



Kerry Howe, *Chair*
Steve Glass, *Vice-Chair*
Suzanne Busch
Camilla Feibelman
Julia Maccini

Roland Penttila
John Pietz
Roberto Roibal
Caroline Scruggs

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

Minutes: March 8, 2019
Location: Bernalillo County Public Works Division, 2400 Broadway SE, Bldg. N Conf. Room
Time: 8:30 to 10:30 a.m.

Board Members Present: Dr. Kerry Howe, Steve Glass, Julia Maccini, John Pietz, Roberto Roibal, Dr. Caroline Scruggs, Suzanne Busch, and Camilla Feibelman

Board Members Absent (excused): Roland Penttila

PIC Members Present: Ken Ziegler, Diane Agnew, Liz Anderson, Kate Mendoza, Kali Bronson, Dan McGregor, and Kathleen Verhage.

Guests: Sean O'Neil (Bosque Ecosystem Monitoring Program), Stacy Timmons (New Mexico Bureau of Geology and Mineral Resources)

I. Call to Order

Chair Dr. Kerry Howe called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m.

II. Approval of Agenda

Chair Howe requested a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Roberto Roibal moved to approve the agenda and Vice-chair Mr. Steve Glass seconded the motion. Motion to approve the agenda carried unanimously.

III. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Chair Howe asked board members if there were any comments on the February meeting minutes and board members had no additional edits. Vice-chair Glass moved to approve the February meeting minutes and Ms. Julia Maccini seconded the motion. Dr. Caroline Scruggs abstained from the vote for approval of the minutes. Motion to approve the February meeting minutes carried unanimously.

IV. Board Business

a. Approval of WPAB Procedure for Board Correspondence and Documents

Chair Howe presented the draft procedure from the February meeting and reiterated that its purpose is to provide guidelines for the drafting and review of board documents in accordance with the Open Meetings Act (OMA). After some discussion, in which it was confirmed that WPAB formation ordinances require adherence to OMA, Vice Chair Glass moved to approve the draft without edits. Ms. Maccini seconded the motion, and the motion to pass and finalize the WPAB procedure for board correspondence and documents carried unanimously.

b. PIC Agency Updates

Mr. Ken Ziegler, PIC member, told board members that the City of Albuquerque (City) Environmental Health Department has a new director, Ms. Sandra Begay, who comes from Sandia National Laboratories and started her new position with the City in February. Mr. Ziegler added that Ms. Jolene Slowen was named deputy director of air quality in the Environmental Health Department and will be starting her new position soon.

Mr. Ziegler told board members that the City submitted a voluntary remediation plan for the Railyards site downtown and the plan was recently approved by the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED). He said the City will be distributing public notices about the upcoming clean-up efforts very soon. Mr. Ziegler added that there will be a public notice period prior to clean-up.

Mr. Ziegler also updated board members on the City's Los Angeles Landfill remediation efforts. He reported that there is one groundwater monitoring well with a concentration of 5 micrograms per liter ($\mu\text{g/L}$) of perchloroethylene (PCE). He added that the City voluntarily sampled for 1-4 dioxane at Los Angeles Landfill and had one well in the interior with a detection for 1-4 dioxane. Mr. Ziegler said the site has a voluntary abatement plan wherein the City is required to bring groundwater quality there up to drinking water standards. He added that by 2020, groundwater and drinking water quality standards will be identical according to the rules passed by the Water Quality Control Commission in 2018. Chair Howe asked if the 5 $\mu\text{g/L}$ PCE detection was at an interior well and Mr. Ziegler said that it came from an old groundwater extraction well near the PNM Reeves Generating Station. Mr. Ziegler added that the City installed a new monitoring well (LALF-24) and had a detection of 2.3 $\mu\text{g/L}$ of trichloroethene (TCE). He added that the plume does not seem to be moving and said the City will be implementing monitored natural attenuation at the site.

