



Mid-Region Council of Governments

WATER RESOURCES BOARD

Wednesday, July 19, 2023

10:00 a.m. – Noon

Note that this will be a hybrid meeting-**Zoom information below**

809 Copper Ave. N.W., Albuquerque, NM 87102

Steve Glass, Chair		Donald Lopez, Vice Chair
AGENDA		
	Call to Order: <i>The presence of a quorum will be noted.</i>	
Tab 1	Approval of Agenda for July 19, 2023	
Tab 2	Approval of Action Summary of April 5, 2022	
COMMENTS AND REPORTS		
Tab 3	Public Comments <i>[ANYONE WHO WISHES TO ADDRESS THE WRB MUST REGISTER WITH THE SECRETARY OF THE BOARD]</i>	
Tab 4	Board Questions and Comments	
ACTION ITEMS		
Tab 5	Election of Officers	
DISCUSSION AND INFORMATION ITEMS		
Tab 7	Presentation – SB 337 & Regional Water Planning – (Andrew Erdmann and Hannah Risely White, Interstate Stream Commission)	
Tab 8	Anticipated impacts of SB 337 (Section 72-14A-4 NMSA 1978) on the Middle Rio Grande Water Planning Region - Timing & Required Deliverables (Steven Glass, WRB Chair)	
Next Meeting Scheduled For:		
Wednesday, October 4, 2023 10:00 a.m. to Noon MRCOG Board Room & via Zoom		

ZOOM Information (please note required passcode):

Mrcog Zoom9 is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Mid-Region Water Resources Board (WRB) Meeting
Time: Jul 19, 2023 10:00 AM Mountain Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/7482803287?pwd=d1BVQm1vWkM3WFY4cTdoTDdFR2Zrdz09>

Meeting ID: 748 280 3287

Passcode: qJeK48

One tap mobile

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Dial by your location

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- +1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)
- +1 646 931 3860 US
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Meeting ID: 748 280 3287

Passcode: 560573

Find your local number: <https://us06web.zoom.us/u/kbjNBXSNF4>

Join by Skype for Business

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Mid-Region Council of Governments

Middle Rio Grande Water Resources Board Wednesday, April 5, 2023 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 p.m.

MRCOG Board Room, 809 Copper Ave. N.W. Albuquerque, NM 87102

Steven Glass, Chair

Donald Lopez, Vice Chair

	ORGANIZATION	PRESENT	MEMBER	PRESENT	ALTERNATE
1	City of Belen		Dale Tafoya		Steven Tomita
	City of Moriarty		Vacant		Ted Hart
2	Valencia County		Nancy Gonzales		Danny Monette Tom Mraz
3	City of Albuquerque	X	Ken Ziegler		
4	AMAFCA	X	Elizabeth N. Taylor		Bruce Thompson
5	Town of Bernalillo		Jack Torres, Mayor	X	Ida Fierro
6	Bernalillo County	X	Eric Olivas, Commissioner		Dan McGregor Phillip Rust
	Village of Bosque Farms		Vacant		
6	Village of Corrales		Stuart Murray		John Alsobrook
7	Village of Encino		Debbie Ortiz		
	Village of Los Lunas		Vacant		Vacant
8	Village of Los Ranchos de Albuquerque	X	Donald Lopez, Mayor, Vice Chair		
9	Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District		Joaquin Baca		Joseph Griego
10	City of Rio Rancho		Jim Chiasson		Sean Ogungbenle
11	Sandoval County	X	Katherine Bruch, Commissioner		Makita Hill
12	SSCAFCA		Casandra D'Antonio		Dave Gatterman
13	ABCWUA	X	Mark Kelly		Diane Agnew
14	Town of Edgewood		Sterling Donner		Jerry Powers
	Torrance County				
15	Town of Estancia		Ronnie Reynolds		Sylvia Chavez
16	Ciudad Soil & Water	X	Steve Glass, Chair		Vacant
17	Coronado Soil & Water	X	Lynn Montgomery		Kathleen Groody
18	Edgewood Soil & Water	X	Brenda Smythe		
19	EMWT		Bobby Ortiz		Kay Brown
20	Valencia Soil & Water	X	Andrew Hautzinger		

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS					
	ORGANIZATION	PRESENT	MEMBER	PRESENT	ALTERNATE
	Middle Rio Grande Water Assembly	X	Bob Wessley		Elaine Hebard
ELIGIBLE VOTING GOVERNMENTS NOT REPRESENTED					
	ORGANIZATION	PRESENT	MEMBER	PRESENT	ALTERNATE
	Cochiti Pueblo		Vacant		Vacant
	Isleta Pueblo		Vacant		Vacant
	Sandia Pueblo		Vacant		Vacant
	San Felipe Pueblo		Vacant		Vacant
	Santa Ana Pueblo		Vacant		Vacant
	Santo Domingo Pueblo		Vacant		Vacant
	Village of Cuba		Vacant		Vacant
	Village of Jemez Springs		Vacant		Vacant
	Village of San Ysidro		Vacant		
	Village of Tijeras		Vacant		
MRCOG STAFF AND OTHERS ATTENDING					
	Bianca Borg, Barbara Thomas, Payton Showalter, Dewey Cave				

AGENDA

Call to Order

The April 5, 2023 meeting of the Mid-Region Water Resources Board (MRWRB) was called to order at 10:10 a.m. by Chair Steven Glass, Ciudad Soil and Water. The presence of a quorum was noted.

