



# Technical Customer Advisory Committee

## AGENDA

### *Members*

Melissa Armijo	Amy Miller
Andrew Bernard	Ege Richardson
Janie Chermak	Ron Schwarzwald
Mike Hightower	Scott Verhines
Dave Hill	

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Thursday, October 4, 2018	4:00 PM	ABCGC – 7th Floor Conference Room 7096
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| 1. Call to Order                                | 4:00-4:05 |
| 2. Approval of Agenda                           | 4:00-4:05 |
| 3. Approval of September 6, 2018 Action Summary | 4:00-4:05 |
| 4. Water 2120 Environmental Plan Discussion     | 4:05-5:00 |
| 5. Public Comment                               | 5:05-5:10 |
| 6. Adjournment                                  | 5:10      |

NOTICE TO PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES: If you have a disability and require special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the Water Utility Authority Office, Suite 5012, Albuquerque/Bernalillo County Government Center, phone 289-3100, as soon as possible prior to the meeting date.



# Technical Customer Advisory Committee

## **ACTION SUMMARY**

**September 6, 2018**

Members Present:

Melissa Armijo  
Janie Chermak  
Mike Hightower  
Dave Hill  
Amy Miller  
Ege Richardson

Members Excused:

Andrew Bernard  
Ron Schwarzwaldner  
Scott Verhines

Water Authority Staff Present:

John Stomp, Chief Operations Officer  
Dave Price, Engineering Division Manager  
Frank Roth, Senior Policy Manager  
Elizabeth Anderson, Water Quality Program  
Manager

**Item 1 – Call to Order - Note presence of quorum**

The meeting was called to order at 4:02 pm by Chair Ege Richardson.

**Item 2 – Approval of Agenda**

Amy Miller made a motion to approve the agenda. Dave Hill seconded the motion. The motion passed on a 4-0 vote.

For: 4	Armijo, Hill, Miller, Richardson
Against: 0	
Excused: 5	Bernard, Chermak, Hightower, Schwarzwaldner, Verhines

**Item 3 – Approval of August 16, 2018 Action Summary**

Dave Hill made a motion to approve the action summary. Melissa Armijo seconded the motion. The motion passed on a 4-0 vote.

For: 4     Armijo, Hill, Miller, Richardson  
Against: 0  
Excused: 5     Bernard, Chermak, Hightower, Schwarzwaldler, Verhines

*Janie Chermak and Mike Hightower entered the meeting at this time.*

**Item 4 – Water 2120 Status Report**

John Stomp provided a status report on the key elements of Water 2120. He reviewed the implementation schedule and a projected timeline of projects and estimated costs.

**Item 5 – Presentation on Asset Management Program**

Dave Price provided an overview of the Water Authority's asset management program and the ten-year capital plan. He provided examples of the utility's major asset categories and the long-term rehabilitation and renewal needs. He also discussed the different components for updating the utility-wide asset management plan.

**Item 6 – Public Comment**

Elaine Hebard provided comments.

**Item 7 – Adjournment**

The meeting concluded at 6:07 pm.



# Water 2120 Environmental Plan

The **Environmental Plan** will address the following Policies of Water 2120:

- Policy E - Support Regional Water Resources Planning and Management
- Policy H - Implement the Water Quality Protection Policy and Action Plan
- Policy I - Protect and Enhance Storage of Native, San Juan-Chama Water and other water resources
- Policy J - Protect Valued Environmental and Cultural Resources
- Policy K - Preserve and Enhance the Quality of Life in the Region
- Policy M - Encourage and Facilitate Public Involvement

The **Environmental Plan** may cover the following activities:

- Green infrastructure including storm water infrastructure to promote aquifer storage (Policy E)
- Water Quality studies with the USGS (Policy E)
- Collaboration with the MRGCD on promoting agriculture (Policy E)
- Source Water Protection: database of potential threats to the Authority's supply, advocating for and participating in investigation and clean-up of contamination sites, tracking emerging contaminants (Policy H)
- NEPA for increased storage in Abiquiu (Policy I)
- Continue to provide storage space in Abiquiu for environmental purposes (Policy I)
- Watershed Management – provide funding to restore the watersheds of the San Juan-Chama and Rio Grande (Policy J)
- Habitat Restoration and Endangered Species Protection (Policy J)
- Continued participation in the Endangered Species Collaborative Program and the WPAB (Policy J)
- Encourage the state to recognize instream flows as a beneficial use (Policy J)
- Work with the City, MRGCD and others to protect and enhance the Rio Grande State Park and the Bosque (Policy J)
- The ability of ASR projects to enhance habitat and wetlands (Policies J and K)
- SJC Operations to benefit the river system, endangered species and quality of life (Policies J and K)
- Green energy projects and energy saving measures (Policy K)
- Public education on source water protection, watershed management, endangered species and habitat restoration, green energy and green infrastructure projects (Policy M)

## **E. Support Regional Water Resources Planning and Management**

**POLICY E.** The Water Authority shall pursue efforts to enhance regional water resources planning and management activities within the Middle Rio Grande Valley. The Water Authority shall work cooperatively with its neighbors—the Pueblos, the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District, Middle Rio Grande Valley cities and counties, and involved state and federal agencies. The Water Authority shall continue to be involved in and monitor the progress of regional and interstate water management initiatives that may affect the Water Authority and the region.

