



Steve Glass, *Chair*  
Elizabeth H. Richards, *Vice Chair*  
Michael J. Bitner  
John S. Derr  
Pete Domenici Jr.

Kerry J. Howe  
Caroline Scruggs  
Jennifer Thacher  
Erik K. Webb

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

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Minutes: July 10, 2015

Location: Bernalillo County Public Works Division, 2400 Broadway

Time: 2:10 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

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Board Members Present: Chairman Steve Glass, Vice Chair Elizabeth Richards, Jennifer Thacher, Mike Bitner and Pete Domenici Jr.

Board Members Absent: John Derr, Kerry Howe, Erik Webb, and Caroline Scruggs

PIC Members Present: Dan McGregor, Ken Ziegler Bart Faris, Rick Heckes, Kathleen Verhage, Stephanie Teich-McGoldnick

Guests: Shellie Eaton, Laura Bexfield (USGS), Anne-Marie Matherne (USGS), and Mariana Padilla (Office of NM Rep. Michelle Lujan-Grisham)

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**I. Call to Order**

Chair Steve Glass called the meeting to order at 2:10 p.m.

**II. Approval of Agenda**

Chair Glass requested a motion to move approval of the agenda.

Motion was moved by member Dr. Jennifer Thacher and seconded by vice chair Beth Richards. Motion to approve the agenda carried unanimously.

**III. Approval of Minutes**

Chair Glass requested a motion to table approval of the May meeting minutes, because there was no quorum.

Motion was moved by Vice Chair Richards and seconded by Dr. Thacher. Motion to table the minutes carried unanimously.

**IV. Presentation: Summary of Results from a Decade of Season Water-Quality Monitoring on the Rio Grande above Albuquerque**

Dr. Laura Bexfield and Dr. Anne-Marie Matherne of the U.S. Geological Survey New Mexico Water Sciences Center provided the board with an update of their 11 year-long study of the water quality in the Rio Grande above Albuquerque. Dr. Bexfield told the board the study was initiated at the request and co-funded by the Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority (Water Authority).

The study has looked at organic, inorganic, radionuclides, nutrient, and wastewater indicators constituents, with no exceedances of the maximum contaminant levels (drinking water standards), according to Dr. Bexfield.

## **V. Presentation: Federal Urban Waters Partnership**

Ms. Mandy Griego, a Sustainability Officer of the U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) provided the board with an overview of the agency's Federal Urban Water Partnership, which includes the sponsorship of three federal agencies and 28 non-governmental organizations. Ms. Griego told the board that the partnership has 14 different agencies working together on varying water-related projects involving transportation planning, riparian restoration and regulatory collaboration.

Ms. Griego showed the group the, "Urban Waters Voices" video on Denver's South Platte River partnership, and informed the board that Mr. Mike Jensen is the local "ambassador" for the partnership in Albuquerque.

## **VI. Board Discussion on Presentations**

Members discussed that coordination among the agencies involved in the Federal Urban Water Partnership, including local agencies, is consistent with the goals of the Water Protection Advisory Board.

## **VII. Board Business**

- Legislative and Regulatory Updates

Members discussed the status of the implementation of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's watershed-based municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) pilot permit. Members were informed by local agencies present that the new MS4 permit is not being operated like a pilot project.

- PIC Agency Updates

The City of Albuquerque told the board that Mr. Bart Faris is now the Environmental Health Department.

Water Authority staff noted that all of the phone numbers at the Water Authority have changed.

- Status of Federal Clean Water Rule

The board was told that the new federal Clean Water Rule was effective Aug. 28, 2015, and five lawsuits involving 27 states, including New Mexico through the State Engineer's Office and the Environment Department, have been filed.

**VIII. Other Board Business** – none

**IX. Public Comment Period** – none

**X. Adjournment** -- Meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.