



STEVE GLASS, CHAIR

DARRELL KUNDARGI, VICE CHAIR

JOSÉ CERRATO

BART FARIS

CAMILLA FEIBELMAN

ALEJANDRÍA LYONS

CAROLINE SCRUGGS

JOEL WOOLDRIDGE

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## May 13, 2022

Location: Video conference<sup>1</sup>

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

<sup>1</sup> Meeting was held via video conference in keeping with COVID-19 safety protocols.

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**Board Members Present:** Chair Steve Glass, Vice Chair Darrell Kundargi, Joel Wooldridge, Darrell Kundargi, Camilla Feibelman, Alejandría Lyons, José Cerrato (arrived at 9:09 AM)

**Board Members Absent (excused):** Caroline Scruggs, Bart Faris

**PIC Members Present:** Shelby Stimson (Water Authority), Kelsey Bicknell (Water Authority), Kali Bronson (Bernalillo County), Kathy Verhage (City of Albuquerque), Shellie Eaton (City of Albuquerque), Patrick Chavez (AMAFCA), Gary Sandoval (City of Albuquerque), Charles Barber (City of Albuquerque)

**Guests:** Brannon Lamar, Commissioner Charlene Pyskoty, Tricia Keffer, Chris Sanderson, Rosalie Flores, Colleen McRoberts

### I. Call to Order

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

### II. Approval of May 13, 2022 Agenda

Ms. Lyons moved to approve the May 13, 2022 meeting agenda. Mr. Wooldridge seconded the motion.

Unanimous vote to approve the May 13, 2022 meeting agenda:

Chair Steve Glass: Yes

Camilla Feibelman: Yes

José Cerrato: Absent

Alejandría Lyons: Yes

Bart Faris: Absent

Darrell Kundargi: Yes

Caroline Scruggs: Absent

Joel Wooldridge: Yes

### **III. Review and Approval of April 8, 2022 Meeting Minutes**

Mr. Wooldridge moved to approve the April 8, 2022 meeting minutes. Ms. Feibelman seconded the motion.

Unanimous vote to approve April 8, 2022 meeting minutes:

Chair Steve Glass: Yes

Camilla Feibelman: Yes

José Cerrato: Absent

Alejandría Lyons: Yes

Bart Faris: Absent

Darrell Kundargi: Yes

Caroline Scruggs: Absent

Joel Wooldridge: Yes

### **IV. Board Business**

#### **a. PIC Updates**

PIC Members from the City of Albuquerque, Bernalillo County, Albuquerque Metropolitan Arroyo Flood Control Authority (AMAFCA), and the Albuquerque

Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority (Water Authority) were invited to provide updates of their agencies' activities to the Board.

## V. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Subcommittee Report

Ms. Feibelman reported that the subcommittee will meet before the June WPAB meeting. She outlined the subcommittee's plan to notify affected or potentially interested communities ahead of future WPAB meetings, and to ask all presenters to address a standard list of DEI-related questions. She provided specific suggestions regarding notification of groups affected by the HP/Digital groundwater contamination site near Jefferson and I-25, which will be the topic of presentations at the June WPAB meeting.

## VI. Presentation: Bosque Assessment Update Program (BAUP)

*Colleen McRoberts, Open Space Superintendent, Open Space Division, City of Albuquerque, [cmcroberts@cabq.gov](mailto:cmcroberts@cabq.gov)*

The purpose of the BAUP is to update Bosque management goals and objectives that meet management, recreation, and restoration needs including protecting and enhancing the ecosystem, public use, and fire prevention. This is process is supported by extensive biological surveys following the methodology outlined in Hink and Ohmart 1984. A comprehensive geodatabase will be developed to evaluate current conditions and plan for desired future outcomes. The E-Team, which represents interested parties from management agencies in the Albuquerque Bosque, will help define 5 priority projects.

Ms. Feibelman asked if there would be an opportunity for public participation or comment the plan. Ms. McRoberts stated that once the update identifies five priority projects, each of those will include their own public engagement process.

