



Quarterly Report
July - September 2022

Northwest New Mexico Council of Governments

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Director's Note

Annual Luncheon

In conjunction with our Annual Board Meeting, the Northwest New Mexico Council of Governments (COG) holds a luncheon to bring the region together and celebrate our achievements. This year marked the 50th anniversary of the COG in its current confirmation serving the tri-county area.

Our annual report provides an overview of the 50-year history of the COG and its many milestones as well as details our Regional Champions that were honored for their service to their communities and to the region. This event was made possible by the generous support of McKinley County.

Highlights included:



- **Changing of the Guard.** At this year's Annual Meeting, the COG honored Billy Moore and his service as COG Chairperson for over a decade. The COG Board of Directors nominated Martha Garcia (Cibola County Commissioner) to act as the new Chairperson as well as Fran Palochak becoming the COG's 2nd Vice-Chair.
- **Strategic Direction.** COG Board provided bold leadership and direction to move the COG forward through a new non-profit organization for regional economic development and to become provide process facilitation for hydrogen initiatives and projects.
- **Annual Report.** The COG's Planning Team put together another great annual report that showcases what the COG can do best and how we have returned value to the region.
- **Keynote Address.** Mayor Martin Chavez who serves at the pleasure of the Governor as the State's Infrastructure Advisor especially related to Federal stimulus funding provided a keynote address that provided insights into the opportunity for communities to attract investments in infrastructure needs from broadband to water to wastewater to transportation to make catalytic impacts for community and economic good.

- **Regional Champions.** The COG provided recognition for those people that exemplified the COG's regional call for service. Champions must demonstrate regional leadership, collaboration and service to Northwest New Mexico by fostering partnerships with COG and local communities.

Champions will also demonstrate a commitment to improving the quality of life, economy, environment and overall development of the region. This year the COG was proud to honor the following which you can read more about in our Annual Report.

- Dr. Jim Henderson, former President, San Juan College. (San Juan County).
- Marc DePauli, Principal Engineer/Owner, DePauli Engineering & Surveying, LLC. (McKinley County)
- Macario "Mac" Juarez, Member Services Manager, Continental Divide Electric Cooperative. (Cibola County)
- Carmen Morin, Bureau Chief, NM Department of Finance & Administration. (At-Large)

- **Regional Impact Tour.** The COG hosted a day long tour of regional projects that included Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project, US491 Four-laning, and many others that provide the strategic infrastructure for the region. This was a good way for Board members and partners to see how the dots connect in our region.



Dr. Jim Henderson



Marc DePauli, DES



Macario "Mac" Juarez, Jr.



Carmen Morin, NMDFA

Water Planning Office Recap

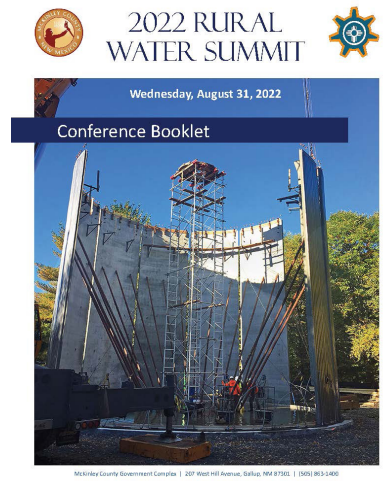
2022 Rural Water Summit

McKinley County recently held its second annual Rural Water Summit (RWS) in August, at the McKinley County Governance Center. COG organized all the logistics and catered luncheon (Grandma's Grill, Laguna, NM) for the 30+ participants.

The newly appointed NM State Engineer, Mike A. Hamman, delivered the keynote address. Hamman touched on key factors that impact the northwestern region's current and future water and climate outlook, including challenges, constraints and solutions:

- Water is public.
- OSE refer to the NM water rights statutes as a guide to determine and administer the rights and conservation of water.
- *Constraint*. State Bill 12 extended notice provisions from 30-days to 70-days.
 - *Challenge*. Publication notice procedures present challenges for processing applications.
- *Solutions*. Potential amendments to current water leasing provisions to allow water users to be eligible for short-term leases to apprise drought-driven shortages.
- *Solution*. Active Water Resources Management (AWRM) program to provide water user driven agreements, for sub-basin regions as an alternative.

Other topics covered included groundwater depletion of NM's major sources of surface water (i.e., Lower Rio Grande, Rincon Aquifer, Mesilla Vally). The State 50-Year Water Plan was completed in September 2021 that identified a major goal for all communities to prepare for climate change driven impacts to water resources across the state. Now is the time to enhance stewardship, sustainability and equity.



