

Regional Water Commons Monthly Meeting Agenda Packet

Next Meeting:

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 19, 2022 AT 9:00AM

MICROSOFT TEAMS MEETING

Agenda Packet Includes:

- A. *Next Meeting's Agenda*
- B. *Attachments*
- C. *Training Opportunities*
- D. *Previous Meeting Packet*
- E. *Agenda, Meeting Notes, Takeaways*
- F. *Presentation Slides*



McKinley County
207 West Hill Avenue
Gallup, NM 87301



NW Council of Governments
106 West Aztec Avenue
Gallup, NM 87301



Regional Water Commons (RWC)

a joint program with McKinley County and its working partners

AGENDA PACKET

Regional Water Commons

Next Meeting

Wednesday, January 19, 2022
9:00AM – 10:00AM

Microsoft Teams Meeting



REGIONAL WATER COMMONS

MONTHLY MEETING

Wednesday, January 19, 2022

9 AM — 10 AM

[Virtual Meeting](#)

A G E N D A

WELCOME	<i>Angelina Grey</i>
PRESENTATIONS <i>Regional Water Planning</i> <i>Water Regionalization Initiative Update</i>	<i>Andrew Erdmann</i> <i>Dominique Cartron</i>
SYSTEMS LIGHTNING ROUND	<i>Water Systems</i>
COG REVIEW / UPDATES	<i>Angelina Grey</i>
STANDING PARTNER UPDATES	<i>NMED, RCAC</i>
CLOSING	<i>Angelina Grey</i>

REGULAR MEETING SCHEDULE:

These “coffee hour” meetings will give small water systems an opportunity to discuss issues, get updates and news, provide guidance, training, etc. This is your time to connect with the County and its working partners to establish a line of support and communication to work towards efficient planning strategies.

Third Wednesdays of every month, from 9am to 10am.

[Meetings are virtual until further notice.](#)

