

**2011 APPROVED  
WORK PLAN AND MEETING SCHEDULE  
for the  
WATER AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

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Sen. John C. Ryan  
Rep. Henry Kiki Saavedra  
Sen. Peter Wirth

**Work Plan**

The Water and Natural Resources Committee was created by the New Mexico Legislative Council on May 9, 2011. The committee proposes to focus on the following topics.

1. Water management, adjudication, research, litigation and projects, including testimony on the following agenda items:
  - a. reports required by statute from the state engineer and the Interstate Stream Commission;
  - b. Indian water rights settlements — update on status and continued need for state cost-share funding through the Indian Water Rights Settlement Fund;
  - c. update on the status of the revised biological opinion for the middle Rio Grande;
  - d. Gila River planning process status update (Arizona Water Settlements Act of 2004);
  - e. dam safety and liability issues;

- f. acequia issues;
  - g. state water plan update;
  - h. adjudications status report;
  - i. Joe M Stell ombudsman program update;
  - j. major litigation and appeals update, including the active water resource management regulations challenge ("Tristate") and the domestic well statute challenge ("Bounds");
  - k. update on lower Rio Grande — 2008 Rio Grande Project Operating Agreement;
  - l. federal water projects and state cost-share funding;
  - m. report on the study of the Rio Grande levees within Valencia, Bernalillo and Sandoval counties;
  - n. update on Water Trust Board projects and funding; and
  - o. status of the St. Augustine Plains water rights transfer application.
2. Agriculture, land use and game and fish issues, including:
- a. integrating land use and water planning — Utton Transboundary Resources Center;
  - b. United States Department of Agriculture conservation programs in New Mexico;
  - c. wildlife depredation issues;
  - d. update on state parks from the State Parks Division of the Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department;
  - e. off-highway motor vehicle registration and regulation;
  - f. update on game and fish issues in the state from the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish;
  - g. New Mexico State University's Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service and the New Mexico Department of Agriculture report on agricultural issues in New Mexico;
  - h. unwanted horses in New Mexico and efforts to control horse populations;

- i. invasive and endangered species issues in New Mexico; and
  - j. commercial hemp production.
3. Other environmental and natural resource issues, including:
- a. reports from the Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department and the Department of Environment;
  - b. a presentation addressing the United States' energy future as tied to national security; and
  - c. alternative energy issues in the state, including a report from the New Mexico Renewable Energy Transmission Authority.

## 2011 Approved Meeting Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>
June 1	Santa Fe
June 30	Santa Fe
August 1-3	Silver City
October 11	Santa Fe
November 7-8	Santa Fe