Ms. Liz Anderson, PIC member, shared that the Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority (Water Authority) has a draft National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit for the utility's wastewater treatment plant and said the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has extended the comment period to March 12th. Ms. Anderson also shared that the Water Authority is sampling drinking water for the unregulated contaminants monitoring rule 4 (UCMR4) and will be sampling for cyanotoxins, metals, and pesticides. Ms. Anderson told board members the new Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) will be coming out soon for delivery to customers. She added that the Water Authority has been working to improve the CCR and have addressed many comments and suggestions made at the fall Customer Conversation meetings to increase readership and understanding of the CCR.

Ms. Diane Agnew, PIC member, told board members that the Water Authority has met a conservation goal of 125 gallons per capita per day (GPCD). She said the Water Authority is seeing customers taking advantage of outdoor rebates and that participation in indoor rebates for water conservation is waning. Ms. Agnew told board members the Water Authority has also hired a new irrigation specialist who can help customers with irrigation system efficiencies. Mr. Roibal and Chair Howe shared that they took advantage of the low-flow toilet rebate and Dr. Scruggs shared that she took part in the “Tree-bates” and xeriscape rebates and have not needed to pay their water bills for two years. Ms. Agnew added that customers are excited about the rebates. Mr. John Pietz asked if the Water Authority’s 125 GPCD included industrial uses and Ms. Agnew replied that the 125 GPCD includes both residential and industrial uses. Mr. Roibal asked if 125 GPCD included domestic well use and Ms. Agnew said domestic wells are not included in the GPCD calculation. Ms. Agnew told board members that more information about conservation, rebates and desert landscaping can be found on the Water Authority’s 505Outside website and at abcwua.org. There was additional conversation among board members about landscape watering schedules, watering “by the numbers” (a Water Authority conservation campaign), and intelligent irrigation systems to improve watering efficiency.

Ms. Kali Bronson, PIC member, told board members that Bernalillo County (County) is working on developing a watershed-based plan to address water quality in Tijeras Arroyo with other cooperating agencies. She said that the Ciudad Soil and Water Conservation District issued a request for proposals and are in the process of selecting a contractor to develop the watershed-based plan.

Ms. Bronson told board members that the City is working on a project to track sources of *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*) in the Rio Grande. She explained that the source-tracking project looks at DNA sources for *E. coli*. Ms. Bronson said the stormwater quality partners working on the study have had conversations with the Water Authority to work together on that study. Dr. Scruggs asked if the DNA tracking included mammals and Ms. Bronson said that it tracks all sources of *E. coli*, including human. Ms. Kathy Verhage, PIC member, said the City has preliminary results and are willing to share them. Dr. Scruggs said she has a graduate student studying the effectiveness of the “poop fairy” campaign on behavior in Albuquerque. Dr. Scruggs said there are preliminary results she can share from the study. She added that her student received first place for his presentation at a conference in Washington D.C. Dr. Scruggs said that study targeted dog-owners and their response to the “poop fairy” campaign, but also included an alternate survey for non-dog owners who were passionate about the topic.

Ms. Bronson told board members about the Land and Water Summit in Albuquerque in February and said it was well-attended. She said arid low-impact development and green infrastructure were focuses at the conference and tours to see such infrastructure around Albuquerque were provided during the conference. Ms. Bronson shared that she saw a presentation at the conference by Kate Ziglar, who has been monitoring groundwater around the state. Ms. Ziglar reported some success in convincing farmers using the Ogallala aquifer to make voluntary changes to agricultural practices aimed at preserving groundwater supplies.

Ms. Bronson also told board members that the Arid Low-Impact Development (LID) Coalition is planning a training for installing arid LID structures. She said the training is planned for late September 2019 and will be free, but space will be limited. Ms. Bronson said she hopes the training will inform more people who could utilize arid LID structures and she would like to include more policy-makers in the training to help increase utilization.

