



New Mexico Rural Water Association
Board of Directors Minutes
Pecos River Conference Center, Carlsbad, NM
August 18-19, 2006

Directors Present

John L. Jones, President
Pat Banegas, Vice President
Ray Leverich, Secretary/Treasurer
Jim Dunlap, National Director
Keith Lee, Past President
Clarence Aragon, Legislative Chairman
Debra Ingle, Executive Committee
Ivan Roper, Executive Committee
Wesley Shafer
Ophelia Gonzales
Sherman Martin
Norman Saunders
Gary Goss
Dave Kenneke
Fred Hollis
Steven Bailey
Gavin Strathdee
Karen Bray
Gloria Gonzales
Ralph Dunlap

Guests Present

Deborah Goss
The Honorable Joe Stell

Staff Present

Matt Holmes
Christine Ageton
Michael Alvidrez
Robert Apodaca
Lupe Aragon
Rick Bela
Keith Candelaria
Don Castillo
Dominick Donnarumma
Mario Gonzales
Susan Maupin
Gene Sikora
Sue Sleeper
Daniel Valdez
Tim Wellman

Directors Absent

Gilbert Miera
John Eckley
Edward Silva
Nick Ashcroft
David Russell

I. CALL TO ORDER

President John L. Jones called the meeting to order at 8:37 am.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President John L. Jones led the participants in the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. OPENING REMARKS

President John L. Jones welcomed all attendees and presented his opening remarks. He noted that the Association was continuing to experiencing growth in both membership and influence, and that there were many exciting opportunities to pursue. He thanked the attendees for their time and service to the Association.



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IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Ray Leverich moved to approve the agenda
Debra Ingle seconded the motion
Motion carried unanimously

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES, MARCH 22, 2006

Keith Lee moved to approve the minutes as submitted
Ivan Roper seconded the motion
Motion carried unanimously

VI. VIP GUESTS (INVITED)

President John L. Jones reported that Representative Joe Stell, Chairman of the Water and Natural Resources Committee had graciously accepted our invitation and would arrive later in the day.

VII. STAFF PROGRAM & COMMITTEE REPORTS

Staff members gave brief informational presentations outlining the field-based training and technical assistance programs available to systems, as well as any special projects they have participated in. Following each presentation, staff members answered any questions from the Board of Directors.

Pat Banegas discusses concerns about contamination from dairies around the state, and volunteered to help pursue funding for the dairy circuit rider program concept.

Clarence Aragon discussed the TMDL process and staff awarding training credits for onsite visits.

Gavin Strathdee discussed utilizing board training to convince directors of the importance of certified operators.

VIII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Matthew Holmes, Executive Director discussed the following items in his report:

- ◆ The changes over the past six years in the Association since he was hired as the Executive Director
- ◆ NMRWA's Board of Directors in comparison to other states
- ◆ National Rural Water Association issues including the recent Executive Director's meeting in Jackson Hole, instructing for the Institute of



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Association Management, the Office of the Inspector General's report on NRWA, and the proposed USEPA Affordability policy

- ◆ State of New Mexico initiatives including regional statute developments, leakage repair demonstration projects, the water use audit manual, fee-based training, and partnership development with MIOX corporation
- ◆ The USDA Farm Service Agency Source Water Protection Program operating plan was presented for review and approval
- ◆ The 2006 Environmental Award winner, Philmont Scout Ranch, was not submitted in time to the National Rural Water Association for their competition, and Mr. Holmes apologized for this oversight
- ◆ An extensive discussion occurred over the financial statements of the Association, with particular focus on programs that are over budget

IX. NATIONAL DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Jim Dunlap, National Director discussed the following items in his report:

- ◆ USEPA Small Systems Affordability policy
- ◆ The near-completion of the NRWA office in Washington, D.C.
- ◆ Funding increases in NRWA programs are doing as well as expected
- ◆ The Bureau of Reclamation Rural Water funding bill
- ◆ Across-the-board funding cuts for federal agencies
- ◆ Proposed changes to the NRWA Bylaws

Jim Dunlap moved to direct the voting delegates to endorse the changes to the NRWA Bylaws as proposed

Gavin Strathdee seconded the motion

Motion carried unanimously

X. LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Clarence Aragon, Legislative Chairman provided a report and led a discussion on legislative priorities for 2006. The following items were discussed:

