



NM Water Ambassadors Second Meeting

Wednesday, June 22, 2022

In-person

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

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-Pettersen, Director, Interstate Stream Commission

Meeting Notes

- Welcome and Review of Meeting Minutes
- Presentation on Leap Ahead Science from NM Bureau of Geology and Mineral Resources and Climate Change Impacts from the Interstate Stream Commission set the stage for discussion for all of the task force's work

Task Force Discussion

- Working with mutual domestics and acequias, infrastructure capacity, and funding are major issues
- The state needs an assessment of each water system and their vulnerabilities such as less recharge, older infrastructure, storage capacity, aquifer recharge, human staffing capacity, management, and acequia communities)
- Naturally occurring contaminants that impact water quality: fluoride, arsenic, uranium seem to be escalating instead of decreasing
- How do we have this values conversation and support informed local decisions?
- Reuse of water and the ability to do reuse really needs to be discussed
- Discussion regarding the dire situation in the Ogallala Aquifer, and the managed LA aquifer which is pumped hard in dry years, and then some years they have tremendous surface water. They manage it in tandem to level out the super dry years and balance it with those wet years.
- Within Agriculture sector there are tremendous, exciting advancements for water efficiency that they are doing for themselves. For example: row cropping for dairy operations.
- Consult with the Rural Opportunities Task Force and look at examples of resiliency

Topics discussed during the overview of 50 Year Water Plan Draft Recommendations

- The water plan is being designed by ISC to inform many years of decision making by state leaders, elected officials, local officials, and policymakers.
- Equity and the awareness of under resourced communities

- Input from the acequia community
- NM Water policies, compacts, and agreements (historic and present)
- Aquifer issues and protection
- Mutual domestics and water systems
- Commodification of water
- Water transfer issues
- Tribal input
- Most of NM is rural
- Rural, frontier, tribal communities – needs are different
- State and federal funding opportunities
- Economic development and workforce issues for the state
- Water quality and quantity- need for accurate data
- Financing always has been an issue in NM
- Engaging with federal partners