

USPP Technical Committee

Visioning Work Session Update

Presented to Upper San Pedro Partnership- PAC
9/13/17

Technical Committee Agreements

Greatest challenge – Reduced federal funding limits research, monitoring and project implementation

Most beneficial role for Tech going forward – Provide science information that supports the specific needs of USPP members in support of:

- Increased groundwater sustainability
- Tracking overall hydrologic status and trends of the Sierra Vista Subwatershed
- Monitoring and/or research needs of individual member agency

What Tech no longer needs to do: Prioritize member agency projects for implementation

What processes need to improve: Better clarity with decision makers about WHAT they need to know, and HOW to best deliver that information

Considerations for developing purpose statement

- Better understanding of information needs of decision makers and USPP membership to prioritize research and monitoring needs
- Easier, more timely and consistent distribution of data

DRAFT, NEW

USPP Technical Committee Purpose

USPP Technical Committee Purpose: The purpose of the Committee is to coordinate and cooperate in the identification, **development and utilization of science and technical information** ~~prioritization and implementation of comprehensive policies and projects~~ to assist in meeting water needs in the Sierra Vista Subwatershed of the Upper San Pedro River Basin.

Questions for PAC – Purpose Statement

1. Will this new Tech purpose be useful for your organization?
2. Does the purpose statement align with the USPP vision?

USPP Mission: A consortium of agencies and organizations working together to meet the long-term water needs of the Sierra Vista Subwatershed by achieving sustainable yield of the regional aquifer to: 1) preserve the San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area (SPRNCA), and 2) ensure the long-term viability of Fort Huachuca.

Existing Tech Comm Tasks (“Duties”)

UPDATED

1. Information and data gathering activities and/or research undertaken by the USPP and its members.
2. Relevant research undertaken by other agencies to determine its applicability to Partnership activities.
3. Public outreach information intended for distribution to the public or others by the Partnership or its committees.
4. Vet potential yield on proposed projects that are intended for inclusion in calculations for the 321 report to Congress.

NO LONGER RELEVANT

Information, data and studies provided by consultants for inclusion in the USPP Strategic Plan.

Perform such other duties as may be requested by the PAC to assist in the development and implementation of the USPP Strategic Plan

Proposed Tech Comm Tasks

1. Update and use the [USGS groundwater model](#) for the Upper San Pedro Basin
2. Conduct annual [review and reporting of sustainability indicators](#)
3. Host an [annual "science summit"](#) to exchange info with decision makers and the public, including previous findings and future information gaps
4. [Science support for member agency](#) needs for research, monitoring or projects
5. [Make science-based information available](#) for decision-makers and public outreach
6. Better [integrate our work with and receive input](#) from other partners on key technical issues
7. Technical Committee [planning](#)

Proposed Work Plan

	TASKS	JUL-SEP 2017	OCT-DEC 2017	JAN-MAR 2018
1	Update/use the USGS groundwater model	USGS groundwater model updates (Lacher)		
2	Conduct annual review and reporting of sustainability indicators	ID sustainability indicator monitoring, data and funding gaps, Related research needs	1. Wet Dry 2017 mapping results (TNC) 2. Communicate funding needs to Ex Comm	
3	Organize and host annual "science summit"	.	Cienega Watershed Partnership presents on Science on the Sonoita Plain	Malpai Borderlands presents on State of the Science annual meeting process
4	Science support for Member Agency technical needs for research, monitoring or projects	CCRN network build out modeling scenarios (Lacher)	Initial CCRN ephemeral streamflow monitoring results for project sites (GSA)	1. Bella Vista Phase II Site Investigation results & conceptual project design (Cochise Co.) 2. Mesquite ET monitoring results (ARS)
5	Make science-based information available for decision makers and public outreach	USPP website work group convenes, and begins to assist consultant with redesign	Web Portal Workgroup convenes: Begin application for 2018 WaterSMART Applied Science Grant	
6	Integrate our work with and receive input from other partners on key technical	Identify and invite guest speakers for Tech Comm presentations for next 6 months.		
7	Technical Committee planning	1. Refine purpose & tasks; draft workplan through 6/18 2. Present above to PAC 3. Refine operating protocols given agreements from PAC; Form Web portal Work	Form "science summit" workgroup; who then lines up Cienega Wtshd Partnership and Malpai presentations	

Questions for PAC - Tasks

1. Will these new tasks be useful for your organization?
2. Do you think these tasks take us in the right direction for the USPP as a whole?

Proposed Tech Comm Tasks – For Review

1. Update and use the [USGS groundwater model](#) for the Upper San Pedro Basin
2. Conduct annual [review and reporting of sustainability indicators](#)
3. Host an [annual "science summit"](#) to exchange info with decision makers and the public, including previous findings and future information gaps
4. [Science support for member agency](#) needs for research, monitoring or projects
5. [Make science-based information available](#) for decision-makers and public outreach
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Questions for PAC – Process going forward

- Will the purpose statement for the overall USPP change going forward?
- Does PAC need to approve the Technical Committee's revised purpose and task list?
- What is the correct process for refining the operational protocols of the Technical Committee, given the revised purpose and tasks?

Current USPP Purpose Statement

The purpose of the Partnership is to coordinate and cooperate in the identification, prioritization and implementation of comprehensive policies and projects to assist in meeting water needs in the Sierra Vista Subwatershed of the Upper San Pedro River Basin.

Other Technical Committee Updates:

1. Next meeting: Wednesday, September 20, 1:30 – 4:00

- Incorporate purpose and tasks feedback from today
- Determine process for revising Technical Committee operating protocols
- Lacher Hydrological Consulting Presentation:
"Simulated Cochise Conservation and Recharge Network Full Build-out Recharge with Updated Sierra Vista Subwatershed Pumping"

2. Work Group for USPP website input:

- Sharon Flissar (City of Sierra Vista)
- Tice Supplee (Arizona Audubon)