NEXT MEETING – Wednesday, March 16, 2022, from 9:00AM to 10:00AM

Regional Water Commons Meeting

Wednesday, January 19, 2022
9AM — 10AM

Presented by McKinley County and its working partners



Next Meeting: Wednesday, March 16, 2022



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AGENDA

WELCOME

Angelina Grey, COG

PRESENTATION

*Regional Water Planning
Water Regionalization Initiative Update*

*Andrew Erdmann
Dominique Cartron*

SYSTEMS LIGHTNING ROUND

Water Systems

COG REVIEW/UPDATES

Angelina Grey

STANDING PARTNERS UPDATES

NMED, RCAC

CLOSING

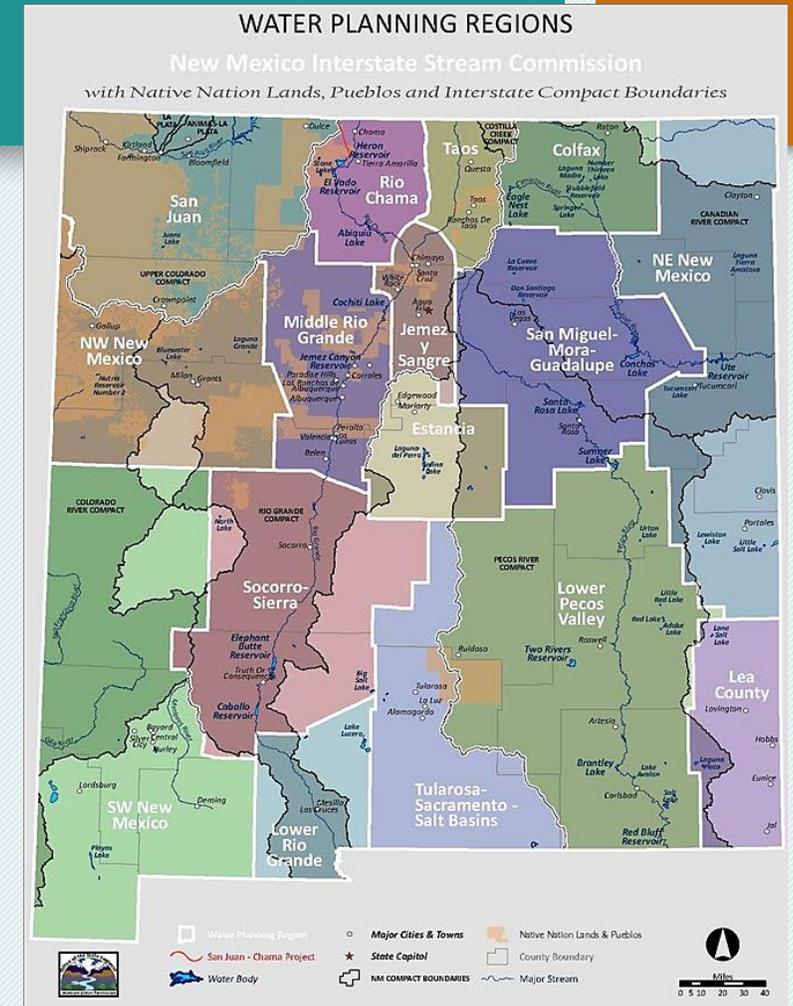
Angelina Grey

REGIONAL WATER PLANNING PRESENTATION

Regional Water Planning NM 50-Year Water Plan

Dominique Cartron, Attorney
Daniel B. Stephens & Associates
dcartronlaw@cybermesa.com

Andrew Erdmann,
andrew.erdmann@state.nm.us
Water Planning Program Manager
NM Interstate Stream Commission



SYSTEM LIGHTNING ROUND

Open floor for Water Systems and other attendees

- **Key issues to discuss**
- **Topic suggestions for next meeting**
- **Other recommendations**



COG REVIEW / UPDATES



Capital Outlay Recap

- 2022 Legislative Session will be a 30-day session: January 18th through February 17th
- Capital outlay request deadline passed (Thursday, January 13, 2022).
- Reauthorization deadline: January 30, 2021
- Entities that submitted CORs may request for progress updates from Brandon Howe (COG Lead Planner)
bhowe@nwnmcog.org
- Capital outlay outcomes at next meeting
- Mini-workshop for “New/Distinctive” Small Water Systems: **TBD**

Upcoming Events:

1. Mini-workshop for “New/Distinctive” Small Water Systems: Tuesday, February 8, 2022, from 9AM to Noon.
 1. Reached out to entities that fall under this category
 2. Next focus: updates on systems status, planning sessions for project priorities and funding strategies
2. Webinar information shared with small water systems.

STANDING PARTNERS

NMED, RCAC



News and Updates



New Mexico Department of
Finance & Administration

CLOSING

1. Closing Remarks
2. Questions or Comments
3. Issues or Concerns



**Next Meeting:
Wednesday, March 16, 2022**

CONTACT INFORMATION



McKinley County

www.co.mckinley.nm.us/

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Doug Decker

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CONTACT INFORMATION

Standing Partners



NM Environment Department (NMED)

www.env.nm.gov/drinking_water/

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Rural Community Assistance Cooperative (RCAC)

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Regional Water Commons (RWC)

AGENDA PACKET

Regional Water Commons

Previous Meeting

Wednesday, December 15, 2021
9:00AM – 10:00AM

[Microsoft Teams Meeting Recording](#)



REGIONAL WATER COMMONS

MONTHLY MEETING

Wednesday, December 15, 2021

9 AM — 10 AM

[Virtual Meeting](#)

A G E N D A

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PRESENTATIONS <i>Regional Water Planning</i>	<i>Dominique Cartron</i> <i>Bob Wessely</i>
SYSTEMS LIGHTNING ROUND	<i>Water Systems</i>
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Regional Water Commons

Wednesday, December 15, 2021, 9:00AM – 10:00AM

Microsoft Teams Meeting

[Recording Here](#)

Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

Bob Wessely	Middle Rio Grande Water Advocates	Wessely@SciSo.com
Michael Daly	White Cliffs MDWUA	
Blanca Surgeon	RCAC	
Pam Maples	Allison	
Nancy Wade	Top of the World	
Mario Rodriguez	DePauli Engineering & Surveying	
Cindy Blea	Ramah WSD	ramahwaterdistrict@gmail.com
Rockelle Lengefeld	Williams Acres WSD	
Marty Menapace	Catalpa WA	
Doug Decker	County Attorney	
Dominique Cartron	DBS&A Attorney (call-in)	dcartronlaw@cybermesa.com
Catherine Conran	NMED	catherine.conran@state.nm.us
Angelina Grey	COG Planner	agrey@nwnmcog.org
Melanie Delgado	NMED	

- Welcome.** Angelina Grey, COG Planner, opened the meeting at 9:00AM and reminded attendees that the meeting is being recorded for future references. Meeting officially started at 9:08am due to presenter having technical issues with logging on. Thank attendees for participating. Introduced presenter that was scheduled to present at the last meeting but will little attendance, it had to be rescheduled to December. A copy of this presentation included in the agenda packet for this meeting.
- Presentation: Regional Water Planning.** Bob Wessely, Middle Rio Grande Water Advocates, is today's guest presenter.
 - Mr. Wessely's presentation will focus on:
 - current activities with the organization,
 - provide updates on regional water planning for the Middle Rio Grande region,
 - crucial nature of updating the state water plan and the respective regional water plans. Currently in progress.
 - The Middle Rio Grande Water Advocates is a local work group for the Sandoval, Bernalillo and Valencia Counties; has been involved in regional water planning since 2000; assisted with updating regional water plans for the Middle Rio Grande region and the Mora-San Miguel region.

