



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 10, 2019
New Mexico Water Dialogue 25th Annual Statewide Meeting

Water Dialogue at 25: Honoring Our Past/Planning Our Future

By Eileen Dodds, Secretary/Treasurer, Water Dialogue Board of Directors

For 25 years the New Mexico Water Dialogue has worked tirelessly to protect water resources throughout our state. Formed in 1993 for the purpose of supporting regional water planning, we've grown beyond that, often meeting with our elected officials and contributing to legislation designed to insure a future for all New Mexicans through careful use of a limited resource. Through the years our board has been composed of people from all over the state, with many diverse interests, but working together with like-minded determination to compromise for the benefit of all. Environmentalists and farmers, urban developers, Native Americans, and ranchers, engineers and lay people have formed a cooperative organization promising what our name implies---"DIALOGUE".

We are all volunteers. At times, it has been a struggle to maintain continuity in our activities in support of public participation for water issues. However, we haven't abandoned hope that our efforts have achieved a greater awareness, as well as positive results over these 25 years for all corners of New Mexico. Now we look to the fu-

ture. An updated State Water Plan has been completed, incorporating efforts of the 16 regions of New Mexico, who spent over a year updating their own plans. The final results may not be perfect, but it is a living document to which changes can be addressed as we move forward.

New Mexico is dealing with serious challenges, as are all the western states. Climate change and reduced precipitation have affected water supplies everywhere. Meeting Compact requirements under these conditions merely exacerbates our own shortages. Ideas proven effective in the past, such as inter-basin transfers of surface water and shortage sharing, will need to be expanded so we can live with what we have for the foreseeable future. Infrastructure in the cities is badly in need

of funding for repairs and maintenance so waste can be prevented. Expansion of "gray-water" use and rainwater capture need to be developed. As population increases and businesses move here, there will be more pressure on our water supply, but the growth is needed to support our economy.

The New Mexico Water Dialogue has laid a solid foundation of statewide cooperation from which we will continue to draw energetic new members. Your past support has been—and still is—greatly appreciated. The future is ours for the building. Let's now look ahead, protecting what we have for the future of all New Mexicans.

Please join us on January 10 to celebrate our past and look to our future.

Thanks to a very generous donation, the Dialogue is able to offer student scholarships to attend the Annual Meeting on Jan. 10. To request more information, please contact consuelobokum@gmail.com or any of our board members. Many thanks to our generous supporters!



Fall 2018

The *Dialogue* is a publication of the
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Celebrating 25 Years of the Dialogue Newsletter

By Consuelo Bokum

NM Water Dialogue newsletter editor

Dialogue's newsletter is a treasure trove of the history of regional water planning in New Mexico, year by year, region by region, and challenges and victories as they came up in the planning process. There are the voices and words of active and committed community members from pretty much every constituency the state. Along with the annual statewide meeting, the newsletter was how we learned from each other and came to respect each other. It has been a wonderful 25 years.

We are particularly indebted to the newsletter's first two editors, Chris Nunn who was also one of our founders and Lisa Robert, who captured those early years when we had no idea of where this would all end up.

Chris Nunn was the Dialogue newsletter's first editor from June 1993 to 1994. Here is a quote from the Dialogue February 1994:

"Democracy, as has been observed more elegantly, is a messy business. Today, when public issues are often so complex that informed participation is impossible, meaningful democracy, in addition to being messy, is rarer than the silvery minnow. As we struggle with the messy business of water governance, we can fortify ourselves by recalling how fortunate we are to live in this particular mess. We New Mexicans can congratulate ourselves on this creative activity among challenged citizens, overtaxed agency staff, academics far from the safety of their intellectual turf, and public officials who are getting little pay and less appreciation."

Lisa Robert edited the newsletter from 1995 to 2001. Here is a quote from the March 1996 newsletter:

"Many of us initially participated in the Dialogue with skepticism and mistrust. We assumed this would be like most other group discussions: absorbing but temporary, with out lasting consequence. We were wrong. With a few indispensable ground rules to nourish mutual respect, the Dialogue has yielded a surprising amount of understanding, cooperation and partnership between the diverse water interests of the state, and today it stands as a model for those who would listen to each other, learn from each other, and grow."