Mr. Dan McGregor, PIC member, shared that Bernalillo County (County) is working to bring all liquid waste disposal systems (septic systems) into compliance with the County septic system ordinance. He said there are 40 homeowners that will be receiving a notice of non-compliance. Mr. McGregor added that the 40 homeowners have already received three certified letters each about their non-compliant septic systems.

Mr. McGregor told board members about the Ojito de San Antonio Open Space in Cedar Crest and that there are two springs that have historically fed an acequia in the area. He said the springs have been dry and the County will be pump-testing a well to see if the County can provide water to the acequia while the springs are dry. Mr. McGregor also shared that the County is working on a few meter-resizing projects for County buildings. He said the commercial meters are based on the size of the facility and many facilities have gone through retrofits prompting the need to reanalyze the meters for appropriate sizes.

Ms. Kathy Verhage, PIC member, thanked board members for the letter the board sent to the City of Albuquerque about the stormwater quality funding for the General Obligation bonds. She said the City did not increase funding but did designate \$2.5 million for stormwater and infrastructure that does not include stormwater quality. Ms. Verhage added that the City is still working on the budget and the Mayor did increase the funding amounts for NPDES permit implementation, but the department did not get the full proposed amount.

c. 2019 State Legislative Update

Ms. Agnew provided board members with a tracking sheet she developed to track bills related to water and the environment for the 2019 State legislative session. Ms. Agnew highlighted a few of the bills under consideration at the time, including House Bill (HB) 28, which promotes development of a sustainability and resilience council for the Energy Minerals and Natural Resources Department, and was passed by the House of Representatives (House) before going to the Senate Conservation Committee. Ms. Agnew told board members that many bills had been introduced and some had been scheduled for committee hearings, but there were many bills that had not yet been heard at committee meetings or have been tabled. Ms. Agnew said she listened to the committee hearing for Senate Bill (SB) 186 and said committee members were called to the floor for a vote, cutting the hearing short, resulting in the bill being tabled. Other oil and gas bills Ms. Agnew mentioned included SB 553 and SB 459. Ms. Agnew then discussed SB 586, which defines ownership of pore space as the space between soil particles as owned by the property owner. She added that the definition refers to only the pore space and property owners would not own the mineral rights or the water rights unless they held those rights separately. Dr. Scruggs asked if one could profit from leasing the pore space and Mr. McGregor said he believes the key to the bill is

reinjection of resources into the ground post-extraction and added he suspected the bill would not be high on the priority list for the remainder of the legislative session. Ms. Agnew shared that there was a Senate Memorial (SM 72) introduced for the clean-up of groundwater contamination at Canon Air Force Base. Dr. Scruggs mentioned HB 651, which creates a water data council and would serve to identify and integrate key water data into easily accessible databases. Ms. Stacy Timmons, guest from the New Mexico Bureau of Geology and Mineral Resources, shared that HB 651 had passed in the House but was scheduled for additional committee hearings before the end of the legislative session. Ms. Agnew added that the Rivers and Aquifers Protection Plan included a recommendation for improving water databases in New Mexico and this bill would address that recommendation.

V. Presentation: Bosque Ecosystem Monitoring Program (BEMP) Overview

Sean O'Neill, biologist for the Bosque Ecosystem Monitoring Program (BEMP), provided board members with an overview of BEMP. Mr. O'Neill said BEMP has been a collaboration between the University of New Mexico (UNM) and the Bosque School since 1996 and BEMP has been monitoring 33 long-term ecological monitoring sites spanning 270 miles of the bosque to provide long-term data collection to see how the bosque changes over time. Mr. O'Neill highlighted that BEMP has engaged with over 94,000 students over 20 years. He also shared that BEMP did some education on stormwater in 2017 which included field trips, students' role in the watershed, and water quality measurements in the lab and field to see how waters compare.

Mr. O'Neill told board members about the BEMP datasets and the monthly monitoring BEMP does with students. He explained that monitoring sites are assigned to schools and monitoring occurs with school students and UNM students once a month. Mr. O'Neill said parameters collected included groundwater depth, litterfall, precipitation, surface water levels, water quality, and other observations.

