



NM Water Ambassadors Third Meeting

Monday, July 18, 2022

Via Zoom

Attendees

Task Force Executive Committee

Mike Hamman, State Engineer, Office of State Engineer

Hannah Riseley-White, Deputy Director, ISC

Rebecca Roose, Deputy Cabinet Secretary of Administration, NMED

Marquita Russel, CEO, NM Finance Authority

Task Force Members

AJ Forte, Executive Director, NM Municipal League

Aron Balok, Water Resource Specialist, Pecos Valley Artesian Conservancy District

Aaron Chavez, Executive Director, San Juan Water Commission

Debbie Romero, Cabinet Secretary, NM Dept. of Finance & Administration

Dr. Ladona Clayton, Executive Director, Ogallala Land and Water Conservancy

Dr. Nelia Dunbar, NM Tech Professor, Leap Ahead Analysis

Elizabeth Anderson, Chief Planning Officer, ABCWUA

Jennifer Bradfute, Senior Counsel, Marathon Oil Company

Joy Esparsen, Deputy Executive Director, New Mexico Association of Counties

Kyle Harwood, Water Rights Attorney, Santa Fe

Norm Gaume, President, MRG Water Advocates

Patrick McCarthy, Water Policy Officer, Thornburg Foundation

Paul Tashjian, Director of Freshwater Conservation, Audubon

Paula Garcia, Executive Director, NM Acequia Association

Priscilla Lucero, Executive Director, SWNMCOG; Water Trust Board

Ryan Swazo-Hinds, Environmental Biologist, Pueblo of Tesuque Department of Environment & Natural Resources

Debbie Romero, Cabinet Secretary, NM Department of Finance and Administration

Todd Leahy, Tribal Liaison, NM Energy Minerals & Natural Resources; proxy for Secretary Sarah Cottrell Propst

Ralph Vigil, President, NM Acequia Commission; William Gonzales, Proxy

Lynn Trujillo, Cabinet Secretary, NM Indian Affairs Dept.; Laurie Weahkee Proxy

Bill Conner, NM Rural Water Association (not present)

Daryl Vigil, Water Administrator, Jicarilla Apache Nation (not present)

Dr. Phil King, Retired NMSU Professor and Consultant to EBID (not present)

Lt. Governor Carleton Bowekaty, Zuni Pueblo (not present)

Others

Danielle Gonzales, Executive Director, NM First
Theresa Cardenas, Civic Engagement & Policy Manager, NM First
Valerie Rangel, Civic Engagement Assistant, NM First
Corina Gomez, Recorder, NM First
Eleanor Hasenbeck, Recorder, NM First
Lynne Canning, Task Force Design and Facilitation, NM First
Adrian Oglesby, Executive Director, Utton Center
John Fleck, Utton Center
Rolf Schmidt-Petterson, Director, Interstate Stream Commission
Sara Goldstein, Water Planner, Interstate Stream Commission
Andrew Erdmann, Water Planner, Interstate Stream Commission
Scott Sanchez, Fiscal Analyst, Legislative Finance Committee
Cally Carswell, Capital Analyst, Legislative Finance Committee

Agenda

- Opening & Housekeeping
- 50-Year Water Plan – Initial Feedback & Next Steps
- Presentations on New Mexico Funding Mechanisms – Current Realities and Need for Reform
- Discussion/ Q&A
- Discussion of Potential Focus Area for Task Force Recommendations – Review Draft List of Workgroups
- Next Steps for Forming and Launching Workgroups
- Next Task Force Meeting—Date, Time, Format

Meeting Notes

- Discussion opened with a conversation about transparency, information for the public, media relations and legislative engagement.
 - The executive committee and New Mexico First are creating a website to share documents that are ready for the public and legislators to view. Examples include finalized notes/minutes from past meetings and the newly approved charter. A draft website will be shared for task force feedback.
 - Task Force members asked about their role as ambassadors in their communities, how to respond to inquiries from legislators and what information from the task force can be shared.
 - The executive committee and NM First will provide suggested charter revisions that address media, public and legislative engagement and transparency within the next week. These suggested revisions can be approved at next task force meeting.
 - Task Force members should informally discuss potential recommendations within their region to gauge how region and stakeholder interest groups play

into your specific stakeholder group. Then, bring this perspective back to the work group or task force as a whole.

