

BART FARIS, CHAIR
STEVE GLASS, VICE CHAIR
JOSÉ CERRATO

DARRELL KUNDARGI
CAMILLA FEIBELMAN
CAROLINE SCRUGGS

JONATHAN GONZALES
ELAINE HOWE
CHRIS WELCH

October 11th, 2024

Location: Via Teams video conference

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

Board Members Present: Bart Faris (Chair), Steve Glass (Vice-Chair), Camilla Feibelman, José Cerrato, Darrell Kundargi, Jonathan Gonzales, Chris Welch

Board Members Absent: Elaine Howe, Caroline Scruggs (excused)

PIC Members Present: Kelsey Bicknell (*Water Authority*), Rowan Hannan (*Water Authority*), Diane Agnew (*Water Authority*), Jeff Pompeo (*Water Authority*), Shellie Eaton (*City of Albuquerque*), Dan McGregor (*Bernalillo County*), Byron Lueras (*City of Albuquerque*),

Guests Present: Dr. Terrance Smith (*City of Albuquerque*), Danielle Shuryn (*Water Authority*), Jim Joseph (*INTERA*)

Call to Order

Chair Faris called the meeting to order at 9:01 AM when quorum was established.

I. Approval of Agenda (09:00 – 09:05)

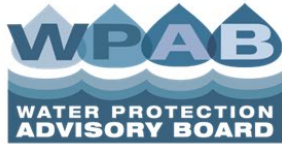
A. October 11th, 2024, Agenda

Vice-Chair Glass moved to approve the agenda; Mr. Kundargi seconded the motion.

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

II. Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes

A. September 13th, 2024, Meeting Minutes



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Ms. Howe moved to approve the August meeting minutes; Vice-Chair Glass seconded the motion.

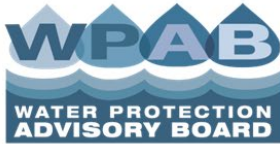
Board Member	Vote on Motion
Chair Bart Faris	Yes
Vice-Chair Steve Glass	Yes
Darrell Kundargi	Yes
Camilla Feibelman	Yes
José Cerrato	Yes
Caroline Scruggs	Absent (excused)
Jonathan Gonzalez	Yes
Elaine Howe	Absent (excused)
Chris Welch	Yes

III. Policy Implementation Committee (PIC) Updates (09:35 – 9:50)

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

- **Kirtland Air Force Base (KAFB) Bulk Fuels Facility:** Ms. Bicknell reported that the Air Force has decided not to proceed with the operational changes to the extraction well network that were recently proposed, which would have involved shutting down two of the four wells. Following further discussions with the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED), the Air Force agreed to delay any changes until after the Phase II RCRA Facility Investigation (RFI) is complete. The Water Authority continues to advocate for a thorough technical analysis before any future modifications are considered.
- **Radioactive & Hazardous Materials Legislative Committee Presentation:** Ms. Bicknell will present alongside NMED to the Radioactive and Hazardous Materials Legislative Committee next Tuesday, October 15th, providing a stakeholder update on the KAFB Bulk Fuels Facility Site. She noted that the Air Force and NMED have been invited to provide a similar update to the WPAB in November.
- **Sandia National Laboratories and KAFB DOE/DoD Joint Public Meeting:** The Department of Energy (DOE) and Department of Defense (DoD) joint public meeting on environmental remediation at Sandia will be held virtually on October 29th.
- **Hewlett-Packard (HP)/Digital Site:** Ms. Bicknell reported that NMED is requiring HP to perform additional investigative work, including a fate and transport model of the contaminant plume before a remedial system can be installed. The Water Authority is scheduled to meet with both NMED and HP in late October, and Ms. Bicknell hopes to share the groundwater model (presented to the Board in August) for potential integration into HP's analysis.

Questions and Discussion:



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Ms. Feibelman acknowledged that the Air Force's decision not to proceed with the proposed operational change is a positive outcome, highlighting Ms. Bicknell's significant efforts. Chair Faris agreed and commended the Water Authority team for their hard work on the matter.

City of Albuquerque, Engineering Division – Update from Shellie Eaton, Senior Engineer

Annual MS4 Report: Ms. Eaton reported that the City posted its [Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System \(MS4\) Annual Report on its website](#) for public comment starting October 2nd, with the comment period remaining open until November 15th.

