



New Mexico Rural Water Association  
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
Bayard Community Center, Bayard NM  
August 8, 2008

Directors Present

Clarence Aragon, President  
Ivan Roper, Vice President  
Ray Leverich, Secretary/Treasurer  
Jim Dunlap, National Director  
John L. Jones, Legislative Chairman  
Keith Lee, Past President  
Pat Banegas, Executive Committee  
Karen Bray  
Larry Covington  
Dave Kenneke  
Rick Leal  
Gilbert Miera  
Edward Silva  
Michael Stroud  
Wesley Shafer  
Gavin Strathdee  
Mike Vigil

Directors Absent

Nick Ashcroft  
Ralph Dunlap  
Bert Delara  
Gloria Gonzales  
Debra Ingle, Executive Committee  
Sherman Martin  
Anthony Muñoz  
Norman Saunders  
Don Wells

Staff Present

Lupe Aragon, Circuit Rider  
Carlos Bustos, Source Water Specialist  
Don Castillo, Tribal Circuit Rider  
Dominick Donnarumma, Field Spec.  
Erin Glover, Office Manager  
Mario Gonzales, Field Specialist  
Heidi Haas, Finance Administrator  
Matthew Holmes, Executive Director  
Susanne Lischer, Training Coordinator  
Susan Maupin, Wastewater Technician  
Sue Sleeper, Board Training Specialist  
Ron Schwarzwaldner, Training Specialist  
Andrew Sweetman, Tribal Source Water  
Daniel Valdez, Circuit Rider

**I. Call to Order**

President Clarence Aragon called the meeting to order at 8:24 am.

**II. Pledge of Allegiance**

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

**III. Opening Remarks**

President Clarence Aragon welcomed all Board Members and staff, and thanked everyone for their time and willingness to contribute to the mission of the Association. Board Member Gilbert Miera discussed the dinner arrangements. President Aragon expressed condolences to Ray Leverich on behalf of all those in attendance.



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**IV. Approval of Agenda**

Ivan Roper moved to approve the agenda as submitted  
John L. Jones seconded the motion  
Motion carried unanimously

**V. Approval of Minutes – March 19, 2008**

Keith Lee moved to approve the minutes as submitted  
Jim Dunlap seconded the motion  
Motion carried unanimously

**VI. Staff Program Reports**

Association staff members gave progress reports and updates on their programs.  
Staff members answered questions from the Board of Directors.

**VII. Executive Director's Report**

Matthew Holmes, Executive Director reported on the following items:

- Finance Report and Status of 2007 Audit
- Membership Update
- 2009 Annual Conference
- The EPA Groundwater Rule
- Office of the State Auditor's Task Force on Rural Accountability
- NMED Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Development Division new Director Karen Gallegos
- Revisions to the 40 Year Planning Statute
- Minimum Number of Certified Operators Regulation
- NRWA Leadership Responsibilities -- Executive Director of the Year

Ivan Roper moved to recess for lunch  
Jim Dunlap seconded the motion  
Motion carried unanimously

President Clarence Aragon called the meeting back to order at 12:57 PM.

Susan Maupin, Wastewater Technician reported on her efforts to create a petition to change the wastewater lab tech certification requirement. The board requested a one-page synopsis of the issue.

John L. Jones moved to endorse the draft petition is presented by Susan Maupin  
Pat Banegas seconded the motion  
Motion carried unanimously



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### **VIII. National Director's Report**

Jim Dunlap, National Director reported on the following items:

- Possible Senate stimulus package
- Backlog funding for USDA projects
- Department of Homeland Security funding
- EPA's Contaminant Candidate List -- no new regulations forthcoming
- NRWA's negotiations on the Total Coliform Rule
- Efforts to make NRWA an established program, not an earmark in EPA's budget
- Proposed changes to NRWA Bylaws

Gavin Strathdee moved to direct the delegates to vote for the proposed changes to the NRWA bylaws as presented

David Kenneke seconded the motion

Motion approved unanimously

### **IX. Legislative Priorities**

John L. Jones, Legislative Chair discussed the following items:

- Senior water rights and domestic well court cases
- Extravagance on the part of engineers designing projects
- NMED Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Development Division
- Inconsistent application of the anti-donation clause
- Issues related to the wastewater lab technician certification requirement
- Proposed changes to operator certification regulations requiring a minimum number of certified operators

Patrick Banegas moved to approve a resolution in support of the proposed changes to the operator certification requirements as presented

Rick Leal seconded the motion

Motion carried unanimously

### **X. Committee Reports**

John L. Jones submitted a written report on behalf of the Political Action Committee. The board of directors discussed possible items to contribute for the NRWA PAC raffle. Keith Lee stated that his wife Betsy was crafting a quilt at that very moment to donate. The Board of Directors further decided that the PAC should purchase a New Mexico gift basket to accompany the quilt.