Timeline:

- 2013 – Regional Water Planning updated, addressed issues concerning the water planning processes; led to creating the 2016 Water Planning study group of regional planners (representing 14 of 16 districts); developed water planning issue papers; Larry Winn and Jeff Kiely participated in this activity.
- 2017 – House Memorial 1 – request for water planning legislation; telling legislators what is needed in regional water planning come 2019; update of the regional water plan developed; “Making the Case for Change” publication released.
- 2019 – Senate and House Bills – statutory needs for water governance; 3 bills total in response to HM1.
- 2020 – Governor’s champaign proposal to develop the 50-Year Water Plan; came to fruition in 2021.
- Discuss on how we should proceed; need to understand the physical climate impacts over the next 50 years, not what we should do about it but more about what will happen.
- NM Tech research team conducted study, developed presentation materials and final report; presented to state; stressed on resiliency and gathering recommendations on potential solutions; next public meeting in January 2022, state to collect and compile data and develop plan by March 2022.

Proposing a framework for water planning and what that might look like:

- Planning has discontinued due to lack of funding; the ‘stepchild’ in the state’s eyes; water advocates are working with the Interstate Stream Commission (ISC) in updating the planning paradigm; potential to incorporate into the state water plan; work as a guidance for legislators to gain support and funding.
- Proposing that the state adopt this framework:
 - i. Be a recommendation in the Fifty-Year Water Plan,*
 - ii. Provide Guidance for Legislative Bills; inform legislators the importance of water planning,*
 - iii. Serve as Justification for Serious Funding Action.*
- Content of the framework:
 - *Present the Purposes of Water Planning,*
 - *Explain the Benefits to Funders,*
 - *Address the Establishment of Water Planning Capacity,*
 - *Provide an Inventory of Possible Planning Components.*
 - Planning should be an ongoing and continuous process. Focus on identifying problems and develop solutions. Ensure implementation is an on-the-ground action. Do not shelve the plan.
- Bottom-up approach to planning:
 - *Planning Is an Ongoing, Iterative Process,*
 - *Intended to Identify Problems and Develop Solutions,*
 - *Planning Must Lead to On-the-Ground Action,*
 - *Encourage/Support Self-Defined Community Planning Entities within Regions,*
 - *It’s the Communities that Have the Knowledge and Skills,*
 - *Goal Is to Identify/Solve Problems at the Appropriate Level.*
- Regional coordination and planning structure:
 - *Regional Entities Coordinate the Communities Planning,*
 - *Do the Planning When/Where Community Entities Don’t Arise,*

- *Establish Hydrologically Defined Planning Regions,*
- *Ensure Regional Planning Entities Are Ongoing,*
- *The Regions Coordinate and Aggregate Contained Communities' Planning,*
- *Identify and Address Region-Wide Problems,*
- *Coordinate with Adjacent Regions' Planning.*

- Encouraging planning communities in regions; these planners know what the issues are locally; broader context can be expanded across regions, resulting in 'regional water planning.'
- Regional entities coordinating community planning to identify local issues.
- Examples of possible hydrologic regions. Potential for redistricting water regions throughout the state and what that might look like.
 - Involve looking at hydrologic regions to define each region instead of political boundaries (pink lines).
 - 3 proposed water regional maps show how much hydrologic regions are meaningfully different from political districts.
 - Regional offices that focus on regional issues; legislative funding supporting each region, funding gets trickled down to local projects.
- Proposed framework for water planning:
 - *State Planning Entity Obtains and Distributes Funding for Water Planning,*
 - *State Planning Entity Oversees Planning Activities,*
 - *Coordinates and Supports the Regional Planning Efforts,*
 - *Identifies and Solves Problems of a Statewide Nature,*
 - *Verifies Inter-Region Coordination of Planning,*
 - *Approves and Commits to Supporting Approved Regional Plans,*
 - *Coordinates Planning with Other State Agencies.*
- Planning support and accountability processes:
 - i. *Funding and Technical Support – from State to Region to Community,*
 - ii. *Accountability Reporting – from Community to Region to State,*
 - iii. *Regions Verify Inter-Community Coordination,*
 - iv. *State Verifies Inter-Region Coordination,*
 - v. *State Provides Funding of Regional Plan Actions,*
 - vi. *Regional Entities Provide Funding of Community Planned Actions,*
 - vii. *Each Planning Entity Verifies or Ensures Implementation and Monitoring.*
 - Regional planners are responsible and accountable for reporting back to their communities.
- Recommended planning components:
 - i. *Identify Problems to Be Addressed,*
 - ii. *Identify Adaptation Strategy Alternatives,*
 - iii. *Evaluate the Alternatives,*
 - iv. *Develop Recommendations,*
 - v. *Implement the Recommendations,*
 - vi. *Monitor the Implementation,*
 - vii. *Ensure Adequate Follow-On Planning.*
 - Checklist for planners, focusing on local issues and solutions.
 - Identify community-specific issues and concerns.
 - How practical is it? What are the social consequences?
 - What will it cost?

