

**REGIONAL WATER PLANNING
Planning Committee Meeting Summary
JULY 18, 2002**

The first meeting of the Planning Committee for Regional Water Planning was held, Thursday, July 18, 2002 at San Juan College in the Henderson Fine Arts Building, Room 9012, 4601 College Blvd., Farmington, New Mexico.

CALL TO ORDER:

Facilitator Shaun Bishop called the Regional Planning Committee to order at 7:00 PM

PANEL MEMBERS:

PANEL 1

*Nick Ashcroft
Michael Benson
Fred Lee Etcitty *
Tim Foster
Robert Hays
Elizabeth Kaime
Randy Kirkpatrick
Theresa Lane
Keith Lee
Paul F. Martin
Bob Richards
Steve Stevenson
Becenti Wilson *
Dave Barr*

PANEL 2

*Robert Aheah *
Arlene C. Arviso
Jill Atencio *
Anita Choate *
Rosalin Fulton *
Dwight James
Andrea LeFevre
Don Owen
Bob Oxford
Lynne Raner
Hodson Sandoval *
Max Vigil *
Zang Wood*

PANEL 3

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

PANEL 4

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

* Indicates: Absence of member

OBSERVERS:

Cy Cooper, Verna Forbes Wilson, Joe Schmitt, Norma Hays, Ruben Selcido, Robert O. Allen, S.J. Baldwin and Adelaide Paiz

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE:

John Leeper

INTRODUCE THE FACILITATION AND LARGE GROUP MANAGEMENT FORMAT

GENERAL PROCESS

Facilitator explained that because of the large number of members on the Planning Committee, the members would be divided into panel groups. Committee members were divided into panels

to facilitate discussions, develop agreements, formulate recommendations, and, when appropriate, to prepare written reports. The facilitator explained that by dividing the members into panels, each member would have an equal opportunity to voice their views and a few outspoken individuals would not dominate the Committee. Random drawing chose the panel members to assure that diverse interests were represented on each panel. Each panel was asked to select a panel recorder. Each panel decided individually whether to select a discussion leader.

PANEL WORK SESSION

Using the Regional Water Plan Water Supply Assessment, each panel was asked to identify what they perceived to be the critical broad-based issues.

Develop agreements about conditions and identify broad-based issues.

Prepare a report identifying what they perceived the critical issues on water to be, on a broad-scope.

RECONVENE PLANNING COMMITTEE

Facilitator requested panels reconvene to the main meeting area.

PRESENTATION OF INDIVIDUAL PANEL RECOMMENDATIONS

Each panel read their report and presented the issues that they perceived to be the most critical regarding the water supply in the San Juan Basin.

Facilitator will prepare draft consensus report using the panels written reports.

Panel 1

Bob Richards-Discussion leader

Keith Lee-Recorder

Identified critical issues

- Water Supply is adequate according to the Water Supply Assessment
- Legal constraints will limit the supply in the basin.
- Out of state issues

Points of Discussion:

- Environmental issues
- Transferring water out of Basin, Navajo pipeline
- Navajo water rights
- Additional water storage projects
- Identify water being used in the basin
- Protect the agricultural water rights & irrigation systems

Panel 2

Zang Wood-Discussion leader

Lynne Raner-Recorder

Identified critical issues

- Most M & I water is surface water
- Ground water supply has never been assessed
 - Points of Discussion:*
 - Is briny
 - No ground wells have been drilled deep enough to be resalable, except the one near Chaco
 - Wells are not economically feasible
 - There are few operating windmills, can't depend on it
 - Only shallow wells we haven't drilled down into the aquifer deep enough
 - State Engineer defines "wells" as going deep into the aquifer
 - Nageezi's well only draws 40-50 gallons per day
- Our supply is inadequate to our expectations
- We have no system, little storage & little reserve
- BOR has it all tied up
 - Points of Discussion:*
 - Need better coordination among the communities, most of our water passes through
 - Need to save our water rights to remain inside this county and not become rights owned by the State (This in reference to the Zinn adjudication project i.e, if water isn't being put to beneficial use, the state will claim it Rather than allowing that, we need a system to keep our water rights in San Juan County)
 - Inter-community cooperation
 - Demands on San Juan water from outside this area - we need to assert ourselves and protect our water
 - Need to know where, how our water is being used, municipal, domestic, industrial, agricultural and down steam commitments
- Regional Planning
 - Points of Discussion:*
 - Centralize water plants
 - Centralize storage
 - Centralize waste water treatment
- More cooperation among cities.
 - Point of Discussion*
 - Form an organization that represents all types of water uses, this would provide information and facilitate regional planning. This board would be very Inclusive

PANEL 3

Evert Oldham-Discussion leader

Rob Ashman-Recorder

Identified critical issues

- Settlement of adjudicated rights and protection of current storage & water management.
 - Are we meeting ISC requirements & process
- Points of Discussion*
- Regional water treatment
 - Recharge of Basin
 - Recycle use priority (community values)
 - Drought- Regional control & storage
 - Education of community
 - Regional water entity
 - Ditch control
- Protection of agricultural water and all existing water rights
 - Settlement of Navajo Nation water rights
 - Adjudication of water rights

PANEL 4

David Brannan-Discussion leader

Norman Norvelle-Recorder

Identified critical issues

- Funding be enough for critical issues dealing with water within the San Juan Hydrological Unit
- Water supply is over allocated
- Conservation of water within the San Juan hydrological unit
- Implementation and monitoring of gauging and measurement of water within the SJHU
- Accurate gauging at numerous stream flow points in the SJHU
- Accurate measurement of water consumption in the SJHU
- Equitable allocation of stream flow within the SJHU
- Protection of agricultural water and all existing water rights

DISCUSSION PERIOD

- Facilitator collected reports from each panel. Set date for next meeting, which will be August 8, 2002 starting at 7:00 PM. Location undetermined.

-The floor was open for discussion per Water Supply Assessment.

-A committee member proceeded to start the discussion with a question pertaining to following the guidelines of the ISC. Facilitator assured committee members that ISC guidelines were being met.

-Committee member raised concern about the Supply Assessment, was it correct. Facilitator explained that the document was in draft form, allowing committee members the opportunity to have their comments considered.

-Committee member commented that per the ISC guidelines, the committee should conduct their own meeting and requested a professional facilitator. Facilitator explained the management format being used (panels), was to give a voice to all committee members, not just the outspoken. No funds available to hire a “professional” facilitator and the SJWC staff will continue to facilitate meetings.

-Several committee members said they felt a need for historical/legal knowledge about water.

-Another committee member stood up and informed members that the purposes of these first meetings were to educate, inform and to identify some broad-based concepts regarding critical water issues. The facilitator said the Planning Committee would not be making alternative recommendations at this point in the process (because the draft Water Demand & Water Budget Assessments had not been completed), and that they were only identifying what they perceived the critical issues to be, as a starting point for discussion.

-Evert Oldham offered to present the information he has prepared regarding compacts, law of river and historic river flows. Presentation would take one hour and believes it would be of value to the members. It was recommended that Evert arrange a time to give his presentation to the members interested in participating, outside a regular meeting.

-Facilitator requested that information shared with committee be factual.

-A request was made to video tape future meetings, and facilitator said they would try to tape but it would depend on the availability of equipment.

-Facilitator informed committee of upcoming meetings:

- Public Meeting for Regional Water Planning, July 25, 2002 Farmington Council Chambers.
- Water & Natural Resources Committee Meeting, August 5-6, 2002 San Juan College.
- Regional Water Planning Committee Meeting tentatively scheduled for August 8, 2002 location undetermined.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 9:24 PM