Mr. O'Neill then told board members about BEMP's water quality monitoring. He said BEMP does a lot of water quality monitoring in partnership with at-risk students from the La Academia de Esperanza High School and students participate in monitoring events and complete projects and presentations using the results. Mr. O'Neill said BEMP has been doing water quality measurements for 13 years and monitoring stormwater quality with the Middle Rio Grande Stormwater Quality Team for the last two years.

Mr. O'Neill showed the board a map of the five water quality sampling locations BEMP uses to assist the Middle Rio Grande Stormwater Quality Team that span from north of Albuquerque to the State Land Office at the southern end of Albuquerque. He showed board members a graph of 2017 *E. coli* concentrations at the five sampling locations and pointed out that *E. coli* concentrations increase from north to south and higher concentrations in the warmer, summer months than in the cooler, winter months. Mr. O'Neill said BEMP measured four exceedances of the Environmental Protection Agency limits for *E. coli* concentrations in 2017.

Mr. O'Neill then showed the board graphs of specific conductance, *E. coli* concentrations, and dissolved oxygen during 2017 for comparisons. He said BEMP observed an increase in *E. coli* concentrations, specific conductance and pH, but decreases in dissolved oxygen at the southern sites compared to the northernmost sites. Mr. O'Neill pointed out that dissolved oxygen decreases and *E. coli* concentrations increase during the summer months. Ms. Camilla Feibelman asked why that happens and Mr. O'Neill clarified that it is because the water temperatures increase and provide the *E. coli* bacteria more opportunity to proliferate.

Mr. O'Neill showed board members the data for 2018 monthly water quality sampling at the five BEMP locations. He said BEMP observed an increase in *E. coli* concentrations at the southern sites compared to the northern sampling locations and observed spikes in *E. coli* concentrations in July and October 2018. Ms. Bronson asked if the July and October samples were dry-weather samples and Mr. O'Neill replied that the samples were part of the regular monthly sampling, although there were recent storm events around those samples that he would discuss more later. He then showed a graph of the monthly averages for dissolved oxygen and *E. coli* concentrations.

Mr. O'Neill told board members about the stormwater quality monitoring for 2018 and showed a picture of the North Diversion Channel outfall into the Rio Grande where samples are taken for storm events. He pointed out there are upstream, in-channel, and downstream sampling locations at the North Diversion Channel outfall. Mr. O'Neill said BEMP sampled during storms in July, August, and October and observed the highest concentrations of *E. coli* during the August sampling event. He showed the board a graph of *E. coli* concentrations and river discharge and distinguished between regular monthly sampling events and storm event sampling. Mr. O'Neill said there must be 0.25 inches of rain measured at the North Diversion Channel gauge for the sampling event to qualify as a storm event for monitoring. Chair Howe asked about the gauge location BEMP uses for representative river discharge and Mr. O'Neill replied that BEMP uses the stream gauge at Central Bridge in Albuquerque because BEMP believes it best represents Rio Grande flow for Albuquerque. Mr. O'Neill added that the Alameda river gauge may have a "lake effect" occurring and is not as useful for representative discharge measurements in Albuquerque.

Mr. O'Neill showed board members a graph of *E. coli* concentrations from the monthly sampling events and the storm monitoring events for comparison. He pointed out that during the monthly October sampling event there was a storm event the previous day that may have impacted the results. Mr. O'Neill added that the North Diversion Channel was still actively discharging into the river when the BEMP team showed up for monthly sampling at the nearby BEMP site. He said BEMP observed *E. coli* at the northernmost sampling location, Coronado, in October.

