



Jennifer Thacher, *Chair*
Steve Glass, *Vice-Chair*
Suzanne Busch
Matthew Earthman
Kerry J. Howe

Julia Maccini
Roland Penttila
Russell D. Pederson
Caroline Scruggs

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

Minutes: January 12, 2018
Location: Bernalillo County Public Works Division, 2400 Broadway Blvd SE
Time: 8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Board Members Present: Chair Jennifer Thacher, Vice Chair Steve Glass, Suzanne Busch, Matt Earthman, Kerry Howe, Julia Maccini, Russell Pederson, and Caroline Scruggs.

Board Members Absent (excused): Roland Penttila

PIC Members Present: Diane Agnew (new), Liz Anderson, Kali Bronson, Patrick Chavez, Jake Daugherty, Bart Faris, Mark Kelly, Dan McGregor, Kate Mendoza, Kathleen Verhage, and Ken Ziegler

Guests: Mike Neas (public)

I. Call to Order

Chair Dr. Jennifer Thacher called the meeting to order at 8:34 a.m.

II. Approval of Agenda

Chair Thacher suggested that the board do the 2018 officer elections at the end of the meeting to wait for Vice Chair Steve Glass, who arrived a few minutes late, and board member Mr. Roland Penttila, who was absent from the meeting. Board member Ms. Suzanne Busch motioned to change the agenda so the 2018 officer elections were at the end of the meeting. Board member Mr. Russell Pederson seconded the motion and the motion was approved unanimously.

III. Approval of Minutes

Chair Thacher requested a motion to approve the draft November 2017 meeting minutes. Board member Ms. Busch motioned to approve the draft November 2017 meeting minutes and Chair Thacher seconded the motion. Motion to approve the draft November 2017 meeting minutes carried unanimously, with board member Dr. Caroline Scruggs abstaining.

IV. Approval of the 2018 Open Meeting Resolution

Chair Thacher asked board members for comments or questions about the Open Meetings rule. Board member Ms. Julia Maccini noted a typo on page 2, line 2 and requested that “there from” be revised to be a single word. There were no additional comments regarding

the resolution. Board member Dr. Kerry Howe motioned to approve the 2018 Open Meeting Resolution with the suggested edit and board member Ms. Maccini seconded the motion. Motion to approve the 2018 Open Meeting Resolution carried unanimously.

V. Board Discussion on Policies from the Water Quality Protection Policy and Action Plan

Ms. Kate Mendoza, Policy Implementation Committee (PIC) member and Water Resources Specialist from the Water Authority, told board members about the PIC's proposed changes to the policies from the Water Quality Protection Policy and Action Plan (WQPPAP) and submitted a draft for review. In the draft, policies previously divided between surface and groundwater categories are now combined into one set of source water protection policies. Chair Thacher asked members for their comments on the draft source water protection policies. Members noticed the sub-policy addressing aquifer storage and recovery protection areas and conjunctive management had been deleted and asked for it to be added back into the sub-policies. Members also requested that language be added to show the success of the policies thus far and also to capture the different entities' contributions. Members further reviewed the policies and made some specific suggestions. Chair Thacher asked about the approval process for the policies and WQPPAP update. Ms. Mendoza explained to members that board will vote to approve the final WQPPAP. Chair Thacher also made a general comment to reviewing the bullets in each policy and revising them to make each bullet an action instead of a passive statement. Board members and PIC members in attendance discussed Policy K and the potential to use the policy to highlight successes in implementation. It was suggested that Policy K actions could complement what is being done under the municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) permit stormwater program with PIC and WPAB making recommendations for recognition. Mr. Bart Faris, PIC member, requested that WPAB members look at the policies as ways to guide the PIC and to make recommendations on what to prioritize.

Ms. Mendoza requested that additional comments on the draft policies should be emailed to herself or Ms. Diane Agnew, new PIC member and the new Water Quality Hydrologist at the Water Authority, by January 26, 2018 in order to bring the final, revised policies for vote at the February 9, 2018 WPAB meeting.

