



STEVE GLASS, CHAIR

DARRELL KUNDARGI, VICE CHAIR

JOSÉ CERRATO

BART FARIS

CAMILLA FEIBELMAN

ALEJANDRÍA LYONS

CAROLINE SCRUGGS

JOEL WOOLDRIDGE

August 12, 2022

Location: Webex Video Conference

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

Board Members Present:

Chair Steve Glass, Vice Chair Darrell Kundargi, Bart Faris, Joel Wooldridge, José Cerrato, Caroline Scruggs, Alejandría Lyons, Camilla Feibelman

A quorum was established before the meeting began.

Board Members Absent (excused):

All in attendance.

PIC Members Present:

Kelsey Bicknell (Water Authority), Cetan Christensen (Water Authority), Kali Bronson (Water Authority), Danielle Shuryn (Water Authority), Jeff Pompeo (Water Authority), Ken Ziegler (City of Albuquerque), Kathy Verhage (City of Albuquerque),

Guests:

Elizabeth Anderson (Water Authority), Diane Agnew (Water Authority), Jason Casuga (MRGCD), Tracie Vaught (AFCEC), Chris Segura (AFCEC), Ryan Wortman (AFCEC), Brannon Lamar (KAFB), Carolyn Carlson (The Paper), Ashley Palacios (KAFB), Janus Hererra (Health Equity Council), Jaren Peplinski (Urban Waters Federal Partner), Deborah H. (Community Member), Brian Fetting (KOB4)

I. Call to Order

Chair Glass called the meeting to order at 9:04 am.

II. Approval of Agenda

Chair Glass requested a motion to approve or modify the August 12, 2022, meeting agenda. Ms. Feibelman requested to amend the agenda and move DEI discussion to after board business. A request was made amend the link for the meeting invitation so that the link can be accessed directly from the “join meeting” button.

Mr. Faris moved to approve amended agenda, and Ms. Scruggs seconded the motion.

Unanimous vote to approve the amended August 12, 2022, meeting agenda:

Board member	Vote on Motion
Chair Steve Glass:	Yes
Vice-Chair Darrell Kundargi:	Yes
Camilla Feibelman:	Yes
José Cerrato:	Yes
Alejandría Lyons:	Yes
Bart Faris:	Yes
Caroline Scruggs:	Yes
Joel Wooldridge:	Yes

III. Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes

a. May 13th, 2022, and June 10th, 2022, Meeting Minutes

Chair Glass requested a correction to the June 10th, 2022 meeting minutes before requesting a motion to approve the May 13th, 2022, and June 10th, 2022 meeting minutes. Mr. Wooldridge moved to approve, and Mr. Kundargi seconded the motion.

Vote to approve the May 13th, 2022, meeting minutes:

Board member	Vote on Motion
Chair Steve Glass:	Yes
Vice-Chair Darrell Kundargi:	Yes
Camilla Feibelman:	Yes
José Cerrato:	Yes
Alejandría Lyons:	Abstain
Bart Faris:	Yes
Caroline Scruggs:	Abstain
Joel Wooldridge:	Yes

Unanimous vote to approve the June 10th, 2022, meeting minutes:

Board member	Vote on Motion
Chair Steve Glass:	Yes
Vice-Chair Darrell Kundargi:	Yes
Camilla Feibelman:	Yes
José Cerrato:	Yes
Alejandría Lyons:	Yes
Bart Faris:	Yes
Caroline Scruggs:	Yes
Joel Wooldridge:	Yes

IV. Board Business

a. PIC Updates

- **City Stormwater** – Ms. Kathy Verhage has no update, but they are starting their MS4 annual report preparation.
- **City Environmental Health** – Mr. Ken Ziegler: The City did a drone fly-over at the Candelaria Nature Preserve for CABQ Open Space, who had interest in making a trail mapping program for area. The group provided them with an orthomosaic and digital surface model for this project. Chair Glass asked if this project was part of the Bosque Action Update Plan (BAUP). Mr. Ziegler responded that this project is not necessarily for BAUP and is for data collection. Mr. Ziegler offered to send links of the imagery to interested parties for this project. Additionally, the fire at the closed Yale Landfill is still being monitored but appears to have stopped burning.
- **Water Authority** – Ms. Bronson, along with Mr. Ziegler, met with NMED regarding the Orphan Sites program. Additionally, the Water Authority Data Gap monitoring well samples for the passive and low-flow sampling have been received. Benzene, toluene, MEK, and phthlate were detected below the laboratory reporting limit in the passive sampling results. Toluene was detected in the low flow results also below the laboratory reporting limit. No EDB was detected. Ms. Bronson introduced a new member to the Water Authority, Cetan Christensen.

