NEW MEXICO WATER DIALOGUE----Minutes of the Meeting, July 18, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 10:09 by Vice President Aaron Chavez. Other board members present were Eileen Dodds, Conci Bokum, Patrick McCarthy, and Simeon Herskovits. Joining by phone were Sharon Hausam, Gary Esslinger, John Leeper, Dael Goodman, and Jeffrey Samson.

Announcements: The Governor has appointed Rolf Schmidt-Peterson as the new ISC Director. It was suggested we invite him to our September board meeting. Conci will contact him accordingly.

Approval of the Agenda: Added for discussion were the announcement of another board member and a discussion of the Colorado River Basin Contingency Drought Plan, both under Item 8, “Updates”. It was moved and seconded to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried.

Approval of the Minutes of the June meeting: It was moved and seconded to approve the June minutes as presented. Motion carried.

Approval of the Financials: Financials for the period ending June 30, 2019, were presented for approval. A discussion was held regarding the need to increase income, as account balances are declining. Keeping a minimum balance in the account, raising fees for the annual meeting, and setting a flat rate for membership were suggested. It was decided to revisit these and other options after the 2020 annual meeting, as more information is needed on early registration discounts and current membership fees. Conci will contact the McCune Foundation for a grant request. She will also speak to John Leeper about the Healy grant submission. It was agreed to set a “floor balance” for the bank account at $15,000 until we have further information. (See discussion under Administrative Tasks, item “b”)

Administrative Tasks:

1. Website Update: Jeffrey reported he is still waiting for information from Jason which he can give to Rose for the website. Feedback on the design draft is still needed. Eileen will follow up with Jason for the information and get it to Jeffrey. Information for Rose for the Fat Cow account has been done, and the account now has Eileen’s credit card associated with it for incidental charges and a guarantee.
2. Fee Structure: Fee structures for the annual meeting were published in the Fall 2018 newsletter. They are set by different categories of attendees (individual, government, professional, etc.), and are confusing. Membership fee structure presents the same issues. It was suggested that membership be viewed as a form of support for the organization, and as a way to contribute to the forum. It was agreed that we raise rates and simplify the fee structures after the 2020 annual meeting when we have the necessary data to make an informed decision. Previous years of data will also be reviewed for trends. We will look at early registration registrants (discount offered), and categories of attendees before a final decision is made. Eileen will add this item to the August agenda.

26th Annual Statewide Meeting:

1. Date: The date will be January 9th at the IPCC.
2. Registration Process, Scope of Work/ Costs Update: Eileen reported on EventLeaf. She expressed concern as to the availability of help from the company, as the contacts are based in India. Also, they seemed more interested in doing business with larger organizations which have multiple yearly meetings. Costs were estimated to be around $1500-1800.00 for our meeting, based on our estimates, and we would still have to provide a meeting template design for their use.

Conci spoke to Karen Ford, who provides meeting organization services. Karen has provided a broad list of her costs, which Conci has agreed to refine for our purposes. Conci also asked Yana if she could organize the annual meeting, and what she might charge. We will discuss all options in August before making a decision. This will be added as an agenda item.

1. Themes and Topics: After much discussion, the board focused on “Resilience”, or “Resilience Building” as a working theme for the meeting. Many western states have accepted the concept of climate change and have made it part of the “big picture”, exploring reasonable ideas and tough political decisions. The Colorado River Drought Contingency Plan is an example. Discussions could include flexible water management complying with NM water law, and going beyond balancing supply and demand. Questions to be addressed include what we could learn from outside our borders and what can we learn from others inside NM. Presentations should also come from multiple scales of government, from local and tribal, and up. Simeon and Patrick will get examples of this for discussion at the August meeting. Lucy will also be asked to help us pull it together.

Board Member updates:

1. Conci announced that Wade Holdeman has accepted our invitation to join the board. He is with the Ft. Sumner Irrigation District. She still needs to follow up with Paula Garcia.
2. Eileen announced that Judge Reynolds should have a decision on the Augustine Plains drilling application by the end of July, and will keep us posted.

There being no other business to come before the board, it was moved and seconded to adjourn. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 11:55

\*\*\*The August meeting will be held on AUGUST 15th at 1:00, at the Wood offices on Jefferson.

This is a change from our regular schedule.