- ◆ New Office of the State Engineer policy including transfers of domestic well water rights to Mutual Domestic Water Consumers Associations
- ◆ Proposed new NMED rules governing Mutual Domestic Water Consumers Associations under the Sanitary Projects Act
- ◆ Regionalization efforts including proposed new statutes



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◆ The Water Trust Board

Representative Joe Stell arrived and was welcomed by President John L. Jones. Representative Stell welcomed the Board of Directors to Carlsbad and stated that New Mexico was facing a water crisis. He then gave a political history of the Water Trust Fund, and stated that the original Act was never intended to categorically exclude small or rural systems from the Water Trust Fund. Representative Stell supported the idea of a representative from NMRWA holding a seat on the Water Trust Board and graciously accepted to attend the barbeque following the meeting.

The meeting was recessed at 5:00 pm.

The meeting was reconvened at 8:45 am on Saturday, August 19, 2006.

XI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Ray Leverich gave a brief update on the status of the NMRWA Strategic Plan.

President John L. Jones directed the Awards Committee to consider criteria for the John Paden Scholarship. Jim Dunlap asked that a calendar be developed for Association and program deadlines to avoid mistakes such as the one that occurred over the 2006 Environmental Award winner, Philmont Scout Ranch.

There was no report from the Finances Committee.

Christine Ageton, Assistant Director reported on a recent conference call with the Political Action Committee. The following items were discussed:

- ◆ The NMRWA staff would like to see the Board of Directors take responsibility for running PAC raffle at the next Annual Conference
- ◆ A reward for the person who sells the most tickets
- ◆ The need to closed examine New Mexico laws regarding raffles
- ◆ The possibility of hosting a reception for legislators during the session
- ◆ The possibility of holding an online raffle
- ◆ Pat Banegas discussed the need to educate individual legislators

XII. NRWA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The following board members expressed interested in attending the conference:

Karen Bray
Ophelia Gonzales
Gloria Gonzales

Gavin Strathdee
Ray Leverich



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Jim Dunlap moved to authorize travel up to \$1,500 to send the interested board members to the NRWA Annual Conference in Dallas, Texas

Debra Ingle seconded the motion

Discussion followed

Pat Banegas called the question

Motion carried unanimously

XIII. NEW BUSINESS

Matthew Holmes, Executive Director reported on the results of carbon monoxide testing at the NMRWA office per official request of the Executive Committee. The results were negative. He thanked the staff for their reports and for bringing excellent food for the barbeque.

Jim Dunlap, National Director reminded the attendees that 2007 would be the Year of Water in the New Mexico State Legislature. He personally invited Governor Bill Richardson to the Annual Conference, and received a verbal commitment from him that he would attend.

Christine Ageton, Assistant Director reminded attendees that NMRWA was continuing to pursue the water audit program, and any support or feedback from board member was welcome.

Ray Leverich asked a question about the status of online training – Matthew Holmes reported that it had not been approved by the State, but it could be implemented fairly quickly if other time commitments allowed.

XIV. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 10:20 AM on August 19, 2006.

John L. Jones, President

Ray Leverich, Secretary / Treasurer

New Mexico Rural Water Association

Board of Directors Meeting
Friday & Saturday, August 18-19, 2006, 8:30 AM

*Pecos River Conference Center, Carlsbad NM
505-887-6516*

AGENDA

- I. CALL TO ORDER – John L. Jones, President
- II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- III. OPENING REMARKS – John L. Jones, President
- IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
- V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – March 22nd, 2006
- VI. VIP GUESTS (INVITED)
 - ◆ Representative Joe Stell, Carlsbad, Chairman Agriculture & Water Resources Committee
 - ◆ Senator Vernon Asbill, Carlsbad
 - ◆ Robert Apodaca, Department of Finance & Administration
- VII. STAFF PROGRAM REPORTS
- VIII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Matthew Holmes
- IX. NATIONAL DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Jim Dunlap
- X. LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES – Clarence Aragon, Legislative Chair
 - ◆ 2007 – The Year of Water
 - ◆ Regionalization and Organizational Statutes
- XI. COMMITTEE REPORTS
 - ◆ POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE
 - ◆ FINANCES COMMITTEE
- XII. NRWA ANNUAL CONFERENCE – Dallas, Texas
- XIII. NEW BUSINESS
- XIV. ADJOURN