



Jennifer Thacher, *Chair*  
Steve Glass, *Vice-Chair*  
Suzanne Busch  
John S. Derr  
Kerry J. Howe

Roland Penttila  
Russell D. Pederson  
Caroline Scruggs

**Water Protection Advisory Board**  
**c/o ABCWUA**  
P.O. Box 568  
Albuquerque, NM 87103

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Minutes: February 10, 2017  
Location: Bernalillo County Public Works Division, 2400 Broadway  
Time: 8:35 a.m. – 10:23 a.m.

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**Board Members Present:** Chair Jennifer Thacher, Vice Chair Steve Glass, Russell Pederson, Roland Penttila, Caroline Scruggs and John Derr.

**Board Members Absent (excused):** Suzanne Busch and Kerry Howe

**PIC Members Present:** Mark Kelly, Kali Bronson, Jane DeRose-Bamman, Ken Ziegler, Bart Faris, and Kali Bronson

**Guests:** Jodilynn Ortiz (Strategic Development Planning), Holly Huffines (CABQ), Mike Buchannan (CABQ), and Kerry Bishop (Water Authority).

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#### **I. Call to Order**

Chair Dr. Jennifer Thacher called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m.

#### **II. Approval of Agenda**

Chair Thacher requested a motion to approve the agenda.

Motion was made by member Mr. Roland Penttila and seconded by member Dr. John Derr. Motion to approve the agenda carried unanimously.

#### **III. Approval of Minutes**

Chair Dr. Jennifer Thacher requested a motion to approve the draft January meeting minutes.

Motion was made by Vice Chair Steve Glass and seconded by member Mr. Roland Penttila. Motion to approve the draft January minutes carried unanimously.

#### **IV. Board Business**

##### PIC Agency update

Mr. Ken Ziegler of the City of Albuquerque Environmental Health Department (EHD) told the Kirtland Air Force Base (KAFB) Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) that there was a recent public meeting to discuss the pros and cons of RAB creation. This meeting discussed participating in and deciding on forming a Restoration Advisory Board for the Environmental Restoration Program at the base. This program implements all environmental restoration work performed at the Base, versus the just the KAFB Bulk Fuels Facility Leak. Mr. Zeigler also announced that the City EH hired a new employee, Mr. Mike Buchanan.

Mr. Rick Shean of the Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority (Water Authority) provided information on the New Mexico Environment Department's (NMED's) 2017 Strategic Plan for the Kirtland Air Force Base (KAFB) Bulk Fuels Facility Leak (BFF Leak). The 2017 update to the Strategic Plan continues to aggressively remediate soil and groundwater contamination at the KAFB fuel site throughout this year. The 2017 Strategic Plan summarizes accomplishments in 2016 and presents data-driven strategies for continued progress. Rick Shean (Water Authority) stated that if the RAB is formed some KAFB members may lose focus on fuel spill and that the RAB may not be necessary in any event

Ms. Jane DeRose-Bamman of the Water Authority discussed that the Southside Wastewater Reclamation Plant (SSWRP) is currently working on renewing its National Pollution Discharge Elimination System permit, which is to expire in September.

Ms. Kali Bronson from the Bernalillo County Public Works Department told the board that the County's Storm Water Quality Ordinance is currently in a public review, and there will soon be public forums facilitating public comments on the ordinance.

### Legislative Update

Mr. Rick Shean (Water Authority) provided a handout on proposed 2017 state legislation regarding environmental and water quality related topics.

Members asked about questions concerning SJM 15 Study Lead Contamination. Mr. Shean said that the memorial would request NMED to perform a study of lead in the drinking water regulated by the department and report their findings to the legislature by Dec. 2017.

Members asked Water Authority staff present about lead in the Albuquerque drinking water supply. Mr. Mark Kelly, Compliance Manager for the Water Authority, told the board that the Water Authority does not have lead piping in service lines. He added that there is a possibility that there may be lead service lines on a property from meter to house, however if this is found the homeowner is notified. Mr. Kelly noted that the Water Authority provides free lead testing to all residents, which was advertised in the most recent Annual Water Quality Report. The 2016 report is available on the Water Authority website. Mr. Kelly explained to the board that unlike the water utility in Flint, MI, prior to introducing a new source of water (in this case from the San Juan-Chama project) the Water Authority studied the effect the new water would have in the distribution system and included a corrosion inhibitor additive as part of the treatment process. He added that the Water Authority slowly added the treated San Juan Chama water to the system, so the utility could monitor for potential lead leaching.