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Clarence Aragon led a discussion on behalf of the Communications Committee. He stated that this committee was created to inform and engage the entire Board of Directors. He further stated that he was attempting to create awareness and demonstrate intent to solve this problem, while recognizing it will be an ongoing process. Karen Bray reported that the committee had discussed suggesting that Executive Committee meetings be moved around the state. It was requested that all meeting minutes be e-mailed to the Board of Directors.

Ivan Roper reported on behalf of the Policies and Finances Committee. He stated that the finances previously reported by the Executive Director have been reviewed by the committee. Further discussion was held over the Office of the State Auditor's task force and the potential fee increases for future year audits.

Pat Banegas reported on behalf of the Office/Training Facility Committee. He stated that he is in working with a realtor in Albuquerque to look at potential sites for the facility. Debra Ingle is in the process of looking at other states plans and specifications for similar buildings.

**XI. NMRWA Strategic Plan**

The Board of Directors discussed board training requirements. It was suggested that one portion of the strategic plan be reviewed at each meeting of the Board of Directors. Further discussion included the board training requirements for Mutual Domestic Water Consumers Associations. It was suggested that the staff utilize the new database to track board training credits for Association members.

**XII. NRWA Annual Conference**

Discussion was held on travel for board members to the upcoming NRWA Annual Conference in Reno, Nevada.

Larry Covington move to approve travel funds for Gavin Strathdee, Rick Leal and Karen Bray to the NRWA Annual Conference, up to \$1500 each  
Gilbert Miera seconded the motion  
Motion carried  
Gavin Strathdee voted in the negative

**XIII. New Business**

Dave Kenneke requested that a thank you letter be written to Engineers Inc. for donating funds to support dinner for the Board of Directors. He also suggested that membership packets be made available to the Board of Directors.



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Patrick Banegas requested the legislative materials be made available to the Board of Directors for meeting with Congressional candidates. Jim Dunlap suggested that the PAC would be able to pay for legislative materials.

**XIV. Adjourn**

Patrick Banegas moved to adjourn  
Rick Leal seconded the motion  
Motion carried unanimously

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Clarence Aragon, President

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Ray Leverich, Secretary / Treasurer

# *New Mexico Rural Water Association*

Board of Directors Meeting  
Friday & Saturday, August 8-9, 2008, 8:30 AM

*Bayard Community Center, Bayard NM  
290 Hurley Ave ♦ 505-537-7534*

## **AGENDA**

- I. CALL TO ORDER – Clarence Aragon, President
- II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- III. OPENING REMARKS – Clarence Aragon, President
- IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
- V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2008
- VI. STAFF PROGRAM REPORTS
- VII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT – Matthew Holmes
  - ♦ Financial Report / Audit
  - ♦ Membership Update
  - ♦ Annual Conference
  - ♦ Regulatory Matters
- VIII. NATIONAL DIRECTOR’S REPORT – Jim Dunlap
  - ♦ Proposed NRWA Bylaws Changes
- IX. LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES – John L. Jones, Legislative Chair
- X. COMMITTEE REPORTS
  - ♦ Political Action Committee – NRWA WaterPAC Raffle
  - ♦ Communications Committee
  - ♦ Policies & Finances Committee
  - ♦ Office / Training Facility Committee
  - ♦ Annual Awards / Scholarship Committee
- XI. NMRWA STRATEGIC PLAN – Implementation
- XII. NRWA ANNUAL CONFERENCE – Reno, NV
  - ♦ Selection of Attendees
- XIII. NEW BUSINESS
- XIV. ADJOURN

☞ Board of Directors meeting agendas, minutes, committee assignments, terms, bylaws, and strategic plan online at: [nmrwa.org/directors.php](http://nmrwa.org/directors.php) or request copies from our office

**A** Bayard Community Center  
290 Hurley Ave, Bayard, NM  
505-537-7534

**B** Silver City Holiday Inn Express  
1103 Superior Street, Silver City, NM  
505-538-2525

