

**2021 APPROVED  
WORK PLAN AND MEETING SCHEDULE  
for the  
WATER AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

**Members**

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Rep. Matthew McQueen, Co-Vice Chair  
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Sen. Joshua A. Sanchez  
Rep. Debra M. Sariñana  
Sen. Antoinette Sedillo Lopez  
Rep. Nathan P. Small  
Sen. Mimi Stewart  
Sen. Peter Wirth

**Approved Work Plan**

The Water and Natural Resources Committee was created by the New Mexico Legislative Council on May 3, 2021. The committee will focus on the following topics, as scheduling permits:

A. reports from water- and natural resources-related executive agencies regarding initiatives, legislation passed and budget and staffing needs;

B. topics concerning water, including:

1. statutory reports from the Office of the State Engineer (OSE) and the Interstate Stream Commission (ISC), including reports on the New Mexico Unit Fund, the Strategic Water Reserve and state water planning;

2. implementation of the Water Data Act;
3. the status of drought in the state and policy to address drought conditions, including weather modification;
4. water administration challenges;
5. water governance reform;
6. water deliveries to Indian nations, tribes and pueblos and the status of Indian water rights litigation and settlements;
7. issues pertaining to the Pecos River, including compact and settlement compliance and the status of the Intrepid Potash water rights dispute;
8. dropping water tables and the metering of farm wells;
9. issues pertaining to acequias, including the Acequia and Community Ditch Infrastructure Fund and an update on the acequia manager position at the ISC;
10. dam and acequia infrastructure funding and needs;
11. contaminated ground water sites;
12. surface water protections, including discharge permitting and impacts of the federal Clean Water Act of 1977;
13. per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), including a study of PFAS present in water in New Mexico;
14. water quality and quantity concerns of communities downstream of wastewater treatment facilities;
15. water speculation issues;
16. water importation in southeastern New Mexico;
17. assessment of public drinking water systems' needs;
18. Water-Use Leasing Act policy implementation; and
19. updates on *Texas v. New Mexico* and other water-related litigation;

C. topics concerning energy, including:

1. renewable energy projects, including solar and wind projects and recycling, bonding and reclamation issues;
2. the Public Regulation Commission's implementation of the Community Solar Act;
3. sustainable housing, energy efficiency and weatherization;
4. proposed expansion of sustainable building tax credits;
5. low-income energy access and rate reporting;
6. a community energy efficiency development block grant program;
7. an update on the City of Farmington's and Enchant Energy's San Juan Generating Station carbon capture project;
8. practices and policies of the State Land Office pertaining to oil and gas development on state lands, including bonding and reclamation practices and policies;
9. the Oil Conservation Division of the Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department's enforcement authority pursuant to the Oil and Gas Act, including a report on violations and penalties;
10. abandoned and orphaned oil and gas well capping and liability issues;
11. practices and policies related to produced water;
12. the status of the spill rule petition;
13. implementation of the natural gas waste rule; and
14. a report from the Federal Reserve on oil and gas productivity and revenues on federal lands;

D. topics concerning agriculture, land management and animals, including:

1. a report from the State Parks Division of the Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department on its land management stewardship and practices, initiatives to protect flagship state parks, revenues, fees and budgetary needs;
2. the status of implementation of the Healthy Soil Act;

3. hemp and marijuana production and the protection of water rights;
4. state support for farming and ranching management tools;
5. expansion of and funding for the state's weather station program;
6. proposed updates to the Natural Heritage Conservation Act and the Natural Lands Protection Act and funding under certain federal executive land conservation programs;
7. conservation planning through the outdoor recreation management plan;
8. climate-informed reforestation efforts and watershed restoration projects;
9. wildfire preparedness and response;
10. wildlife management reform;
11. wild horse management issues;
12. cage-free egg production;
13. a report from the Rio Grande Trail Commission; and
14. uranium mining reclamation; and

E. other topics concerning natural resources, including:

1. progress on achieving Executive Order 2019-003 carbon reductions and other climate targets;
2. a proposed green amendment to the Constitution of New Mexico; and
3. policies and practices to address the use of plastics and plastic pollution.

**Water and Natural Resources Committee  
2021 Approved Meeting Schedule**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>
June 15	Video Conference
July 12-13	Gallup
August 12-13	Taos
September 7-8	Santa Rosa/Duran/Corona
October 21-22	Santa Fe