

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

**October 27-28, 2022
State Capitol, Room 307
Santa Fe**

The fifth meeting of the Water and Natural Resources Committee for the 2022 interim was called to order by Representative Matthew McQueen, co-chair, on Thursday, October 27, 2022, at 9:03 a.m. in Room 307 of the State Capitol in Santa Fe.

Present

Rep. Derrick J. Lente, Co-Chair
Rep. Matthew McQueen, Co-Chair
Sen. Elizabeth "Liz" Stefanics, Vice Chair
Rep. Linda Garcia Benavides
Rep. Kay Bounkeua
Sen. Pete Campos
Rep. Pamelya Herndon
Rep. Susan K. Herrera
Sen. Stuart Ingle (10/27)
Rep. Tara J. Lujan
Rep. Kristina Ortez (10/27)
Sen. Benny Shendo, Jr.
Sen. Jeff Steinborn
Rep. Candie G. Sweetser
Sen. Pat Woods

Advisory Members

Sen. Crystal R. Diamond
Rep. Rebecca Dow
Sen. Ron Griggs
Sen. Linda M. Lopez
Rep. Andrea Romero
Rep. Patricia Roybal Caballero
Sen. Antoinette Sedillo Lopez
Sen. Mimi Stewart
Sen. Peter Wirth

Absent

Rep. Gail Armstrong
Sen. Joseph Cervantes
Sen. David M. Gallegos
Rep. Marian Matthews
Rep. Larry R. Scott
Rep. James R.J. Strickler
Rep. Martin R. Zamora

Rep. Jack Chatfield
Rep. Candy Spence Ezzell
Sen. Carrie Hamblen
Rep. T. Ryan Lane
Rep. Rod Montoya
Rep. Roger E. Montoya
Rep. Greg Nibert
Sen. Gerald Ortiz y Pino
Sen. Shannon D. Pinto
Rep. William "Bill" R. Rehm
Rep. G. Andrés Romero
Sen. Joshua A. Sanchez
Rep. Debra M. Sariñana
Rep. Nathan P. Small

(Attendance dates are noted for members not present for the entire meeting.)

Staff

Tom Kricka, Staff Attorney, Legislative Council Service (LCS)

Martin Fischer, Staff Attorney, LCS

Cristina Vasquez, Staff Attorney, LCS

Minutes Approval

Because the committee will not meet again this year, the minutes for this meeting have not been officially approved by the committee.

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 webcast for 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, October 27

Welcome and Introductions (9:03 a.m.)

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

Department of Game and Fish Budget and Staffing Needs (9:09 a.m.)

Michael B. Sloane, director, Department of Game and Fish, discussed the budget and staffing needs of the Department of Game and Fish.

Office of Natural Resources Trustee (9:46 a.m.)

Maggie Hart Stebbins, natural resources trustee, Office of Natural Resources Trustee, discussed the budgetary needs and projected workload for the Office of Natural Resources Trustee in fiscal year 2024. The presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/WNR%20102722%20Item%202%20ONRT.pdf>

Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department (EMNRD) Budget and Staffing Needs (10:14 a.m.)

Sarah Cottrell Propst, secretary, EMNRD, and Matthew Lovato, director, Administrative

Services Division, EMNRD, spoke about the budget and staffing needs of the EMNRD. The presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/WNR%20102722%20Item%203%20EMNRD%20FY24.pdf>

Office of the State Engineer Budget and Staffing Needs (10:58 a.m.)

Mike Hamman, state engineer, Office of the State Engineer, and Rolf Schmidt Petersen, director, Interstate Stream Commission, Office of the State Engineer, provided information on the budget and staffing needs of the Office of the State Engineer. The presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/WNR%20102722%20Item%204%20OSE%20ISC%20BUDGET%20STAFFING.pdf>

Implementation of the Water Data Act (11:43 a.m.)

Stacy Timmons, associate director, Hydrogeology, Bureau of Geology and Mineral Resources, New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology, presented an update on the New Mexico Water Data Initiative. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=WNR&Date=10/27/2022&ItemNumber=5>.

Implementation of the Environmental Database (12:01 p.m.)

Judy Calman, director of policy, Audubon New Mexico, discussed the implementation and capabilities of the environmental database.

Working Lunch: Demonstration of Environmental Database (12:07 p.m.)

Public Regulation Commission (PRC) Budget and Staffing Needs (1:04 p.m.)

Wayne Propst, chief of staff, PRC, and Renada Peery-Galon, director, Administrative Services Division, PRC, spoke about the budget and staffing needs of the PRC. The presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/WNR%20102722%20Item%207%20Public%20Regulation%20Commission.pdf>

Update from the Water Policy and Infrastructure Task Force (1:41 p.m.)

Mr. Hamman; Marquita Russel, chief executive officer, New Mexico Finance Authority; Norm Gaume, president, Middle Rio Grande Water Advocates; and Ms. Calman gave updates on the Water Policy and Infrastructure Task Force and recommendations to mitigate future water infrastructure issues. The presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/WNR%20102722%20Item%208%20Water%20Policy%20Infrastructure%20Task%20Force.pdf>

EXECUTIVE SESSION (Closed Meeting): Update on *Texas v. New Mexico* (2:42 p.m.)

The committee went into executive session to discuss ongoing litigation.

Recess

The meeting recessed at 3:56 p.m.

Friday, October 28

Reconvene

The meeting reconvened at 8:59 a.m.

Department of Environment Budget and Staffing Needs (9:00 a.m.)

James C. Kenney, secretary, Department of Environment; Rebecca Roose, deputy secretary, Administration, Department of Environment; and Stephanie Stringer, deputy secretary, Operations, Department of Environment, provided information on the budget and staffing needs of the Department of Environment. The presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/WNR%20102822%20Item%209%20NMED%20WNRC%20FY24%20Budget%20Factsheet.pdf>.

Approval of Minutes (10:15 a.m.)

The committee approved the minutes of the August 25-26, 2022 and September 29-30, 2022 meetings without objection.

Solar Market Development Tax Credit Administration (10:16 a.m.)

Louise Martinez, director, Energy Conservation and Management Division, EMNRD, and Mr. Lovato presented on the solar market development tax credit program. The presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/WNR%20102822%20Item%2010%20Solar%20Market%20Development%20Tax%20Credit.pdf>.

Regional Water Systems (11:02 a.m.)

Senator Wirth; Representative Herrera; and Ramon Lucero, regional field manager, Rural Community Assistance Corporation, discussed regional water system needs and proposed writing a bill to give water and wastewater systems the legal mechanism to join together with other systems, if they choose.

Adjournment

There being no further business before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 12:01 p.m.