Mr. O'Neill discussed the additional *E. coli* sampling BEMP did in December 2018 at the Southside Water Reclamation Plant (SWRP) outfall to the river and downstream to the BEMP site near the State Land Office. He said the BEMP team sampled for *E. coli* at the SWRP lagoon, downstream of the lagoon about 265 meters, and at the State Land Office BEMP site. Mr. O'Neill added that BEMP was working with a graduate student from UNM last year who was studying nutrient concentrations in groundwater wells in the same area and are waiting to see the results of the study. Chair Howe asked about the sample from

the SWRP outfall area and Mr. O'Neill said the outfall channel for SWRP is what BEMP refers to as the "SWRP lagoon" and the mixing zone where the outfall channel meets the river is where BEMP samples for the downstream of "SWRP lagoon." Ms. Anderson shared her concern about BEMP calling the SWRP outfall a lagoon area because there are implications for treatment technologies and regulatory implications that come with using the word lagoon. Others shared that the sampling location should be renamed to avoid using inappropriate terms.

Mr. O'Neill told board members BEMP collected samples to monitor for pharmaceutical and personal care products (PPCP) at the Alameda bridge, North Diversion Channel and the Rio Grande downstream, SWRP outfall and the Rio Grande downstream, and instream at SWRP outfall. He showed board members word clouds that represented the results of the PPCP monitoring for each sample location, pointed out some of the common compounds observed and hypothesized some of the potential sources of those compounds. Ms. Anderson shared that the Water Authority is also monitoring for PPCP as part of a several year study. She said the sampling is very restrictive to prevent sample contamination and data collectors cannot have any PPCP on their body, are required to wear facemasks during sampling, and must follow a strict procedure. Mr. O'Neill said that himself and the BEMP science coordinator do the sampling for the PPCP study. Ms. Anderson also shared her concern about the sampling location at the SWRP outfall and the river confluence because some compounds could be coming from SWRP, but some may not be. Mr. O'Neill responded that BEMP sampled inside the SWRP outfall stream and downstream of the SWRP outfall in the Rio Grande. He added that BEMP would like to isolate the variables with more collection locations. Chair Howe asked about blank samples and Mr. O'Neill said BEMP is doing field blanks with deionized water. Ms. Busch asked about the scale of the words in the word clouds and Mr. O'Neill replied that the word cloud is generated through a program called R and the scale of the words is the same across sites so they are more easily compared. Mr. John Pietz asked for more detail about the word cloud generation and guest Dr. Ara Winter from BEMP explained the word cloud process in R to produce comparable results on the same scale. Ms. Anderson asked if BEMP would be publishing the PPCP study and Mr. O'Neill replied that it is BEMP's intention to publish their results. Ms. Anderson added that the Water Authority will also be publishing the results of their PPCP study and expect to complete the Water Authority study later this year.

Mr. O'Neill concluded his presentation by acknowledging all of the funding partners and collaborators to BEMP. Mr. Pietz asked about the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) limits presented on some of the *E. coli* graphs in the presentation and Mr. O'Neill clarified that the EPA limit refers to waters with a designated recreational use and the *E. coli* limit is for primary contact. Mr. Pietz also asked about the PPCP monitoring and said he would like to see the results of influent and effluent monitoring for PPCP. Ms. Anderson said that is precisely what the Water Authority's study is investigating and the results will be presented to the board later this year. Ms. Anderson said the Water Authority is concerned about some of the conclusions the BEMP reports make about the Water Authority's SWRP. She said the Water Authority's NPDES wastewater permit has an enumeration of 88 *E. coli* bacteria per 100 milliliters as the violation limit; the Water Authority had one *E. coli* violation in 2017 and one in 2018. Ms. Anderson said the Water Authority samples for *E. coli* daily at SWRP and shared her concerns that the conclusions in the BEMP reports do not have cited sources for support. Ms. Anderson said the Water Authority works very hard to avoid