Tab 1 **Approval of the Agenda for April 5, 2023**

Action Taken:

Vice-Chair Lopez made a motion to:

APPROVE THE AGENDA FOR APRIL 5, 2023

The motion was seconded by Lynn Montgomery, Coronado Soil and Water, and passed on a vote of eleven (11) in favor and none opposed. See attendance sheet above.

Tab 2 **Approval of Action Summary of October 5, 2022**

Mark Kelly, Albuquerque/Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority, made a motion to:

APPROVE THE ACTION SUMMARY OF OCTOBER 5, 2022

The motion was seconded by Chair Lopez and passed on a vote of eleven (11) in favor and none opposed. See attendance sheet above.

PUBLIC COMMENT AND REPORTS

Tab 3 **Public Comments**

Norm Gaume, New Mexico Water Advocates, noted that the legislature passed SB 337, a new State-wide water policy program. Discussions about the bill included the suggestion that regional councils of government be the regional water planning entities. He also said the Interstate Stream Commission (ISC) has plans for the next year, including increasing membership and balancing water use with supply while leaving water for future generations. Mr. Gaume urged WRB members to participate in water-planning meetings and activities and to provide a forum for discussion.

Mr. Gaume also made comments on the status of the Rio Grande Compact noting that the issue is not getting the attention it requires.

Tab 4 **Board Questions and Comments**

Lynn Montgomery, Coronado Soil and Water, commented on protecting water sources by the State Engineer when applications are applied for.

Bob Wessely, Water Advocates member, commented that all jurisdictions along the Rio Grande are close to violation of the Rio Grande Compact and are in danger of losing control of our water and funding as well. All jurisdictions, he said, bear responsibility. Mr. Wesseley suggested a water budget and encouraged the board to discuss the matter at a future meeting of the Water Board.

Mr. Glass responded that Ms. Borg's presentation will address this issue.

ACTION ITEMS

Tab 5 There were no action items on the agenda.

DISCUSSION AND INFORMATION ITEMS

Tab 6 **Legislature 2023 Recap**

Chair Glass noted that when SB 337 is approved by the Governor, a recap will be presented.

Tab 7 **Update on the Rio Grande Basin Study**

Emma Metcalf, US Bureau of Reclamation, presented an update on the Rio Grande Basin Study. The study is a collaborative study with costs shared with non-Federal partners. Its purpose is to evaluate water supply and demand and identify strategies to address imbalances in water supply and demand.

The basin study program has four required elements: 1) state-of-the art projections of future supply and demand by river basin, 2) analysis of how existing water and power operations and infrastructure will perform, 3) development of strategies to meet current and future water demands and 4) a trade-off analysis of strategies identified.

The study does not allow for recommendations to be made but rather, to explore various possibilities and present options.

The Study includes territory from the Colorado State line (Lobatos Gage) to Elephant Butte Dam. As well, it includes the San Juan/Chama Project tributary basins. Land outside of that scope will be considered but will not be specifically modeled. Ms. Metcalf described the governance structure for the study which includes interested sectors (agriculture, community, local governments and non-governmental organizations and tribal governments).

The memorandum of agreement was signed in January 2023 and new signatories are always welcome to join.

Ms. Metcalf stood for questions.

Tab 8 **WRB Questions and Discussion about the One Water Framework**

Chair Glass introduced the discussion about One Water and how it can help the mission of the Water Resources Board. Bianca Borg, MRCOG Regional Planning Program Manager, said that she has been working on the WRB bylaws, which already have the collaborative membership in place, to make adjustments to align to the One Water concept. The current WRB bylaws were reviewed and as well, the future of the Water Resources Board. The discussion included 1) what is the board member's role on the Board, 2) what is your responsibility in protecting your community's water future and 3) how does this board help you fulfill that responsibility.

Some observations included that 1) the role of the WRB is to move the planning process forward, 2) participation of the water conservation districts is imperative, 3) the soil and water conservation districts should act as laboratories i.e. Placitas/Las Huertas Creek for better soil health and restoration, 4) ensuring the supply of water in the future by diversifying and using good conservation practices, 5) education in the area of water smart use and conservancy and healthy soils, 6) acting as a prodder and pusher, sharing information, 7) overcoming siloing and the gap between ABCWUA and Bernalillo County, 8) act as connector of the dots and being thoughtful in restoration plans, 9) employ the use of instructive, science-based restoration planning and incorporate experimentation within a large network of partners and 10) operate within changes from SB 337 and build out.

