
Meeting Date: September 21, 2016
Staff Contact: Frank Roth, Senior Policy Manager

TITLE: C-16-24 - Appointment to the Technical Customer Advisory Committee

ACTION: Recommend Approval

SUMMARY:

The Technical Customer Advisory Committee (TCAC) was established in 2006 to assist in and facilitate public review and discussion of Water Authority policies, plans and programs. The TCAC was established to provide a professional/ technical group of volunteer individuals who represent the five core functional areas of operating a water and wastewater utility. This group is intended to provide outside expertise in best practices and private sector applications for continuous business improvement.

At the August 2016 meeting, the Chair announced that there was a vacancy on the committee and that an online application was created for customers who may be interested in serving on this technical committee. Board members were informed that if they know of anyone interested that they should apply on the Water Authority's website. In addition, a notice was placed on the Water Authority website's front page.

Qualified nominations were compiled and forwarded to the Chair who through this communication is forwarding the nomination to the Board for confirmation. Dr. Janie Chermak is recommended for confirmation. Dr. Chermak is highly qualified and certified in her field of work. Below is a summary of nominee's professional and academic background.

Janie Chermak

Janie Chermak is a professor in the Department of Economics and former chair of the department. She is an applied micro economist who specializes in natural resource economics research. She earned a MSc. and a PhD in Mineral Economics from the Colorado School of Mines and a BA in geology from Western State College. Prior to earning her graduate degrees she was a practicing geologist focusing on uranium exploration and natural gas exploration and development. Before joining the faculty at the University of New Mexico in 1995, she was a member of the faculty at the Naval Postgraduate School. Since joining UNM her research has focused on various aspects of resource economics ranging from consumer issues in water, to common pool problems in water and in invasive species, to efficient production of fossil fuels and the tradeoffs between energy/water futures. Her work is interdisciplinary in nature and often incorporates aspects of the physical sciences within a dynamic optimization framework. This results in work that advances the discipline, provides learning tools for students, and provides improved information for policymakers.

A total of three applicants were received through the online application. The other two applicants are listed below; however, neither one had technical experience in resource economics which is the category that is being vacated:

- Luis Aguirre, water treatment plant coordinator in Santa Fe
- Mona Varela, paralegal, legal research, retired from NMPRC

CURRENT MEMBERS:

Member	Category	Term Expiration
Ege Richardson	Water System Engineering	6/2017
Michael Hightower	Water Resource Planning	6/2017
Elaine Hebard	Customer Service	6/2017
Laura McCarthy	Non-profit Water Management Advocacy/Education	6/2017
Amy Ewing	Water Resource Planning	4/2018
Laurie Firor	Landscape Architecture	9/2016
Dave Hill	Financial/Business Management	3/2018
Scott Verhines	Water System Engineering	3/2018
Vacant	Resource Economics	

FISCAL IMPACT: None