McKinley County Water Regionalization Initiative

The water regionalization that the County initiated in 2003 has finally come to fruition with the final approval (July 2022) of the Joint Powers Agreement (JPA-Legal) that legally creates a 'regional umbrella entity' that will become the primary assistance provider and supporter for all non-joining small water systems within our region.

Through this legal file, a new JPA-Entity, named the **Northwest New Mexico Utility Authority** (NWNMUA), has been officially instated and recognized by the State of New Mexico. Three small water systems that have agreed to merge and create the NWNMUA:

- Gamerco Water & Sanitation District
- Yahtahey Water & Sanitation District
- White Cliffs Mutual Domestic Water Users Association.



One member of the current board of directors for each joining entity has been selected to also serve as the board of directors for NWNMUA.

- Mike Daly — NWNMUA President (White Cliffs MDWUA).
- Kenny Carabajal, Sr. — NWNMUA Vice-President (Gamerco WSD).
- Jason Sanchez — NWNMUA Secretary/Treasurer (Yahtahey WSD).

The first NWNMUA board meeting is currently scheduled for Wednesday, November 2, 2022, from 9:00am to 12:00pm. Location yet to be determined.

CDBG, ICIP & WTB

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)

COG assisted McKinley County in securing a \$50K planning grant last year. The County recently executed the grant agreement and COG staff will proceed with grant and project management activities for this project. This project is expected to take no more than 9 months to complete.

This grant will be used to develop a preliminary engineering report (PER) for the Allison community. Allison initially participated in the public engagement process of the water regionalization initiative, but with no changes over the years, Allison remains unincorporated and is no longer an organized small water system. Residents are mostly elders on very low, fixed income and are unable to meet state requirements necessary to manage a system. The County and its working partners will continue to assist and support communities like Allison and other small water systems within the region.

Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan (ICIP)

COG worked with County staff in the updating, approval, and submission process of the County's FY2024-2028 ICIP. In recent years, COG help the County peg down critical priority projects, creating a manageable list of five (5) capital projects a year, or twenty-five (25) capital projects over the span of 5 years. The deadline to submit was August 19th. NMFA is still processing ICIPs and will be publishing soon.

COG also assisted PMS with the update, approval and submission of ICIPs for both of the County's Senior Center Facilities, Ramah and Thoreau. The deadline to submit was September 9th.

Water Trust Board (WTB)

Under the direction of the County's annual work program, the COG is providing technical assistance to regional small water systems that are eligible for funding. The following systems are pursuing funding for water infrastructure projects:

- White Cliffs Mutual Domestic Water Users Association.
 - Water Supply Improvement project
 - Requesting \$1.6M for construction
 - Project is 'shovel-ready'
- Ramah Water & Sanitation District.
 - Water Improvement project
 - Requesting \$440K for design
 - Pursuing NMFA planning grant to update 2013 PER*
- Catalpa Water Association.
 - New Water Supply project
 - Requesting \$350K for design

The application cycle is still in progress. Each applicant recently completed the first application phase, to complete and submit Project Applications. Next cycle is the Readiness Application that closes in January 2023. Final list of eligible projects will be released in the spring.



New Mexico Department of
Finance & Administration



NEW MEXICO
FINANCE AUTHORITY

TPF & NMDOT Awards

NMDOT Transportation Project Fund (TPF)

In recent years, the State Legislature and NMDOT initiated a NM State fund for transportation projects, with no functional classification limits, and funding distributed based on justified local government priorities (Counties, Tribes, Communities and Special Districts). The Transportation Project Fund from the State of New Mexico only requires a 5% local match and allows a match waiver to be requested.

In 2019 when the first Local Govt. Transportation Project Fund call for projects was issued, our NWRTPO region benefited with \$9,664,576 for 11 projects on behalf of 8 of our RTPO member governments.

In 2021, for the second round of "TPF" funding our region was awarded \$22,415,163 for 18 projects – 5 from the Farmington MPO member governments, and 13 projects from 8 of our NWRTPO member governments.

In the new 2023 third round of TPF funding, our region was awarded \$19,747,334 for 10 projects – 2 from the Farmington MPO governments, and 8 projects from 8 of our NWRTPO member governments.

With appreciation to our State of New Mexico Legislature, along with NMDOT this funding has doubled and at times almost tripled the amount of funding our NWRTPO region receives on a biennial basis for multi-modal transportation development!

Projects funded in Northwest New Mexico, including Cibola, McKinley, and San Juan Counties:

NM State Planning & Research Funding Awards

For the 2023 NM State Planning and Research Fund, the NWRTPO was awarded \$250,000 (\$200,000 – state / \$50,000 – 20% local match) for the McKinley County Transportation Master Plan; and \$150,000 (\$120,000 – state / \$30,000 local match) for the Grants/Milan Comprehensive Transportation Safety Action Plan. This represents another \$400,000 in funding for transportation planning on behalf of McKinley County and the communities of Grants and Milan.

