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CAMILLA FEIBELMAN  
CAROLINE SCRUGGS

JONATHAN GONZALES  
ELAINE HOWE  
CHRIS WELCH

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**July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

Location: Via Teams video conference

Time: 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

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**Board Members Present:** Bart Faris (Chair), Steve Glass (Vice-Chair), Camilla Feibelman, Chris Welch, Jonathan Gonzales, Elaine Howe, Caroline Scruggs

**Board Members Absent (excused):** José Cerrato, Darrell Kundargi

**PIC Members Present:** Kelsey Bicknell (*Water Authority*), Rowan Hannan (*Water Authority*), Diane Agnew (*Water Authority*), Corbin Carsrud (*Bernalillo County*), Kali Bronson (*Bernalillo County*), Patrick Chavez (*Albuquerque Metropolitan Arroyo Flood Control Authority [AMAFCA]*), Shellie Eaton (*City of Albuquerque*), Charles Barber (*City of Albuquerque*), Jeff Pompeo (*Water Authority*)

**Guests Present:** Mark Kelly (*Water Authority*), Maycee Hurd (*Bernalillo County*), Jaren Peplinski (*Urban Waters Partnership*), Robert Mullin (*Bernalillo County*), Ege Richardson (*Water Authority*)

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## Call to Order

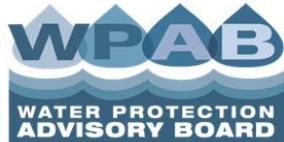
Chair Faris called the meeting to order at 9:02 AM when quorum was established.

### I. Approval of Agenda (09:00 – 09:05)

#### A. July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024, Agenda

Ms. Feibelman moved to approve the agenda; Vice-Chair Glass seconded the motion.

| Board Member           | Vote on Motion   |
|------------------------|------------------|
| Chair Bart Faris       | Yes              |
| Vice-Chair Steve Glass | Yes              |
| Darrell Kundargi       | Absent (excused) |
| Camilla Feibelman      | Yes              |
| José Cerrato           | Absent (excused) |
| Caroline Scruggs       | Absent (excused) |
| Jonathan Gonzalez      | Yes              |
| Elaine Howe            | Yes              |
| Chris Welch            | Yes              |



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## II. Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes

### A. June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024, Meeting Minutes

Vice-Chair Glass moved to approve the February meeting minutes; Ms. Feibelman seconded the motion.

| Board Member           | Vote on Motion   |
|------------------------|------------------|
| Chair Bart Faris       | Yes              |
| Vice-Chair Steve Glass | Yes              |
| Darrell Kundargi       | Absent (excused) |
| Camilla Feibelman      | Yes              |
| José Cerrato           | Absent (excused) |
| Caroline Scruggs       | Absent (excused) |
| Jonathan Gonzalez      | Yes              |
| Elaine Howe            | Abstained        |
| Chris Welch            | Yes              |

## III. Board Business (09:05-09:35)

### A. Discussion: Letter to Albuquerque City Council, Bernalillo County Commission, and Water Authority Board regarding funding for a Neglected Contamination Site Program

#### Motion:

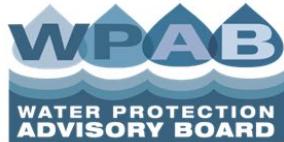
Regarding the recipient list for the Neglected Contamination Sites letter, Ms. Feibelman motioned to send it to: WPAB's constituent agencies; leadership of the state House of Representatives and state Senate; and legislative committees to include the Interim Legislative Finance Committee, the Hazardous Waste and Radioactive Materials Committee, and the Water and Natural Resources Committee. Vice-Chair Glass seconded the motion.

#### Discussion:

Ms. Feibelman suggested additional possible recipients for the letter, including individual legislators and staff of the mentioned legislative committees.

Mr. Welch asked if the intended broader distribution of the letter reflected the board's belief that this is a more pressing issue than previously addressed.

Ms. Feibelman explained that in the past, the Board had sent broad letters to the Legislature advocating for general water quality funding. However, the current letter specifically focuses on neglected contamination sites. This was



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recommended by the Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI) subcommittee considering the disparate geographic impact of such spills on local communities.

Vote:

| Board Member           | Vote on Motion   |
|------------------------|------------------|
| Chair Bart Faris       | Yes              |
| Vice Chair Steve Glass | Yes              |
| Darrell Kundargi       | Absent (excused) |
| Camilla Feibelman      | Yes              |
| José Cerrato           | Absent (excused) |
| Caroline Scruggs       | Yes              |
| Jonathan Gonzalez      | Yes              |
| Elaine Howe            | Yes              |
| Chris Welch            | Yes              |

Motion:

Ms. Feibelman moved to amend the agenda to specify the additional recipients of the letter will include the State House of Representatives and Senate Leadership, the Interim Legislative Finance Committee, the Hazardous Waste and Radioactive Materials Committee, and the Water and Natural Resources Committee. Mr. Gonzalez seconded the motion.

