



Steve Glass, Chair  
Roberto Roibal, Vice Chair  
Camilla Feibelman

Darrel Kungari  
Alexandria Lyons  
Julia Maccini

Joel Wooldridge  
John Pietz  
Caroline Scruggs

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## January 8, 2021

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 response to Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham's declaration of a public health emergency and ban on gatherings of more than five people.

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**Board Members Present:** Chair Steve Glass, Vice-Chair Roberto Roibal, Camilla Feibelman, Darrell Kundargi, Julia Maccini, John Pietz Caroline Scruggs, and Joel Wooldridge

**Board Members Absent (excused):** Alejandría Lyons

**PIC Members Present:** Diane Agnew, Kali Bronson, Shellie Eaton, Mo Hobbs, Dan McGregor, Kate Mendoza, Cassia Sanchez, Danielle Shurn, Kathy Verhage, and Ken Ziegler

**Guests:** Elizabeth Anderson (Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority), Elias Archuleta (Bernalillo County), Michael Broussard (New Mexico Environment Department), Glenn DeGuzman (Bernalillo County), Mark Kelley (Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority), Brian Lopez (Bernalillo County), Travis Peacock (Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority), Charlene Pyskoty (Bernalillo County Commissioner, District 5), Mark Sanchez (Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority)

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### I. Call to Order

Chair Ms. Julia Maccini called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

### II. Approval of Agenda

Chair Maccini asked to amend the agenda by moving up the election of the 2021 WPAB Officers to immediately after Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes. Chair Maccini requested a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Mr. Steve Glass moved to approve the agenda and Vice-Chair Roberto Roibal seconded. Motion to approve the agenda carried unanimously by roll call vote.

### III. Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes

#### a. October 9, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Chair Maccini asked if there were any edits to the October regular meeting minutes. Mr. Glass had one minor edit. Chair Maccini requested a motion to approve the meeting minutes as amended. Mr. Glass moved to approve the meeting minutes and Mr. Darrell Kundargi seconded the motion. Motion to approve the meeting minutes as amended carried unanimously by roll call vote.

#### **b. October 28, 2020 Special Meeting Minutes**

Chair Maccini asked if there were any edits to the October special meeting minutes. Chair Maccini requested a motion to approve the special meeting minutes. Mr. Glass moved to approve the meeting minutes and Mr. Joel Wooldridge seconded the motion. Motion to approve the special meeting minutes carried unanimously by roll call vote.

### **IV. Elect 2021 Officers**

Chair Maccini asked if there were any nominations for chair and vice-chair for the 2021 calendar year. Chair Maccini nominated Mr. Glass for chair, and Mr. Glass accepted the nomination. Ms. Camilla Feibelman nominated Vice-Chair Roibal to another term as vice-chair, and Vice-Chair Roibal accepted. Chair Maccini requested a motion to vote for Mr. Glass as chair and for Vice-Chair Roibal to continue his role as vice-chair. Ms. Caroline Scruggs moved to approve the vote for the nominations and Mr. Kundargi seconded. Board members voted unanimously via roll call to approve the nominations for chair and vice-chair. Board members thanked former Chair Maccini and Vice-Chair Roberto Roibal for their service as chair and vice chair throughout 2020, especially in regard to the challenges brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. Chair Glass assumed the new position for the remainder of the meeting.

### **V. Presentation: Septic Systems and Source Water Protection**

Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority (Water Authority) Environmental Manager Ms. Diane Agnew provided a presentation on septic systems and source water protection. The presentation provided an overview on a timeline of source water protection policies, source water protection assessments, threats to source water protection, source water protection policies regarding septic systems, and the Water Authority's support of programs for connection to sanitary sewer, including the joint Water Authority and County PIPE program. The presentation is available via the Water Authority's [Legistar portal](#).

Following the presentation, board members discussed writing a letter of support for source water protection policies designed to reduce the number of septic tanks, and to express concerns regarding the expansion of pathways for properties to continue the use of septic systems. Chair Glass requested a motion for the drafting of such a letter, with Ms. Scruggs moving approval and Ms. Feibelman seconding. Motion to draft a letter in support of source water protection in regard to septic systems carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Mr. Wooldridge asked about source water protection at the New Mexico State Fairgrounds, and if there are appropriate policies in place for source water protection at this site. Policy Implementation Committee member Ms. Kathy Verhage and Water Authority Industrial Pretreatment Engineer Mr. Travis Peacock responded that there are permits and pretreatment systems in place to protect source water at the New Mexico State Fairgrounds.

## **VI. Presentation: Liquid Wastewater Disposal System Regulatory Overview**

New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) Acting Liquid Waste Program Manager Mr. Michael Broussard provided a presentation on liquid wastewater disposal system regulations. The presentation provided an overview of the NMED Liquid Waste Program, including program mission, protective measures, property transfer evaluations, the differences between voluntary compliance and enforcement, and challenges to regulation. The presentation is available via the Water Authority's [Legistar portal](#).

Mr. John Pietz asked if there has been any consideration to modify the regulations to reflect the density of development. Mr. Broussard explained that to install a septic system, a lot must be a minimum of 0.75 acres, and the design of the system cannot exceed 500 gallons per day per acre. Mr. Broussard said that lots smaller than 0.75 acres with existing septic systems were grandfathered in. Mr. Broussard said that the NMED has the authority to require advanced treatment and more stringent standards, and does so if there is evidence of contamination.

Mr. Wooldridge asked if composting toilets were a potential solution to septic systems and what the regulatory standards are for composting toilets. Mr. Broussard explained that composting toilets are allowed but not permitted because they had been used to skirt septic system regulations in the past. Mr. Broussard said that there must be a permitted septic system and disposal field at that site.

## **VII. Presentation: Bernalillo County Wastewater Ordinance Proposed Changes**

Bernalillo County (County) Natural Resources Manager Mr. Dan McGregor provided a presentation on the proposed changes to the County Wastewater Ordinance. The presentation provided a brief ordinance history, overview of policies regarding wastewater systems, and a summary of proposed amendments, including septic system exemptions based on cost and variances for septic systems in floodplains. The presentation is available via the Water Authority's [Legistar portal](#).

Ms. Scruggs asked if there have been any cases where low-income residents could not convert because of the expense. Mr. McGregor did not believe the County has had to turn anyone away, but said the cost of sewer extension has been a barrier to conversion from septic systems to sewer connection.

Ms. Agnew said that the Bernalillo County Commission is meeting to discuss the proposed ordinance changes in February before the next WPAB meeting. County Technical Services Director Mr. Elias Archuleta said the proposed ordinance changes could be reviewed by the Bernalillo County Commission at a later meeting in February. Mr. Archuleta explained that the County shares concerns about source water protection and would like to discuss with the Water Authority ways to potentially tighten up restrictions for new development without infringing on property rights. Mr. Archuleta highlighted that variances will not be considered lightly and will require high level approval to ensure that measures to protect the environment are in place.

## **VIII. Board Business**

Due to being over the allotted meeting time, Chair Glass requested a motion to table remaining board business items until the February 12, 2020 meeting. Ms. Scruggs moved to table remaining board business items, and Ms. Maccini seconded. Motion to table remaining board business items until the February meeting carried unanimously by roll call vote.

## **IX. Other Board Business**

None.

## **X. Public Comment Period**

None.

## **XI. Adjourn**

Chair Glass requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Maccini moved to adjourn the meeting and Vice-Chair Roibal seconded. Meeting adjourned at 11:13 a.m.