From the Beginning: Dialogue Looking Back

*By Michael Benson
NM Water Dialogue Board Member*

I have been involved in the New Mexico Water Dialogue since its beginning. In September 1992 I went to work for the Navajo Nation as Community Involvement Specialist in the Water Resources Management Department, now the Water Management Branch. That fall I attended a meeting related to New Mexico's Regional Water Planning effort. We were brought together by two admirable women, Dr. Chris Nunn Garcia and Lucy Moore, from Western Network, a non-profit group with a Ford Foundation grant to foster collaborative approaches to natural resources issues. The Ford grant ended after several years, but Lucy and Chris continued their involvement with the Dialogue.

In my life and my work, being a part of the Dialogue is like a kid being given a piece of candy that lasts 25 years, something of a tale of "believe it or not." I met State Engineer Tom Turney at a Dialogue meeting. At his request, I was included in the successful San Juan Water Rights River settlement discussions. After some back and forth about who should facilitate the settlement negotiations, Turney prevailed to have none other than mediator and Dialogue founder Lucy Moore facilitate the negotiations.

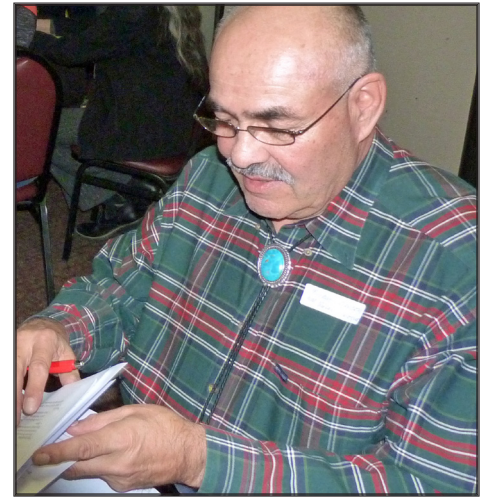
This hardcore Navajo Democrat voted for Republican Governor Gary Johnson twice because of the friendship with Tom and in appreciation for the State's work to settle San Juan River water rights.

I am positive that the NM Regional Water Planning program and its support from the Dialogue were critical

in convincing Navajo communities to accept the settlement. Prior to the settlement, the Navajo Nation received grants from the NM Interstate Stream Commission to develop alternatives to meet water needs for the next 40 years. With this assistance, we went to the Navajo Chapters' town hall monthly meetings to explain the settlement and the Navajo Gallup Water Supply Project that is the centerpiece of the settlement.

Powerful Navajo Council delegates initially opposed the San Juan settlement but were turned around by the tide of resolutions passed by Navajo Chapters supporting the settlement. Later the Navajo Nation reached a draft Little Colorado River Settlement with Arizona. In that case the Arizona Chapters defeated the effort by passing resolutions against it. There was no "Arizona Water Dialogue," and no regional water planning program to foster collaboration and community water planning

Great outcomes were not limited to the Navajo settlement. There is more. At a Dialogue annual meeting, Lucy introduced me to Charlie Clements, a founder of WaterWorks, which worked to provide water to poor communities. A few months later, I got a call from Andrew Robertson who worked with WaterWorks to provide water service for poor Colonias along the Mexican border in Texas. Andrew was seeking \$5,000 for environmental clearances for a water line in Torreon Chapter located in New Mexico. Later, Andrew, now working for Souder Miller and Associates, kept coming back working with our program to get tens of millions of dollars from state and federal



governments to plan and construct waterlines. The Branch is now the lead Navajo Nation agency for the planning and construction of waterlines.

It was like Andrew found "heaven." Beyond Torreon, he found dozens of Navajo communities needing water. Andrew is told of a need and he immediately begins hunting for resources. Andrew helped to organize Navajo Chapters to lobby the Legislature for the settlement and funding for local waterlines. Andrew helped to drive the settlement process.

Some might say it was just luck that resulted in the confluence of factors which allowed me to be a part of the epic period of Navajo water development. The real luck I believe is finding a piece of candy 25 years ago, now known as the New Mexico Water Dialogue. Thank you to all current and past members of the Dialogue.

