



## Published by the New Mexico Water Dialogue

To promote the wise stewardship and ensure the availability of water resources for future generations of New Mexicans through support of community-based planning and creation of inclusive forums for education, communication, and development of common ground.

*Save the Date: JANUARY 11, 2018*

*New Mexico Water Dialogue 24th Annual Statewide Meeting*

## Balancing Our Water Needs: Adjudication and Alternatives

**T**he New Mexico Water Dialogue has been holding annual, statewide meetings for almost 25 years. For these many years, the focus has been on working to ensure that New Mexico has a reliable water supply. We have talked about how to plan both statewide and regionally, accountability, implementation, economics, declining water supply and increasing growth, adaptation and resilience, opportunities and challenges, conflicts, and political will.

We can be proud that water management has improved over these years. But all is not solved. The state has yet to re-

visit a skeletal state water plan adopted in 2003, and there are statewide problems that have not been resolved, among them adjudications, federal mandates, interbasin water transfers, reliable data, and long-term water availability.

Both the two speakers and three panelists listed in the draft agenda on page 4 will address many of these issues. You also will have a chance to discuss those addressed by the speakers as well as other issues in the breakout sessions.

Please plan to attend. You can check our web site, <http://nmwaterdialogue.org>, for updates and changes to the agenda.

## Please Help Us by Receiving Your Newsletter Electronically

**T**he New Mexico Water Dialogue relies entirely on memberships and the occasional larger donation to finance its work. The Dialogue has no staff and relies on its board of directors and a few wonderful people to pull together the annual meeting and occasional more focused meetings when dialogue is helpful, and to work on the bi-yearly newsletter. We keep the fees for the annual meeting as low as possible to cover costs and do not charge for the newsletter.

BUT, we need your help. We need to reduce our costs. PLEASE email Paul Tashjian at [paul\\_tashjian@fws.gov](mailto:paul_tashjian@fws.gov) and request that you receive your newsletter electronically only and not by paper copy which must be printed and mailed requiring postage.

THANK YOU.





Fall 2017

The *Dialogue* is a publication of the New Mexico Water Dialogue.

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## Report from the President

by Jason John

NM Water Dialogue President, Board of Directors

The theme of the upcoming New Mexico Water Dialogue Annual Meeting is ***Balancing Our Water Needs: Adjudication and Alternatives***. The Navajo Nation and several other tribes in New Mexico have negotiated settlements for long outstanding water rights claims. For the Navajo Nation, the settlement of water claims to the San Juan River was the result of dedicated professionals willing to put aside their differences and craft a settlement that brought benefits to many water users. We all understand that it is almost impossible to change the framework of water laws that govern today's water resources. There are several pueblos and other entities who have yet to settle their water rights claims in the Middle Rio Grande Valley. As it stands the resolution of these claims is headed toward adjudication. Do many New Mexicans believe adjudication will result in an outcome better than settlements or other alternatives?

We have all heard the thought that importing water from other regions is a viable alternative to dealing with the water budget shortfall. The importing of water sounds great unless they are taking the water from beneath your region to fuel the development needs in other areas. Is there a balance to the exporting/importing of water?

There are large efforts and programs to find ways to conserve water. I recently got a call from a reporter in New York (I



won't name who they were representing) who asked how the Navajo Nation is conserving water. The question may make sense to most, but I told him that the Navajo Nation already has one of the lowest per capita water uses in the West, if not the lowest, since 30 percent of the households have to haul water and the economy is depressed, resulting in low

commercial water use. What are the relationships between the limits of conservation and the adjudication of water rights?

It appears we all have to get used to the reality of re-using treated wastewater and making better use of grey water. Are the governing laws and policies up to the challenge of finding alternative water resources?

Will providing more funds toward adjudication resolve many of the regional water challenges?

New Mexico has recently updated its regional water plans and is working on updating the State Water Plan. These achievements by New Mexico and its citizens is a much needed step toward understanding the issues and the potential landscape of alternatives to solving many of the State's water resource, water infrastructure, and policy challenges.

I look forward to the discussions at the upcoming Annual Meeting and other meetings to discuss this most valuable resource. Thank you.

The Dialogue is only able to function because of the long-time devotion and work of several people. Two of them, John Brown and Bob Wessely, are passing some of that work on to new board members Jeffrey Samson and Paul Tashjian. The Dialogue owes a debt of gratitude to John and Bob and is so thankful that Jeffrey and Paul will carry on their work!!!!!!!

