

*New Mexico Finance Authority*  
207 Shelby St.  
Santa Fe, NM 87501  
(505) 984-1454

**Water Trust Board Meeting Minutes**  
**December 17, 2024**  
**New Mexico State Capitol, Room 309**  
**490 Old Santa Fe Trail, Santa Fe, New Mexico**

**Members Present:**

Elizabeth Anderson, Chair	NM State Engineer
Alison Nichols	Designee, NM Municipal League
Richard Garcia (via zoom)	Designee, NM Counties
Mark Thompson (via zoom)	NM Indian Affairs Department
Marquita Russel	CEO, NM Finance Authority
Wesley Billingsley	Designee, NM Department of Finance & Administration
Albert Chang	Designee, NM Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Dept.
Steven Deal (via zoom)	Designee, NM Environment Department
Brent Van Dyke (via zoom)	Soil & Water Conservation District Representative
Timothy McGinn (via zoom)	Irrigation/Conservancy District Ground-Water Rep.
Michael Sloane	Director, NM Department of Game & Fish

**Member Absent:**

Greg Alpers	Irrigation/Conservancy District Ground-Surface Rep.
Priscilla Lucero	Environmental Community Representative
Jeff Witte	NM Department of Agriculture
Buu Nygren	Navajo Nation

**New Mexico Finance Authority Staff:**

Anthony Maestas	Fernando Martinez
Angela Quintana	John Brooks
Bryan Otero (via zoom)	Kryshana Madrid
Charlotte Larragoite (via zoom)	Laura Williams (via zoom)
Donnie Quintana	Michael Vonderheide
Erika Falance	Paul Romero
	Sharon Romero

**Guests:**

Colleen Cunningham	NMISC
Hannah Riseley-White	NMISC

1. **Call to Order and Roll Call.** Chair Anderson called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. A quorum was established.

2. **Approval of Agenda.** Member Russel moved, seconded by Member Sloane, to approve the agenda. The motion passed 11-0.

3. **Approval of Board Minutes.**

3.1 Member Sloane moved, seconded by Member Van Dyke, for approval of the October 29, 2024, minutes. The motion passed 11-0.

4. **Water Trust Board (“WTB”) Amended Rules.**

4.1 **Approval of Resolution to Initiate Amendment to Rules.** Angela Quintana presented the resolution initiating a rulemaking procedure under the State Records Act to consider amendments to the WTB rules. NMFA legal counsel has created a preliminary rulemaking schedule with the current WTB meeting dates of April 2nd or April 22nd, 2025. The draft schedule and red-line proposed Rule changes were provided. The policy committee has reviewed this request and concurs with staff’s recommendation. Staff recommends approval to initiate the rulemaking process on the proposed WTB Rule amendments as outlined in the attached resolution.

Member Sloane moved, seconded by Member McGuinn for approval of item 4.1.

5. **WTB Technical Assistance Program Policy.**

5.1 **Approval of WTB Technical Assistance Program Policy.** Donnie Quintana presented the policies governing the Technical Assistance Program for water and wastewater systems capacity development. Staff is requesting approval of the polices from the Board. Discussion ensued with staff answering questions from the board.

Member Sloane moved, seconded by Member Nichols for approval of item 5.1.

6. **NM Unit Fund (“NMUF”) Pilot Cycle Policy.**

6.1 **Approval of Timeline/Implementations of the NMUF Application.** Michael Vonderheide presented the NMUF application requirements and evaluation criterion. The policy outlines eligible entities and eligible projects which may fund planning and design components for water utilization projects that meet water supply demands in the Southwest Region. NMFA staff on behalf of the WTB will evaluate submitted applications against the articulated application criteria contained in the NMISC pilot cycle policy. Discussion followed with staff and the Interstate Stream Commission (“ISC”) Director answering questions from the Board. The Director of the ISC thanked the WTB and NFMA staff on their collaboration on this project. Chair Anderson proposed to approve the policy and application with the potential of fine tuning the language within the policy and application as staff receives feedback on the first round.

**Member Russel moved, seconded by Member Sloane for approval of item 6.1.**

**7. Proposed Next Meeting:**

- Policy Committee TBD
- March 25, 2025, 2:00 p.m., WTB Project Review Committee (Via Zoom)
- April 2, 2025, 10:00 a.m., Water Trust Board – Waiver Requests Consideration – TBD
- April 17, 2025, 2:00 p.m., WTB Project Review Committee (Via Zoom)
- April 22, 2025, 10:00 a.m., Water Trust Board – WTB 2025 Funding Recommendations - TBD
- June/July 2025, Water Trust Board – Policy Recommendations - TBD

**8. Adjournment.** The meeting adjourned at 10:40 a.m.



Secretary

04 / 10 / 2025

Date