

**Regional Water Planning  
PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY  
May 20, 2003**

The Planning Committee met Tuesday, May 20, 2003 at 6:00 P.M. at the San Juan Water Commission Office Building at 7450 E. Main Street, Farmington, NM, in the San Juan Water Commission's Conference area.

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Facilitator Shaun Bishop called the Planning Committee meeting to order at 6:10 P.M.

**PANEL MEMBERS:**

**PANEL 1**

Nick Ashcroft\*  
Dave Barr\*  
Michael Benson  
Tim Foster\*  
Robert Hays\*  
Elizabeth Kaime  
Randy Kirkpatrick  
Teresa Lane  
Keith Lee\*  
Paul Martin  
Bob Richards\*  
Steve Stevenson  
Becenti Wilson\*

**PANEL 2**

Robert Ahkeah\*  
Arlene C. Arviso  
Dwight James\*  
Andrea LeFevre\*  
Paul Montoia  
Don Owen\*  
Bob Oxford  
Lynne Raner\*  
Hobson Sandoval\*  
Max Vigil\*  
Zang Wood

**PANEL 3**

Rob Ashman  
Lorenzo Bates  
Steven C. Begay\*  
Bob Browning\*  
Loren Linville  
Michael Nordstrom\*  
Evert Oldham  
Cas Ruybalid\*  
Lawrence Stock\*  
Michael B. Sullivan\*  
Shawn Williams  
A.J. Yazzie\*  
Harry H. Yazzie\*

**PANEL 4**

Mike Belt\*  
Charles Blassingame  
David Brannan\*  
Carroll Crawford  
Mary Day\*  
Jiri Doskocil\*  
Jim Dunlap  
Richard Grimes\*  
Mike Hamman \*\*  
Ray E. Marley\*  
Norman Norvelle\*  
Jim Renfro\*  
Maude Grantham-Richards\*  
Jack Scott\*

\* Indicates: Absence of member

\*\* Indicates attendance via telephone

**OBSERVERS:**

John Leeper, John Whipple, Arvin Trujillo, and Mary Helen Follingstad

**WELCOME & OVERVIEW OF MEETING MATERIAL**

The facilitator Shaun Bishop, greeted the Planning Committee members, encouraged them to participate in the upcoming meetings, and corrected some of the information that had appeared in a recent article in the Farmington Daily Times. S. Bishop said that not all stakeholders were represented on the Planning Committee but that everyone that had asked to be on the Committee was a member. S. Bishop said that this was not the last meeting and that there would be many more meetings before the *Draft Final Water Plan* was submitted to the ISC.

**The facilitator listed the contents of the meeting packet, as follows:**

- Copy of the 'draft' January 30, 2003 Meeting Summary
- Copy of the *Draft Final San Juan Basin Regional Water Plan*
- Copy of the 'draft' Resolution - "A Resolution Accepting the *Draft Final San Juan Basin Regional Water Plan* as the Plan for Submission to the Governmental Entities of the Region"
- Copy of the Notice and the Agenda for the May 21, 2003 Public Meeting

- Copy of the Comments and Responses received after January 30, 2003

**Other material distributed during the May 20, 2003 meeting included:**

- Copy of information distributed during the January 30, 2003 meeting
- Copy of the Power Point presentation prepared by Rick Cox, Parsons Engineering
- Copy of the Flow Chart for the time-line to present the Plan to the governmental entities

**CONSIDERATION OF THE JANUARY 30, 2003 MEETING SUMMARY**

The facilitator asked for any changes or objections to the meeting summary. There being no changes or objections raised the meeting summary was approved, by consensus.

**REVIEW OF DRAFT FINAL SAN JUAN BASIN REGIONAL WATER PLAN**

The meeting was turned over to Rick Cox of Parsons Engineering. Rick said he had prepared a Power Point presentation that could be used by the Committee members when presenting the *Draft Final Water Plan* to the governmental entities. Three Committee members, Mike Belt, Carroll Crawford, and Shawn Williams volunteered to help present the *Draft Final Water Plan* to the governmental entities and S. Bishop will accompany the Committee members to assist them during the presentations.

Rick Cox began his presentation with a brief overview of the San Juan Basin Watersheds and said that the Jicarilla Nation had provided an updated version of their water plan and that it had been placed in Volume II under Appendix A-4. Rick informed the Committee that the Navajo Nation was in the process of conducting its own regional water planning effort and that the information contained in their Plan would be incorporated into the "San Juan Basin Regional Water Plan", when it was available. Rick Cox added that his mandate was not to evaluate the Navajo or Jicarilla Apache Nation's water supplies but to look at all the areas outside the two Nations.

John Leeper, from the Navajo Nation Department of Water Resources, said he had been delinquent in providing information to Rick Cox and felt (possibly because of that) that the *Draft Final Water Plan* was "half a horse" because the Plan did not look at what was over the horizon for the Navajo Nation. John said that the Navajo Nation's long-term development plan would benefit people throughout the Region and not just those living within the Nation, and that not including this information could lead to erroneous conclusions. John said he had provided information contained in three documents (listed below) for the water planning effort and felt that the documents should be a part of the Plan, and not ignored or excluded. Rick reminded John, that back in August or September of 2002, when the demand section was being developed, that they had developed a report together, summarizing the aforementioned documents, and that the summary report was in the *Draft Final Water Plan*. Rick Cox said he had not ignore or excluded the three reports but had incorporated the information into the Plan through the summary report, which had been sent to John for his review to see if the numbers were right. S. Bishop said the three documents could be placed in Volume II (the Appendix to Volume I) in their entirety, if that was the wish of the Planning Committee.