Questions and Discussion:

Ms. Feibelman asked about the type of feedback typically received from the public during the comment period for the MS4 Annual Report and asked who usually provides comments.

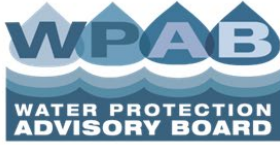
Ms. Eaton responded that while the City is required to post the report for a 45-day public comment period before submission to the EPA, no public comments have been received in previous years.

IV. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Subcommittee Report (10:00 – 10:10)

Ms. Feibelman reported that the DEI subcommittee met at the end of September and selected Mr. Kundargi as the new subcommittee chair. With her term on the Board ending, and given the subcommittee's limit of four members, Ms. Feibelman is stepping down to make room for new member Ms. Howe and to allow Mr. Kundargi to transition into the chair position. Ms. Feibelman noted that she has transferred the subcommittee's notes to Ms. Bicknell's system for continuity, and moving forward, subcommittee meetings will take place via Teams.

Ms. Feibelman outlined the subcommittee's primary areas of focus:

- Ensuring meeting notices reach interested community members. She directed Mr. Kundargi to continue circulating the abbreviated meeting notice and topics to external networks when full meeting documents are sent out.
- Supporting Board recruitment to ensure that the Board reflects the demographics of Albuquerque and Bernalillo County. The subcommittee will seek updates from nominating entities a few times a year regarding their recruitment efforts.
- Monitoring neglected groundwater contamination sites and ensuring progress toward their identification, cleanup, and funding. Ms. Feibelman noted that NMED may request special appropriations for this work during the upcoming legislative session, and the Board should continue tracking progress on this issue.



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Ms. Feibelman expressed her gratitude to Mr. Kundargi for taking on the chair role and highlighted the subcommittee's progress, including initial work with the City's DEI office to develop tools for evaluating the Board's DEI efforts. She recommended revisiting these tools to guide the subcommittee's future initiatives.

V. Update from the City of Albuquerque – Environmental Health, Groundwater Division

*Dr. Terrance Smith – Deputy Director, City of Albuquerque Environmental Health Department,
terrancesmith@cabq.gov*

Dr. Smith presented an overview of how the City of Albuquerque's Environmental Health Department (AEHD) manages landfill and groundwater monitoring. He provided an update on the City's groundwater monitoring and sampling program, current remediation sites and projects managed by AEHD, and outlined the department's planned actions and goals for ongoing remediation efforts.

Slides from this presentation can be viewed [\[HERE\]](#).

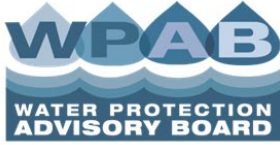
Questions and Discussion:

Chair Faris thanked Dr. Smith for his presentation and explained that the Board had requested it due to concerns about recent staff departures within AEHD, particularly in roles related to landfill and groundwater monitoring. After stressing the importance of maintaining continuity in these critical areas he opened the floor to questions.

Ms. Feibelman began by asking about the potential impact of nearby landfills on the United Stadium construction, expressing concern about public safety and potential vapor intrusion. She noted the difference in monitoring needs for a facility that experiences intermittent use, such as the Balloon Fiesta grounds, compared to the regular gatherings that the stadium would bring. She asked whether appropriate vapor management protections were planned for the stadium, and requested information on how all necessary protections would be implemented before the stadium becomes operational.

Dr. Smith responded that necessary protective measures would be implemented if required but noted that the planning process was ongoing. He then referred the question to Mr. Joseph and Mr. Lueras, who have been attending recent project planning meetings.

Mr. Lueras explained that that planning is ongoing, and specifics on mitigation measures are expected from the developer but have yet to be submitted for the City's review. Mr. Lueras also added that Paul Olson remains involved with mitigation related to United Stadium even in his new role with the City's Department of Municipal Development (DMD).



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Mr. Joseph added that developers are responsible for proposing landfill gas mitigation measures, which will then be reviewed by the City.

Dr. Smith assured the Board that AEHD will continue to oversee protective measures in collaboration with the DMD and that he would provide additional details to WPAB once the planning phase advances further.