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New Mexico Water Dialogue
25th Annual Meeting
January 10, 2019
8:00 am to 4:30 pm
Indian Pueblo Cultural Center
2401 12th St. NW, Albuquerque, NM 87104

WATER DIALOGUE AT 25: HONORING OUR PAST/PLANNING OUR FUTURE

The simplest way to register for the 25th Annual Statewide Meeting is to go online to <http://nmwaterdialogue.org> and click on the "Register Now" button. 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. 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, 3757 Manchester Dr., NW, Albuquerque, NM 87107. The fee after January 6, 2019, 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 25th Annual Statewide Meeting

_____ member(s): \$45 until 12/16/18; \$50 until 1/5/19 (\$60 hereafter)

_____ non-member(s): \$50 until 12/16/18; \$55 until 1/5/19 (\$60 hereafter)

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.

“Making the Case for Change”

*Presented to the Legislative Water and
Natural Resources Committee*

By John Brown

In response to House Memorial 1 (2017) (see *Dialogue*, Spring 2017), the HMI Working Group submitted *Making the Case for Change*, a summary of the major water policy problems to the Water and Natural Resources Committee of the New Mexico legislature. This report was endorsed by the Dialogue’s board of directors in August.

Making the Case for Change identifies four major problems whose remedy is urgent for the State’s long-term health. It recommends a set of five core initiatives that are necessary to effectively address these four problems.

In summary, the problems are:

- Federal lawsuit on New Mexico’s over-use in the lower Rio Grande
 - Unreliable Compact compliance in the Middle Rio Grande
 - Unsustainable groundwater depletions in many areas
 - New Mexico’s hands-off approach to water administration
- The core initiatives to address those problems are:
- Strengthen leadership and capacity in appropriate state agencies
 - Use Compact constraints to drive water administration

- Reform water planning to be an effective management tool

- Base decisions on hydrologic and analytic reality

- Fund the reforms with a significant one-time two-year appropriation

The working group recognized that many other important water issues eventually need to be addressed. Key among them are uncertainty over quantification of Native American Tribal water rights, and the impact of their resolution. They believe that non-Tribal water issues will largely be addressed through the newly effective state and regional water planning processes outlined in the proposal.

The Working Group hopes the ISC will fully consider the problems and solutions presented in *Making the Case for Change*, and that ISC staff and members seek the resources and collaboration necessary to implement the identified solutions.

The full report *Making the Case for Change*, background information on the HMI Working Group, and other reports are available on the Dialogue’s website at <http://nmwaterdialogue.org/library/water-governance/making-the-case-for-change/view>.

Please Help Us by Receiving Your Newsletter Electronically

The 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 semi-annual 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 Consuelo Bokum at consuelobokum@gmail.com and request that you receive your newsletter electronically only and not by paper copy, which must be printed and mailed requiring postage.

THANK YOU.

The ARID Project: Creating Resilient Management Strategies for Agricultural Communities

By Kate Zeigler and Amy Ganguli

*New Mexico State University, Animal and Range Science Department
Zeigler Geologic Consulting, LLC, Albuquerque*

Persistent drought along with increased variability in weather patterns and dwindling surface and groundwater resources have put increasingly intense financial and social pressure on rural agricultural communities across the High Plains, including in eastern New Mexico. In the face of these challenges, how do agricultural producers develop management strategies that anticipate rather than react to these issues? The “Agroecosystem Resilience in Time of Drought” or ARID project, is a U.S. Department of Agriculture National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA)-funded project managed by New Mexico State University (NMSU). This endeavor aims to support developing and refining management strategies for farmers and ranchers that improve both community and individual producer resiliency in the face of continued drought conditions and climate variability.

For the last few years, agricultural producers in northeastern New Mexico have been teaming up with geoscientists to learn more about their groundwater resources. This has led to a growing collaboration among producers and scientists in terms of making crop and range management decisions that now take into account data about local groundwater resources. Building on these efforts, an NMSU-led team has been very fortunate

to receive this USDA NIFA funding to support four years of groundwater and precipitation monitoring efforts in Union County (NM), Cimarron County (OK), and Las Animas County (CO).

The ARID project brings farmers and ranchers in all three counties into partnership with range scientists, geoscientists and social scientists from NMSU, Oklahoma State University, Oklahoma University and Zeigler Geologic Consulting. In addition, this project is the nucleus of cross-border dialogue among producers in different states. Major goals of this work include helping to develop pro-active short and long-term crop and range management strategies with farmers and ranchers in the region. In addition, the project seeks to improve ecological, social and economic resilience in these communities. We also are working to link multiple scales of land use and land cover dynamics (landscape, community, individual landowner) to

multi-scale agricultural and water policies (national, state and local level). By including agricultural producers in the data collection efforts on the ground, the project is a grassroots, bottom-up approach to seeking the best path forward, rather than a top-down approach.

