NEW MEXICO WATER DIALOGUE---Minutes of the Meeting, August 15, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 1:03 p.m. by President Jason John. Other board members present were Aaron Chavez, Eileen Dodds, John Leeper, Conci Bokum, Wade Holdeman, Bob Wessely, Patrick McCarthy, and

Jeffrey Samson. Joining by phone were Dael Goodman, Alex Puglisi, John Brown, and Gary Esslinger.

Announcements: It was pointed out that of the 8 board members of the Interstate Stream commission, 7 were new appointees.

Approval of the Agenda: Item #4 changed July to August; Item 7-iii added the McCune Foundation to the discussion; and Item #9 added an update of the HM-1 working group. It was moved and seconded to approve the agenda as corrected. 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 thru July 31st: The July 31st financials were presented. There was no discussion. It was moved and seconded to approve the financials. Motion carried.

NMISC discussion topics for September Board meeting: New ISC Director, Rolf Schmidt-Petersen, has accepted an invitation to address the board at our September meeting. Our objective is to get him to discuss his priorities for the next State Water Plan and to get his agreement to join the Water Dialogue in participating in another statewide Sevillita-type conference, perhaps in May, 2020.

Last August the WD wrote a letter to then-Director Lucia Sanchez (copy included with the hard copy of these minutes) expressing concerns not addressed by the SWP and proposing to host a similar meeting, possibly in May 2020. This letter was never answered by the ISC. We will send a copy of that letter to Rolf, as well as a list of points we would like him to address at the meeting. These include: 1) his vision for the ISC going forward, 2) our interest in the public meetings being hosted statewide by the ISC listed on their website, 3) addressing staffing shortages within the ISC, and, 4) what are the next steps he may be planning. Conci agreed to update and send the letter, including our list of talking points.

Administrative Tasks:

1. Website Update: Jeffrey is still waiting on comments from Sharon as to the final website format. He said Rose has updated our IP address, but final fine-tuning is needed. She still has around $400.00 in the account for future work. Jason agreed to e-mail Sharon for her for her input so we can finish the website update.
2. Fee Structure: It was reported that only about 20% to 30 % of the people who attend the annual meeting actually become members. We agreed that membership should include a discount on the fee for the meeting, as well as having a discount for “early-bird” registrants. We discussed setting a flat-fee amount for membership which will be determined after income and expenses are determined. It was moved and seconded to have one membership fee for everyone (TBD). Motion carried.

Sponsorship/ advertising will be continued, and these funds will be used to defray other expenses.

1. Funding Requests: Deadline for the McCune Foundation grant is September 12th. Criteria for a grant request submission include focus on climate change and collaborative efforts with others. We discussed sending a proposal to the Healy Foundation for their grant request process as well. Conci offered to draft such proposals/letters, and John Brown agreed to help her. It was moved and seconded to allow Conci and John to engage both organizations. Motion carried.

Annual Statewide Meeting :

1. Themes and Topics: Last month Patrick offered to draft some ideas built around a topic of “Resilience”. His work was presented at the meeting. A copy is included with the hard copy of these minutes. As a “first-cut working list”, it provides a good place to start designing the January meeting, although he acknowledged it falls short on local and tribal projects at present.

We agreed that situations will continue to get worse in the future as climate continues to change, and demographics involving a growing population and increased water usage put pressure resources. Our January meeting can act as an awareness-building effort in planning for scarcity.

It was agreed the current system that has been in effect for more than a century, is under stress now, and that we will likely need to consider significant changes if the system is to remain resilient. We can use the opportunity within the context of our annual meeting as a collaborative process to build political support and raise public awareness.

Keynote speakers offered for consideration are Melinda Harm Benson, Brad Udall, Dave Gutzler, and Jonathan Overpeck. We discussed having 3 panels, returning to the original meeting format without breakout sessions. Panels are not yet determined or named. Alex expressed interest in including a discussion on the statutory framework in which all things will exist, and the opportunities and constraints in our water law.

1. Registration: Conci presented a proposal from Karen Ford of WaterPR, a company that does meeting planning and organization for groups such as ours. They can do everything -- setting up the meeting, attendee registration, fee collection, etc., for a cost of $3300.00. The board believes this is too expensive for us to accept. Other options, such as EventLeaf, and C-Vent which are less expensive (around $1500-$2000), require us to do much of the work ourselves, which is what we are trying to avoid.

John Leeper suggested asking the Rio Grande Agricultural Land Trust if they would be willing to organize the meeting for us, perhaps for as little as $1000. Pay Pal would still have to receive credit card payments and that would cost around 3% more for their fee. John will speak to the RGALT for us. Next month we will discuss attendee fees for the meeting and soliciting sponsorships as we did last year.

1. Facilitator Selection and Payment: Tabled

Board Member Updates: Bob Wessely reported there will be a joint meeting with the HM-1 working group and State Engineer John D’Antonio and the ISC people on September 12th. He said progress has been slow in getting the meeting set, but that Mr. D’Antonio has now found time to address the three bills (HB187, SB560, and SB558) the HM-1 group was able to get presented in the 2019 legislative session. Mr. D’Antonio has expressed that although he” likes the thrust, the bills need refinement”. Members of the HM-1 WG have spoken with Senator Antoinette Lopez about what could be done in the 2020 legislative session if she is able to get agreement from Governor Lujan-Grisham.

Our next meeting will be September 12th at 10:00 in the Wood Engineering offices in Albuquerque.

There being no further business to come before the board, it was moved and seconded to adjourn. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 3:08 p.m.