District	Entity	Project Title	TPF	Local	Total
	Farmington MPO:	San Juan County:			
5	City of Bloomfield	Bergin Lane Reconstruction	\$285,000	\$15,000	\$300,000
5	City of Farmington	W. Main St. / Broadway resurfacing	\$2,224,900	\$117,100	\$2,342,000
5	San Juan County	County Road 6480 resurfacing	\$1,425,000	\$75,000	\$1,500,000
	NWRTPO:	McKinley & Cibola Counties:			
6	City of Grants	Nimitz Drive	\$1,140,000	\$60,000	\$1,200,000
6	Pueblo of Acoma	SP38 Haaku Road	\$2,755,000	\$145,000	\$2,900,000
6	McKinley County	CR43 Superman Canyon Road & Bridge	\$2,580,517	\$135,817	\$2,716,334
6	City of Gallup	Nizhoni Boulevard Phases III & IV	\$4,364,300	\$229,700	\$4,594,000
6	Cibola County	CR 5Moquino Road and Bridge	\$1,900,000	\$100,000	\$2,000,000
6	Village of Milan	Airport Road Phase 3	\$1,135,250	\$59,750	\$1,195,000
6	Eastern Navajo	US491/Chee Dodge School Intersection	\$950,000	\$50,000	\$1,000,000
	TOTALS:	DOT Districts 5 & 6:	\$18,759,967	\$987,367	\$19,747,334

EDA Awards



USEconomicDevelopmentAdministrationinvestsAssistance to Coal Communities funding into create shovel-ready sites in northwest New Mexico

U.S. Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo announced that the Department's Economic Development Administration (EDA) is awarding a \$3.5 million grant to the city of Gallup, New Mexico, for water utility infrastructure at the McKinley County Industrial Park within the Gallup Energy Logistics Park. This grant is funded by the American Rescue Plan and EDA's \$300 million Coal Communities Commitment.

This project will extend water main utilities and well features into new groundwater wells to service the industrial park and support health care product manufacturing business growth in a region impacted by the declining use of coal. The EDA investment is expected to create 440 jobs and generate \$80 million in private investment.

This project was made possible by the regional planning efforts led by the Northwest New Mexico Council of Governments (NWNMCOG). EDA funds NWNMCOG to bring together the public and private sectors to create an economic development roadmap to strengthen the regional economy, support private capital investment and create jobs.

The recent announcement by US EDA follows recent announcements by NM Economic Development Department for the City of Farmington and McKinley County to support infrastructure development associated with the McKinley County Industrial Park and San Juan County Industrial Park.

April 2022 – NM Economic Development Department (EDD) approved a \$4.25 million grant to McKinley County, NM, to support the extension of utilities to the McKinley County Industrial Park as part of a statewide effort to hasten the expansion of infrastructure in rural communities.

The McKinley County Industrial Park will sit on a 40-acre master-planned industrial development located directly north of Gallup.

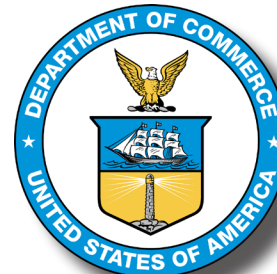
April 2022 – US Economic Development Administration (EDA) awards \$1.6 million grant to San Juan County, NM, to make infrastructure improvements to the San Juan County Industrial Park. The EDA investment will be matched with \$699,760 in local funds.

March 2022 – NM Economic Development Department (EDD) approved a \$1.82 million rural infrastructure grant from the LEDA fund to San Juan County to extend a natural gas pipeline 11 miles along Highway 170 to the San Juan County Industrial Park in La Plata, NM. The San Juan County Commission has targeted the 190-acre property, 18 miles north of Farmington on Highway 170, for 600 new jobs over the next several years.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE INVESTS \$915,900 TO SUPPORT FOOD BUSINESS GROWTH IN FARMINGTON, NEW MEXICO

Last month, the U.S. Department of Commerce awarded San Juan College \$915,900 to renovate and repurpose a city building to support the Harvest Food Hub and Kitchen. There is a total of \$228,975 in local match funding for this grant.

This grant will provide commercial kitchen space, training, and technical assistance for food entrepreneurs and businesses, supporting economic growth in New Mexico, a region impacted by the declining use of coal. This project is expected to help create 40 jobs.



