



NM Water Ambassadors Meeting

Monday, August 15, 2022

Via Zoom

Attendees

Task Force Executive Committee

Mike Hamman, State Engineer, Office of State Engineer

Hannah Riseley-White, Deputy Director, Interstate Stream Commission

Rebecca Roose, Deputy Cabinet Secretary of Administration, NM Environment Department

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 (not present)

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

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

Bill Conner, NM Rural Water Association

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

Michael Sloane, Director, Department of Game and Fish Director (not present)

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

Dr. Phil King, Retired NMSU Professor and Consultant to EBID

Kirk Patten, Chief of Fisheries, Dept of Game and Fish
Jeff Witte, Director/Secretary of NM Department of Agriculture

Others

Senator Peter Wirth
Rep. Tara Lujan
Lorraine Montoya-Vigil
Pat Woods
Cally Carwsell
Laurie Weahkee
Ron Griggs
Sara Goldstein ISC
Andrew Erdman
Corina Gomez
John Longworth
Max Henkels
Scott Sanchez
Rolf Schmidt-Petersen, Director of the New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission
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
Adrian Oglesby, Executive Director, Utton Center
John Fleck, Utton Center

Agenda

Presentations and discussion

Welcome

- Timeline: Aim to have final Task Force recommendations in mid-October.
 - Task Force member wondered if this was enough time to incorporate recommendations into legislative actions. Legislator in attendance said October will give enough time to get files open within the Legislative Council and get mechanics of eventual bills going.
- Legislative advisors attended the meeting and plan to attend subsequent meetings as they are available.
 - Sen. Peter Wirth, Rep. Tara Lujan were in attendance and introduced themselves.
- Public engagement process was finalized, and Maggie Fitzgerald will serve as media contact. The website also went live on Aug. 15.

50 Year Water Plan Consensus Input

- Plan status and review process:
 - Drafts have been reviewed by OSE, other state agencies, task force, tribal partners and acequia community.
 - Plan is now poised for public release but working with governor's office to add more info about current and proposed projects in recommendations. Thoughtful feedback from task force was very helpful and has been incorporated into the plan.
 - Task Force members are encouraged to participate as individuals during the public review period.
- In identifying priorities within the plan, some Task Force members were interested in using an approach that captured issues that are cross-cutting or that must be addressed as a prerequisite to take action on other issues.
- The Task Force found consensus in prioritizing innovation water conservation, protecting groundwater health, improving upland watershed health, modernizing water infrastructure and modernizing administrative practices for water (which includes supply and demand) within the 50 Year Plan. Two possible priority issues that were crosscutting other issues were continued research and planning focused on agency and community capacity and equity.
 - Terms "modernize" may be changed to avoid language that would enable impairment to traditional communities
- There was desire for definitions to make items actionable, including agency jurisdiction. Language should also be accessible to the general public.
- The input on the 50 Year Water Plan is one task force objective, the other being the development of Task Force recommendations independent of the plan. While some of these priorities overlap, task force recommendations can be solutions that were not included in the 50 Year Water Plan.
- If you feel strong disagreement with these priorities and input, please email a member of Executive Committee or New Mexico First facilitators.

Charter adoption

The charter was adopted by consensus with no additional revisions or comments from Task Force members. The charter is a living document and can be revised as needed in the future.

Work Group Orientation

Rebecca Roose presented an orientation and overview of roles and expectations within work groups (see presentation).

- Work Group Guide and Recommendation Reporting Form:
 - The executive committee is open to feedback on the work group guide and reporting form, which will be used to standardize recommendations from all three work groups.

- Goal is to finalize the format and form of these two documents (not substantive content of recommendations) will be finalized by Aug. 29 meeting.
- Let the Executive Committee and/or NM First know if you've got suggestions for different additional resources and tools to be successful in work groups.
- Consider what research and supporting information Utton Center and others can gather to assist in discussions and creating recommendations within your work group.
- A task force member asked if groups needed to determine co-leads during this (Aug. 15) meeting. Groups were encouraged to navigate this on their own as needed but consider that time is of the essence.
- Work Groups should remain focused on the issue areas the full task force previously came to consensus on.

Meeting broke into work groups

Upcoming full Task Force meetings:

- August 29 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. hybrid, in person option will be in Albuquerque
- Sept. 19 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. virtual
- Sept. 26 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. hybrid, in person option will be in Albuquerque
- Oct. 5 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. virtual
- Oct. 13 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. virtual