- List of resources for reference included on presentation slides.
 - i. Study group issue papers
 - ii. Legislative bills
 - iii. Climate study report
- Upcoming events: MRGWA conference: January 8, 2022. In depth discussions on specific issues and concerns. Go to MRGWA website for more information: <https://mrgwateradvocates.org/>
- Comments/Questions:
 - i. Blanca Surgeon: Is the MRGWA a nonprofit and does it represent all the different regions in the state?
 - 501c3 nonprofit, focusing on the:
 - Rio Grand River region but have also addressed statewide issues that have affected local, regional communities, particularly on the agricultural communities and urban growth and demand.
 - Local “miopic” planning vs. statewide/regional planning.
 - Interagency and interregional planning
 - How do you change something that’s been in place for so long?
 - Challenges is developing framework; ISC seem to be interested in the planning paradigm and may be included in some context within the state water plan.
 - Concept of using hydrological boundaries makes sense.
 - Planning starts at the bottom, not the top. Communities are ones doing the planning. Important to push these proposals.
 - Rural communities are often managed by volunteers. Some struggling to fill these positions.
 - ii. Mike Daly comment: Need technical support in this arena, perhaps the county-level, establish a water board that can represent each group.
 - Possible with stakeholder entities to coordinate with communities, assist with financial capacities with funding requirements.
 - iii. Paul Spencer: Will this be a permanent thing for regionalization?
 - Sounds good especially when money funnels down.
 - Do communities need to hire some fulltime to do this? Depending on communities and regions. Could be possible if communities need the help. Concern mostly with aging communities.
 - Gain support from legislators. Define regions. Determine how planning will impact communities. Idea would be to ensure continuity as so regional entities do not dissolve.
 - Will all this effort also help NMED restaff with professionals that communities need? Staffing shortages hold communities back. This has been discussed and will continue to discuss, particularly finding ways to fund regions.

3. Updates from Water Systems:

- MDaly: White Cliffs MDWUA, Gamercos WSD and Yahtahey WSD have agreed on sign the JPA; Dominique Cartron (Cartron Law) completed the draft. White Cliffs officially signed the JPA at its formal meeting yesterday, Tuesday, December 14, 2021. Finally coming to fruition after almost two decades.

4. **COG Updates:**

- Capital Outlay
 - All capital outlay requests are to be submitted soon.
 - Deadline to submit capital outlay requests: Thursday, January 13, 2022, by 3:00pm.
 - Reauthorizations are for awarded monies from previous legislative sessions that have not be expended yet.
 - Deadline to submit reauthorization requests: Sunday, January 30, 2022, by 3:00pm
 - If you are submitting any capital outlay requests, please contact the COG for further technical assistance.
- Mini workshop for “new / distinctive” small water systems: January 12, 2022, may the date to hold this event. Ms. Grey will be reaching out to systems for participation.

5. Ms. Grey adjourned the meeting at 10:07am.

6. **Next Meeting: Wednesday, January 19, 2021, from 9:00AM to 10:00AM**

Online meeting materials can be accessed at <http://www.nwnmcog.com/rwc-meetings.html>

