NEW MEXICO WATER DIALOGUE----Minutes of the Meeting, May 10, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 10:15 by Secretary Eileen Dodds. Other Board members present: Katherine Yuhas, Sharon Hausam, John Brown, Don Diego Gonzales, and Stacy Timmons. Joining by phone were Bob Wessely, Dael Goodman, Alex Puglisi, Paul Tashjian, and Simeon Herskovits.

Ms. Hausam served as secretary for this meeting.

2) Announcements: There will be an all-day water conference at UNM on May 17th. Early registration has passed, and the fee at the door is thought to be $50.00. It will be held in the Student Union Ballroom.

3) Approval of the Agenda: Administrative tasks and bylaws will be an update instead of a discussion. The Governance Study Group report will be moved before the presentation by Ms. Timmons. It was moved and seconded to approve the agenda as modified. Motion carried.

4) Approval of the Minutes of the April 12th meeting: A typographical error was pointed out in the date on the last page. “May 11th” was corrected to “May 10th”. It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes as corrected. Motion carried.

5) Approval of the Financials thru March 31, 2018: The financial statement was presented. There were no questions. It was moved and seconded to approve the statement, a hard copy of which is included with the Secretary’s copy of these minutes. Motion carried.

6) Annual Meeting: The date for the 2019 annual meeting is set as Thursday, January 10th, at the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center in Albuquerque. Michael Benson has arranged the contract which included a fee increase of only $80.00 total. This is the first fee increase in 3 or 4 years. Although we do not have a copy of the contract, it was moved and seconded to approve the new amount of approximately $4530.00. (2018 fee of $4449.56 + $80.00) Motion carried.

A brief discussion was opened on possible themes for the 2019 meeting. The summary from the 2018 meeting will be reviewed, as well as a list of themes from previous meetings. John agreed to forward this list to the Board for review before the June meeting. That list will be included with the hard copy of these minutes.

Early ideas: “Agency management of drought”—WRRI conference this fall may have the theme of 2018 being a “tipping point”, and if they concentrate on hydrology and engineering, could we target socio-political concepts? Include HM-1, and point to the critical juncture we are reaching. Could we hear from USFS, Rio Grande Water Fund, other governmental bodies, and local people about their water management activities? Also mentioned was “coupling-decoupling” of water shortages and its effect on the economy---plus dealing with denial about the lack of water in general. This discussion will be continued in June.

7) Administrative tasks:

a) Bylaws—Sharon, Conci, and Eileen continue to work on revisions. There will be some removal of clauses that no longer apply, and additions which address the way we are currently doing business. Copies of the revisions, as well as the existing bylaws will be sent to the Board in time for the July meeting. (Conci was out today and Eileen will not be here in June, thereby moving the discussion to July)

b) Administrative Committee: Paul’s schedule will not allow him to chair this committee. Jeffrey Samson was suggested. The committee needs to have a meeting. Major concerns are the web page and IT. Although the meeting with Rose Hessmiller went well, she has as yet to supply the promised suggestions on how to improve the web page. An upgrade of our parent website (NM Forestry) will also affect us, and we will probably be asked for financial assistance with this upgrade. We continue to wait for her input.

Sharon suggested that we come up with ideas of our own while we wait for Rose to respond. What do we want the website to do? How should it be used, and what should be its content? Do we even need a website? Maybe just for storage and research? No decision was made.

8) Governance Study Group: John gave us a preliminary draft of what the group plans to present to the Water and Natural Resources Committee of the legislature after the group’s July meeting. They are working with Representative Tomas Salazar (Mora-San Miguel) to draft legislation pursuant with HM-1, 2017 Legislature. The idea is to put SOLUTIONS into any bill to be presented. Representative Salazar is happy with their progress, and Senator Peter Wirth has agreed to critique as well. Eileen offered to ask Representative Gail Armstrong for assistance from the other side of the aisle. This document has gone through several revisions in an effort to get it more concise, and Norm Gaume was noted for his contribution. There is also talk of a “humongous” water bill being drafted in the legislature.

9) Presentation by Stacy Timmons, Hydrologist, Aquifer Mapping Program Manager, “The Collaborative Groundwater Monitoring Network with NM Bureau of Geology”

Copy of the slides is included with the hard copy of these minutes, and the presentation is available on the WD website.

The next meeting is set for June 14th at a place to be announced.

There being no further business to come before the Board, it was moved and seconded to adjourn. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 12:22