Vote:

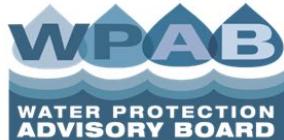
| Board Member           | Vote on Motion   |
|------------------------|------------------|
| Chair Bart Faris       | Yes              |
| Vice Chair Steve Glass | Yes              |
| Darrell Kundargi       | Absent (excused) |
| Camilla Feibelman      | Yes              |
| José Cerrato           | Absent (excused) |
| Caroline Scruggs       | Yes              |
| Jonathan Gonzalez      | Yes              |
| Elaine Howe            | Yes              |
| Chris Welch            | Yes              |

B. Approval: Letter as Amended to Albuquerque City Council, Bernalillo County Commission, and Water Authority Board regarding funding for a Neglected Contamination Site Program

Motion:

Vice-Chair Glass moved to approve the [letter with edits](#); Ms. Feibelman seconded the motion.

Discussion:



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Ms. Howe suggested adding the map of the distribution of current Neglected Contamination Sites presented by NMED to WPAB at their June 2024 meeting. Vice-Chair Glass recommended edits to the text to incorporate the distribution map as an attachment to the letter.

Chair Faris commented on the last paragraph, noting that the creation of a fund for neglected contamination sites might require an amendment to the Water Quality Act. He was not sure if this was necessary to express to the legislators or if it should be left to the administrative process.

Vice-Chair Glass explained that including the potential need for an amendment would clarify that the request is not just for one-time funding, but for incorporating the funding as part of the Water Quality Act. This would encourage committee staff to investigate whether the act needs to be amended to ensure continued funding.

Chair Faris agreed, noting that if an amendment to the Water Quality Act is needed, it would provide a legal and regulatory pathway for ongoing funding.

Vote:

| Board Member           | Vote on Motion   |
|------------------------|------------------|
| Chair Bart Faris       | Yes              |
| Vice Chair Steve Glass | Yes              |
| Darrell Kundargi       | Absent (excused) |
| Camilla Feibelman      | Yes              |
| José Cerrato           | Absent (excused) |
| Caroline Scruggs       | Yes              |
| Jonathan Gonzalez      | Yes              |
| Elaine Howe            | Yes              |
| Chris Welch            | Yes              |

#### IV. PIC Updates (09:35 – 10:00)

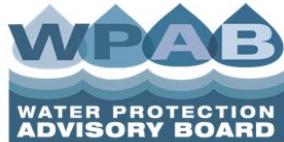
*Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority (Water Authority) – Update from Ms. Kelsey Bicknell, Environmental Manager*

**Hewlett-Packard (HP)/Digital Site:**

- Ms. Bicknell provided an update on the HP/Digital Site and reminded the Board that she will present on the design of the Water Authority's Capital Outlay-funded source water monitoring wells at the August WPAB meeting. The Water Authority received the responsible party's remedial action plan and is currently reviewing it. Staff plan to meet with NMED to share the results of the groundwater modeling used to design the monitoring wells.

**Kirtland Air Force Base Jet Fuel Leak:**

- Ms. Bicknell announced a tour of the Kirtland Air Force Base groundwater treatment system, scheduled for 5:30 pm on July 18th. The public will be allowed on base to see the groundwater



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treatment system and ask questions of Air Force staff and consultants. Ms. Bicknell encouraged attendance and reiterated the importance of public engagement. She also promised to send a follow-up email with event details.

- Ms. Bicknell highlighted ongoing efforts to work with the congressional delegation to secure a seat at the table for the Water Authority and advocate for interim treatment to address remaining fuel in the source area.
- Ms. Bicknell reported that the Air Force has notified stakeholders of plans to significantly modify its operations by turning off two extraction wells and focusing on extracting more ethylene dibromide (EDB) contamination in the south, closer to the source area. She emphasized that the Water Authority does not support any modifications without thorough review and technical justification, as the current extraction wells (as acknowledged by the Air Force) act as a containment system. Ms. Bicknell said the Water Authority is closely monitoring the situation and will provide more updates as information becomes available.

Discussion:

Chair Faris encouraged board members to participate in the tour. Ms. Agnew added that public participation is crucial and that the Air Force has pointed to low engagement as indicative of public satisfaction with progress at the Site.