REGIONAL WATER COMMONS MONTHLY MEETING



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AGENDA

WELCOME

Angelina Grey, COG

PRESENTATION

Bob Wessely

State Water Plan, Region 6 regional water planning

SYSTEMS LIGHTNING ROUND

Water Systems

COG REVIEW/UPDATES

Angelina Grey

STANDING PARTNERS UPDATES

NMED, RCAC

CLOSING

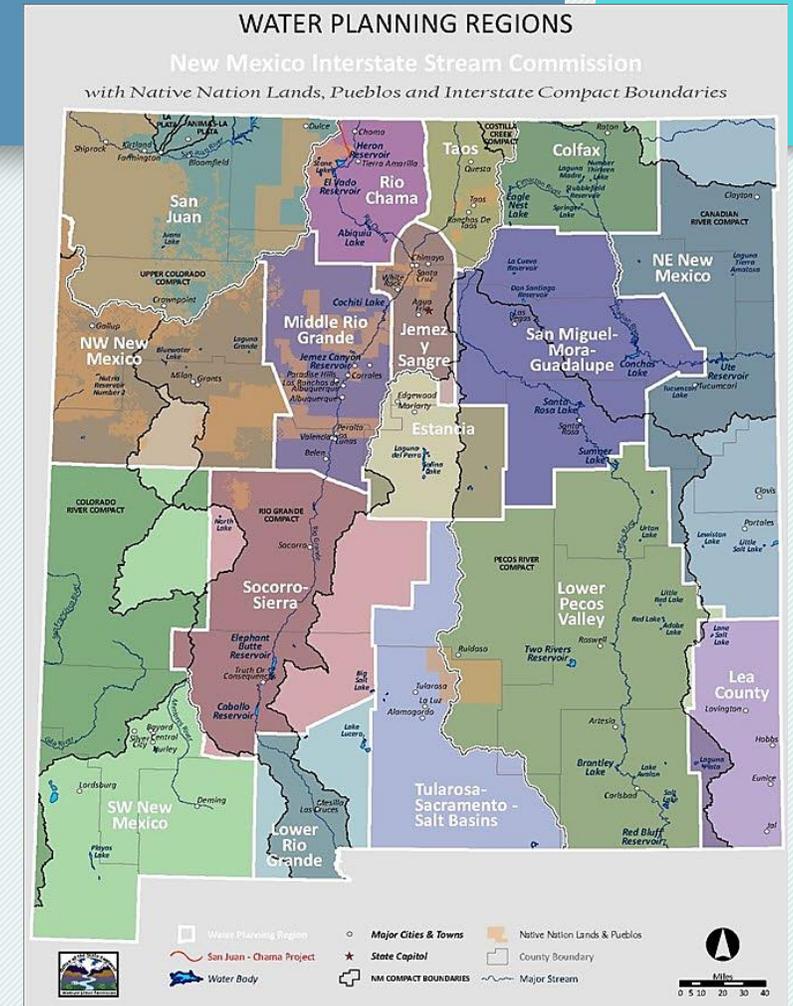
Doug Decker

REGIONAL WATER PLANNING PRESENTATION

Regional Water Planning NM 50-Year Water Plan

Dominique Cartron, Attorney
Daniel B. Stephens & Associates
dcartronlaw@cybermesa.com

Bob Wessely,
wessely@sciso.com
Middle Rio Grande Water Advocates
<https://mrgwateradvocates.org/>



A Proposed Water Planning Framework: How Should New Mexico Plan for Effective Water Governance?



A Presentation
for the
Northwest New Mexico
Regional Water Commons Meeting



November 17, 2021

Bob Wessely
(505) 259-7842
Wessely@SciSo.com



Why Are We Here?

Introduce the Middle Rio Grande Water Advocates, Region 12

Briefly Review a Selective History of NM Water Planning ... for Context

Describe an In-Work Proposal for a Future Water Planning Process

Solicit Recommendations Concerning the Process Proposal



The State's Water Planning

Selected Recent Milestones:

2013 – Start Regional Water Planning Update Process

2014 – Some Concerns with the Water Planning Processes

2015 – Convocation of Water Planners → Governance Study Group

2016 – Study Group → Water Planning Issue Papers

2017 – House Memorial 1 – Request Water Planning Legislation (and RWPs)

2018 – Study Group → “Making the Case for Change” (and SWP)

2019 – Senate and House Bills – Statutory Needs for Water Governance

2020 – What About Governor's Campaign Proposal?

2021 – Yes – Let's Do a Fifty-Year Water Plan



The State's Water Planning

The Fifty-Year Water Plan – Is in Process:



Understand Physical Climate Impacts Over Next 50 Years

NMT Team Collected and Summarized Research – Apr-Sep 2021 (presentations)

How Resilient Are We Now to the Changes? – Sep-Oct 2021 (WRRRI Conference)

How Can We Improve Resiliency – Oct-Nov 2021

Develop Recommendations – Dec 2021-Jan 2022 (NMWD Conference)

Compile Data into a Report – Feb 2022

Publish 50 Year Water Plan - March 2022



Proposed Framework for Water Planning

Concurrently, the Framework Process:

Rationale for Water Planning Has Changed – Must Now Deal with Reductions

Planning Has Been Discontinuous and Threadbare (due to lack of funding)

MRGWA (with ISC) Is Developing an Updated Planning Paradigm

“Water Planning Framework: How Should NM Plan for Effective Water Governance?”