Ms. Feibelman asked if Ms. Bronson could highlight any details from the Orphan Site meeting. Ms. Bronson replied that the Site list contained sites that are not orphaned and requested NMED describe how they arrived at their list of Sites. NMED was receptive to feedback from the Water Authority and the City of Albuquerque and intend to make the Orphan Sites list a living document.

Ms. Feibelman followed by asking if NMED knew how a long-term cleanup program would be funded. Ms. Bronson explained there is not a specific funding source currently, and they are looking to other sources for funding clean up. For now, cleanup would be funded on a site-by-site basis, for example seeking funding from Superfund or responsible parties. Mr. Ziegler added that in the meeting he offered that a letter from the Water Protection Advisory Board could be provided when the Orphan Sites Program is seeking funding. Chair Glass confirmed that the WPAB could provide a letter to support these types of actions.

Chair Glass asked who Ms. Bronson and Mr. Ziegler met with at NMED. Ms. Bronson and Mr. Ziegler responded that they met with Gail Cooke and Justin Ball (Bureau Chief) from the Groundwater Quality Bureau and their consultants from INTERA. Mr. Zeigler added that funding to create the list of Orphan Sites was difficult to acquire and it is increasingly difficult to get sites added or removed from the list. Ms. Feibelman added that she thought NMED Secretary James Kenny had said that Gold King Mine money would be used to clean up, or at least start clean-up, at some of the Orphan Sites. Ms. Bronson responded that the funding from GKM was not mentioned in prior meetings and the use of the funds for this purpose needs to be clarified.

- **Bernalillo County** – No representatives.

V. Presentation: Kirtland Air Force Base Bulk Fuels Facility Leak Cleanup (9:40–10:25)

*Ryan Wortman, Kirtland Air Force Base, Physical Scientist, project manager
ryan.wortman.3@us.af.mil*

Ryan Wortman from Kirtland Air Force Base (KAFB) presented on the 2021 Quarter 4 reporting period for the Bulk Fuels Facility (BFF) spill and resulting groundwater contamination. This presentation included the project status update, injection well activities, an update on the technical working groups, and the RCRA process.

This presentation is available to view on the [WPAB Information Portal](#).

Presentation Questions and Comments:

Ms. Feibelman asked if a rig is used to drill the monitoring well. Mr. Wortman confirmed this.

Ms. Feibelman asked for clarification of the site location and the proximity of Burton Park. Mr. Wortman responded that the location of interest is off Gibson at the KAFB Gate, and source area is directly south of this. Mr. Wortman mentioned that Bullhead Park is due north of the source area. Ms. Agnew added that Burton Park is further west of the photos in the attached presentation.

Mr. Wooldridge asked if the team working on this project have been able to describe what the ultimate success of this remediation plume project would look like (e.g., is it total clean up?), and if so, when that is estimated to occur. Mr. Wortman responded that the plume remediation target is the EPA's MCL and that the timeline is dependent on approval of the corrective measure evaluation (CME), which would determine project completion. Mr. Wortman added that the project is working on a 10+ year timeline to

reach corrective measure implementation (CMI) and that the remedy selected would determine the remainder of the timeline for remediation. Mr. Wortman stated that a long-term monitoring phase is expected to take place over at least over 30 years before the corrective action will be considered complete.

Chair Glass commented that he was glad the Technical Working Groups are back in operation. Chair Glass asked where the new Data Gap Monitoring Well is located and if results from this monitoring well would be on future maps. Mr. Wortman and Ms. Bronson clarified that the Data Gap well is just south of Katherine Ave and east of Louisiana Blvd. Mr. Wortman stated that the Data Gap Well is not Kirtland Air Force Base infrastructure and thus the well will not be added to future maps – but will look at the Water Authority’s report on the Data Gap Well when it is available. Chair Glass asked for confirmation that there were no detections of contaminants of concern above MCL found at the Data Gap Well after the first sampling event. Ms. Bronson confirmed there have been no detections above MCLs.

Dr. Cerrato asked where in the plume remediation efforts have been focused and if biological encouragement has been attempted. Mr. Wortman responded that a pilot test was conducted using biological remediation to break down benzene. The pilot test was successful, but the feasibility of scaling this treatment out to the plume extent needs to be determined. Dr. Cerrato asked what type of treatment is currently being done. Mr. Wortman responded that they are doing pump and treat using granular activated carbon (GAC) for ethylene dibromide (i.e., by absorption).