- If there's consensus that draft charter reflects the intention of the group, executive committee is comfortable sharing. It will continue to be fine-tuned as a draft, living document shared with the public.
- There will be a process, potentially a standing agenda item, to incorporate revisions to the charter as they come up. These revisions will be captured in post-meeting survey and can be refined in the next meeting when task force comes to consensus on which areas to focus on. Work groups will start meeting in August.
- There is desire among some task force members and executive committee members to create a process to document when a member/members do not support the consensus recommendation on a specific topic, such as a minority report or position of opposition. This opposition is important for stakeholder groups or for a specific topic that has broad consensus except for one component of it. Executive committee welcomes input on capturing these types of perspectives.
- Task Force will need to come to consensus on what specific problems the task force seeks to address before coming to consensus on recommendations. This will be addressed in next meeting.
- TASK FORCE ACTION: CHARTER DRAFT WAS APPROVED. The draft charter was approved with consensus, with the acknowledgement that revisions addressing process, transparency and engagement with the press, public and legislature will be incorporated.

50 Year Water Plan Update

- Deadlines:
 - Aug. 1 meeting will include key decisions as we select potential work groups to move forward with the task force's own recommendations.
 - Mid-August: Goal to finalize consensus input from the task force on the 50 Year Water Plan by mid-August. Aim to release a draft plan for public review which incorporates some, but not all task force feedback in early August.
 - Late August/End of September: Finalize Task Force recommendations and publish plan by late August or end September.
 - October: Share with interim legislative committees.
- Status of current draft plan:
 - Has been reviewed by other state agencies. Now in parallel review process with task force, tribal and acequia community. This is last review before it goes to public review.
 - NM First collecting task force feedback via survey, which will identify where there is overlapping concern and input among task force members.
 - Version task force is reviewing does not incorporate feedback from tribal and acequia communities and a summary of an additional, new Leap Ahead analysis chapter about rivers, which will be incorporated before the plan goes to public review. The conclusion is also being fleshed out. The goal is to get these components to the task force for review before it's shared with the public, if they are available.
- Feedback:

- Many problems overlap within multiple core pillars of the plan (stewardship, sustainability, and equity). If task force has thoughts on how planners can split issue areas, so they are solely within one group, the executive community is open to that. Decisions will also need to be focused on the decision maker level to develop detailed recommendations for land and water use in communities, the legislature and executive agencies.
 - A task force member requested a very clear draft watermark on each page of document until plan is in final form, as well as page numbers.
 - A task force member felt the document was self-censoring, particularly as it relates to aquifer sustainability and enforcement of administration.
 - Recommendations will need to challenge policy makers and address challenges in facing the future. There is also a gap between what scientists see happening in the next 50 years and what decision makers think are important. The 50 Year Plan will provide a framework to present the challenges, then the task force will identify recommendations.
- New Mexico needs at least 3.5 billion for water infrastructure projects
 - Major issues disproportionately concentrated in small communities with low socio-economic status populations
 - Smaller communities don't have the capacity to plan projects, apply for money, and see them through to completion
 - Task Force member raises the need for a "navigator" to guide applicants across the funding programs; especially relevant for smaller communities with less capacity for applying to funding and planning their water projects
 - Staff exist to do this sort of work but it we don't have a full-time position dedicated to this need
 - Task Force member addresses the importance of creating boundaries when providing such assistance to avoid inadvertently assuming ownership of these communities' projects
 - Task force member states that there is a need for water resources infrastructure to determine groundwater volumes throughout the state
 - The New Mexico 5-Year Water Plan indicates that "aquifers must be more thoroughly studied, especially those that are lightly pumped, to assess pumping-independent changes in recharge" as well as inform future projections of abundance in surface water
 - Need for this sort of data exacerbated by the effects of climate change on our state as communities are forced to tap into groundwater supplies when surface water supplies are unavailable
 - How can the Task Force address these sorts of needs at both the state and local level?
 - Executive Committee member explains how topics for workgroups will be identified and selected
 - Task Force members are asked to submit their ideas for topics that they'd like added to this list by EOB on 7/19/2022

- Executive Committee will send out survey on 7/20/2022 to gauge Task Force member interest in topics and ask for additional topics that are not on list
- Three topics with the most “momentum” and interest will be selected and presented to the Task Force at the 8/1/2022 meeting
- Task Force member raises the idea of having more than three topics for workgroups given the large amount of individuals on the Task Force

Next Meeting on August 1, 2022

Meeting Adjourned at 2:00 PM