



Notes

August 29, 2022

10:00am – 2:00pm

NM Water Policy and Infrastructure Task Force

Hybrid: Zoom & Embassy Suites, 1000 Woodward Pl NE, Albuquerque NM 87102

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 (absent)

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 (absent)

Elizabeth Anderson, Chief Planning Officer, ABCWUA

Jennifer Bradfute, Senior Counsel, Marathon Oil Company (absent)

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 (absent)
Daryl Vigil, Water Administrator, Jicarilla Apache Nation
Dr. Phil King, Retired NMSU Professor and Consultant to EBID
Kirk Patten, Chief of Fisheries, Dept of Game and Fish (absent)
Jeff Witte, Director/Secretary of NM Department of Agriculture

Others

Senator Pat Woods

Jonas Armstrong, Director of Strategic Initiative, NMED

Laurie Weahkee – Proxy for Secretary Lynn Trujillo

John Longworth, Office of State Engineer

Max Henkels, NMDA – Proxy for Secretary Witte

Cally Carswell

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

Lynne Canning, Task Force Design and Facilitation, NM First

Corina Gomez, Recorder

Adrian Oglesby, Executive Director, Utton Center

John Fleck, Utton Center

Lauren Rust, Utton Center

Stephine Russo Baca, Utton Center

Mindy Bridges, National Conference of State Legislators

Agenda

Welcome

- Rebecca Roose out of office until September 19th
 - Jonas Armstrong is NMED proxy during her absence
- Utton Center update
 - Guidance from attorneys is available for Task Force members requesting background materials and information necessary for closing knowledge gaps

Consensus Input Document Discussion

- Consensus Input Document created from results of survey and input from the discussions during meetings
- Needs 85% approval from Task Force to pass
- Additional suggestions from Task Force members:

- Emphasize conservation of water
- Highlight New Mexico's ongoing innovations while leaving room to grow
- Include waterway health and upland watershed health
- Support clean-up of contaminated locations
- Modernize technology related to water measurement, analysis, and monitoring across all sectors
- Clearly define terminology used in report (e.g. infrastructure, beneficial use)
- Address aging infrastructure
- Include utilization of effective tools by local agencies
- Utton Center will edit Consensus Input Document to reflect Task Force member suggestions and it will be sent out for members to vote upon before next meeting

Review of Water Task Force Workgroup Reporting Form and Process Guide

- Feedback from Task Force members:
 - Identify how specific Task Force recommendations should be
 - Include timeframe column to ensure timely implementation
 - Identify which agency/group will implement recommendations
- New Mexico First will update form to reflect these suggestions
- Workgroup Reporting Form will be an evolving document as Workgroups populate with recommendations
 - Workgroup members will report suggestions to Co-Leads
- Additional Notes:
 - National Conference of State Legislators (NCSL) offers information to task Force regarding how other states are creating/have created similar reports
 - Policy recommendation examples can be found in NMF Water Town Hall Report from 2014 and LFC Capital Outlay Subcommittee Report from 2022
 - Workgroups are asked to critically review their recommendations to identify potential issues and ensure intent is evident

Workgroups Present Problem Statements

- 1st Workgroup: Community, Drinking Water, Stormwater and Wastewater Capacity, Infrastructure, and Finance
 - Identified issues:
 - Capacity is an overarching issue at all levels
 - Request for regional water model examples
 - Emergency management for natural disasters and consequences of current vulnerabilities within the systems, especially relief funding
 - Collaboration required from all partners

- Funding program processes need to be reviewed and improved upon
 - Feedback from Task Force:
 - Allow for creation of water re-use opportunities
 - Tweak language to be more inclusive of larger systems
- 2nd Workgroup: Water Resources and Management
 - Identified issues:
 - Water governance – Structure, capacity, and funding of agencies
 - State & regional water planning – Scientific foundation, organization, and community capacity-building
 - Balancing water use – Includes all tools for demand management and flexible water use. Transactions, AWRM, shortage sharing, and supply augmentation
 - Feedback from Task Force:
 - Identify and recruit potential employees for the desired positions/tasks
 - Highlight the importance of both local capacity and equity
 - Include language to support funding for both agricultural infrastructure and local groundwater recovery
- 3rd Workgroup: River, Aquifer, and Watershed Health
 - Feedback from Task Force:
 - Begin statement with emphasis of better river/watershed management
 - Clearly define terminology
 - Include timescales for disaster recovery
 - Address issues within the topic of groundwater (transfers, recovery, etc.)
- Overlapping Topics from all Workgroups:
 - Aquifer health and demand issues
 - Land management
 - Infrastructure (state level monitoring)
 - Water transfers
 - Water governance – both local and state level
 - Identify gaps in Forest Action Plan and address them
 - Agricultural use needs to be addressed
 - Time scales of projects
 - Agency capacity
 - Food systems – physical infrastructure as well as the collaboration necessary to sustain this system

Next meeting on September 19th