Vice-Chair Glass asked whether the Air Force had transitioned from liquid extraction wells to vapor extraction wells.

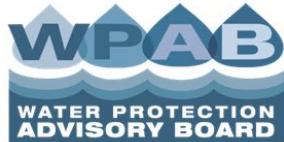
Ms. Bicknell clarified that soil vapor extraction wells were used until 2015, after which they were discontinued, and liquid extraction wells were introduced to the site. These liquid extraction wells only target ethylene dibromide (EDB) in the water but do not address the benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, and xylene (BTEX) found in the groundwater in the source area because they are too far away. Currently, there is no active soil vapor treatment of the fuel source, thus allowing the continued release of EDB and other contaminants into the groundwater.

Ms. Feibelman asked about the process by which Capital Outlay money was obtained for the new monitoring well and whether this involved individual legislators, or a priority list created by the County and City.

Ms. Agnew responded that the Water Authority submits Capital Outlay requests using an online form and works with legislators to advocate for those requests.

Ms. Feibelman asked if legislators are actively recruited to support those requests or if the system offers a sort of matchmaking where priority requests go to certain legislators.

Ms. Agnew explained that both pathways exist. Entities can submit a request to the Capital Outlay request database, which legislators can review. The Water Authority also actively recruits by identifying districts where projects are located and ensuring legislators are aware of the project's benefits.



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Ms. Feibelman suggested that this model could be pursued for groundwater spills, especially if EPA Superfund money for the Carlisle Village Cleaners Site does not materialize.

Ms. Agnew noted that treatment obligations lie with the responsible party or the State, not the agencies requesting Capital Outlay funding, as these agencies are not expected to assume the responsibility for cleanup.

#### *Bernalillo County – Update from Ms. Kali Bronson, Stormwater Compliance Program Lead*

Ms. Bronson updated the Board on an EPA grant, announced in January, for the development of Stormwater Centers of Excellence across the country. Grants have been made for four centers, including one at the Desert Research Institute at the University of Nevada, Reno, which has invited Bernalillo County to participate.

The focus will be on arid adaptive stormwater management, offering an opportunity for new research to support ongoing stormwater quality work.

#### *Albuquerque Metropolitan Arroyo Flood Control Authority (AMAFCA) – Update from Mr. Patrick Chavez, Stormwater Quality Engineer*

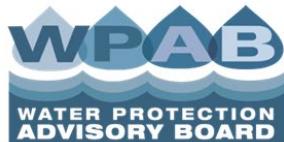
Mr. Chavez reported that on July 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024, he was notified by the City of Albuquerque and the New Mexico Department of Transportation about an incident involving a semi-truck carrying five hundred gallons of methanol. Two pallets of methanol slid off the truck, with one spilling its contents. Within an hour, specialized contractors were on-site and coordinated the cleanup, including pumping out and emptying one of the containers to prevent further issues. Mr. Chavez highlighted this incident as an example of effective coordination in emergency response.

#### *City of Albuquerque, Environmental Health – Update from Ms. Shellie Eaton, Project Manager & Charles Barber, Environmental Manager*

**Chalk Mockup:** On July 27th, 2024, the City will create a chalk mock-up of some bump-outs planned as part of the Pueblo Alto/Mile Hi Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI) Pilot Project. The bump-outs will be at the intersections of Summer Ave and Madison Ave, and La Veta Dr. and Summer Ave. The mock-up will be reviewed with staff at 10 AM.

**Pueblo Alto/Mile Hi Project Public Meeting:** There will be a public meeting for the Pueblo Alto/Mile Hi Project on Thursday, August 8<sup>th</sup>, from 5:30-7 PM at the African American Performing Arts Center. A virtual option will be available via Zoom.

**60% Design Community Meeting:** On July 27th, there will be a community meeting from 1PM to 3 PM to discuss updates on the redesign of Workers' Memorial Park, which includes green stormwater infrastructure. The meeting will be held at Workers' Memorial Park and will include an ice cream social.



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## V. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Subcommittee Report (10:00 – 10:10)

### A. WPAB Meeting Recording Update

Ms. Feibelman provided an overview of the issues discussed at the DEI subcommittee meeting held earlier in the week, including meeting frequency, a proposal to post recordings of WPAB meetings, and other topics.

Ms. Feibelman asked Ms. Bicknell to provide a brief update on the feasibility of recording and publicly posting videos of WPAB meetings. Ms. Bicknell reported that she is collaborating with Mr. Barber from the City, and they continue to explore potential recording options for WPAB meetings.