New Mexico Water Dialogue  
24th Annual Meeting  
January 11, 2018  
8:00 am to 4:30 pm  
Indian Pueblo Cultural Center  
2401 12th St. NW, Albuquerque, NM 87104

## BALANCING OUR WATER NEEDS: ADJUDICATION AND ALTERNATIVES

The simplest way to register for the 24th Annual Statewide Meeting is to go online to <http://nmwaterdialogue.org> and click on the "Register to Attend...". Credit cards can be used online only. Registration includes lunch catered by the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center and morning and afternoon beverages and snacks. By registering early, you help us plan for these items. For those who register online, we offer discounts. A limited number of scholarships are available to full-time students. Alternatively, you may fill out this form and mail it with a check to NMWD, c/o Paul Tashjian, USFWS, National Wildlife Refuge System, PO Box 1306, Albuquerque, NM 87103. The fee after January 7, 2018, is \$60 and must be paid at the door on the day of the meeting.

### Registration Form (Please print legibly)

NAME(S) \_\_\_\_\_

ORGANIZATION (optional, except for purchase orders) \_\_\_\_\_

TITLE OR POSITION (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS (street or box number) \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

I/we wish to:

☐ REGISTER for the Dialogue's 24th Annual Statewide Meeting

\_\_\_\_\_ member(s): \$45 until 12/16/17; \$50 until 1/6/18

\_\_\_\_\_ non-member(s): \$50 until 12/16/17; \$55 until 1/6/18

Amount included: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

☐ BECOME A MEMBER of the NM Water Dialogue (Register for the meeting as a member!).

\_\_\_\_\_ Individual(s) @ \$20

\_\_\_\_\_ Individual(s) representing a public agency or non-profit organization @\$35

\_\_\_\_\_ Individual(s) representing a private, for-profit firm @\$50

\_\_\_\_\_ Governmental or non-profit organization (for up to 5 people) \$100

\_\_\_\_\_ Private, for-profit enterprise/organization (for up to 5 people) \$150

Amount included: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

☐ MAKE A TAX-DEDUCTIBLE CONTRIBUTION to the Dialogue

Amount included: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Payment options:

☐ A check is enclosed

☐ Invoice our P.O. # \_\_\_\_\_ for \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

☐ Payment if being mailed separately (must arrive by the date indicated above)

☐ I (we) will pay \$60 at the door.

If you wish to receive the Dialogue electronically, check here \_\_\_\_\_. Include email address above.



New Mexico Water Dialogue  
c/o Paul Tashjian  
USFWS, National Wildlife Refuge System  
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Albuquerque, NM 87103

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New Mexico Water Dialogue 24th Annual Statewide Meeting  
**Balancing Our Water Needs: Adjudication and Alternatives**

January 11, 2018, 8:00 am to 4:30 pm

Indian Pueblo Cultural Center, 2401 12th St. NW, Albuquerque, NM 87104

DRAFT AGENDA

- 8:00 – 8:30 Registration
- 8:30 to 8:45 Welcome and Introductions – Jason John, President, and Lucy Moore, Facilitator and Co-Founder of the New Mexico Water Dialogue
- 8:45 to 9:30 Keynote: Reed D. Benson, Professor, UNM School of Law  
“Adjudications, Conventional Wisdom, and New Mexico”
- 9:30 -10:00 Greg Ridgley, Office of the State Engineer, General Counsel,  
“New Mexico Adjudication Practices and Developments”
- 10:00 – 10:15 Break
- 10:15 – 11:45 Panel: Adjudications and Alternatives  
Peter Chestnut, Attorney  
Robert Faubion, President, Elephant Butte Irrigation District  
Kate Zeigler, Consulting Geologist
- 11:45 – 12:15 Interest in Dialogue Board Membership/Introductions to breakout groups
- 12:15-1:15 Lunch
- 1:15 – 3:15 Breakout Sessions – Adjudications, settlements, water planning and others.
- 3:15-3:30 Break
- 3:30 - 4:15 Lucia Sanchez, Interstate Stream Commission Water Planning Program Manager  
“What is going into the State Water Plan? What did the Town Halls do?”
- 4:15 - 4:30 Wrap-up and Adjourn

Please check [www.nmwaterdialogue.org](http://www.nmwaterdialogue.org) for additions and changes to the agenda and to register.