*RATIONALE: The Water Authority recognizes the need to work in cooperation with other entities that share use of the Middle Rio Grande Valley's water resources. Regional water resources planning needs to address uses for public and domestic water supply, irrigated agriculture, livestock, commerce, industry, fish, recreation and wildlife. The Water Authority, neighboring jurisdictions, and other water users need to work with State, regional, and federal agencies with water management responsibilities.*

### **SUB-POLICIES:**

- 1.** The Water Authority shall continue its proactive role to ensure that the necessary technical investigations with U.S. Geological Survey and others are completed efficiently and expeditiously and that they result in an improved understanding of surface and groundwater.
- 2.** The Water Authority is committed to seek common solutions within a regional context. The Water Authority shall work with others in the Middle Rio Grande Valley on updates and implementation of the Regional Water Plan.
- 3.** When appropriate, the Water Authority should share their experience in groundwater management to assist other planning efforts in transitioning to renewable supplies and to limit long-term groundwater usage.
- 4.** The Water Authority shall work with federal and state agencies including the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and U.S. Bureau of Land Management, the New Mexico Office of the State Engineer and the Interstate Stream Commission to continue to find common solutions for water management on the Rio Chama and the Rio Grande.
- 5.** The Water Authority shall collaborate with the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District (MRGCD) to develop and implement a plan to support and promote agriculture in the Middle Rio Grande.
- 6.** The Water Authority shall promote and develop green infrastructure including storm water infrastructure to promote efficient water resources management and aquifer storage.

## **H. Implement the Water Quality Protection Policy and Action Plan**

### **POLICY H. The Water Authority shall take steps to fully implement the Water Quality Protection Policy and Action Plan.**

*RATIONALE: The Albuquerque/Bernalillo County Water Quality Protection Policy and Action Plan (County Resolution No. AR 121-93 and City Enactment No. 81-1994) is another cornerstone of this Water Resources Management Strategy. The Water Authority revised the Groundwater Protection Policy and Action Plan in 2009 to add surface water protection measures, recognizing the use of San Juan-Chama water as a primary drinking water source. Protection of both groundwater and surface resources from known or potential sources of contamination is essential for maintaining a safe drinking water supply and aquifer storage and recovery program. Their protection from contamination is of paramount importance.*

#### **SUB-POLICIES:**

- 1.** The Water Authority should continue to be proactive in identifying potential water quality threats to surface and groundwater resources and should implement programs to the extent possible to protect the water resources in the MRG.
- 2.** The Water Protection Advisory Board (WPAB) shall provide annual updates on the implementation of the Water Quality Protection Policy and Action Plan (WQPPAP) to the Water Authority Board through submission of the Annual WPAB Reports and presentations at regular WPAB meetings.
- 3.** The Water Authority shall provide pertinent information regarding updates to the water resource management strategy activities to the WPAB during its triennial review of the WQPPAP implementation activities.
- 4.** The Water Authority should consider the occurrence, fate and potential treatment of emerging contaminants in current and future water supplies and should actively participate in research which will become more important as the availability of water resources becomes more constrained.
- 5.** The Water Authority should coordinate with the City, County and State to maintain the quality of groundwater and surface waters.

## **I. Protect and Enhance Storage of Native, San Juan-Chama Water and other water resources**

**POLICY I.** The Water Authority shall protect the rights to store native, San Juan-Chama and other water resources including reuse and recycled water in a variety of storage facilities including Heron, Abiquiu and Elephant Butte Reservoirs. The Water Authority should seek additional off-channel storage capacity locally or within the Middle Rio Grande as needed to maximize the use of excess wastewater or other water resources in the future.

