NEW MEXICO WATER DIALOGUE---Minutes of the Meeting, September 13, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 by President Jason John. Other Board members present: Conci Bokum, John Leeper, Dennis Inman, Eileen Dodds, and Michael Benson, Joining by phone were Paul Tashjian, Aaron Chavez, Dael Goodman, Kate Ziegler, and John Brown. Alex Puglisi joined late.

2) There were no announcements

3) Agenda: It was moved and seconded to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

4) August Minutes: It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes of the August meeting after a date was corrected. Motion carried.

5) Financial Statements: It was moved and seconded to approve the financials thru July 31, 2018, as presented. Motion carried.

6) Administrative Tasks: We will discuss the website more thoroughly when Rose Hessmiller calls in at 11:30 today. An initial cost estimate for a basic upgrade is around $4000.00. It was suggested we explore a grant from the Healy Foundation. A“GoFundMe” account was also suggested. We need to know what Rose’s deadline is for our decision. Further discussion tabled until Rose calls in at 11:30.

7) 25th Annual statewide meeting—January 10, 2029: Decisions were made on the following titles for the theme and the panels after lengthy discussion:

Title---Water Dialogue at 25: Honoring our Past, Planning our Future

Panel 1---Picture This (referencing changes and challenges we’re facing)

Michael Benson, Janie Chermak, and Fred Phillips

Panel 2---Current Management Strategies

Jim Dunlap, Dagmar Lewellyn, and Katherine Yuhas

Panel 3---Shaping a Positive Future

Jason will open the meeting, followed by Lucy Moore giving a snapshot of the last 25 years of Dialogue history and accomplishments.

Panelists: Of those listed above for the panels, only Jim Dunlap has not confirmed. Aaron agreed to contact him next week. If Jim is unable to speak, John Leeper has agreed to fill that slot. Speakers for Panel 3 will be decided after the November election.

Sponsorship: It was decided to offer sponsorship to all organizations involved in water issues; not just those corporations involved in water management and infrastructure. Eileen offered the San Augustin Water Coalition as a Silver Sponsor. Stacy Timmons’ flyer was accepted with minor changes. ($250.00 Sponsor was changed to “Bronze”, and the tax-deductible language was removed because the sponsors cannot use their advertising costs as a tax deduction to the WD)

Youth/College Scholarships: Alex said he has approached Santa Fe Community College, and they are interested in sending students. He will also contact Highlands University. Conci will call John Fleck about inviting students to apply, and Michael will contact the Navajo Nation schools. Dael will contact NMSU and Eileen will ask the science teacher at Quemado High School.

At this time, we were joined by Rose Hessmiller to discuss the website.

Rose said that our website has been part of the State Forestry “All About Watersheds” website at Highlands University, which had given us the space at no cost when it was initially set up. She asked where we want to go and what we want to do with the site in light of all the new technology available. They are now asking that we pay for the services they have provided in the past for free. August 1st was their deadline for our answer on her $4000.00 (+/-) quote to our committee. She explained that was a “bare-bones” quote. We told her that the WD cannot commit to anything until we explore grant options. Rose agreed to extend the deadline for site design for maybe 2 or 3 months while we arrange funding. She indicated that we have a very strong following on the current website, and she is willing to continue working with us.

Services usually paid for that we are now getting for free include Domain fee, Host fees, and Security fees. She asked that we prioritize our needs and pay for those parts of the website we feel are most important first. Last month our site was accessed and some documents were posted that led to a large malwear incident that infected their whole system. It took them over 3 days to find and fix the problem.

After her call, the board discussed options. In view of the fact that Jeffrey was not attending, and he has been “lead” on this project, we will wait until he can supply all 3 proposals that were initially asked for.

John Leeper agreed to draft a letter requesting funds for the website upgrade. Bill Hume, who knows Mrs. Healy from his association with her on the Water Trust Board, will be asked to deliver the letter on our behalf.

ONGOING BUSINESS

State Water Plan: The WD submitted a letter to the OSE with our comments on the new plan. We have received no answer from them at this time. We also submitted our comments on their website.

Newsletter: Articles are due by Monday, September 17th. To date, only Eileen has submitted her article.

There being no other business to come before the board, it was moved and seconded to adjourn. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 12:32.