics including economic resilience, entrepreneurship, community engagement, downtown redevelopment and food systems. While designed to assist the *Sustainable Communities Initiative* grantee communities, these materials should be helpful to planners, economic developers, elected officials and residents working to improve and strengthen their small towns and rural regions. For more information, [click here](#)

Department of Energy / National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) – City-Level Energy Decision Making: Data Use in Energy Planning, Implementation, and Evaluation in U.S. Cities

NREL's report examines what US cities are doing to reduce their energy use. The report analyzes and presents information learned from a sample of 20 cities across the United States, from Los Angeles to Boston, including a diverse sample of population size, utility type, region, annual greenhouse gas reduction targets, vehicle use, and median household income. For more information, [click here](#)