negative public perception about wastewater treatment and does not want to see that eroded. Mr. O'Neill responded that BEMP observed almost no *E. coli* in the SWRP outfall sampling location during 2018 but saw increasing *E. coli* concentrations downstream of that point. He added that BEMP is continuing to learn about the potential sources of *E. coli* and are proposing changes to the monitoring to better track the sources of *E. coli*. Ms. Bronson added that there are elevated samples of *E. coli* from the monitoring and the Middle Rio Grande Stormwater Quality Team is working with BEMP to broaden the sampling scope. Dr. Winter said the BEMP samples for *E. coli* are single-point grab samples and BEMP is investigating how to improve that protocol. Ms. Agnew suggested the USGS stream sampling protocol for transect-sampling to help address issues with single-point samples. Dr. Winter added that funding is an issue, but BEMP is looking for additional collaborators and funding for the project. There was some discussion about *E. coli* concentrations in other areas at the south end of town and Ms. Bronson said the east side river drain shows similar *E. coli* concentrations to the Rio Grande, but the west side river drain consistently has lower *E. coli* concentrations than the Rio Grande.

VI. Presentation: New Mexico Aquifer Mapping Program Overview

Ms. Stacy Timmons, hydrogeologist from the New Mexico Bureau of Geology and Mineral Resources (NMBGMR), provided an overview of the bureau's history, functions and divisions before going into detail regarding the bureau's hydrogeology program, also known as the aquifer mapping program. She said the hydrogeology program aims to answer questions about groundwater across the state including quantities and qualities of groundwater. However, Ms. Timmons said answers about the state's aquifers don't come easily because of the complexity of geology and subsurface geology in New Mexico. Ms. Timmons said the work the NMBGMR plays a big part in decision-making in the state and the NMBGMR aims to provide unbiased science to policy-makers for better informed decisions. She then showed the board a graph of the funding the hydrogeology program receives in gifts, grants and contracts and the funding the aquifer mapping program receives from the state. Ms. Timmons told board members that there are a lot of projects around the state to characterize New Mexico's aquifers and discussed some of the efforts in more detail. She showed the board the interactive map the NMBGMR produces as part of a collaboration with the New Mexico Environment Department to show the state's geologic resources including mining, water quality, and energy resources.

Ms. Timmons told board members about some of the regional and statewide projects the hydrogeology program is working on. She added that all projects have some source of external funding and usually include municipalities, legislative funds, funding from state agencies, or funding from private donations. Ms. Timmons first discussed the aquifer lifetime map the NMBGMR is producing for the Curry and Portales groundwater basins. She said the NMBGMR uses the Tillery (2008) United State Geological Survey (USGS) report to define the bottom of the aquifers and then uses groundwater monitoring data to predict an estimated usable lifetime for the High Plains Aquifer. Ms. Timmons pointed to a figure showing the predicted times to aquifer drying and highlighted critical areas. She said if some areas do not change their current groundwater use practices, those areas could be dry in the next five years. Ms. Timmons added that the Curry and Portales basins are also dealing with groundwater contamination issues from the nearby Air Force base that released perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAs) into the groundwater. Ms.

Timmons said the Curry and Portales basins have waters estimated to be tens of thousands of years old, indicating no new recharge to sustain groundwater pumping.

Ms. Timmons talked about the San Agustin Plains groundwater availability study where the NMBGMR determined that a large amount of groundwater pumping from the area would be devastating to local communities. She said the NMBGMR found that there are many interconnected sub-basins in the area and groundwater pumping from one sub-basin will deplete entire the San Agustin Plains area. Ms. Timmons also briefly talked about the Animas River Aquifer long-term monitoring project wherein the NMBGMR has been monitoring groundwater quality to determine if there are long-term impacts from the Gold King Mine spill of 2015.

Ms. Timmons told board members about the NMBGMR's groundwater level and aquifer storage mapping project. She said the NMBGMR receives funding from the Water Resources Research Institute (WRRI) and the results of the project will be included in the statewide water assessment the WRRI is developing. Ms. Timmons said that in almost all cases, groundwater is declining in most of the state's aquifers. She said NMBGMR has a limited dataset and will be collecting additional groundwater level measurements to complete the study. Ms. Timmons highlighted the success story of Albuquerque's aquifer and said the shift to using surface water instead of solely groundwater has resulted in local groundwater rises. She then showed the board a three-dimensional map product the NMBGMR produces as part of the aquifer mapping program. Ms. Timmons said the program is also making map packages, story reports, and technical reports for distribution as well. She said the Estancia groundwater basin and groundwater in New Mexico are story map products are already available on their website.

