



Jennifer Thacher, *Chair*  
Steve Glass, *Vice-Chair*  
Suzanne Busch  
John S. Derr  
Kerry J. Howe

Roland Penttila  
Russell D. Pederson  
Caroline Scruggs

**Water Protection Advisory Board**  
**c/o ABCWUA**  
P.O. Box 568  
Albuquerque, NM 87103

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Minutes: January 18, 2017  
Location: Bernalillo County Public Works Division, 2400 Broadway  
Time: 8:35 a.m. – 9:23 a.m.

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**Board Members Present:** Chair Jennifer Thacher, Vice Chair Steve Glass, Suzanne Busch, Russell Pederson, Roland Penttila, and Kerry Howe.

**Board Members Absent (excused):** Caroline Scruggs and John Derr

**PIC Members Present:** Mark Kelly, Kali Bronson, Lori Pettit, Jane DeRose-Bamman, Ken Ziegler, Bart Faris, and Dan McGregor.

**Guests:** Connor Kelly (CDM Smith) and Mo Hobbs (Water Authority)

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#### **I. Call to Order**

Chair Dr. Jennifer Thacher called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m.

#### **II. Approval of Agenda**

Chair Dr. Jennifer Thacher requested a motion to approve the agenda.

Motion was made by member Ms. Suzanne Busch seconded by member Mr. Steve Glass. Motion to approve the agenda carried unanimously.

#### **III. Approval of Minutes**

Chair Dr. Jennifer Thacher requested a motion to approve the draft November meeting minutes.

Motion was made by Ms. Busch and seconded by member Mr. Roland Penttila. Motion to approve the draft November minutes carried unanimously, with Mr. Glass abstaining.

#### **IV. Election of 2017 Officers**

Board member Dr. Kerry Howe nominated current Chair Dr. Jennifer Thacher and Vice Chair Steve Glass to continue as Chair and Vice Chair.

Chair Dr. Jennifer Thacher and Vice Chair Steve Glass accepted the nominations.

Dr. Howe requested motion to approve. Motion to approve nomination of Chair and Vice Chair as nominated carried unanimously.

## **V. Approval of the 2017 Open Meeting Resolution**

Chair Dr. Jennifer Thacher requested a motion to approve the draft Open Meetings Resolution for 2017. Member Penttila opined to the board that the Open Meetings Act does not necessarily apply to the WPAB, but it is a good policy to adopt.

Member Dr. Howe made a motion to approve the 2017 WPAB Open Meetings Resolution, seconded by member Mr. Steve Glass. Motion to approve the Open Meeting Resolutions carried unanimously.

## **VI. Discussion of the Draft 2016 Annual Report**

- Discussion regarding the Top Areas of Focus for Water Quality Protection
- Members reviewed and discussed the upcoming criteria for 2017. Below is a summary of points discussed.
  1. Presentation of Oil and Gas Activities during 2016 – Members noted that this presentation should include the potential sources of contamination, such as oil and gas operations, occurring in the Middle Rio Grande Basin (MRGB).
  2. Personal Care Products (PCPs) and Pharmaceuticals – Chair Dr. Jennifer Thacher asked where potential impacts would fall in the summary. Board discussed that it can be broadly interpreted. Mr. Mark Kelly, Compliance Division Manager for the Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority (Water Authority), said one of his staff could provide a synopsis this year of a 2012 study on the sampling performed on the influent and effluent of the Water Authority's drinking water and wastewater system, respectively, to determine the presence of PCPs and pharmaceuticals in these flows. Mr. Kelly also offered to the board a presentation regarding the Water Authority's recent sampling for Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule 3 (UCMR3) analytes during 2017.

The Board requested a synopsis of the Water Authority's past PCP, Pharmaceutical and UCMR3 studies be provided during the year.

3. Kirtland Air Force Base – Board discussed the increase in efforts to decontaminate the nitrate plume, in addition to the Bulk Fuels Facility fuel spill plume. With the help of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), a nitrate and water quality study along the Tijeras Arroyo, which crosses KAFB, will commence in April, but data may not be available for presentation until possibly November.

4. Pharmaceuticals – Board discussed the inclusion of some pharmaceuticals and personal care products on Toxic Pollutant List for the state’s groundwater. Mr. Bart Fairs of the City of Albuquerque Environmental Health Department noted to the board that KAFB was now testing for pharmaceuticals.
5. Wildfire Debris Flows and Watershed Health – Board members discussed a previous year’s presentations regarding the Rio Grande Water Fund and the USGS baseline water quality study for the Rio Grande, funded by the Water Authority. Overall consensus by board is to include fire as a topic on watershed list.

## **VII. Presentation Schedule and Other Board Business**

- Discussion of items to include as a presentation for upcoming annual meetings

Members discussed the presentations they wanted to include: A presentation on pharmaceuticals and personal care products, nitrate plumes, fire, and groundwater contamination (which could include nitrate plumes).

Members discussed the upcoming schedule of presentations:

1. Rio Grande water quality project update by the Nature Conservancy – Members were in consensus that if the Nature Conservancy has new material to discuss for the Rio Grande Water Fund, then a request for a presentation in June would be made.
  2. Fire Scarred Land Modeling – Members discussed requesting a presentation on the USGS’s fire-scarred land modeling in June, coordinating the presentation with another USGS presentation on baseline surface water quality monitoring results for the Rio Grande.
  3. Summer Break – Members came to a unanimous agreement to *not* hold a meeting in August.
  4. Underground Storage Tank update – Overall consensus to have this in October.
  5. Oil and Gas Production – Members came to a unanimous decision to hold this in October along with the underground storage tank presentation to maintain a summer break in August.
- Discussion of upcoming water-related legislation

Members discussed concerns that funding would be cut in upcoming legislation if considered a non-essential environmental issue.

Mr. Rick Shean of the Water Authority stated that he would summarize a list of upcoming legislation and send it out so members could know where and how to support it.

Board member Suzanne Busch questioned permissibility to go to the state Legislature and advocate on positions recommended by the WPAB. Members consented that members could go as individuals, but not as a representative of the WPAB.

**VIII.** Other Board Business – None

**IX.** Public Comment – None

**X.** Adjournment

A motion was made by Chair Thacher and seconded by Ms. Busch for adjournment. The motion carried unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 9:30 a.m.