NEW MEXICO WATER DIALOGUE----Minutes of the Meeting, April 11, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 by Vice President Aaron Chavez. Other Board members present were Eileen Dodds, Sharon Hausam, Jeffrey Samson and John Brown. Joining by phone were Alex Puglisi and John Leeper.

Announcements: Dennis Inman has submitted his resignation from the Board. This joins Paul Tashjian’s resignation. Conci advised us by e-mail that Janice Varela and Ramon Lucero have also resigned. These resignations were accepted.

The agenda was approved as presented.

Minutes of the March 19, 2019: It was moved and seconded to approve the March minutes as presented. Motion carried.

Financial Statement approval: The financial statement though 2-28-19 was presented. Before approval, it was discussed that we are still paying out more than we are receiving. John Brown mentioned that final income figures from the annual meeting will be shown on the March financial statement, however payments this year have exceeded income due to the website expenses. John Leeper advised that the Healy Foundation grant process starts this summer, that our letter requesting funds for the website is an “introduction” to the grant process, and he is willing to pursue the grant. The Board accepted his offer. It was suggested that the Healy Foundation be asked to sponsor part of the annual meeting as well. After discussion, it was moved and seconded to approve the financial statement. Motion carried.

Administrative Tasks: The tasks to be discussed include the website, the registration process at the annual meeting, and the membership process.

1. Website: Jeffrey reported that Rose Hessmiller needs clarification on what we’re looking for on a revamped website. Sharon offered a design she has prepared, simplifying the existing platform, with fewer tabs showing: a) who we are; b) annual meeting registration; c) newsletter archive; d) links to other organizations like the OSE and the ISC; and e) Board materials accessible to Board members only. After further discussion, it was decided that since there is a balance of $650.00 in our account with Rose, and that the annual maintenance charge is quoted at $400.00 after the new system is operational, to allow Jeffrey to pursue Sharon’s template with Rose. The template is included with the hard copy of these minutes in the possession of the Secretary.
2. Registration process: Stacy Timmons researched a company named “Water PR” after our last meeting. Her findings were sent to several members of the Board via e-mail for today’s discussion. This company offers a variety of options, ranging from PR and advertising to running the actual meeting, with individual costs for each service. All-inclusive packages were quoted at $4000.00 to $5000.00. It was discussed that all we need is someone to manage registration, collect funds, and provide us an e-mail list of attendees after the meeting. Sharon agreed to write up a scope of work that we want to be sent out for bids with this company and other firms, possibly including “C-Vent”, the company which bought RegOnline. Jeffrey will get quotes from C-Vent, and John Brown will check with Yana Merrill as to our costs to use RegOnline so we can compare costs.
3. Membership process: The costs associated with mailing copies of the newsletter were discussed. Printing and mailing costs are around $2000.00 annually for the two newsletters. There are about 2000 copies printed. Many of these could be discontinued if we were to have e-mail addresses. It was moved and seconded to discontinue surface mail to non-members of the WD, as identified by entries on the master member list.

After further discussion, the motion was amended to read: That the Spring newsletter contain a notice that the newsletter will continue to all e-mail addresses; that members who have paid dues but who do not have an e-mail address will receive the newsletter via surface mail, and that all non-members will be encouraged to join the WD. All recipients of the Spring newsletter will be asked to provide an e-mail address. The membership fee structure will be included in the notice, as will an address to remit membership fees. Motion carried.

25th Annual Meeting Review:

1. Brief Summary and Review: It was discussed that the results of the breakout sessions from the annual meeting be published in an article in the Spring newsletter. Lucy Moore’s notes can act as a template.

Lucy will be asked to provide a related article to “Greenfire Times” as well. Eileen will ask Lucy if Lucy’s notes can be sent to the attendees of the annual meeting for which we have e-mails now as a follow-up to commitments which came out of the breakout session. Suggested roles for the Dialogue will be discussed as an agenda item for the WD May meeting.

1. Board Membership Nominations: There have now been four resignations from the Board:

Dennis Inman, Paul Tashjian, Janice Varela, and Ramon Lucero. As we need to discuss new applicants for Board membership in more detail, it was agreed to defer this discussion until the May meeting.

Updates from Board Members:

1. John Brown reported that five members of the HM-1 working group met with newly-appointed State Engineer John D’Antonio this week to discuss bills which were put forth, but failed to pass in the 2019 legislative session.

They were SB560 (Water Planning Act), SB558 (MRG Water Planning), and HB187 (Water Code Evaluation).

Mr. D’Antonio told them he is in favor of the concepts in all of the bills and will meet with them again to discuss future legislative efforts along these lines.

1. John Leeper offered to work on another grant, this one for the McCune Foundation, which also has a July time frame for applying. We discussed the possibility of asking for these funds to pay for an outside speaker for the annual meeting. Further discussion was tabled until May, and this item will be on that agenda.

There being no further business to come before the Board, it was moved and seconded to adjourn. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at noon.