NEW MEXICO WATER DIALOGUE ----Minutes of the Meeting, October 13, 2016 DRAFT

The meeting was called to order by President Jason John at 10:08.

Board members present: Mr. John, Aaron Chavez, John Brown, Conci Bokum, Joaquin Baca, Eileen Dodds, and Michael Benson. Joining by phone were Alex Puglisi, Janice Varela, and Simeon Herskovits.

Announcements: John announced that the Water Assembly is hosting a forum at UNM on October 22nd at Smith Hall. John will forward the announcement to everyone. Joaquin announced that the BOR, Army Corps of Engineers, and Fish and Wildlife will host a technical exchange on November 3rd from 8:30 to 4:30 at the Rio Grande Nature Center. It is titled “Confluence-a Technical Exchange on Local Water Resource Issues”. Joaquin will supply additional information if anyone is interested.

Approval of the Agenda: Added to the Agenda was a discussion of scholarships for the annual meeting. The Financials being presented were changed to include September figures. It was moved and seconded to accept the Agenda as amended. Motion carried.

ONGOING BUSINESS

1. Approval of the Minutes of the September meeting: It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried.
2. Approval of the Financial Statements thru September 30, 2016: John pointed out that this was the completed fiscal year’s financials, and that we were some $800.00 lower than last year. He asked that we be aware of the small downward spiral in income.

John also reminded us that the credit card securing RegOnline was his personal card, and he asked if we could look into getting a debit or credit card in the Dialogue’s name to replace his. Conci agreed to pursue this with Yana, the bookkeeper.

It was moved and seconded to approve a credit or debit card for the Dialogue to facilitate RegOnline. Motion carried.

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

1. State/Regional Water Plans:
2. Drafts and Finalized Plans: Several regions have had their meetings with the ISC and OSE to accept their final plans. They are listed on the ISC website.

Six Regional Water Plans have been accepted by the ISC without incident, but Mr. Chavez reported when the San Juan Basin Plan was presented on September 21, 2016,to the ISC, and the problems inherent with the plan were pointed out, and recommendations were offered. The State Engineer expressed displeasure with the issues presented and felt the timing of his discovery was late and should have been addressed in the process. Ten Regional Water Plans will be presented during the fall and winter, and the last plan will be presented in February, 2017.

1. Meetings: The Regional meeting schedule is on the ISC website.
2. Governance Study Group: The group will be presenting to the Water and Natural Resources Committee in Socorro on October 26th. They will be joined by Deborah Dixon, ISC Director. Their focus will be on what can be done about weaknesses in the planning process.

Alex requested a preview of the presentation, and John agreed to forward it to the Board members.

1. Next Steps: There was no formal discussion.
2. Water Dialogue Newsletter: Conci announced that the layout is under way, and that it would be at the printer’s shortly. Simeon and Dennis Inman will have articles in the newsletter, as well as the Annual Meeting announcement.
3. Annual Meeting:
4. Date is January 12, 2017
5. Agenda/Speakers/Facilitators: Speakers are still in the works. Backups have been identified, if needed.

We need 15 facilitators, and eleven Board members have agreed to act as such. Lucy Moore will give us training after the November meeting. Conci will ask Deborah Dixon if anyone from the ISC would like to serve in this capacity as well. Aaron will ask Shawn Bishop from his area if she would like to act as a facilitator as well.

Lucy has asked each facilitator to propose a question for discussion in November. John supplied members present with an idea-list.

1. Registration: John said we need to open registration on-line as soon as possible. It was agreed to let John go ahead and open on-line registration. Michael requested that we send a letter to the State Engineer asking him to attend. Jason will write the letter.
2. Scholarships: The conference fee is $40.00. Simeon and Eileen have agreed to offer a combined total of 19 scholarships to students, interns, and other interested people (like teachers) who may wish to attend, but be short funds to do so. Simeon will contact Northern NM College. Conci will contact Virginia Necochea and John Fleck. Jason will contact the Crownpoint Technical School for interest, and Aaron mentioned the alternative high school in San Juan. Alex said he may have 2 interested in attending.

A notice will be included in the newsletter. After much discussion, it was decided to refer all inquiries to Joaquin for presentation at the December meeting in order to make decisions as to whom we award the scholarships. Fuel stipends were also discussed, but no decision was made.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Updates from Board Members was covered during the course of other discussions during the meeting.

The November meeting will be held on November 10th at 11:00 (instead of 10:00) to facilitate training by Lucy Moore, which will be held at 1:00 after the meeting. Lunch will be brought in. Attendees please bring money for pizza, if you plan to join us for lunch.

There being no other business to come before the Board, it was moved and seconded to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 12:07.