



New Mexico Rural Water Association  
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
Hotel Albuquerque at Old Town  
April 8, 2009

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**Directors Present**

Clarence Aragon, President	Bert Delara
Ivan Roper, Vice President	David Edington
Ray Leverich, Secretary/Treasurer	Alex E. Griego Jr.
Jim Dunlap, National Director	Gilbert Miera
John L. Jones, Legislative Chairman	James Miller
Keith Lee, Past President	James Robles
Pat Banegas, Executive Committee	Norman Saunders
Debra Ingle, Executive Committee	Edward Silva
Nick Ashcroft	Gavin Strathdee
Steve Bailey	Michael Stroud
Larry Covington	Mike Vigil

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**Directors Absent**

Karen Bray  
Dave Kenneke  
Wesley Shafer  
Kenneth Whitecotton

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**Guests Present**

Matthew Holmes, Executive Director

**I. Call to Order**

President Clarence Aragon called the meeting to order at 10:30 am.

**II. Pledge of Allegiance**

John L. Jones led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**III. Introduction of New Board Members**

All members of the Board of Directors introduced themselves. President Clarence Aragon welcomed the newly elected members to the Board.

**IV. Approval of Agenda**

Ray Leverich moved to approve the agenda as presented  
Pat Banegas seconded the motion  
Motion carried unanimously

**V. Approval of Minutes –August 8, 2008**

Bert Delara stated that he was present for the meeting on August 8, 2008 – the minutes erroneously show him absent  
Keith Lee moved to approve the minutes with the noted correction  
Ivan Roper seconded the motion  
Motion carried unanimously



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**VI. Executive Director's Report**

Matthew Holmes, Executive Director reported on the following items:

- ◆ Status of the NMED Technical Capacity Program
- ◆ Update on the Water Conservation Fee Fund

Mr. Holmes answered questions from the Board of Directors.

**VII. National Director's Report**

Jim Dunlap, National Director reported on the following items:

- ◆ Funding for the ARRA ("stimulus") Circuit Rider program
- ◆ Update on the BOR Rural Water program
- ◆ Opportunity for an energy conservation Circuit Rider program

Mr. Dunlap answered questions from the Board of Directors.

**VIII. Legislative Report**

John L. Jones, Legislative Chair reported on the following items:

- ◆ Deadline for projects interest forms for stimulus SRF funds
- ◆ 115 bills were signed by Gov. Richardson as of yesterday
- ◆ House Bill 40
- ◆ House Bill 297
- ◆ House Bill 337
- ◆ House Bill 622

**IX. Open Meetings Act Resolution**

Keith Lee moved to approve the Open Meetings Act Resolution as presented

Gavin Strathdee seconded the motion

Motion carried unanimously

**X. NRWA Annual Conference / H2O Expo**

James Robles and Michael Stroud will attend the NRWA Annual Conference – their systems will pay their expenses.

Gavin Strathdee moved to set-aside \$5,000 for board travel to the H2O Expo

Patrick Banegas seconded the motion

Motion carried unanimously



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**XI. Committee Business**

President Aragon passed out the sign-up sheet for board members to volunteer for committee positions for the next year. He asked that everyone consider serving on the committee that most interested them.

Ivan Roper reported on behalf of the Policies and Finances Committee. He stated that members of the committee had served on the audit task force in support of House Bill 337, which appeared to have the support of the Governor.

John L. Jones reported on behalf of the Political Action Committee. He stated that a donation was made to the campaign of Harry Teague, and that the PAC hoped to raise \$3,000 in the raffle this year.

Debra Ingle reported on behalf of the Office / Training Facility Committee. She stated that funding was difficult to pursue this year due to the economic situation, but the committee was ready to proceed next year.

President Clarence Aragon reported on behalf of the Communications Committee. He stated that some initiatives have not been too successful but the process will continue. Michael Stroud stated that he still would like to see a DVD produced about the benefits of belonging to NMRWA.

Ray Leverich reported that the Annual Awards/Scholarship Committee met and selected award winners and scholarship recipients for 2009.

**XII. 2009 Summer Board Meeting – Region IV (NE)**

President Aragon presented a proposal for the 2009 Summer Board meeting. NMRWA could host an educational symposium for legislators by invitation in conjunction with a Board of Directors meeting. A special topic would be presented, for example water rights or upcoming regulation. The timing and the place would be dictated by who is invited in their schedule.

Gavin Strathdee suggested that if region four was still going to host the Summer Board meeting, that Las Vegas in the newly remodeled Plaza hotel be considered.

Pat Banegas suggested that the matter be referred to an ad hoc committee for study and recommendation back to the Executive Committee. President Aragon requested that the Political Action Committee review the concept and maintain strategic flexibility with regard to the time and the place.



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**XIII. New Business**

Jim Dunlap informed the Board of Directors that Sen. Jeff Bingaman would be hosting a meeting in Hobbs with regard to energy. He requested that any members who could attend this meeting and identify themselves as representatives of NMRWA.

**XIV. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned.

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Clarence Aragon, President

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Ray Leverich, Secretary / Treasurer