The project includes several components such as educational/outreach programs via NMSU’s extension services, groundwater and precipitation monitoring, geologic mapping and high-resolution drone flight photography. Data collection efforts for both the groundwater and precipitation monitoring components include a strong citizen science component, with producers assisting with monitoring water levels, collecting samples and recording precipitation data via the CoCoRAHS network (National Weather Service). The social science component draws on extensive household surveys conducted at the beginning and end of the four years of the project

to determine how producers may alter their range and crop management decisions as they gain both knowledge about groundwater and precipitation resources, as well as their own data sets.

For more information about this project visit www.ARID.nmsu.edu, or contact Dr. Amy Ganguli at ARID@nmsu.edu.



San Agustin Plains Drilling Application Update

By Eileen Dodds

The history of this project dates to 2007, when the Augustin Plains Ranch, LLC, filed an application to appropriate water from their holdings in northeastern Catron County about three miles east of Datil. This application asked to “divert and consumptively use 54,000 acre-feet of water yearly for domestic, livestock, irrigation, municipal, industrial, and commercial uses to include providing water to the State of New Mexico to augment its capacity to meet deliveries to the State of Texas at Elephant Butte dam, and offsetting effects of ground water pumping on the Rio Grande in lieu of retirement of agriculture via a pipeline to the Rio Grande.”

As protests were filed and the application was amended, uses were refined by the LLC to focus on a pipeline running north from Socorro to potentially supply water to the population centers at the crossroads of Interstates 25 and 40. This application was denied by the OSE in 2012 as “speculative” because there was no contracted end-user. The LLC appealed to the District Court, which upheld the OSE’s denial of the

application in 2014. The LLC then filed their third application with the OSE which was basically the same as those which had been denied.

In 2007, the most recent comprehensive study of the basin dated to 1984. Declining annual precipitation has the area in severe and extreme drought, along with most of New Mexico. New studies by NM Tech have carbon-dated the water in the basin to between 2,500 and 11,000 years old. Recharge is little to none annually. Current use and recharge are precariously balanced, largely due to conservation efforts by private landowners and careful management of State and BLM holdings.

In a decision dated August 1, 2018, the Office of the State Engineer issued a *Report and Recommendation Granting Motions for Summary Judgment* on the Augustin Plains Ranch, LLC’s, application to appropriate 54,000 acre feet of water annually. (See OSE website for the 13-page report, or click on link above.) This application also had failed to provide contracts with potential water users. By not meeting that OSE requirement, this application was

also deemed “speculative”, which is not allowed in New Mexico water law, and therefore it was again rejected.

Page 8, item #49 of this report says: “Granting the Corrected Application would allow the APR to tie up, or otherwise make unavailable for appropriation by the public, 54,000 acre feet of water without any proposed or intended application of water to beneficial use by the applicant itself. This would deprive the public of the opportunity under the law of prior appropriation and our water code and Constitution to appropriate that water for beneficial use.”

The APR has the option of appealing this decision to the N.M. District Court. They have done so, in a notice of appeal to the State Engineer on August 13th.

The struggle to protect this water resource from such appropriation has lasted 11 years. The opponents of the applications have expended a concerted effort to keep the public apprised of the far-reaching ramifications of what would happen if this much water were removed from this finite resource.

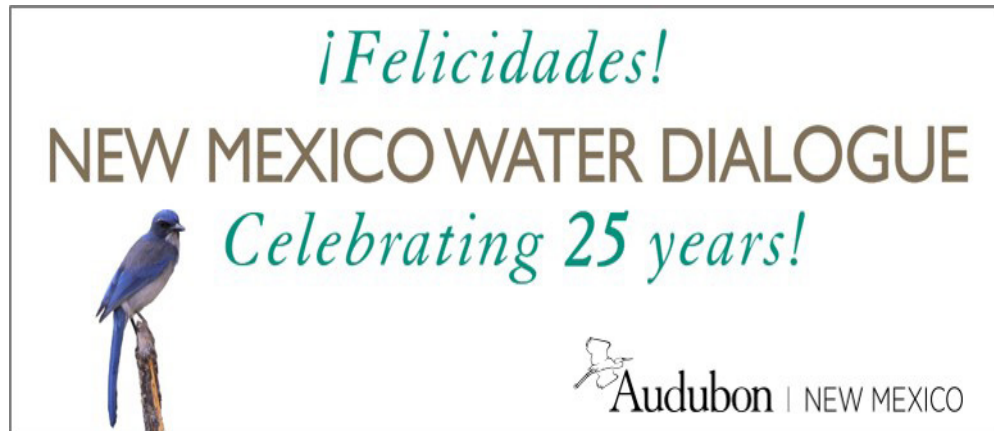
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San Augustin Water Coalition