The Framework Document Could:

- **Be a Recommendation in the Fifty-Year Water Plan**
- **Provide Guidance for Legislative Bills**
- **Serve as Justification for Serious Funding Action**



Proposed Framework for Water Planning

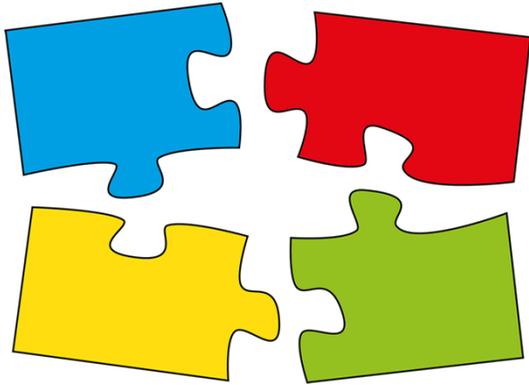
Content of the Framework Document:

Present the Purposes of Water Planning

Explain the Benefits to Funders

Address the Establishment of Water Planning Capacity

Provide an Inventory of Possible Planning Components



Proposed Framework for Water Planning

A Bottom-Up Approach to Planning:

Planning Is an Ongoing, Iterative Process

Intended to Identify Problems and Develop Solutions

Planning Must Lead to On-the-Ground Action

Encourage/Support Self-Defined Community Planning Entities within Regions

It's the Communities that Have the Knowledge and Skills

Goal Is to Identify/Solve Problems at the Appropriate Level



Proposed Framework for Water Planning

Regional Coordination and Planning Structure:

Regional Entities Coordinate the Communities Planning

Do the Planning When/Where Community Entities Don't Arise

Establish Hydrologically Defined Planning Regions

Ensure Regional Planning Entities Are Ongoing

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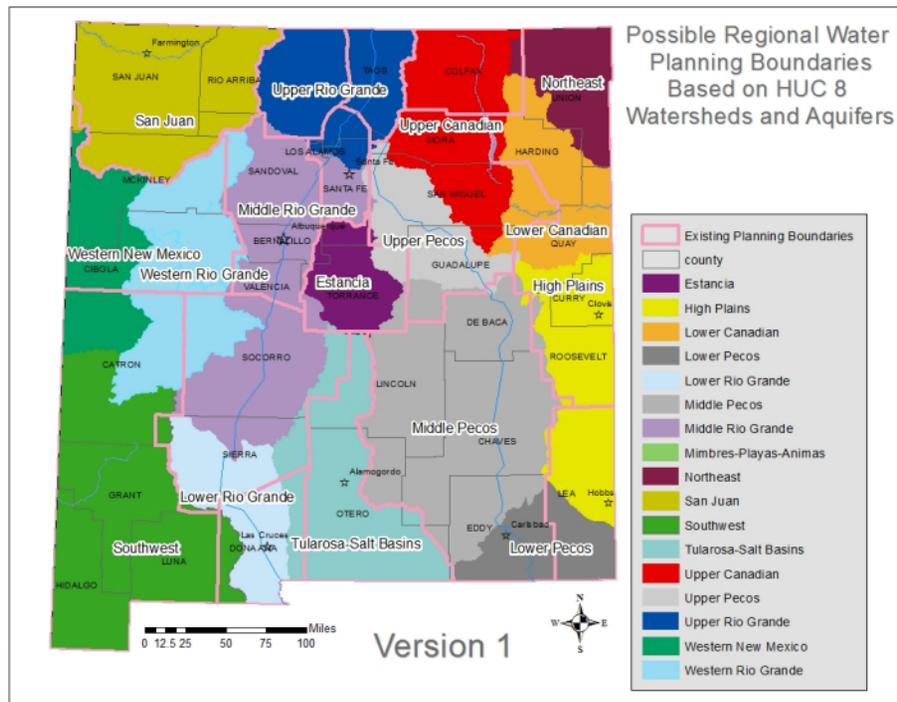
Identify and Address Region-Wide Problems

