

**MINUTES
of the
FIRST MEETING
of the
WATER AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

**May 21, 2026
State Capitol, Room 307
Santa Fe**

The first meeting of the Water and Natural Resources Committee was called to order by Representative Matthew McQueen, chair, on Thursday, May 21, 2026, at 9:36 a.m. in Room 307 of the State Capitol in Santa Fe.

Present

Rep. Matthew McQueen, Chair
Sen. Elizabeth "Liz" Stefanics, Vice Chair
Rep. Micaela Lara Cadena
Rep. Kathleen Cates
Sen. Joseph Cervantes
Sen. Candy Spence Ezzell
Rep. Jonathan A. Henry
Rep. Joseph Franklin Hernandez
Rep. Marian Matthews
Sen. Micaelita Debbie O'Malley
Rep. Kristina Orteiz
Sen. Larry R. Scott
Sen. James G. Townsend

Advisory Members

Rep. Eleanor Chávez
Sen. Linda M. López
Rep. Tara L. Lujan
Rep. Angelita Mejia
Rep. Rod Montoya
Rep. Mark B. Murphy
Rep. Randall T. Pettigrew
Rep. Patricia Roybal Caballero
Sen. Mimi Stewart
Sen. Anthony L. Thornton

Absent

Sen. Pete Campos
Rep. Miguel P. García
Rep. D. Wonda Johnson
Rep. Angelica Rubio
Rep. Debra M. Sariñana
Rep. Elaine Sena Cortez
Sen. Jeff Steinborn
Rep. Martin R. Zamora

Rep. Gail Armstrong
Sen. Craig W. Brandt
Sen. Angel M. Charley
Rep. Jack Chatfield
Rep. Nicole Chavez
Rep. Meredith A. Dixon
Rep. Joanne J. Ferrary
Rep. Martha Garcia
Rep. Charlotte Little
Rep. Stefani Lord
Sen. Antonio Maestas
Rep. Javier Martínez
Rep. Tanya Mirabal Moya
Rep. Andrea Romero
Sen. Antoinette Sedillo Lopez
Rep. Nathan P. Small

Rep. Harlan Vincent
Sen. Peter Wirth
Sen. Pat Woods

Staff

Sara Wiedmaier, Researcher, Legislative Council Service (LCS)
Em Green, Staff Attorney, LCS
Angela Dakan, Staff, LCS

Guests

The guest list is in the meeting file.

Handouts

Handouts and other written testimony are in the meeting file and posted on the legislature's website.

References to Webcast

The time reference noted next to each agenda item in this document is cross-referenced to the recorded webcast of the committee meeting, which can be found at www.nmlegis.gov, under the "Webcast" tab. The presentations made and committee discussions for agenda items can be found on the recorded webcast for this meeting.

Thursday, May 21**Welcome and Introductions (9:36 a.m.)**

Representative McQueen welcomed everyone to the meeting, and members and staff introduced themselves.

Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) Post-Session Budget Report: Natural Resources (9:49 a.m.)

Austin Davidson, fiscal analyst, LFC, provided a post-session summary of the General Appropriation Act of 2026 and related legislation for key natural resources agencies, noting modest increases in recurring funding and nearly \$300 million in nonrecurring funding for water settlements, water supply and planning, energy growth, public land restoration and river stewardship. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=WNR&Date=5/21/2026&ItemNumber=1>.

Drought and 50-Year Water Action Plan Dashboard (10:19 a.m.)

Tanya Trujillo, deputy state engineer, Office of the State Engineer, discussed the severe climate conditions facing the state, including record-high temperatures, record-low snowpack and runoff and long-term drought impacts. She presented a new public website that provides real-time information on drought and wildfires and offers resources to support education and

monitoring. Ms. Trujillo also highlighted the 50-Year Water Action Plan dashboard that tracks progress on coordinated statewide strategies to adapt and secure future water supplies. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=WNR&Date=5/21/2026&ItemNumber=2>.

Discussion of the 2026 Work Plan and Meeting Schedule (11:17 a.m.)

Committee members discussed the proposed work plan for the 2026 interim and offered suggestions for topics and meeting locations. The proposed 2026 work plan and meeting schedule can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=WNR&Date=5/21/2026&ItemNumber=3>.

Public Comment (12:05 p.m.)

A list of individuals who made public comment is available in the meeting file.

Adjournment

There being no further business before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 12:11 p.m.