

MIDDLE RIO GRANDE URBAN WATERS PARTNERSHIP

August 7, 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

Reminder

Date: Tuesday, August 12th

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
- 2:15 – 2:30 Break
- 2:30 – 3:00 Bernalillo County-wide *El Camino Real* Proposal (*draft proposal attached*)
Steve Burns, National Park Service
- 3:00 – 3:15 Summary of MRG Urban Waters Partnership & National UW Focus on Local Efforts (*documents attached: summary history of MRG Urban Waters / Mike Shapiro, EPA letter*)
Michael Jensen, MRG Urban Waters Ambassador
- 3:15 – 4:25 Discussion on Building a Local Urban Waters Partnership (*background materials attached*)
- 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 • (505) 362-1063

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RELATED URBAN WATERS MEETINGS

50 Cities Workshop

Date: Thursday, August 13th

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 18th

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

LOCAL NEWS

50 Cities Initiative

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. 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.

NEWS FROM OTHER URBAN WATERS SITES

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

American Forests – Three New Community ReLeaf Cities

Deadline is August 21 (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. 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

EVENTS

LOCAL

(*"Local" includes webinars and teleconferences*)

US Senator Martin Heinrich - Community Calling for Reauthorization and Full Funding of Land and Water Conservation Fund

Date: Tuesday, August 11th

Time: 10:00am

Place: Petroglyph National Monument Visitor Center
6510 Western Trail NW, Albuquerque
(West of intersection of Western Trail NW and Unser)
For directions, [click here](#)
(505) 899-0205, ext. 1

Leaders from the conservation, Native American, veteran, Hispano, business, and other communities in New Mexico will come together with US Senator Martin Heinrich to call for reauthorization and full funding of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). The LWCF has brought \$261 million to New Mexico for parks and recreational opportunities. Senator Heinrich will be joined by LULAC New Mexico Executive Director Ralph Arellanes, with other speakers TBA. Emcee: New Mexico Wildlife Federation Executive Director Garrett VeneKlasen.

Economic Development Administration (EDA) - 2015 Regional Innovation Strategies (RIS) Program

There will be several opportunities in the coming week to get more information about this opportunity (described above under "Funding opportunities")

- **Wednesday, August 12**
11:00am Mountain Time
EDA Twitter Chat hosted by @US_EDA and OIE Director @ChiefMuse (use #RISP15 to ask questions)
- **Thursday, August 13**
2:00 p.m. MT
SSTI hosted webinar (general RIS); For more information: [REGISTER](#)
- **Monday, August 18**
Check [OIE's Website](#) in the coming days for time and registration information
White House Rural Council and USDA cohosted webinar (RIS rural component)

South Valley's Pop-Up Visitor's Center – GRAND OPENING

Date: August 13th

Time: 6:00pm – 9:00pm

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. For more information, contact Larisa Chavez at (505) 721-9029 • larisa@conservationlegacy.org

River Network - Monitoring That Guarantees Measurable Results

Date: August 18th

Time: 9:00am Pacific/11:00am Eastern

Place: Webinar

River Network is offering a new 5-part webinar training series on how to create measurable water monitoring results that make a quantifiable difference in your outcomes, storytelling, and funding. The [Introductory Webinar](#) is **free**; the [Full Webinar Program](#) includes 5 webinars, 5 Q&A open office hours, and 2 hours of individual consultation. Registered participants will be surveyed before the program begins to customize the course content so you learn how to create an actionable monitoring plan. ****Note: Registration entitles your organization to up to six slots per webinar. \$500 rebates available upon completion of monitoring plan.** Go here to [REGISTER](#). For more information, contact [Adam Griggs](#).

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](#), Island Press and Karen Firehock, founder of the [Green Infrastructure Center](#) (GIC) and author of [Strategic Green Infrastructure Planning - a Multi-scale Approach](#), present a new way of thinking about natural resources as our infrastructure. GIC creates green infrastructure planning guides for states and communities and is the leading trainer and consultancy on the topic. Formed in 2006, GIC 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.

[Take a More In-Depth Online Green Infrastructure Training Course](#)

[Strategic Green Infrastructure Planning: A Multi-Scale Approach](#)

Date: September 21st & 28th

Time: 11:15pm - 12:45pm Mountain Time

Place: Two 90 Minute Online Training Modules

- **September 21:** Strategic Green Infrastructure - Reconnecting the Landscape to Create Resilient Communities
- **September 28:** Mapping Tools - Discovering and Conserving the Highest Value Resources

Cost: \$100 for the course

Early bird price: \$79 until September 10th

Engineering, arboriculture, planning, landscape architecture and other CEU credits available

[Download the Course Description](#)

[Register for the Course](#)

Designed for planners, landscape architects, natural resource management professionals, and other environmental decision makers and practitioners. Students will learn:

- How to map and prioritize natural assets as green infrastructure
- How to execute a green infrastructure strategy fostering economic vitality

Each of the modules will provide practical, real world advice along with the latest research to help participants translate their learning into action.

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

OTHER

One Water Leadership Summit

Date: August 26th – 28th

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? 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. 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](#).