### **SUB-POLICIES:**

1. The Water Authority should protect and enhance its storage rights in Abiquiu Reservoir for native and San Juan-Chama water which will provide opportunities to continue to cooperate with environmental, local, state and federal entities to maximize the benefit for the MRG.
2. The Water Authority should examine the need for additional short and long-term off-channel storage locally and within the MRG to be prepared when excess San Juan-Chama water, native flood flows, or other water resources are available.
3. The Water Authority should consider the aquifer as a reservoir to be used conjunctively with above-ground storage to optimize the use of current and future water supplies.
4. The Water Authority should develop and implement a Rio Grande Compact pool within the Water Authority storage space working with the Interstate Stream Commission (ISC) and the Office of the State Engineer (OSE).
5. The Water Authority should continue providing space in Abiquiu Reservoir for environmental purposes.
6. The Water Authority should seek long-term storage of San Juan-Chama water in Elephant Butte Reservoir.

## **J. Protect Valued Environmental and Cultural Resources**

**POLICY J. The Water Authority shall identify and provide resources to preserve and protect valued environmental resources of the region. The Water Authority shall work independently and in partnerships to ensure that its activities do not irreparably harm the aquifer, river, Bosque, source watersheds and the cultural resources.**

*RATIONALE: The regional aquifer, Bosque and Rio Grande are exceptional resources of great economic, ecological, aesthetic and cultural value. The Water Authority should cooperate to develop and implement environmentally conscious water resource development activities that protect the environmental and cultural values of our community.*

### **SUB-POLICIES:**

- 1.** The Water Authority should continue to participate in the Endangered Species Collaborative Program and Recovery Implementation Efforts for multiple species in the MRG.
- 2.** The Water Authority should encourage the State to recognize instream flows as a beneficial use.
- 3.** The Water Authority should consider the impacts on environmental and cultural resources when implementing new water resources projects and take appropriate steps to mitigate unavoidable effects.
- 4.** The Water Authority should work collaboratively and provide funding to protect and restore watersheds of the San Juan-Chama and Rio Grande.
- 5.** The Water Authority should work with the City, Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District and others to protect and enhance the Rio Grande State Park and the Bosque.
- 6.** The Water Authority should work with the City and County to provide incentives to increase beneficial tree canopy coverage within Bernalillo County and the MRG.



## **K. Preserve and Enhance the Quality of Life in the Region**

**POLICY K.** The Water Authority seeks a Water Resources Management Strategy that will preserve and enhance the quality of life within the region. The implementation of the Water Authority's water resources strategy will take advantage of opportunities to enhance the quality of life in the region whenever possible.

*RATIONALE: As the largest water utility in New Mexico, the Water Authority recognizes its obligation to protect and enhance the quality of life within the region. Factors influencing quality of life include continued socioeconomic growth and development, support of public amenities, healthy ecosystems and green spaces, and minimizing environmental impacts. The Water Authority will provide sustainable water services to meet indoor demands, optimize efficiency of outdoor demands by utilizing recycled, reused and non-potable supplies, and return quality water to the Rio Grande for downstream users in the region.*

### **SUB-POLICIES:**

- 1.** The Water Authority shall work with the City of Albuquerque, Albuquerque Public Schools, Bernalillo County and others to ensure that green spaces (parks, golf courses, athletic fields, etc.) are water efficient and provide incentives where appropriate.
- 2.** The Water Authority should continue to reduce its carbon footprint by taking advantage of opportunities to reduce the energy usage of current infrastructure and by building new infrastructure with energy efficiency in mind.
- 3.** The Water Authority shall expand its current green energy projects (solar and biogas) and implement additional green energy projects to reduce its water and energy footprints.

## **M. Encourage and Facilitate Public Involvement**

**POLICY M. The Water Authority shall continue its education programs for both children and adults to keep the public informed about the choices and tradeoffs involved in making water management decisions and invite public comment and participation in implementation of these policies.**

*RATIONALE: When the Water Authority partners with the public, the educated public can help shape the policies that are the foundation of the Water Resources Management Strategy. The public then contributes to the successful implementation of water resource management solutions, because they have been part of their design. Children who attend Water Authority field trips will know the value of water and be wise stewards of our resources for many years to come.*

### **SUB-POLICIES:**

- 1.** The Water Authority shall continue its water resource education programs and field trips to teach children the importance, value and appropriate use of water in the region.
- 2.** The Water Authority shall continue its interactive public meeting process to give customers information and get their input on upcoming programs, policies and projects.
- 3.** The Water Authority shall continue its adult education programs so that all customers can participate in a resilient and sustainable water supply.
- 4.** The Water Authority shall continue to partner with real estate, design, building and construction groups, building managers, etc. to educate their membership concerning water resources.
- 5.** The Water Authority shall continue its current marketing and public relations campaigns to keep everyone in the service area informed about effective water resource management.
- 6.** The Water Authority shall continue its process of involving the public in updates to the Water Resources Management Strategy in all future updates to the strategy.