Ms. Feibelman asked about AEHD's staffing challenges, expressing concern over recent departures of core personnel and the relocation of AEHD staff to the West Side. She stressed the importance of the City's capability for in-house environmental health management rather than reliance on contractors, even those with established expertise. She requested regular monthly updates on AEHD's staffing status until her departure from the Board.

Dr. Smith addressed the relocation as a practical decision to support field operations, explaining that much of the groundwater division's equipment, such as drill rigs, is stored near landfill sites on the West Side. He emphasized that the department is actively recruiting qualified personnel and will rely on contractor INTERA for support in the interim. He noted that AEHD staff member Mr. Lueras has been instrumental in ensuring deadlines, communication, and continuity are maintained.

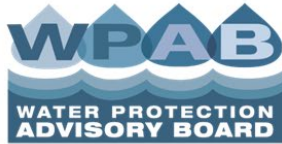
Mr. Lueras added that while AEHD is actively working to fill positions, recruiting and properly training qualified candidates will take time. He reassured the Board that AEHD is working closely with INTERA to maintain operational stability during this transition.

Chair Faris reiterated concerns that moving AEHD staff away from central decision-making operations could limit their participation in these processes, potentially affecting responsiveness to urgent issues like groundwater protection. He asked whether any portion of AEHD's budget had been re-appropriated to other departments and inquired about the funding available for landfill monitoring and remediation.

Dr. Smith confirmed that the budget remains dedicated to AEHD. He explained that AEHD recently hired a new fiscal manager who is transitioning into the role and committed to providing more accurate budget figures to the Board once available. He reiterated that relocating staff to the West Side was intended to enhance field efficiency, not to separate them from central decision-making.

Mr. Kundargi inquired about the number of vacant positions in AEHD and asked Mr. Lueras to clarify his role within the division.

Dr. Smith confirmed that three positions are open, with interviews already underway.



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Mr. Lueras responded that his position within AEHD is Environmental Specialist II.

Ms. Agnew emphasized the importance of close coordination between AEHD and the Water Authority, particularly for source water protection policies. She explained that the policies adopted by the City, Water Authority, and County outline clear roles and responsibilities, including timely communication of staffing changes related to source water protection. She noted that groundwater issues at landfill sites impact water quality, making it essential to have AEHD staff readily accessible to address these issues in partnership with the Water Authority. Ms. Agnew suggested that sharing AEHD job postings with the Board and other PIC agencies could expand recruitment outreach.

Dr. Smith agreed to share job posting links and welcomed the Board's assistance in recruitment. He committed to regular PIC updates to ensure open communication AEHD fills its staffing gaps.

Mr. Cerrato thanked Dr. Smith for his presentation and reinforced the Board's role in providing constructive oversight for the City's source water protection efforts. He noted that water management is inherently interconnected and encouraged continued, comprehensive communication among all parties to address these complexities. Mr. Cerrato emphasized that the Board's recommendations are meant to support AEHD in safeguarding Albuquerque's citizens, advocating for a collaborative, holistic approach that leverages expertise across multiple agencies.

Mr. Joseph expressed confidence in the City's resilience in managing staffing transitions, based on his experiences with other departments that have successfully navigated similar challenges.

Ms. Feibelman proposed a collaborative meeting involving Dr. Smith, Mr. Lueras, Ms. Agnew, Ms. Bicknell, and other relevant stakeholders to reestablish communication while AEHD completes its hiring process. She also requested that AEHD present the Board with the United Stadium mitigation plan once available.

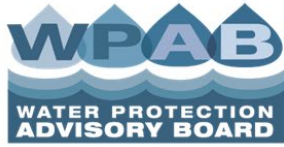
Dr. Smith thanked the Board for its ongoing support and emphasized AEHD's commitment to its mission despite current staffing challenges. He assured the Board that AEHD would provide monthly PIC updates and expressed appreciation for the Board's oversight and assistance.

VI. Other Board Business

- A. Next WPAB Meeting: November 8th, 2024, at 9:00 AM
 - i. Presentation topic: KAFB Bulk Fuels Facility Update

VII. Public Comment Period

There were no comments from the public.



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VIII. Adjourned at 10:20 AM