

**SMP Work Group Minutes**  
**10:00 am, Friday, June 01, 2012**  
**Delta NRCS office**

**Attendees:** Please see attached sign-in sheet.

**Facilitator:** Terry Stroh

**1. Study / Research Funding Strategy (Terry and Steve Miller.)**

Status/Discussions/Decisions:

1. Terry and others recently conducted a conference call discussion on funding strategies. At today's meeting Terry handed out a table summarizing the status of studies and activities being conducted or proposed in support of the Selenium Management Program.
2. Steve Fletcher. stated that the EC Lateral Lining project is about ½ completed. The Uncompahgre Valley Water Users Association (UVWUA) plans to line the approximately, remaining 5000 feet of canal during this summer and fall. Since they're using a new, less expensive method to line the canal, a suggestion was made from the group to use any extra funding to document the costs, results, and benefits of the method. No deliverable written document is currently required for the project.
3. Steve Miller stated that any Species Conservation Trust Fund (SCTF) money for the Uncompahgre Optimization Study must be used in the Uncompahgre Valley for water quality or for any on the ground activities that benefit water quality. In order to perform an optimization study in the North Fork and Smith Fork, he suggested that the group put together a study sub-scope amendment and add additional money.
4. The USGS has started to perform reconnaissance for approximately 30 new well locations in support of the Wetland and Legacy Studies. The plan is to use Reclamation drilling crews to drill the new wells using Reclamation funds. To schedule the drillers Terry needs to know the number of wells, their depths, casings, whether or not cores are to be collected, and any other pertinent information. The USGS will also continue to try and locate, and possibly sample, any of the previously drilled Reclamation wells.
5. The NRCS Soil health study is into its second year. Funded by a special, on-farm grant of \$1.35 million, its purpose is to improve soil health by the incorporation of organic matter which would ultimately increase yields. A secondary benefit to the program may be the improvement of water quality through the reduction of selenium and salinity, but the grant funding doesn't cover the costs associated with water quality monitoring. The group discussed funding strategies for water quality collection and analysis, as well as the possibility of using the services of a VISTA volunteer to collect samples. The goal would be to have 6 farms in high selenium areas on the east side of the Uncompahgre Valley participating in the study. Those farms have not been identified. Most participants in the program have been on the low selenium loading, west side of the valley. Water quality study funding could from the SCTF, but funding couldn't begin until August. It's too late to set up 2012 funds for the study. Monitoring can be done in areas that have

- high selenium bearing soils which include areas in the east side of the Uncompahgre, the North Fork, the Smith Fork, and North Delta County. Funding would need to be contracted with another agency such as CSU or the CSU extension service. A VISTA volunteer could be used for sample collection, but their role can't be a workhorse. Their ultimate purpose would be to train and oversee other volunteers. There was discussion of the possible availability of a volunteer in September, but a decision would need to be made on their role and who would supervise them.
6. For SMP Education and Outreach, Terry is working on obtaining a Purchase Order of \$15K for FY 2012 and securing funds for FY 2013.
  7. The purpose of the Context Study was discussed. It's being designed to compile all study information together and would allow a better understanding of the overall selenium loading and transport in the Lower Gunnison Basin. The non-agricultural sources would be looked at, as well.
  8. There was discussion about adding energy development, and its associated surface disturbance, to the Non-Ag Solutions Study. Currently Reclamation is looking at other aspects of the study, such as pond lining.
  9. There was a short discussion about the Annual Trend Data Analysis and the reports being published by the USGS as being non-citable. This was done to keep costs down.

Action Item(s):

1. Group-Prioritize studies and activities, and add any additional funding sources to Activity Planning Table at next meeting.
2. Dave Kanzer to submit numbers for his share of funding on SMP Education and Outreach.
3. Terry and Sonja to work on job description for a possible VISTA volunteer position.

**2. FOA State Planning Technical Assistance (DK and Steve M.)**

Status/Discussions/Decisions:

1. Initial interest from the irrigation districts for the Salinity FOA Planning Assistance has been high. These funds would be used to help irrigators in high selenium areas prepare proposals to line or pipe their systems as part of Reclamation's 2012 Salinity Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA).
2. A discussion was undertaken by the group on how to effectively distribute the approximately \$5 - 10K available for planning assistance. The four options discussed involved routing the funds either through the River District, Jim Currier's office, the Delta Conservation District (DCD) or to hire an engineering firm. A motion to route the funding through the DCD was approved by the members in attendance.

Action Item(s):

1. Steve and others to determine where assistance money will be spent after determining what areas are high in selenium and salinity.
2. Ralph D'Alessandro to coordinate training on the CDSS website by Steve Miller for Mike Zeman. and John Sottolare.

**3. Loutsenhizer Arroyo Action Plan Update (Sonja)**

Status/Discussions/Decisions:

1. A major issue is overuse of irrigation water resulting in significant erosion and piping.
2. Ideas discussed included doing more outreach to land owners, finding out what barriers prevent them from going to sprinkler systems, and possible incentive programs in addition to EQUIP.

**4. 2012 SMP Status Report to FWS per PBO (Terry)**

Status/Discussions/Decisions:

1. The 2011 report will be abbreviated since it only covers 6 months. The group would like the report deadline to extend through August so data collected in 2011 can be reviewed.

Action Item(s):

1. Check with FWS on extending report deadline to August.
2. Add new items and progress made on line items to table.

**5. Next SMP Work Group meeting:**

The next SMP meeting has been scheduled for 10:00 am on July 26<sup>th</sup> at the NRCS Office in Delta.

## Selenium Management Program Work Group

June 01, 2012

Name	Representing	Phone No.	Email address (for those not on our emailing list)
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Dave Deaustyne	NRCS		
Jedd Sondergaard	BLM		
Ralph D'Alessandro	DCD		
Dave KENZER	CRD		
Sonja Chavez de Baca	GBSTF		
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