Ms. Agnew questioned the expectation that it would be another decade until CMI and asked if funding has been considered for this time. Mr. Wortman indicated this is a best estimate based on where KAFB is on the RCRA timeline. Mr. Wortman added that funding is planned for the next 30 years of long-term monitoring. Mr. Wortman stated that the timeline would be something for the KAFB and NMED to answer collaboratively. Ms. Agnew clarified that it has been over two decades since facility assessment began, so another decade is a pretty significant impact to this source of water. Ms. Agnew offered support from the Water Authority to help KAFB reach CMI, including supporting public outreach efforts.

Mr. Faris asked how fluctuations of the groundwater levels impact the distribution of LNAPL and what corrective measures are considered for this. Mr. Wortman responded that due to the age of the early monitoring wells, they are no longer characterizing the shallowest portion of groundwater because the water table has risen since the spill was identified in 1999. The most recent monitoring wells installed should characterize the shallowest water. Mr. Wortman stated that the rising water table and subsequent water level fluctuations will lead to interaction with the LNAPL contaminant smear zone and will impact water quality. The shallow wells will help understand how the rising water table is interacting with the smear zone in the source area. Mr. Wortman explained that this re-encountering of water with the source zone is of main concern in the southern portion of the plume (defined as the source area). This will be considered in the CME.

Mr. Faris asked when the next Technical Working Group meeting is scheduled is scheduled for and asked whether the WPAB and PIC members would be invited to these meetings. Mr. Wortman responded that they are not scheduled yet, and invitations to the working groups are based on the topic, where they are only inviting technical experts. Mr. Faris inquired about who makes decisions for the invitees. Mr. Wortman responded that the invitees are decided at the stakeholder meetings attended by multiple agencies. Ms. Agnew added that the Water Authority created a guidance document on who to invite and how to provide structure to working groups, and suggested implementing this for future working group meetings. Mr. Faris added that he would like KAFB to keep WPAB and PIC in mind as the Technical Working Group meetings occur. Mr. Wortman responded that KAFB will refer to the guidance document.

Dr. Scruggs asked to review slide 6, and noted that between 2016 and 2021, the benzene concentration went up in parts of the plume. Dr. Scruggs asked how this data was being interpreted. Mr. Wortman responded that as the water table is rising, the groundwater is encountering fuel that is in the smear zone. Mr. Wortman added that as KAFB monitors the plume over time, there will be changes in concentrations over time due to the smear zone and the rising groundwater levels.

Dr. Scruggs asked if KAFB added the most recent monitoring wells in the same area as the prior wells to look at the fluctuations in the water table and asked if there are changes to the water table occurring north of the area that is currently being monitored with the most recently installed wells. Mr. Wortman responded that the southern area (the area of the spill) is the area of historic concern, and that original wells installed there are submerged and because of this, they needed new wells to look the new water level's effects on benzene concentrations. Wells for that purpose were installed in the northern area between 2014–2015.

Dr. Scruggs asked if KAFB will have sufficient vapor intrusion data to present in the report due in March and whether there was more data available from offsite soil vapor monitoring (SVM) wells. Mr. Wortman responded that the report would summarize the sampling event for the eight recently installed SVM wells, while also incorporating that data into the larger network. The focus in the report will be to confirm the findings of the 2018 report, which stated there is no vapor intrusion risk and determine if any other infrastructure is needed to characterize the shallow plume. Mr. Wortman stated that the preliminary data shows that the plume is characterized, and KAFB will decide with NMED if their analysis is sufficient, but that will be an iterative process.

VI. Presentation: Water Authority Sanitary Sewer Overflow Update (10:25 – 10:40)

Danielle Shuryn, Compliance Manager, Water Authority, dshuryn@abcwua.org

Danielle Shuryn from the Water Authority provided the board an overview of the July 10th sewage line spill timeline and actions taken to mitigate, communicate, and monitor the event.

Jason Casuga, Chief Engineer/CEO, MRGCD, jason@mrgcd.org
Jason Casuga from MRGCD, described the communication plan implementation during the sewage line collapse with ABCWUA and AMAFCA, and MRGCD's response to monitor the sewage spill contamination and notify water users of the spill event and monitoring.

This presentation is available to view on the [WPAB Information Portal](#).

Presentation Questions and Comments:

Chair Glass thanked for presenters for the recap but asked to clarify the location of five-day spill report so that members could review. Ms. Bicknell clarified that the five-day spill report was provided as a link to the information portal the day before the meeting.

Dr. Scruggs asked if the AMAFCA holding pond that was used to retain the sewage would have been able to hold the 6.7 million gallons that was spilled in this incident and asked what the holding capacity is in the event of another spill. Ms. Shuryn responded that the holding capacity of the pond was maxed out at 3 million gallons.