Ms. Feibelman noted that the WPAB member vacancies have been filled but emphasized the importance of Board members reserving the scheduled meeting time in advance to ensure a quorum. She also affirmed that DEI prompt questions are sent to all presenters to consider before they present to the WPAB.

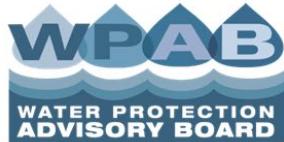
Ms. Feibelman discussed the importance of staying connected with the City's Justice40 Oversight Coordinating Committee. She appreciated the presentation from committee member Mr. Valdez in the previous WPAB meeting but reported that he is leaving his position with the City. Vice-Chair Glass has reached out to Alejandría Lyons, a former WPAB member and current Justice40 Oversight Coordinating Committee member, to maintain this connection.

Ms. Feibelman reminded the Board that WPAB's members include City, County, joint City-County, and Water Authority appointees. She urged members to identify potential candidates for WPAB membership and direct them to Ms. Bicknell, who will coordinate with the constituent agency holding the appointee seat. Ms. Feibelman mentioned upcoming vacancies, including her own, although she can continue to serve until a replacement is found. She also noted that Mr. Cerrato has offered to serve a second term and Vice-Chair Glass' is the next term to expire.

Members discussed the need for active recruitment. Ms. Feibelman suggested that the DEI subcommittee should discuss potential recruits twice a year with the Board and invite potential members to compelling presentations to encourage their interest. She also mentioned tracking updates on the Carlisle Village Cleaners Site and the Neglected Contamination Sites program.

## VI. Middle Rio Grande Stormwater Team Update (10:10 – 10:50)

*Kali Bronson – Stormwater Compliance Program Lead, Bernalillo County, kbronson@bernco.gov  
Shellie Eaton, P.E. – Project Manager, City of Albuquerque, seaton@cabq.gov*



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*Patrick Chavez, P.E. – Stormwater Quality Engineer, AMAFCA, pchavez@amafca.org*

Ms. Bronson, Ms. Eaton, and Mr. Chavez provided an update on the Middle Rio Grande Stormwater Team. The presentation highlighted cooperative efforts in stormwater management, the regulatory environment, stormwater quality, and recent flooding events. A copy of the presentation can be found [here](#).

Questions and Discussion:

Ms. Feibelman asked about the team's observations regarding floatable waste, particularly thin plastic bags. She noted the rollback of the plastic bag prohibition and asked if a quantitative analysis of plastic bag pollution could be conducted.

Ms. Bronson mentioned that floatables are reviewed annually in their report, which will soon be available for WPAB to review.

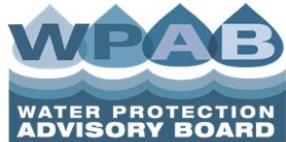
Mr. Chavez talked about planned projects to address plastic waste and observed no significant increase in plastic bags since the ban was repealed. While he has seen various other waste, it has not necessarily been more plastic bags. He also noted that compared to five years ago, fewer plastic bags are seen at outfalls or caught on bar screens. He agreed that it might be worthwhile to conduct a specific quantitative study to compare current data with past observations.

Ms. Howe asked about the benefits of the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) having primacy over the EPA regarding stormwater permitting (NPDES program). She questioned whether this allows NMED to set stricter limits in their permits and expressed concern about NMED already being overworked.

Ms. Bronson responded that the County supports NMED taking primacy because it would likely benefit permittees since the EPA's Region 6, based in Dallas, is responsible for permitting a diverse collection of states with different environments than New Mexico. She explained that local NMED personnel would likely better understand the state's environmental system. Additionally, a recent SCOTUS ruling has reduced protection for many waters in New Mexico that were previously under Waters of the United States (WOTUS); having NMED in charge could allow for continued protection of these waters at the state level, as Waters of the State.

Ms. Howe also asked if there is a way to identify the source of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) contamination.

Ms. Bronson mentioned that Bernalillo County, in collaboration with the United States Geological Survey (USGS), has conducted a PCB study. She noted that the City and AMAFCA have also conducted PCB studies. She explained that since PCBs do not break down, the ones found today



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are mostly from historical releases, such as from old transformers. While PCBs have been outlawed in many industries, there continue to be new sources, particularly from pigments in printing inks. The PCB studies allow the County to track when and where PCBs are detected, sometimes identifying specific sources like old transformers.

## VII. Other Board Business (10:50 – 10:55)

A. Next WPAB Meeting: August 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at 9:00 AM

i. Presentation topic: Hewlett-Packard/Digital Source Water Protection Monitoring Wells

## VIII. Public Comment Period (10:55 – 11:00)

There were no comments from the public.

## IX. Adjourned at 11:00 AM