NEW MEXICO WATER DIALOGUE---Minutes of the Meeting, August 9, 2018

The meeting was called to order by President Jason John at 10:04. Board members present were Aaron Chavez, Conci Bokum, John Brown, John Leeper, Eileen Dodds, Dennis Inman, Stacy Timmons, Michael Benson, Paul Tashjian, and Jeffrey Samson. Joining by phone were Alex Puglisi, Gary Esslinger, John Jones, Dael Goodman, and Simeon Herskovits. Visiting was Norm Gaume.

2) There were no announcements

3) Approval of the Agenda: Added to the agenda was a discussion of the newsletter under 6e. Also, under item 8, the date in parentheses was corrected to read “2017”. The agenda was approved as corrected.

4) Approval of the July 2018 Minutes: It was moved and seconded to approve the July minutes as presented. Motion carried.

5) Approval of the Financial Statements: The financial statements thru June 30, 2018 were presented. It was discussed that we are about $1000.00 behind last year’s balance at this time. The subject of sponsorship for the annual meeting report and the newsletter was introduced. Newsletter cost is approximately $2600.00 per year, including postage (2 issues). Sponsors could also have recognition at the annual meeting. Stacy, Conci, and John Leeper agreed to work up a proposal for sponsorship, and what a potential sponsor could gain, to present to the board at the September meeting.

It was moved and seconded to approve the financials as presented. Motion carried.

6) 25th Annual Statewide Meeting, Thursday, January 10, 2019:

a) Theme title is still being worked on. Aaron will ask one of his staff for assistance. Suggested was “The Dialogue at 25—Looking Back, Planning Ahead”.

b-c) Topics and panelists discussed include:

Panel 1,” Snapshot of the last 25 years and where we’re going”—Climate Change: Fred Phillips, NM Tech professor and author of Reining in the Rio Grande, with Dave DuBois from UNM and Jonathan Overpeck from Wisconsin as backups. Economics: Janie Chermak, UNM, with the director of the BBER as backup. Michael Benson agreed to be impaneled to represent tribal interests. Stacy will ask Mr. Phillips if he will speak, and Conci has e-mailed Janie.

Panel 2, “Water Management, Changes and Forecasts”--- Dagmar Lewellyn from the BoR, municipal water managers like Rick Carpenter or John Stomp, Katherine Yuhas, who is working on a 100-year plan for Albuquerque now, and someone to represent rural interests, like Jim Dunlap or Aron Balok. Paul will contact Dagmar, and Stacy will contact Katherine. Aaron agreed to ask Jim Dunlap.

Panel 3, “Political Perspective”---It was agreed to wait until after the November elections to speak to the new Governor, State Land Commissioner, and State Representatives and Senators. However, Jeffrey will pursue contact with the Lujan-Grisham staff now in an effort to secure her attendance at our meeting.

d) Planning Assistance was not discussed. Eileen requested that the board start work now in getting high school and college students for the annual meeting scholarships.

e) Other—The WD Newsletter: The Fall issue will highlight our 25th anniversary.

\* We will announce the annual meeting, including the agenda

\* Michael Benson will present a historical perspective

\* Jason will supply the “President’s Message”

\* John Brown will do a write-up on HM-1 and the Governance Group

\* Eileen will provide a short write-up on the San Augustin decision by the OSE

Conci asked that all contents be submitted to her by the second week in September.

7) State Water Plan: The OSE has extended the deadline for comments until 12:59 on Saturday, August 25th. (Look at the OSE website)

It was discussed that we look at the 2003 Act, Section C (the 14 items establishing the Plan), and use them as our basis for evaluation of the new plan. It was agreed that the Dialogue should draft a high-level generic response, including our appreciation to the OSE for the plan, but not endorsing it. The letter will point out what we deem to be several “most critical” elements, and suggest that we need strategies for dealing with them. We discussed offering another Sevilleta-type meeting to bring the Regions together in an effort to get into a real dialogue with the new administration about what belongs in water plans focusing on critical issues that need to be addressed now. John Leeper agreed to draft the letter and present it to the board for review.

8) Update and Endorsement of “Making the Case for Change”—Report by the GSG to W&NR:

Norm Gaume presented the background which led to the 2017 House Memorial 1 establishment of the Governance Study Group. The group has drafted a 6-page document to be presented to the NM Interim Committee on Water and Natural Resources at the October meeting in Ruidoso . (The presentation and the document are included with the hard copy of these minutes in the permanent files). The GSG requested that the WD endorse the letter to be presented to W&NR. After a lengthy discussion, it was moved and seconded to endorse the 6-page document that the GSG will present to the W&NR Committee in the near future. The motion carried unanimously.

9) Administrative Tasks:

a) Website: Jeffrey is still working up the cost comparisons from the vendors. In the interim, Rose Hessmiller notified him of a malware breach on our website which led to problems in the system to which we are connected. She had to remove the ability for WD to receive comments from the outside. A subcommittee of Aaron, Jeffrey, and John Brown was formed to clarify questions on a revised proposal process. This information will be presented at the September meeting.

10) Updates from Board Members: None

There being no other business to come before the board, it was moved and seconded to adjourn. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 12:50.