- 1) "*The Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project*" Technical Memorandum developed by the Navajo Nation Department of Water Resources, The City of Gallup, The Northwest New Mexico Council of Governments, and the Bureau of Reclamation, March 16, 2001
- 2) The "*Water Resource Development Strategy for the Navajo Nation*" prepared by the Navajo Nation Department of Water Resources in July 2000
- 3) The "*Navajo Gallup Water Supply Project - Appraisal Level Designs and Cost Estimates*" prepared by the BOR in April 2002

John Leeper highlighted some of the Navajo's development plans i.e., Farmington-Shiprock pipeline, waste water treatment plant near Kirtland, the Navajo-Gallup Supply Project, and stressed the Nation's belief that their development plans would have a significant impact on the entire Region. The Planning Committee

requested that the Navajo Nation present their proposed recommendations and evaluations for incorporation into the Regional Water Plan and John agreed to provide their recommendations by June 9. The facilitator said another meeting of the Planning Committee would be scheduled in mid-June to review the Navajo Nations recommendations.

Jim Dunlap asked John if the information from their planning effort, that was funded through a \$75,000 grant from the ISC, had been provide so it could be incorporated into the Regional Water Plan. Michael Benson said the grant from the ISC was for Chapter water planning efforts, specifically for each individual Chapter and not the Nations 'regional' planning effort. Jim Dunlap commented that he thought the Chapter's water plans were going to be combined into a regional water plan for the Navajo Nation. Michael said the individual Chapter plans were in the process of being completed and had not been provided.

The facilitator reminded the Committee that the planning process is an ongoing effort and that the Plan is subject to revisions as regional water uses change. The facilitator also reminded the Committee to put their comments in writing so they could be reviewed and become part of the permanent record.

Responding to a question about the State Water Plan, Mary Helen Follingstad, representing the Interstate Stream Commission, informed the Committee that there were 16 Regions preparing water plans, and that currently 6 plans had been accepted. The State Water Plan will be an ongoing continuous process and (this round) will produce a policy statement document with a series of appendices that will incorporate the different Regional water plans, as they become available. Mary Helen said the regional water plans were orientated around the water needs specific to a given region and as such, did not always contain or examine the same issues facing the State, as a whole.

As Rick continued his presentation, different issues including ground water, population by watersheds, stream gauge flows, Colorado development trends, items within the Scope of Work, diversion of water, alternative evaluations i.e., additional storage, crop leasing, drought management alternatives, water conservation education, the Navajo-Farmington pipeline, grey water conservation, and water depletions were discussed.

John Leeper stated that the Navajo Nation felt the Legal Section (Section 6) still had deficiencies and weaknesses and requested that the Plan not be sent out at this time. Paul Martin, City of Farmington, said he felt it was time that the public had something tangible to comment on and that the *Draft Final Water Plan* should be presented to the public for comment even if there were identifiable weaknesses. The facilitator asked if the Navajo Nation had expressed their concerns to the Planning Committee. Michael Benson said that he had voiced their concerns regarding the legal section to Mary Helen Follingstad with the ISC and that it was his understanding that the ISC had made the Navajo Nation's concerns known. It was again stated that comments and concerns should be sent to the Regional Water Planning Committee and not to the ISC. The ISC's comments and all the other comments are being considered equally because the Regional Water Plan belongs to the Region and should reflect the views of the Region and not those of the State.

The Navajo Nation made a request to modify the language in the legal section of the Regional Water Plan to reflect a neutral position on issues relating to the Nation. After an spirited discussion, which at times grew tense, the final consensus of the Committee was to have John Leeper, Rick Cox, and legal counsel for the Navajo Nation and the Planning Committee modify the language in Section 6 (the Legal Section) and replace the current Section 6 dated May 8, 2003 with the revision. By consensus the Committee agreed that the revised Section 6 - Legal Issues would be presented at the May 21, 2003 public meeting. Navajo Nation Natural Resource Director, Arvin Trujillo addressed the Committee and explained that other priority issues within the Navajo Nation (the drought, etc.) had caused the delay in providing the Committee with current documentation. Mr. Trujillo emphasized the current drought situation and growth in population within the Navajo Nation and asked all the parties in the Region to work together to prepare a collaborative plan. To avoid misunderstandings

*Accepted - June 18, 2003*

in the future it was suggested that the Committee members express their views during the Committee meetings. The Committee agreed that if each member shared their views openly and had consideration for the viewpoints of others, the Committee's efforts would continue to support the Regions interests as a whole.

Acknowledging that the *Draft Final Regional Water Plan* would undergo many revisions the Committee agreed by consensus to accept Resolution No. RWP-2003 -01 - "A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE DRAFT FINAL SAN JUAN BASIN REGIONAL WATER PLAN AS THE PLAN FOR SUBMISSION TO THE GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES OF THE REGION". The members wishing to have their acceptance recorded signed the Resolution.

**DISCUSSION PERIOD:**

The facilitator announced that a public meeting to present the Draft Final Regional Water Plan would be held on May 21, 2003.

The facilitator announced that the 30-day Public Comment Period for the Draft Final Regional Water Plan was currently from May 21, 2003 through June 20, 2003 but that comments and revisions might make it necessary to extend the comment period.

The facilitator said after the Navajo Nation's recommendations had been received, the Planning Committee would be notified about the next meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business, the facilitator adjourned the meeting at 9:30 P.M.