This project was made possible by the regional planning efforts led by the Northwest New Mexico Council of Governments (NWNMCOG). EDA funds NWNMCOG to bring together the public and private sectors to create an economic development roadmap to strengthen the regional economy, support private capital investment and create jobs.

Grantsmanship & ROI

Impact by the Numbers

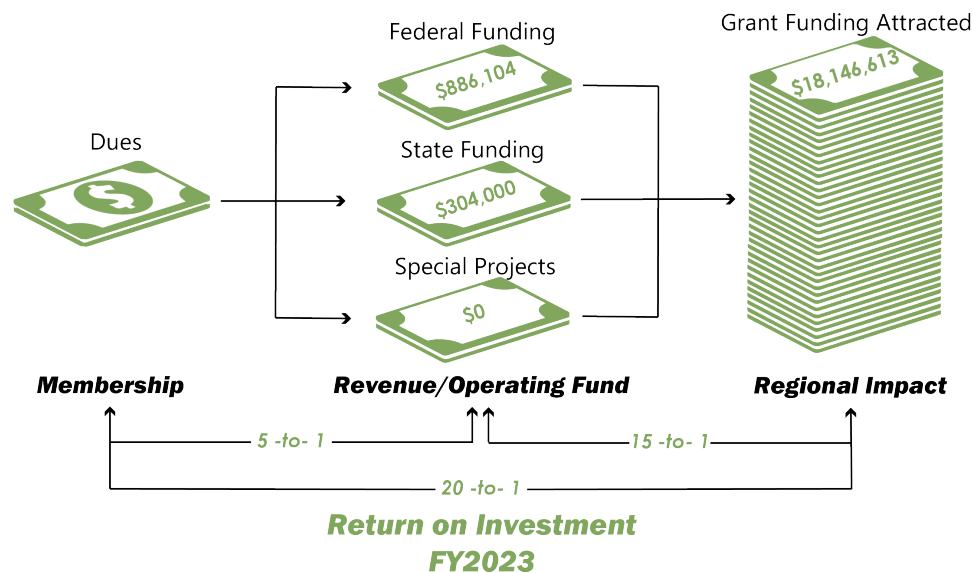
At the end of fiscal year 2022, COG leadership and staff conducted an all-hands-on deck workshop to develop return on investment (ROI) benchmarks aimed to ensure accountability of services to the member governments. Among the numerous ROI benchmarks set by the team is one strictly dedicated to financial impact to the region. With full confidence and the staff's ability to "projecteer", an end-of-year goal for return on investment was set at \$77M.

During the first quarter of FY23, the COG was able to assist member governments to secure \$18,146,613 in grant funding to complete numerous projects.

The following are some successes from the first quarter:

- Village of Milan: Airport Road Phase III = \$1,195,000
- McKinley County: County Road 43 - Superman Canyon Road Bridge Replacement = \$2,580,517
- City of Gallup: Economic Development Infrastructure - Water Line Extension = \$3,515,108
- City of Farmington: Food Harvest Hub - \$686,925

- Cibola County: County Road 5 – Moquino Llano Road and Bridge Reconstruction = \$1,900,000
- City of Grants: Community Panty Relocation = \$1,844,763



ZMTP Update

McKenzie Ridge Trail – Twin Springs Trail System

This summer Singletrack Trails, LLC began trail construction north of McGaffey Lake but was then halted by the USFS Stage III Fire Restrictions. Monsoon season has lifted the fire restrictions and Singletrack has been able to get past the Natural Lake area.

From FR547 and Sawmill trail to near Natural Lake, Singletrack has constructed approximately 6.5 miles of new trail. Another 0.5 miles of reroutes is needing approval from the US Forest Service to connect these trails in its entirety. A landmark, Natural Lake, is essentially due east of McGaffey Lookout at approximately 3.5 miles.

Singletrack is preparing for construction on the ridge of McKenzie Ridge from FR530A to Foster Canyon, then south of FR418 to Cottonwood Canyon. With fall and winter weather the crew may have limited access into these areas. Although construction ought to go quickly due to large bedrock segments, slickrock.



This trail segment would entail approximately 6.7 miles of new construction and approximately 1 mile of reroutes needing USFS approval. McKenzie Ridge has an elevation of 8656 ft. elevation, with visibility of Mt. Taylor, Road 50, Mt. Sedgwick, and portions of the Continental Divide. The McKenzie Ridge trail connector would currently dead end at Cottonwood Canyon but will continue after this year, after design is determined and approved. This connector will continue from Cottonwood Canyon to the Rincon, to Peavine Canyon, and to the future Twin Springs Trailhead will need future trail design work; this segment of trail is on both McKinley County and Cibola County.

