

**New Mexico Rural Water Association  
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes**

El Rey Inn, Santa Fe, NM  
February 2, 2006 1:00 PM

Committee Members Present:

John L. Jones, President  
Clarence Aragon, Vice-President  
Ray Leverich, Secretary / Treasurer  
Jim Dunlap, National Director  
Keith Lee, Past President  
David Russell, Legislative Chair  
Pat Banegas, Director  
Debra L. Ingle, Director

Committee Members Absent:

None

Guests Present:

Matt Holmes, Executive Director  
Christine Ageton, Assistant Director  
David Valerio, Water Rights Consultant, Alcalde MDWCA

**I. Call to Order**

President John L. Jones called the meeting to order at 1:10 PM

**II. Pledge of Allegiance**

Jim Dunlap led the Committee members in the Pledge of Allegiance

**III. Approval of Agenda**

Jim Dunlap moved to approve the agenda  
David Russell seconded the motion  
Motion carried unanimously

President John L. Jones recognized Mr. Daniel Valerio as a guest. Mr. Valerio works for Northern New Mexico Community College, and in the summer he works for NMED doing well testing. He came to the NMRWA Executive Committee meeting as a water rights consultant for Alcalde MDWCA, seeking support for a joint memorial.

Mr. Valerio presented a draft joint memorial, supported by Representative Richard Martinez, requesting more technical assistance for small systems via the Office of the State Engineer regarding water rights. After discussing this memorial the committee agreed that it would be too soon for NMRWA to support this memorial for the 2006 legislative session without further inquiry and discussion.

Clarence Aragon noted that this is an important issue and he and John L. Jones offered to assist Mr. Valerio on this issue. Mr. Valerio thanked the Committee for their time and invited NMRWA to attend the Water Resource Fair on Feb. 28<sup>th</sup>, 3:00 to 6:00pm at Northern New Mexico Community College.

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**IV. Approval of Minutes – December 2, 2005**

Debra Ingle moved to approve the minutes  
Ray Leverich seconded the motion  
Jim Dunlap called for the question  
Motion carried unanimously

**V. Executive Director's Report**

Matthew Holmes presented the Executive Director's Report. The following items were covered:

- Preparation for the annual conference is progressing well. Mr. Holmes agreed to amend the class schedule to reflect the appropriate certification level for each class.
- Plans to acquire funding for a new training facility are going well. NMRWA is asking for \$1.6 million from our Senators, and at this point we have full legislative support. We are continuing our efforts to partner with NM One Call. No site has been chosen yet.

**VI. National Director's Report**

National Director Jim Dunlap presented the report. The following items were discussed:

- The State Delegation Letter will replace the national Dear Colleague Letter for the House of Representatives
- NRWA will place another full-page ad (Honor Roll) in the Roll Call recognizing Senators and Representatives that support our Associations
- The NRWA fly-in is scheduled for March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2006. The purpose of the fly-in is to get Senator Domenici's support for NRWA funding in his letter to committee chairs. Committee Members attending the fly-in will be Ray Leverich, John L. Jones, Jim Dunlap, and Keith Lee.
- The NRWA Rally will be held April 3-5, 2006. Committee Members attending the Rally will be Clarence Aragon, Debra Ingle, Jim Dunlap, David Russell, and Pat Banegas.

**VII. Legislative Issues**

David Russell gave the Legislative Chair's report. The following issues were discussed by the Committee:

- The current status of the Sanitary Projects Act revisions was presented and discussed. Clarence Aragon noted that the revision of the Sanitary Projects Act has been a learning experience regarding compromise and the effort has

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brought a lot of positive awareness to Mutual Domestic Water Consumers Associations.

- The Water Trust Fund legislation was presented and discussed. Pat Banegas discussed his system's project needs and their experience with the Water Trust Board. It was noted that NMRWA should work to positively influence the effectiveness of the Water Trust Board. John Jones agreed to prepare a letter outlining NMRWA's position on this issue.

**VIII. Committee Business**

- **Awards Committee** – Matthew Holmes distributed the letter to Senator Domenici, notifying him that he is the recipient of the 2006 John Paden Award. It was approved, and the Awards Committee agreed to meet by phone to finalize the other awards. Additionally, Mr. Holmes will draft a resolution for the Committee, in order to recognize Senator Domenici's achievements in greater detail.

- **Political Action Committee** – The committee recommended establishing a separate bank account for the Political Action Fund.

Jim Dunlap moved to establish an account for Political Action Funds, and to move \$1,800 into the account in accordance with NMRWA financial records  
Ray Leverich seconded the motion  
Motion carried unanimously

The Committee then discussed the NRWA Gun Raffle. Members agreed that NMRWA will continue to hold the PAC Raffle independently, and will donate a portion of the proceeds to NRWA to help their PAC.

- **Finances Committee** – Matthew Holmes, Executive Director recommended removing Susan Maupin and adding Assistant Director Christine Ageton as a signer on the bank accounts. The Committee recommended that this action be placed on the agenda of the Executive Committee meeting following board elections at the 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference.
- **Bylaws Committee** – The Committee reported on the issue of Curry County. This county is officially in Region 4 according to the Bylaws, but has been treated as if they are in Region 1 for many years. The Bylaws Committee recommended a proposed Bylaws change place Curry County in Region 1. J

Jim Dunlap moved to send a notice to the membership of a proposed bylaws revision to place Curry County in Region 1  
Pat Banegas seconded the motion  
Motion carried unanimously

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**IX. New Business**

There was no new Business

**X. Adjourn**

Clarence Aragon moved to adjourn

Debra Ingle seconded the motion

Motion passed unanimously

The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 pm.

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John L. Jones, President

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Ray Leverich, Secretary / Treasurer

*New Mexico Rural Water Association*

Executive Committee Meeting  
Thursday, February 2, 2006, 1:00 PM

*El Rey Inn, 800-521-1349  
1862 Cerrillos Road, Santa Fe*

## **AGENDA**

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
- IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – DECEMBER 2, 2005
- V. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT
  - 28<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CONFERENCE
  - OFFICE / TRAINING FACILITY
- VI. NATIONAL DIRECTOR’S REPORT
  - NRWA FLY-IN & WATER RALLY
- VII. LEGISLATIVE ISSUES
- VIII. COMMITTEE BUSINESS
  - AWARDS COMMITTEE – RESOLUTION FOR SENATOR DOMENICI
  - POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE – ESTABLISHMENT OF ACCOUNT, RAFFLES AT ANNUAL CONFERENCE
  - FINANCES COMMITTEE – NEW SIGNATURES FOR ACCOUNTS
  - BYLAWS COMMITTEE – CURRY COUNTY
- IX. NEW BUSINESS
- X. ADJOURN

## Ag Fest

We will be attending the Ag Fest following the committee meeting. This year Ag Fest will be held at the La Fonda Hotel, on the Plaza. We will need tickets to get in; we will coordinate this at the meeting. There will be no Rural Water booth this year, due to the limited space available at La Fonda.

## Directions to the El Rey Inn

