NEW MEXICO WATER DIALOGUE----Minutes of the Meeting, April 13, 2017

Meeting called to order by Secretary-Treasurer Eileen Dodds at 10:10. Other Board members present were Conci Bokum, John Brown, Sharon Hausam, Bob Wessely, and Bruce Thompson. Michael Benson arrived later. Joining by phone were Dael Goodman and Alex Puglisi.

Visitors: Larry Winn and Elaine Hebard

Announcements: None

Approval of the Agenda: Item #2 under NEW BUSINESS, “Disposition of Chris Nunn Garcia’s archival materials” was moved to #1 under ONGOING BUSINESS to allow the speaker to leave for another appointment. The Agenda was approved as amended.

ONGOING BUSINESS:

1. Disposition of Chris Nunn Garcia’s archival material: The archival papers of Chris Nunn Garcia have been offered to the Water Dialogue for safekeeping. Ensuing discussion pointed out that the WD has no capacity to store such materials archivally, or the ability to make them available to scholars.

Sites mentioned for storage and access were WRRI, The Utton Center, The Center for Southwest Research (UNM) , and the Water Resources Program at UNM. Bruce agreed to talk to Michelle Minnis, who is indexing the collection, as well as the Utton Center and UNM about digital capability for the papers. The WD will receive a copy of the index upon completion of the project. No decision was made at this time.

1. Approval of Minutes of the December meeting: Tabled for final additions and changes
2. Approval of the Financial Statements: Financial Statements for December 2016, January 2017, and February, 2017 were presented for approval. It was asked that a report of “income” and “expenses” for the 2017 annual meeting be prepared for the next board meeting. John and Joaquin will work with Yana Merrill, the accountant, to do so. It was moved and seconded to approve the statements as presented. Motion carried.
3. a) Annual Meeting recap: Discussion pointed out both pros and cons to the breakout sessions format. Smaller groups allowed people to meet each other and participate in more animated discussion, but also made it difficult to disseminate information to the whole assembly. It was noted that the New Mexico First groups were hard to summarize, but it was generally agreed that the format had been a pleasant change for the meeting. Lucy Moore has done a recap with the facilitators and parts of her notes will be included in the next newsletter. She did a fantastic job ensuring the small group discussions went well and provided useful information.

b) Nominees for the Board: There were five Board positions open. Joaquin Baca has also resigned.

Nominees are Paul Tashjian, Jeffery Samson, Stacy Timmons, Denise Rumley, Katherine Yuhas, and Peter Russell.

It was discussed that we develop a set of questions for potential Board members, to include the ability to attend meetings. The possibility of quarterly meetings was also discussed, which would include topics or presentations from the regions.

Quarterly meetings were accepted by the Board, and the first one will be July 13th. We will have a special Board meeting on May 18th for business. It was moved and seconded to accept these dates. Motion carried.

It was moved and seconded to approve the addition of Paul Tashjian and Stacy Timmons to the Board now, for Concito speak with Katherine Yuhas, Denise Rumley, Paul Tashjian, Stacy Timmons, and Peter Russell as to their interest, and for Michael to speak to John Leeper about joining the Board. Motion carried.

We will consider Jeffrey Samson at the next meeting. Conci also agreed to contact Virginia as to her continued interest in being on the Board.

c) Next Annual Meeting date: The meeting was set for January 11, 2018, at the IPCC. Michael agreed to contact the IPCC as to availability and cost.

d) Themes, Speakers, etc.: It was discussed that the logical theme is a continuation of the January, 2017 annual meeting on the State Water Plan and where we are in the process.

Possible inclusions for discussion are: 1) Is the Charter done and what does it include, 2) How will the public be included in the process, 3) The problem of “promised water” vs. what’s actually available, 4) OSE adjudications, 5) Tribal water rights, 6) How do we meet Compact requirements, 7) Urban vs. rural migration of water, and 8) Any other topics which have been dodged in the process.

A preliminary list of possible speakers includes Reid Benson, Celina Jones, Tom Blaine, Janet Jarratt, and an out-of-state person to speak on adjudication, perhaps Greg Johnson from Colorado, who spoke in January. Tribal representatives from Arizona were also suggested.

1. State/ Regional Water Plans: a) All regional plans are now final and accepted by the ISC, and are being compiled into the SWP. The consensus from Board members representing the Northwest, the MRG, the Lower Rio Grande, and the Southwest was that “boxes were checked” to get the job done. Incidents of conflicts with the OSE were reported, but no changes were allowed to the plans put forth for acceptance. There was especially widespread disagreement in the LRG plan with the State Engineer, as well as that of the Northwest Region.

b) Governance Study Group Report: The Group discussed House Memorial 1, “REGIONAL WATER PLANNING PROCESS IMPROVEMENTS”, introduced by Representative Tomas Salazar. It requests the ISC to convene a task force to make recommendations to correct deficiencies in state and regional water planning programs and processes. The entire text of the Memorial can be found on the NM Legislature’s website. It passed, as amended, as part of a Consent Agenda packet. The GSG reported that although the ISC Director, Deborah Dixon, felt it will take too much staff time and budget as she has to finish the SWP. She has agreed to meet with the GSG next week. The task force has until June 30, 2018 to report to the Legislature.

The GSG thanked the WD for initiating this discussion at WD meetings, and asked that the WD endorse the process and consider becoming a sponsor of the task force, providing space for progress reports on our website and in the newsletter. It was suggested that the WD act as a fiscal agent if needed, or co-sponsor the taskforce. They also asked for possible help with funding the process in the future. It is unknown at this time the amount of funds which may be required, or when they may need them. They will provide feedback to the Board after their meeting next week so the WD Board can decide on sponsorship (by e-mail) . No further decision was made at his time.

1. Newsletter: It is currently in progress. No further report.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

There being no further business to come before the Board, it was moved and seconded to adjourn. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 1:05 p.m.