Ms. Timmons talked about the future of water in New Mexico and showed the predictions for a more arid southwest. She discussed the impacts of the rising temperatures including increased sublimation, evaporation, and transpiration rates that may lead to reductions in surface water supplies and groundwater recharge. Ms. Timmons indicated that temperatures could rise 5-7⁰C over the next 100 years and will ultimately lead to increased groundwater use and demands.

Ms. Timmons described the collaborative groundwater monitoring network the NMBGMR has with the USGS and other participating agencies. She said the NMBGMR is trying to broaden the groundwater level monitoring network across the state and increase frequency of monitoring with collaboration from communities. Ms. Timmons said that some of the groundwater level monitoring sites have transducers for real-time measurements, but some sites are only monitored manually. She told board members that there are three goals of the project which are to collect groundwater level data across the state, train and educate the public on groundwater monitoring, and to archive the data and provide public access to data. Ms. Timmons said the groundwater level monitoring network includes well sharing opportunities to fill in data gaps and data sharing opportunities to train water operators and build the dataset. Ms. Timmons showed the board the NMBGMR interactive map that presents the monitoring locations with graphs and measurements when a site is selected.

Mr. McGregor shared that Bernalillo County submits their groundwater level monitoring data to the NMBGMR and Ms. Timmons said the County data is included on the interactive

map on the website. Chair Howe asked about the state legislation proposing an integrated water database and Ms. Timmons shared that Representative Melanie Stansbury had experience with water data during her time in Washington D.C. and returned to New Mexico convinced that our state should have a better water database. Rep. Stansbury proposed HB 651 to build a platform for all water-related databases in New Mexico to talk to one another so data would no longer be siloed, but integrated and more easily available for analysis to support water management in New Mexico.

VII. Other Board Business

Chair Howe updated the board regarding a request by Dave McCoy, Citizen Action New Mexico, to have NMED provide a presentation to WPAB regarding the Sandia National Laboratories (SNL) Mixed Waste Landfill (MWL). Ms. Agnew shared that NMED has declined to present on the MWL because SNL's five-year review report on the MWL is still under review by NMED. Ms. Agnew added that NMED did not indicate a time for rescheduling the presentation and added that it has been three years since NMED last presented to WPAB on the MWL. Ms. Feibelman suggested that the board reach out to NMED again and propose additional dates for a presentation.

A discussion ensued regarding the merits of on-site disposal options for the MWL versus excavation and relocation of the hazardous materials. Chair Howe said the board is interested in learning more about the issue and Ms. Agnew said she would ask for more information on behalf of the board, including information to better understand the site and proposed remedies. Ms. Busch asked if SNL could present to the board instead and Dr. Scruggs asked what other entities may be available to present an unbiased opinion to the board for educational purposes. Ms. Busch said it would be interesting to hear the options for remedies and Ms. Agnew clarified that the MWL is in a corrective action phase and SNL is implementing the final remedy. She added that the five-year review document, according to the final action declaration, must explore the excavation option as part of the review. Chair Howe asked for SNL to come present about the MWL and Ms. Busch asked for a copy of the five-year report to review.

Ms. Busch shared that she went to the board member training hosted by the City and said the WPAB is a great example of how to follow the rules. She also said the board is very fortunate to have great minutes that read like a transcript of the meetings. Chair Howe asked if there would be additional trainings in the future and Mr. Ziegler said he would find out.

VIII. Public Comment

No public comment.

IX. Adjourn

Chair Howe asked for a motion to adjourn. Dr. Scruggs moved to adjourn the meeting and Ms. Busch seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 10:47 a.m.