### WPAB 2017 Schedule Update

Members discussed adding a presentation on the Rio Rancho Source Water Protection Plan, since the Middle Rio Grande Basin is the common source for groundwater resources between Rio Rancho and the Albuquerque area. Mr. Shean from Water Authority suggested that the members invite Rio Rancho officials to present at the November meeting when there is open space on the calendar, to which the members agreed.

Members would like to hear information on the City's, County's, and the Albuquerque Metropolitan Flood Control Authority (AMAFCA) Watershed-Based Stormwater Permit, which will be held during a special WPAB public-meeting in September.

## **VI. Presentation: Update on Water 2120**

Mr. Shean provided the board with a presentation regarding the Water Authority's "Water 2120" water resources management strategy update. Mr. Shean explained to the board that Water 2120 served as the Water Authority's second decadal update to their water resources management strategy efforts.

Mr. Shean told the board that Water 2120 expanded the typical water resources management approach to include climate change data in the future supply projections, groundwater management metrics and portfolios of alternatives to fill supply gaps.

Mr. Shean told the board that success for previous strategy document implementation is evident in the rising aquifer, as well as the steady drop in daily per capita water use, or gallons per capita per day (gpcd) by Water Authority customers, and the reuse systems that have been put in place since the first strategy in 1997.

Mr. Shean explained to the board that the uncertainty in demand and supply projections were evaluated in nine varying scenarios, from low to high supply and low to high demand over the next 100 years. Mr. Shean added that modeling simulations were performed on the baseline conditions, that is, the current amount of supply and demand projected over 100 years and compared to simulations of potential climate change impacts to supply. Mr. Shean said these comparisons showed gaps in supply, and the Water Authority and its contractors identified alternative water supplies to fill these during the 100 year strategy period.

Mr. Shean told the board that nearly 40 alternatives were identified and evaluated, resulting in three portfolios of implementable alternative water supplies. Mr. Shean said that the alternatives included increased water conservation from 135 gpcd to 110 gpcd in 20 years, increased utilization of wastewater for reuse, and indirect potable reuse.

Mr. Shean said that the Water 2120 policies approved by the Water Authority's governing board on Sept. 21, 2016 included authorization for the Water Authority to participate in and fund watershed restoration activities, such as tree thinning activities managed by the Nature Conservancy through the Rio Grande Water Fund. Mr. Shean noted that previous water resource

management strategies and policies did not propose watershed restoration activities. He explained that they were added to Water 2120 to protect current water supplies and in response to public input.

**VII. Presentation: Risk of Pipeline Exposure and Catastrophic Releases to the Middle Rio Grande / Albuquerque Water Basin**

Ms. Jodilynn Ortiz, a consultant and member of the Eastern Sandoval County Association, presented to the board the concerns of citizens in Placitas, NM, who are living near pipelines that are at least 60 years old. Ms. Ortiz shared with the board that any catastrophic accident or spill from the pipeline running through Placitas would not only affect the nearby residents, but also the entire water basin that is shared by Sandoval County, Bernalillo County and Albuquerque.

Ms. Ortiz explained that in New Mexico, four of the five major pipelines are interstate, so the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) oversees them, while the one intrastate pipeline is overseen by the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission (NMPRC). Ms. Ortiz said she has spoken to the NMPRC about her concerns, and they support the concept that the NMPRC also have shared authority over the interstate lines, since they do go through New Mexico.

Following her presentation, Ms. Ortiz asked the WPAB members if they would be willing to support her efforts to change the federal regulations regarding the replacement of pipes over 40 years old and providing for NMPRC oversight of interstate pipelines by signing onto a letter she has prepared to send to the USDOT.

Member Roland Penttila asked that this issue be discussed during the March meeting. Chair Thacher asked staff to include a discussion regarding the request for support of Ms. Ortiz's effort to change the DOT regulations regarding pipelines on the March meeting agenda.

**VIII. Other Board Business – None**

**IX. Public Comment Period – None**

**X. Adjourn -**