Coordinate with Adjacent Regions' Planning



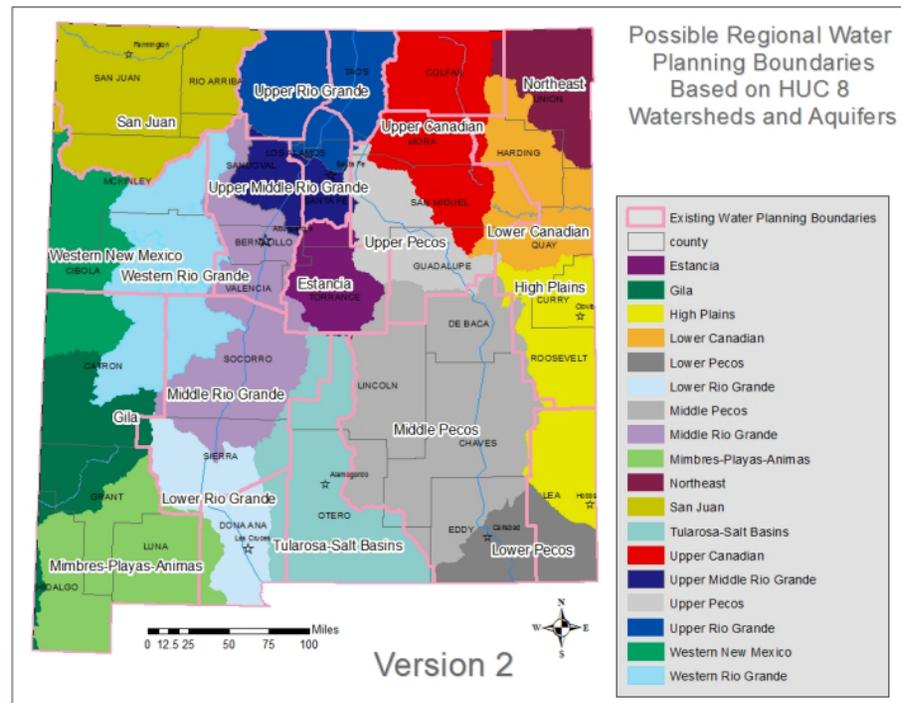
Proposed Framework for Water Planning

Examples of Possible Hydrologic Regions



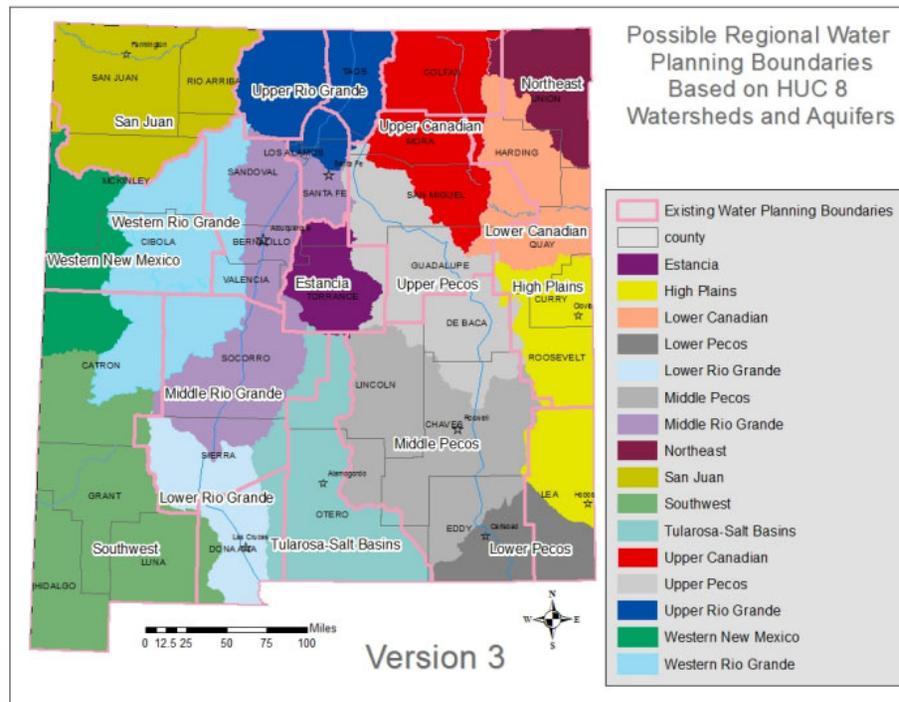
Proposed Framework for Water Planning

Examples of Possible Hydrologic Regions



Proposed Framework for Water Planning

Examples of Possible Hydrologic Regions



Proposed Framework for Water Planning

State Coordination and Planning Structure:

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State Planning Entity Oversees Planning Activities

Coordinates and Supports the Regional Planning Efforts

Identifies and Solves Problems of a Statewide Nature

Verifies Inter-Region Coordination of Planning

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Coordinates Planning with Other State Agencies



Proposed Framework for Water Planning

Planning Support and Accountability Processes:



Funding and Technical Support – from State to Region to Community

Accountability Reporting – from Community to Region to State

Regions Verify Inter-Community Coordination

State Verifies Inter-Region Coordination

State Provides Funding of Regional Plan Actions

Regional Entities Provide Funding of Community Planned Actions

Each Planning Entity Verifies or Ensures Implementation and Monitoring

Proposed Framework for Water Planning

Recommended Planning Components:

