NEW MEXICO WATER DIALOGUE---Minutes of the Meeting, March 14, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by President Jason John. Other board members present were Eileen Dodds, John Brown, Sharon Hausam, Paul Tashjian, and Bob Wessely.

Joining by phone were Stacy Timmons, Conci Bokum, Dael Goodman, John Leeper, Alex Puglisi, Don Diego Gonzales, and Simeon Herskovits.

2) Announcements: There will be a Northern Wetlands Roundtable in Santa Fe on April 1st from 9 to 5 at the Bataan Memorial Bldg. in the Red Room. Topics of discussion include the EPA’s new definition of “Waters of the US” which will affect 90% of New Mexico waters. Contact Dael for more information.

3) Approval of the Agenda: The agenda was amended to include an HM-1 update and an update on new proposed legislation, both under #8, “Updates from Board Members”. Amended agenda was approved.

4) Approval of the October 2018 minutes: The minutes were approved as presented.

5) Approval of the Financial Statements for October, November, and December, 2018, and for January, 2019: The four financial statements listed above were presented for approval. After some discussion about funds not yet posted to the January 2019 statement from the annual meeting (approximately $1300.00), it was moved and seconded to approve each statement individually. Motion carried. The four statements were approved as presented. Hard copies of all statements are in the possession of the Secretary.

6) Administrative Tasks:

a) Bylaws update: The finalized bylaws were sent to the board for approval. Thirteen members responded in the affirmative: John Leeper, John Brown, Conci Bokum, Jason John, Eileen Dodds, Bob Wessely, Dennis Inman, Kate Zeigler, Don Diego Gonzales, Aaron Chavez, Jeffrey Samson, Paul Tashjian, and Katheryn Yuhas.

The NMWD Mission Statement differs from the “Purpose” of the organization in the bylaws, and it was discussed that they read the same. After some discussion, it was moved and seconded to change the Mission Statement to match the Purpose in the bylaws. Motion carried.

b) List of Administrative Tasks: (lists are included with the hard copy of these minutes.) It was agreed that the main issue is how to spread around all the necessary tasks associated with the annual meeting so that one person will not be responsible for everything.

\*John Brown agreed to continue updating the master membership list as we get changes from RegOnline, at the annual meeting, and at other times. He will send updated lists (dated when it was done) to Eileen for the Secretary’s records.

\*Paul asked for volunteers to back him up with RegOnline work. Eileen agreed to become his backup. There is an e-mail address associated with the Dialogue that John Brown set up in the past. It is info@nmwaterdialogue.org

\*Stacy volunteered to join a subcommittee (with Paul and Eileen) to explore options other than RegOnline which may be easier to use.

\* Jeffrey will continue to handle technology for the meeting (audio and video). He is also continuing to work with Rose Hessmiller on the website update.

\* We should consider getting a post office box for mailings which now go the John Brown. Inquiries should go to a designated e-mail address or a PO Box. It was suggested that Yana Merrill would be a logical candidate to assist in this as she handles the financial aspects of the organization now. We discussed that we may need to pay her an additional fee for this service. Conci agreed to speak to her as to her willingness to expand her duties.

\* Community outreach is currently being handled by board members individually. It was discussed to handle it all thru the e-mail address, if possible. Hiring a part-time employee, or someone contracted to coordinate registration for the annual meeting was brought up several times. No decision was reached on hiring someone, but it was agreed that targeted outreach should come from the Dialogue thru use of the e-mail list.

\* It was suggested to contact Elena Kayak at the Rio Rancho Schools as a possible contact on how to get high school students involved, or how best to contact science departments at the universities. Eileen agreed to get in touch with her.

Other Overreaching issues: “Membership” needs to be clarified on RegOnline and in the newsletter. The only benefit to joining as a member is a reduced fee on the annual meeting.

We need to expand the membership to younger people. Stacy’s idea to “bring a buddy” to the annual meeting needs to be explored.

The website was discussed, and it was agreed that it is necessary to have it for announcing the annual meeting, acting as a repository for water planning archives over the past 25 years, linking to other conferences, and providing the background and history of the Dialogue. John Brown and Stacy agreed to join Jeffrey in his meetings with Rose to discuss what we’d like to have on the website.

7) 25th Annual Meeting debrief:

a) Attendance was 110 people. February financials will have the final funds totals. It was generally agreed that having only one breakout session helped us end up with “action items” from the groups, and that we should be able to address some of them with the help of the facilitators this year. We will address those action items in the April meeting, and there will be a report from the annual meeting in the Spring newsletter.

b)Board Nominations: Although the board is currently at capacity, there are two members who have not participated in some time, and one of them represents an acequia association. Conci will contact them as to their willingness to remain on the board. She will also check with Paula Garcia as to a possible replacement from an acequia association. We received four indications of interest from people at the annual meeting, and these will be discussed after Conci gets answers from the two members not currently active.

8) Updates from Board members:

a) Legislative:

\*SB 5 (Wirth) passed the Senate and House and has gone to the Governor for signing. It changes ISC membership.

\* HB 186, and SB 560 (regional water planning act—T. Salazar, Sedillo-Lopez) were tabled in SCONC as the new State Engineer has not been on the job long enough to either support or object to the bills.

\* HB 174 and SB 578(Rio Grande Water Mngt. and Planning—T. Salazar and Sedillo-Lopez) have run out of time, but the State Engineer has agreed to discuss their concepts in April.

\* HB651(water data mngt.—Stansbury) passed the House, and moved to the Senate today.

\* HB 28 (Resource Sustainability and Security Act—Stansbury) passed the House and was being reviewed by the Senate Conservation Committee today. It may run out of time, as the session ends at noon on March 16th.

b) Drought meetings: Lucia Sanchez is convening meetings statewide which are based on topics in the new State Water Plan. There was one last week in Santa Fe. There are no specific outcomes, but good conversations are continuing. Data needs were discussed. WRRI attended and discussed their 2018 drought plan.

There being no further business to come before the board, it was moved and seconded to adjourn. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

Our next meeting will be on April 11th at 10:00 a.m. Place to be announced.