Ms. Feibelman observed that many of the entry points to the bosque are not marked, and she suggested that improved "wayfinding" signage to indicate bosque access could support the public recreation aspect of the plan. Ms. McRoberts responded that the BAUP project will help identify the needs and priority sites for signage, but the implementation of signage will be a separate future effort which will likely include a public participation project.

Ms. Feibelman asked if a study had ever been done regarding the impact to wildlife and recreation by the widening of bosque trails under Mayor Barry's administration. Ms. McRoberts said she was not aware of such a study but

Commented [BKB1]: Add more detail to the methodology

promised to follow up to confirm. She also discussed the current efforts to monitor and support sustainable recreational use in the bosque.

Ms. Feibelman inquired about any plans to reduce channelization of the river, such as work to lower the banks to encourage inundation and over-banking. Ms. McRoberts replied that these conversations are in the early phases, and that any potential work to encourage inundation of the riverbanks will need to be done in compliance with the relevant federal agency partners.

Chair Glass asked if the data collected by the Bosque Ecosystem Monitoring Program (BEMP) has been used as field verification of the modeled data used in the update. ~~Mr. Sanderson also clarified that data was mapped in the field, not modeled.~~ Mr. Sanderson replied that BEMP has participated in the partner engagement process (called the E-Team), but they have not yet compared the ~~modeled surveyed~~ data to BEMP data sets. ~~Mr. Sanderson also clarified that data was mapped in the field, not modeled.~~

**Commented [BK2]:** Add more detail here describe the methodology

**Commented [BK3]:** Add more detail here describe the methodology

## VII. Presentation: Middle Rio Grande Stormwater Quality Team Overview and Activities

*Kathleen Verhage, Senior Engineer, Stormwater Management Section, City of Albuquerque, [kverhage@cabq.gov](mailto:kverhage@cabq.gov)  
Patrick Chavez, Storm Water Quality Engineer, AMAFCA, [pchavez@amafca.org](mailto:pchavez@amafca.org)*

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

Ms. Feibelman asked if there has been an effort to engage the veterinary community as outreach agents for the "Poop Fairy" campaign to encourage cleanup of pet waste. Ms. Verhage replied that the veterinary community has been involved in previous years but are not currently involved. Ms. Verhage stated that the City does currently work with the Humane Society to provide an information packet to first-time pet owners.

Commissioner Pyskoty thanked the Board for inviting her to this presentation.

Mr. Wooldridge commented on the unique regulatory situation of the state-owned Expo New Mexico Fairgrounds, and he asked if there has been any progress related to the regulation of stormwater quality at that site. Chair Glass responded that he is not aware of any renewed efforts on this matter.

## VIII. Other Board Business

As a follow-up to the DEI subcommittee discussion, Ms. Feibelman proposed a list of people and entities to invite to future WPAB meetings.

Chair Glass expressed concern to inviting City and County legislative leadership to all future WPAB meetings, cautioning frequent invitations to meetings would diminish the importance of WPAB recommendations.

#### **IX. Public Comment Period**

Ms. Rosalie Flores signed up to give public comment. Ms. Flores is an equity and ~~expungement-inclusion~~ consultant working with the New Mexico Acequia Association (NMAA) about water quality and water quantity issues related to the cannabis industry in New Mexico, and reported that she has a contract with the City of Albuquerque to create program recommendations for a Cannabis Social Equity Program. Pursuant to all this, Ms. Flores said the NMAA is proposing a partnership between the City, the Water Authority, the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED), the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District (MRGCD), Bernalillo County, and any relevant soil and water conservation districts, to coordinate water management efforts around the cannabis industry in New Mexico. Ms. Flores said such a partnership was important given that cannabis production is a water-intensive industry and there is currently no limit on the number of licenses that can be issued to growers.

Chair Glass stated that the Mid-Region Council of Governors (MRCOG) is seeking someone to give a presentation regarding water use of the cannabis industry at their annual Commissioners training on June 10, 2022. With Ms. Flores' permission, Chair Glass agreed to submit her name as a candidate present on this topic to MRCOG.

Ms. Feibelman expressed her interest in hearing more about this topic at a future WPAB meeting.

#### **VII. Adjourn**

Chair Glass adjourned the meeting at 11:13 am.