Identify Problems to Be Addressed

Identify Adaptation Strategy Alternatives

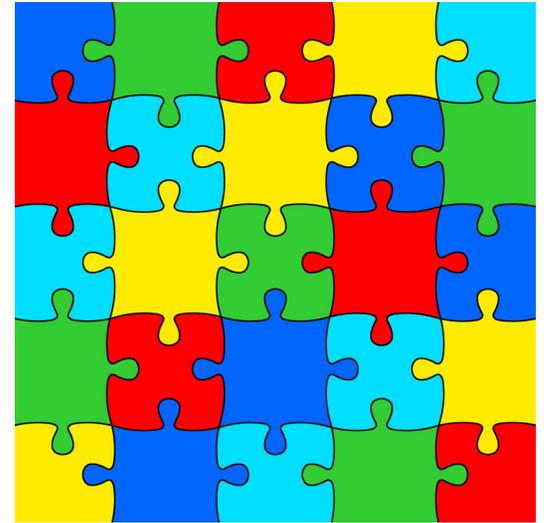
Evaluate the Alternatives

Develop Recommendations

Implement the Recommendations

Monitor the Implementation

Ensure Adequate Follow-On Planning



Proposed Framework for Water Planning

Additional References:

[Governance Study Group Issue Papers](#)

[Making the Case for Change](#)

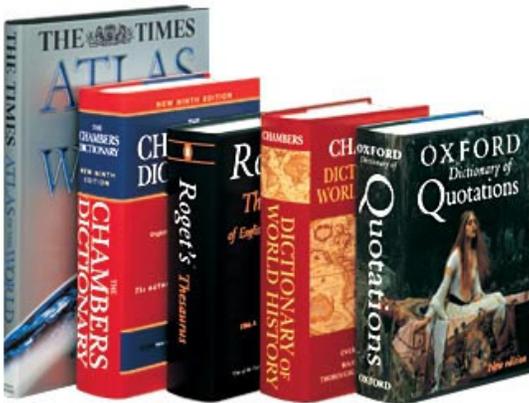
2019 Legislative Bills – [SB560](#), [HB187](#), [SB558](#)

[New Mexico Tech Climate Study Report](#)

[New Mexico Water Dialogue 2022 Conference](#)

[Fifty-Year Water Plan Website](#)

[Middle Rio Grande Water Advocates](#)



Proposed Framework for Water Planning

Questions and Comments



Bob Wessely
(505) 259-7842
Wessely@SciSo.com

SYSTEM LIGHTNING ROUND

Open floor for Water Systems and other attendees

- **Key issues to discuss**
- **Topic suggestions for next meeting**
- **Other recommendations**



COG REVIEW / UPDATES



Rural Water Summit – <http://www.nwnmcog.com/rural-water-summit.html>
Agenda Packet - *completed*.

Other Updates

Capital Outlay:

Deadline for Submission: **Thursday, January 13, 2022, by 3:00PM**

Reauthorization Deadline: Sunday, January 30, 2022, by 3:00PM

Mini-workshop for “New/Distinctive” Small Water Systems: **TBD**

Upcoming Online Events:

1. RCAP Webinar “Using Mapping and GIS” (for small water systems) Tuesday, November 16th at Noon.
2. EPA Water Laboratory Alliance hosting the “EPA WLA Security Summit”
Tuesday, November 16th through November 18th

STANDING PARTNERS

NMED, RCAC



News and Updates



New Mexico Department of
Finance & Administration

CLOSING

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Key Takeaways

Regional Water Commons Meeting
December 15, 2021

1. **November 17th meeting** was not largely attended by small water systems.
 - Meeting and presentation rescheduled to Wednesday, December 15, 2021.
 - Guest presenter, Bob Wessely from the Middle Rio Grande Water Advocates.
 - Proposed planning paradigm for the upcoming 50-Year New Mexico State Water Plan, currently under development by the NM Interstate Stream Commission.
 - Listed key strategies for local governments and regional entities to consider. *For specific recommendations, refer to meeting minutes above.*
 - Proposed framework would be modeled to help local and regional planners with community outreach and to gain support from local communities;
 - Framework would function as a guidance for state legislators and perhaps help attract more support and funding for local projects.
 - Proposing planning to be an ongoing and continuous process for all local governments and communities.
 - Gain support on 'redistricting' water regions according to hydrologic regions rather than political districting.
 - Develop checklist for planners and regional water entities.
2. **Capital Outlay:**
 - Reminder to submit capital outlay requests well prior to the deadlines:
 - COR deadline: Thursday, January 13, 2022, by 3pm.
 - CO Reauthorizations deadline: Sunday, January 30, 2021, by 3pm.
3. **Next Meeting:** Wednesday, January 19, 2022, from 9:00am to 10:00am.

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