Supporting Conservation and Preservation
in Catron and Socorro Counties since 2007



As many of you know, the New Mexico Water Dialogue is a grassroots, non-profit, volunteer organization. We charge only for our annual meeting registration to cover our actual costs. We are thankful to the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center, where we have held all 25 statewide annual meetings, for helping us keep the cost of the meeting low. We also publish a newsletter twice a year which is made available at no cost. Consequently, we have previously run an annual deficit of about \$1,000. We are very thankful to the San Augustin Water Coalition (page 8 bottom), Audubon Society of New Mexico, Elephant Butte Irrigation District, and Daniel B. Stephens (below) for paying for the ads that appear in this newsletter, which has made it possible to cover all of our costs for the year.



Surface water stewards since 1918

EBID

Elephant Butte Irrigation District

Providing professional and efficient water delivery to our farmer members for over 100 years.
www.ebid-nm.org

An advertisement for the Elephant Butte Irrigation District (EBID). The top half shows a photograph of a red metal structure over a river with white water rapids. A blue box with white text "Surface water stewards since 1918" is overlaid on the photo. The bottom half has a blue background. On the left is the EBID logo, which is a circular seal with "EBID" in large letters and "ELEPHANT BUTTE IRRIGATION DISTRICT" around the perimeter. To the right of the logo is white text: "Providing professional and efficient water delivery to our farmer members for over 100 years." and the website "www.ebid-nm.org".

DBS & A

engineering
geoscience
hydrology

Daniel B. Stephens & Associates, Inc.

An advertisement for Daniel B. Stephens & Associates, Inc. It features a diamond-shaped logo with a blue and white color scheme. The logo contains a stylized mountain and water graphic. The text "DBS & A" is in the top left corner of the diamond, and "engineering", "geoscience", and "hydrology" are along the right side. Below the logo, the company name "Daniel B. Stephens & Associates, Inc." is written in a large, italicized serif font.

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c/o Consuelo Bokum
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WATER DIALOGUE AT 25: HONORING OUR PAST/PLANNING OUR FUTURE
January 10, 2019, 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 8:50 | Welcome and Introductions – Jason John, President, New Mexico Water Dialogue and Lucy Moore, Facilitator and Co-Founder of the New Mexico Water Dialogue |
| 8:50 – 9:10 | Lucy Moore - NM Water Dialogue: Our beginning and our future |
| 9:10 – 10:25 | Panel: Picture This
Michael Benson, New Mexico Water Dialogue Board Member for 25 years
Janie Chermak, Professor, Chair of the Economics Department, University of New Mexico
Fred Phillips, Professor Emeritus of Hydrology, NM Institute of Mining and Technology |
| 10:25 – 10:40 | Break |
| 10:40 – 11:45 | Panel: Current Management Practices
Jim Dunlap, Commissioner for the Rural Water Users on the San Juan Water Commission
Dagmar Lewellyn, Hydrologist, Bureau of Reclamation
Rick Shean, Water Rights Manager, Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority |
| 11:45 – 12:00 | Lucy Moore - Board Nominations |
| 12:00- 1:00 | Lunch |
| 1:15 – 2:15 | Breakout Sessions |
| 2:15 – 2:35 | Break |
| 2:35 – 3:15 | Panel: Shaping a Positive Future
Newly elected officials or their representatives: TBA |
| 3:15 - 4:00 | Report Outs from Breakout groups |
| 4:00 - 4:30 | Wrap Up, last words, informal evaluation |
| 4:30 | Adjourn |

Please note that this is a draft agenda. Please check <http://nmwaterdialogue.org> and click on the “Register Now” button for additions and changes to the agenda and to register.