Cibola County unbuilt trails of the Zuni Mountain Trail Project entail the Twin Springs, Bluewater, Ojo Redondo, Quartz Hill (partially built), and Limekiln Trail Systems.

These proposed reroutes mentioned above are designed for trail sustainability. The original trail layout plan, created over 10 years ago was approved for construction but ground truthing reveals very steep terrain that is not conducive to equestrians and mountain bikers. Forest Service experts will determine the proposed reroutes for approval or disapproval.

VISTA Volunteers



George Kanesta

My name is George Kanesta and I am an AmeriCorps Volunteer in Service To America (VISTA) for the NWNMCOG working as an Economic Development Coordinator. I am an experienced coordinator, editor, and writer. I like to use my skills not only to help end poverty within the communities I live in, but also to create unique and lasting economic opportunities. As a proud member of the Pueblo of Zuni and father of two daughters, I strive to create a sustainable future not only for my children but for all humans throughout

the world. Having to endure the struggles of poverty and growing up in a low-income family, I am very passionate about creating opportunities that better my community in all facets beyond economic development.

Along with an education from New Mexico Tech, I have eight years of experience as an IBMer where I developed as a writer and coordinator within the states of California, Massachusetts, and New Mexico while collaborating with developers across the globe. Most recently, I was able to coordinate resources to create an artist cooperative in my hometown of Zuni from the idea phase to the grand opening. The Ancestral Rich Treasures of Zuni Co-op not only survived throughout the pandemic but continues to gain momentum bringing Zuni arts and artists to the rest of the world.

In addition, I am currently the Board President of the first ever Native American MainStreet Program, Zuni Pueblo MainStreet, where I collaborate with artists, elected officials, and local business owners to bring economic ideas and opportunities to Zuni. I also actively engage in organizations of the Zuni Public School District because I believe that childhood development is a critical factor in ensuring the well-being of our communities. In my free time, I enjoy spending time with my family and friends at local community events. I look forward to being a valuable asset and contributing member of the NWNMCOG, but most importantly, to help aid in ending poverty for the communities of Northwest New Mexico.

Alex Quam

My name is Alex, I am currently working as a VISTA with the Northwest New Mexico Council of Governments and assumed the position on August 29th, 2022. During the last 2 months I have been working primarily in the economic development sector with current assignment being the Central 66 Blight report. This report will be used to obtain government funds which will then be used to redevelop a section of Gallup's downtown area. Working on this report has been a lot of fun and it makes me happy to know that my efforts are being used to help revitalize a town I grew up in. So far, my time with the COG has been a great experience and has taught me a lot about the government and how important it is to have a collective group of individuals dedicated to improving the Northwest Region of New Mexico.

Before I started working with the COG, I was enrolled at Fort Lewis College in Durango Colorado until I graduated with a Bachelor's in psychology during the spring semester of 2022. During this time my focus was geared towards psychology and how I would be able to use my knowledge to help other people. I spent some time working in the field of Applied Behavior Analysis as a Registered Behavior Technician whose job was to help autistic children and their families improve any maladaptive behavior the child presents. This job also allowed me to work under the supervision of a Board-Certified Behavior Analyst who taught me a lot about Applied Behavior Analysis and how to be a successful behavior technician. I also had the opportunity to work with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment as a contact tracer during the COVID-19 pandemic. This job required me to speak with countless individuals whose emotions often varied making each interview unique. I have also spent time volunteering as an advocate for sexual assault survivors with the Sexual Assault Services Organization based in Durango CO. The time I spent as a volunteer for the organization was a life changing experience and taught me how to engage with individuals who have gone through a traumatic experience.

It is safe to say that my previous work experience differs greatly from my current position, but I am always willing to learn and try something new. I am already learning a lot from my supervisors and my fellow VISTA and am excited to see what the rest of the year has in store for me.

COG Tweets In Review



NWNMCOG
@NWNMCOG

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McKinley County Industrial Park attracts major @US_EDA investment (\$3.5M) to extend water infrastructure needed to attract private investment, create quality jobs, and diversify our economy in the region and greater Gallup. ow.ly/hbwh50KBVL ✓



2:40 PM · Sep 6, 2022 · Hootsuite Inc.



NWNMCOG @NWNMCOG · Aug 18

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Local transportation gets a big shot in the arm - thanks to @NMDOT and efforts of our #RTPO program. Press Release: ow.ly/CGYu50KnhqE ✓



NWNMCOG @NWNMCOG · Aug 3

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Celebrating our Annual Luncheon - 50 years in the making! Come join us for lunch today (8/3) at high noon on the back side of the McKinley County courthouse.





Northwest New Mexico Council of Governments