Further, regarding members fulfilling their responsibilities to protect their community's water future, the following observations were made 1) to represent the interests of the organization they represent, 2) learning from past work, 3) realization that we have a problem with overconsuming water and taking action to envision that all water is important and all stakeholders have value in the process, 4) recognizing the importance of participation of the

MRGCD and AMAFCA in water planning efforts 5) empowering community members in conservation, 6) education, 7) provision of clean water.

In answer to the question of how the WRB helps members to fulfil their responsibilities, the following observations were made 1) collaboration efforts, 2) participation of senior leadership from stakeholder organizations/communities, 3) provides visibility and awareness of issues, 4) reinvigorating the conversation about water and the One Water concept, 5) support of Urban Water sponsorship, 6) assist with conservation and economic development, 7) benefit from learning about WRB membership priorities and effectively working together.

Ms. Borg listed shared threats to our water in the region such as drought, wildfires, and over-allocations among others. Historically, water management has been siloed and the WRB is an opportunity to build bridges and work within the One Water framework.

In answer to the question of the role of the WRB working with the One Water concept, Chair Glass noted that it presents an opportunity to address big questions about water issues such as the shrinking of available water resources.

For further information, interested parties can contact Bianca Borg at the Mid-Region Council of Governments.

Ms. Borg reported that the next WRB meeting will be held on May 3rd.

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 noon.

Steve Glass, Chair
Mid-Region Water Resources Board

ATTEST:

Dewey V. Cave, Executive Director

72-14A-4. Water planning funding; regional water planning; rules; guidelines.

A. Subject to available funding, the commission shall establish and conduct a regional water security program pursuant to the provisions of the Water Security Planning Act. The commission may make grants or loans of funds for the purpose of regional water planning, as possible, using appropriations made for that purpose.

B. The commission shall establish a procedure, in consultation with the Indian affairs department, to establish an advisory council for taking into account in the regional water security program tribal sovereignty, tribal water rights and the water needs of tribal communities.

C. The commission shall:

(1) promulgate rules that, at a minimum, establish:

(a) the boundaries and number of water planning regions in the state;

(b) the criteria for commission approval of a regional water security plan with prioritized projects, programs and policies;

(c) the procedure for a regional water planning entity to develop and provide notice to the commission of issues and concerns relating to the public welfare of the water planning region;

(d) the composition of a regional water planning entity; and

(e) the procedure for a regional water planning entity to consider public welfare values and the needs of future generations of New Mexicans;

(2) adopt guidelines that, at a minimum, address:

(a) the identification of regional stakeholders and opportunities for stakeholder collaboration;

(b) the public input requirements for regional water planning;

(c) the requirements for a proposal for grants or loans for planning activities;

(d) the process for approval of grants or loans;

(e) the process for state agency collaboration;

(f) the metrics for reporting on regional water projects and, programs and policies;

(g) the procedures to support implementation of a regional water security plan; and

(h) the schedule for implementation of regional water planning, including integration with statewide objectives;

(3) emphasize engagement, communication and education in regional water planning

activities statewide;

(4) provide engagement with Indian nations, tribes and pueblos, including through the use of the State-Tribal Collaboration Act [[11-18-1 NMSA 1978](#)];

(5) provide engagement with acequia communities;

(6) provide for the engagement of rural communities;

(7) ensure, by using the integrated water data and information platform developed pursuant to the Water Data Act [[72-4B-1](#) to [72-4B-4 NMSA 1978](#)] and collaborating with the bureau of geology and mineral resources of the New Mexico institute of mining and technology and the water resources research institute, that the best science, data and models relating to water resource planning are available to the regional water planning entities and are used with scientific integrity and adherence to principles of honesty, objectivity, transparency and professionalism in developing, vetting and prioritizing proposals;

(8) report, by October 31 of each year, to the appropriate legislative interim committee dealing with water and natural resources and, by October 31 of each year, distribute the report to the appropriate state agencies dealing with water and natural resources on regional water planning implementation that includes:

(a) approved regional water security plans with prioritized projects, programs and policies for state funding;

(b) outcomes of regional water security plan implementation; and

(c) the status of regional water planning expenditures; and

(9) support regional water planning entities by:

(a) providing technical and local capacity development support, including commission staff and funding;

(b) providing statewide objectives for regional water security plan development, including compliance with interstate compacts, the federal Endangered Species Act of 1973 and congressionally authorized tribal water settlement acts;

(c) supporting the development of a proposal for alternative administration through active water resources management, if prioritized by the region, that may be submitted to the state engineer and affected Indian nations, tribes and pueblos for approval; and

(d) identifying funding sources and supporting the acquisition of funds for implementation of approved regional water security plans.

History: [Laws 2023, ch. 123, § 4.](#)