Ms. Feibelman asked for the reason of the collapse. Ms. Shuryn responded that rehabilitation of this line was occurring but it was not the site of the collapse. Ms. Anderson added the portion of line recommended for rehabilitation was identified in the Water Authority's asset management dataset compiled by the Water Authority, but the information on the status of the line may have been incorrect. Ms. Anderson stated the asset management dataset will be reviewed to confirm the status of the lines in the area. Ms. Anderson added that the Water Authority had sought \$17 million for sewer interceptor rehab prior to this event and were prioritizing projects on lines with the greatest need. Ms. Anderson also stated that the Water Authority is working hard to ensure projects are implemented before failures occur.

Ms. Feibelman asked about the reporting from community members about this pipe collapse and stated that it may be a good opportunity to reinforce that the public can be used to report these type of emergency events. Ms. Feibelman suggested a future public communication to congratulate the public on their diligence in this matter, and to continue to report emergency events to 311. Mr. Casuga added to the comment, by stating that the communication plan adopted by the Water Authority worked in reporting this event to downstream users. Ms. Anderson added that the time to get the bypass in place was quick, and the Water Authority had two on-call contractors to get the line taken care of, and the bypass pumping was in place within 20 hours – which in Ms. Anderson's experience was impressive.

Chair Glass commented that he was impressed with the turn-around, and that comparatively the sewage spill on KAFB took days to stop. Chair Glass also asked if the diversion dam was shut down quickly enough to prevent contamination of the Pueblo of Isleta irrigation system. Mr. Casuga responded that MRGCD believes the response was quick enough to prevent sewage flow into the Pueblo of Isleta system. The pool behind the dam was emptied to allow the sewage spill to pass through. Testing of the water directly behind the dam indicated to MRGCD that the water quality was sufficient to be used for irrigation.

Chair Glass stated he saw there were two spills reported, and asked if there was a second collapse somewhere else. Ms. Shuryn clarified that each manhole that overflows is considered a spill according to the Water Authority's NPDES permit.

Mr. Faris asked what lessons were learned regarding prevention and communication of this type of event in the future. Ms. Shuryn responded that the Water Authority will be improving its asset management plan and will continue evaluating existing conditions of its assets. Ms. Shuryn stated they will have ongoing communication with AMAFCA, in terms of emergency response and preparation for preventative measures. Ms. Anderson added that the need to work with AMAFCA to identify additional locations to capture sewer overflows so sewage doesn't make it to the river is another lesson learned. Mr. Casuga responded that MRGCD encountered issues with communication with irrigators, noting that their users span multiple generations, so they don't use the same forms of media and communication. From this event they learned they need to be able to reach a broader range of their irrigators to share these types of emergency events with and need to figure out how to reach their customers more broadly.

Mr. Kundargi asked if there was an impact to community health since the spill occurred in the neighborhoods. Ms. Anderson and Ms. Shuryn stated that the impact to the local community was mitigated – the Water Authority cleaned the streets and assisted three customers with pumping sewage away from their properties. Mr. Kundargi stated that local community members felt out of the loop in terms of the water quality reports, and asked how the Water Authority will improve local communication about clean up and follow up water quality analyses. Ms. Shuryn stated that the data collected during the incident is available to the public. Mr. Casuga added that the data MRGCD has from the Water Authority was posted on the MRGCD website and made publicly available, but the sampling data that was collected by the Pueblo of Isleta needs to be requested directly from the Pueblo. Ms. Anderson added that in the event there were some downstream entities that were not contacted, due to them not being in the emergency response plan and that the Water Authority will add these downstream users to the emergency response plan.

Ms. Lyons asked what is the responsibility of the WPAB board to get the information out to the community. Ms. Lyons also stated that entities in Valencia County downstream of the spill have also been doing their own water quality sampling and that communities are still concerned about this. Ms. Shuryn responded that the Water Authority could

make emergency information a front-page link on their website that would be easily accessible by the community. Mr. Casuga commented that water samples indicated a drastic decline in *E. coli* less than a day after the discharge stopped and water quality samples for *E. coli* were no longer taken. Mr. Casuga reiterated that the challenge is how to succinctly and effectively communicate information to the public.

I. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Subcommittee Report

Ms. Feibelman shared that the subcommittee held a meeting in July. The main discussion was how to include DEI in board presentations and how to get word out to communities about WPAB meetings. The subcommittee has a draft of the procedures under review. They have updated DEI questions to presenters to be considered when sharing. The subcommittee requested the Water Authority prepare information about the meeting and post it on social media. Board members can also push those posts out using their personal social media accounts.

The subcommittee also requested the list of presenters for the September meeting.

II. Other Board Business

III. Public Comment Period

VII. Adjourn

Chair Glass adjourned the meeting at 11:00 am.