

**2016 APPROVED
WORK PLAN AND MEETING SCHEDULE
for the
WATER AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

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Rep. James G. Townsend
Rep. Don L. Tripp
Rep. Bob Wooley
Rep. John L. Zimmerman

Work Plan

The Water and Natural Resources Committee was created by the New Mexico Legislative Council on May 9, 2016. The committee proposes to focus on the following topics.

1. Water management, research, litigation and projects and agency issues, including testimony on the following agenda items:
 - a. water conservation goals for municipal water systems (House Memorial 15, 2016);

- b. regional water planning process and status and regional water planning Governance Study Group report;
 - c. reports required by statute from the state engineer and the Interstate Stream Commission;
 - d. active water resource management implementation and water banking;
 - e. Colorado River drought contingency planning;
 - f. cooperative water management operations in the middle Rio Grande;
 - g. lower Rio Grande management agreement efforts;
 - h. report from the New Mexico Acequia Association;
 - i. regional water authority legislation;
 - j. *Texas v. New Mexico* litigation update;
 - k. drought update/reservoir levels/seasonal outlook/Bradner Reservoir project status;
 - l. composition of the Interstate Stream Commission, Water Trust Board, State Game Commission and State Racing Commission;
 - m. New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology report on joint research efforts with New Mexico State University and the University of New Mexico;
 - n. Bureau of Geology and Mineral Resources report on aquifer mapping projects;
 - o. state engineer regulations on reclamation/reuse of water;
 - p. water well drilling regulations;
 - q. New Mexico Beef Council assessment legislation (Senate Bill 65, 2016); and
 - r. adjudication process update.
2. Agriculture, land use, natural resource and game and fish issues, including:
- a. report on the oil and gas industry: job losses in southeast New Mexico and the economy in northwest New Mexico;
 - b. effects of the listing of the New Mexico meadow jumping mouse on grazing lessees' access to water;
 - c. report on the Gold King Mine spill and Albuquerque Laun-Dry spill;
 - d. report from the Young Farmers and Ranchers Program of the New Mexico Farm and Livestock Bureau;
 - e. report on forest and watershed restoration and treatment projects;
 - f. Department of Game and Fish report on elk population and the E-PLUS Program and Taxation and Revenue Department report on gross receipts tax collections related to the E-PLUS Program;
 - g. pollinators and food security;
 - h. Department of Environment briefing on the federal clean power program;
 - i. long-term financing of forest and watershed treatment, restoration and forest health;
 - j. State Land Office update on grazing land rental formula;
 - k. electric industry report on energy infrastructure and balanced energy mix and the solar energy tax credit renewal;
 - l. Department of Game and Fish position on San Juan River issues;
 - m. soil and water conservation districts update;
 - n. agri-tourism in New Mexico;
 - o. equine herpesvirus testing; and
 - p. the Industrial Hemp Farming Act.

**Water and Natural Resources Committee
2016 Approved Meeting Schedule**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>
June 14	Santa Fe
July 14-15	Alamogordo
August 25-26	Clovis; Tucumcari
September 29-30	Socorro
October 27-28	Roswell
November 21	Santa Fe