VI. Board Discussion on the 2018 Work Plan, 2018 Presentation Schedule, and 2017 Annual Report

Ms. Agnew introduced herself to the board and members welcomed her to her new position with the Water Authority. Ms. Agnew told the board about the items on the 2018 work plan draft, highlighted new items added for 2018, and asked board members for comments on the work plan. General comments from members suggested that the work plan be revised to have a statement followed by specific actions to address the statement. The board also discussed how to promote interagency work to address water-related issues in the basin and requested items to advocate for interagency cooperation be added to the work plan. Ms. Agnew told the board she would revise the work plan according to the suggestions provided and would email the revised work plan to board members.

Ms. Agnew also presented the board with a draft 2018 presentation schedule. PIC members shared their concerns with presentation dates and suggested changes based on

the availability of new information to update the board. Ms. Agnew informed the board that the presentation schedule would be updated and emailed to board members.

Board members were also presented with a table highlighting the areas of focus for the 2017 WPAB annual report. Board members agreed upon the topics of focus presented and suggested adding a topic addressing collaboration of intergovernmental agencies and isolating the oil and gas priority because it is a topic of interest to the board. Members also suggested adding an area of focus on “future risk” to include identification of emerging issues and risk for the board to consider and receive updates on. Ms. Agnew informed the board she would like to present a draft of the 2017 WPAB annual report at the February meeting for board approval.

VII. 2018 Officer Elections

Chair Thacher asked board members if there were any nominations for 2018 officers. Vice Chair Glass nominated member Dr. Howe as Chair and member Mr. Pederson as Vice Chair. Both Dr. Howe and Mr. Pederson accepted the nominations as Chair and Vice-Chair, respectively. Ms. Busch motioned to approve the nominations and Dr. Scruggs seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

VIII. Other Board Business

Ms. Agnew presented the board with a table identifying key legislation relating to water protection to be presented during the 2018 New Mexico legislative session. Ms. Agnew informed the board that she will be tracking events during the legislative session and will be prepared to update the board at the February meeting.

Mr. Faris informed the board that the Kirtland Air Force Base Bulk Fuels Facility Spill Technical Working Group met on Jan. 10th to discuss the impacts of the rising aquifer on the fuel spill. Ms. Agnew said the meeting was a result of a Notice of Deficiency in the project which forced the Air Force to reevaluate their plume capture analysis as the water table continues to rise and a majority (85%) of the groundwater monitoring well screens have been submerged. Mr. Faris added that the next public meeting regarding the spill will be at the African American Performing Arts Center on March 22nd at 5:00 p.m. Mr. Faris also updated members on the retirement of former Albuquerque Environmental Health Director, Mary Lou Leonard, and informed them that Mr. Danny Navarez is currently the Acting Director.

PIC member Ms. Kathy Verhage informed the board that there will be a stormwater education and outreach booth at the upcoming KOB 4 Health and Wellness Fair which will be at the Lujan Exhibit Hall at EXPO New Mexico on Saturday Jan. 27th from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Sunday Jan. 28th from 12:00 – 4:00 p.m. The booth will have representatives from the City, County, and Albuquerque Metropolitan Arroyo Flood Control Authority (AMAFCA).

IX. Public Comment

Mr. Mike Neas, member of the public and general contractor of Placitas, NM, spoke to board members about protecting water and watersheds in the middle Rio Grande. Mr. Neas asked board members to consider their position and asked members to advocate for the

protection of watersheds in northern New Mexico and Colorado, which he described as overgrown and unhealthy due to years of fire suppression. Mr. Neas informed the board about an upcoming oil and gas lease sale in the Chaco Canyon area, where 25 parcels are being leased (including seven located on the Rio Gallina, a tributary of the Rio Chama and ultimately the Rio Grande). Mr. Neas discussed the Sandoval County oil and gas ordinance and encouraged a collaborative approach to writing ordinances addressing the industry to ensure appropriate protections for drinking water. Mr. Neas highlighted a report written by Don Phillips, citizen advocate and geologist, that was also endorsed by other geologists that explains the Albuquerque basin geology and potential threats to drinking water the oil and gas industry may bring with continued horizontal fracking operations. Mr. Neas concluded by informing the board that he would be happy to meet with anyone on these issues and board members thanked Mr. Neas for his comments.

X. Adjourn

Chair Thacher requested a motion to adjourn. Vice Chair Glass motioned to adjourn the meeting and Dr. Scruggs seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 9:58 a.m.