

## **REGIONAL WATER PLANNING Planning Committee Meeting Summary October 24, 2002**

A Regional Water Planning Committee meeting was held, Thursday, October 24, 2002 at the Farmington Civic Center, Room EH-1, 200 W. Arrington, Farmington, New Mexico.

### **CALL TO ORDER:**

Facilitator Shaun Bishop called the Regional Water Planning Committee meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

### **PANEL MEMBERS:**

#### **PANEL 1**

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

#### **PANEL 2**

*Robert Aheah \**  
*Arlene C. Arviso*  
*Jill Atencio\**  
*Anita Choate\**  
*Rosalin Fulton\**  
*Dwight James\**  
*Andrea LeFevre\**  
*Don Owen*  
*Bob Oxford*  
*Lynne Raner*  
*Hobson 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\**  
*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

### **OBSERVERS:**

*Duane H. Yazzie, Jimmy Fisher & Laura Banish*

### **WELCOME & OVERVIEW OF MEETING MATERIAL**

The facilitator Shaun Bishop, greeted the Planning Committee members, and introduced Rick Cox from Parsons Engineering.

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

Copy of Agenda

Copy of the 'draft' October 8, 2002 Meeting Minutes

Copy of *Discussion Outline* for the October 24, 2002 meeting

Copy of Comments and Responses received on the *Water Demand Assessment*

Copy of the Rick Cox's slide presentation on the *Water Demand Assessment* and the *Water Budget Analysis*

The facilitator called for discussion of removing the members who had never attended a single (one) meeting, from the active members list. The facilitator said, that by not participating, these members were not making a discernable contribution to the Committee and by removing their names from the active members list the number indicating a majority of the members would be more accurate. Motioned was made by Zang Wood, seconded by Dave Barr to remove the names of the members who had not attended at least one meeting from the active member list and upon affirmative vote the motion carried. The facilitator announced that the members affected, would be notified that they were being removed from the active members list, which would give them the opportunity to reconsider attending the Committee meetings.

Acknowledging the comments made by Evert Oldham at the October 8, 2002, and wanting to give everyone an opportunity to make additional changes, the facilitator asked if there were any other comments to the final Consensus Report - Water Supply Perceptions, for the Committee to consider. Hearing none, the facilitator said the final Consensus Report - Water Supply Perceptions would go into record as approved.

#### **CONSIDERATION OF THE OCTOBER 8, 2002 DRAFT RECORD:**

The facilitator asked if there were any objections to the October 8, 2002 record, as written. The record was reviewed and two members brought changes before the Committee for consideration. The changes were discussed individually and no strong objections were voiced. In the interest of time, the Committee, by consensus, directed the facilitator to identify the changes and modify the record accordingly. Jack Scott, left the meeting at 7:25 PM.

#### **PRESENTATION ON ALTERNATIVES - RICK COX:**

Rick Cox of Parsons Engineering distributed graphs for each watershed showing water shortages and surpluses and gave the Committee members some suggestions on alternative ways to develop solutions. R. Cox remained available throughout the meeting to answer questions.

#### **PANEL WORK SESSIONS:**

Using the 'draft' Water Demand Assessment and the Water Budget Analysis, each Panel began the initial development of alternative recommendations. Each Panel prepared written reports to identify the alternative recommendations they would like explored further.

#### **PRESENTATION OF INDIVIDUAL PANEL RECOMMENDATIONS**

##### **Panel 1**

##### **Animas Watershed**

Storage at Gallegos Wash to serve San Juan County and NGWSP

3600 AF of additional water in the Animas

1000 AF addition to A-LP

Enlarge Farmington Lake

Conservation by public education and low flows

Use grey water for parks and golf courses

Well fields drilled in river areas for storage

Contain storm water drainage to water parks

Treatment of saline - lakes/production water

Water banking, forego water for crops in lieu of payment - water used for other purposes, domestic, etc..

Cloud seeding

Exterminate non-native trees along river banks

##### **La Plata Watershed**

Additional water storage upstream

Middle San Juan Watershed

Work with agencies on sensible dam operation and administration of flows

Upper San Juan Watershed

Dam operational management plan to keep NIIP whole

**Panel 2**

Animas Watershed

A need to establish storage in NM - Colorado's demands on the Animas are increasing and there appears to be less and less Animas water for NM

On all drainages- establish several small storage sites. All entities, especially San Juan County need to improve in capturing and storing flood water

Entities need to acquire easement along arroyos to facilitate flood water, small reservoir system

Need to challenge ESA to become more 'people friendly'

Q: Is the water allocated for the Navajo Nation based upon reservation area or tribal population per census count?

Navajo water needs to be quantified - large number of tribal members live off the reservation in communities which are competing with the Tribe for water

Q: Could water brought to the surface at well sites be used for industrial purposes rather than re-injecting it into the ground?

**Panel 3**

Global M&I solution -obtain ownership of storage in Navajo Reservoir by working with Navajo Nation, using NIIP aqueduct and/or pipeline off of Navajo Reservoir for delivery.

Essentially re-look at the I.J. Courry plan from the 1950's

Re-use of municipal discharge for appropriate purposes

Storm water capture in the arroyos

**Panel 4**

Underground Water

Identify all underground water sources and seek treatment methods for presently undesirably underground water sources

Blend with surface water- look at blending with surface ground water to meet safe drinking standards

Explore the possibility that there is sufficient water underground to supply the Navajo Gallup Pipeline Project and NIIP

Conveyance - (with) pipeline is not the only option to satisfy water demand

Conservation - Retention will increase quality of water by lining/piping present ditches - Farmers need to improve irrigation methods

Forestry/Plant management - Eliminate all non-native species/controlling native species.

Storage - needs to be increased in La Plata watershed and full utilization of ALP water will help Middle San Juan Basin

Identify existing reservoirs for expansion, new smaller reservoirs/ponds

Leasing - lease water on a short term basis

**DISCUSSION PERIOD:**

The facilitator requested that the Committee members consider holding a Saturday workshop. The Committee chose to forego a Saturday workshop for now.

The next Planning Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, November 14, 2002, from 6:00 PM to

9:00 PM, location of meeting will be mailed to Committee members.  
Rick Cox will look at alternatives, lay out pros and cons and give suggestions  
The *Water Demand Assessment* and the *Water Budget Analysis* will be posted on the San Juan Water Commission website @ [www.sjwc.org](http://www.sjwc.org)

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business, the facilitator adjourned the meeting at 9:00 P.M.