

# **Gila Basin Irrigation Commission**

**December 1, 2010**

## **Minutes**

**Present:** Leeann Thorpe, Jerry Woodrow, Bob Michaels, Topper Thorpe, BJ Agnew

A quorum of the Gila Basin Irrigation Commission (GBIC) was determined to be present by the representation of the Upper Gila Irrigation Association, the Fort West Irrigation Association, the Gila Hot Springs Irrigation Association by proxy, the Gila Farms Irrigation Association by proxy, the Riverside Irrigation Association by proxy, and the Grandpa Harper Irrigation Association by proxy.

The minutes of the September 20, 2010 meeting of the GBIC were approved.

## **Updates**

The Stakeholders group has assembled a packet that has approximately sixty projects, many of which are still in the conceptual stage. This packet was sent to the Interstate Stream Commission (ISC) for review. The ISC Chairman returned the packet with the stipulation that the Stakeholders reduce the number to those most important.

The ISC has received other project proposals from different groups i.e. the Prospectors, the city of Deming, the Gila/San Francisco Water Commission (GSFWC) and others.

The GBIC has split its project into two parts. There is: (1) A one page master plan that was included with the Stakeholders packet, and (2) A much more complete proposal just for permanent diversions from the River into the three major acequias. This diversion would benefit the Upper Gila, the Fort West, and the Gila Farms Irrigation Associations. This proposal includes engineering and some current cost figures. This second proposal part was submitted directly to the ISC. The GBIC has requested funding for this proposal.

During discussion, it was mentioned that if the GBIC would look for other funding options, for the second proposal, that it might strengthen our chances of ISC acceptance. There are many questions about funding with a change in the Governors office and the legislature in New Mexico.

The Implementation/Technical Committee has set some deadlines.

- June 2011 Deadline for refining list of recommended project proposals from Stakeholders under ISC guidelines.
- October 2011 Finalize/submit project proposals to ISC.
- January 2012 Consensus projects Identified and submitted to ISC.
- 2013, 2014 Technical evaluation of projects identified.
- 2014 December Submission to Secretary of the Interior.

There will be a Town Hall meeting of New Mexico First in an attempt to obtain consensus. This meeting will not be held until the Fall of 2011. At the January meeting of the Implementation/Technical Committee there is to be a representative of New Mexico First. There are many questions to be answered before the GBIC, or the Stakeholders, agree to participate in the meeting.

An update on the status of the Maldonado Canyon Flood Control Dam was given indicating that work is progressing to decommission this dam. Specific dates for completion are not available at this time.

### **Old Business**

None

### **New Business**

None

### **Public Comment**

None

### **Future Meetings**

Implementation/Technical Committee

January 6, 2011

10:00 am

Location in Silver City, NM to be announced.

GBIC

January 12, 2011

6:00 pm

Senior Center

Gila, New Mexico

New Mexico First Town Hall

TBA