

# Regional Water Commons Monthly Meeting Agenda Packet

## Next Meeting:

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 16, 2021 from 9:00AM to 10:00AM**

**MICROSOFT TEAMS MEETING**

## Agenda Packet Includes:

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



**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 partners

## AGENDA PACKET

### Regional Water Commons

#### Next Meeting

Wednesday, June 16, 2021  
9:00AM – 10:00AM

**Microsoft Teams Meeting**

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## REGIONAL WATER COMMONS

### MONTHLY MEETING

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**Wednesday, June 16, 2021**

**9 AM — 10 AM**

**Virtual Meeting**

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## A G E N D A

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<b>WELCOME</b>	<i>Angelina Grey, COG</i>
<b>SYSTEMS LIGHTNING ROUND</b>	<i>Water Systems</i>
<b>PRESENTATIONS</b> <i>Funding Programs</i> <i>Local Government Projecteering</i>	<i>Angelina Grey, COG</i>
<b>COUNTY UPDATES</b>	<i>Doug Decker, County Attorney</i>
<b>COG UPDATES</b> <i>Online Survey Review</i>	<i>Angelina Grey, COG</i>
<b>TRAINING &amp; FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES</b>	<i>Angelina Grey, COG</i>
<b>CLOSING</b>	<i>Doug Decker, County Attorney</i>

#### REGULAR MEETING SCHEDULE:

*These regularly scheduled meetings will be conducted as a "coffee hour" platform where attendees are free to discuss issues, provide updates and news, provide guidance, etc. This is your time to connect with the County and its working partners to establish a line of communication and support to work towards efficient strategies.*

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

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

**NEXT MEETING – Wednesday, July 21, 2021, from 9:00AM to 10:00AM**



# REGIONAL WATER COMMONS MONTHLY MEETING

**Wednesday, June 16, 2021**  
9AM—10AM

*Presented by McKinley County and its working partners*



Next Meeting: Wednesday, July 21, 2021



**McKinley County**  
207 West Hill Avenue  
Gallup, NM 87301  
(505) 863-1400  
<https://www.co.mckinley.nm.us/>

**NWNM Council of Governments**  
110 West Aztec Avenue  
Gallup, NM 87301  
(505) 722-4327  
[www.nwnmicog.com](http://www.nwnmicog.com)



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## agenda

WELCOME	Angelina Grey, NWNMCOG
SYSTEM LIGHTNING ROUND	Water Systems
PRESENTATIONS	Angelina Grey, NWNMCOG
Funding Programs	
Local Government Projecteering	
COUNTY UPDATES	Doug Decker, County Attorney
COG UPDATES	Angelina Grey, NWNMCOG
Online Survey Review	
TRAINING & FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES	Angelina Grey, NWNMCOG
CLOSING	Doug Decker, County Attorney

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## SYSTEM LIGHTNING ROUND

*Open floor for Water Systems and other attendees*

- Any key issues to share with the group?
- Any suggestions for topics of discussion for next meeting?
- Any suggestions to meeting format?
- Does the monthly meetings help, or should they be held quarterly?
- Are there other individuals out there who should be part of this group?

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## FUNDING PROGRAMS

There are different types of funding programs available to our communities.

### New Mexico

- Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)
- Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan (ICIP)
- Water Trust Board (WTB)
- Capital Outlay
- Drinking Water State Revolving Fund

### National

- EPA WIIN Grant

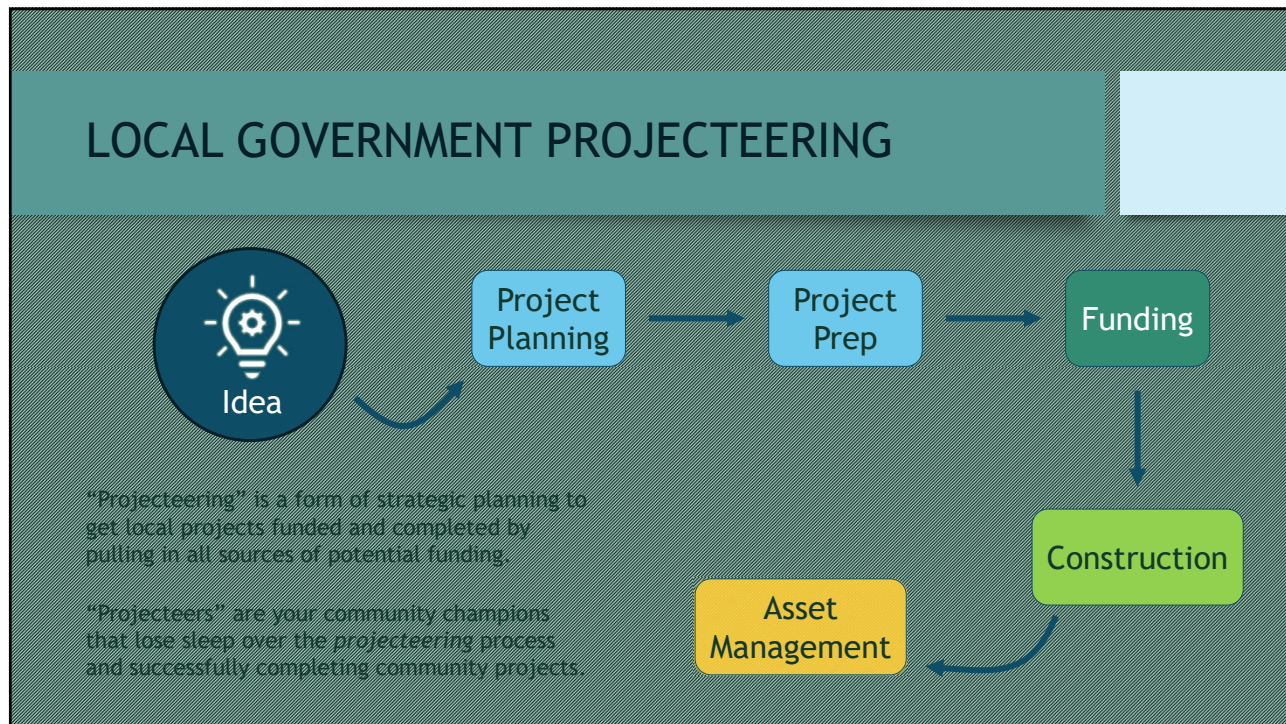
### Federal Loan Programs

- USDA, Rural Development Program, Rural Utilities Services
- USDA Water & Waste Disposal Loan & Grant Program

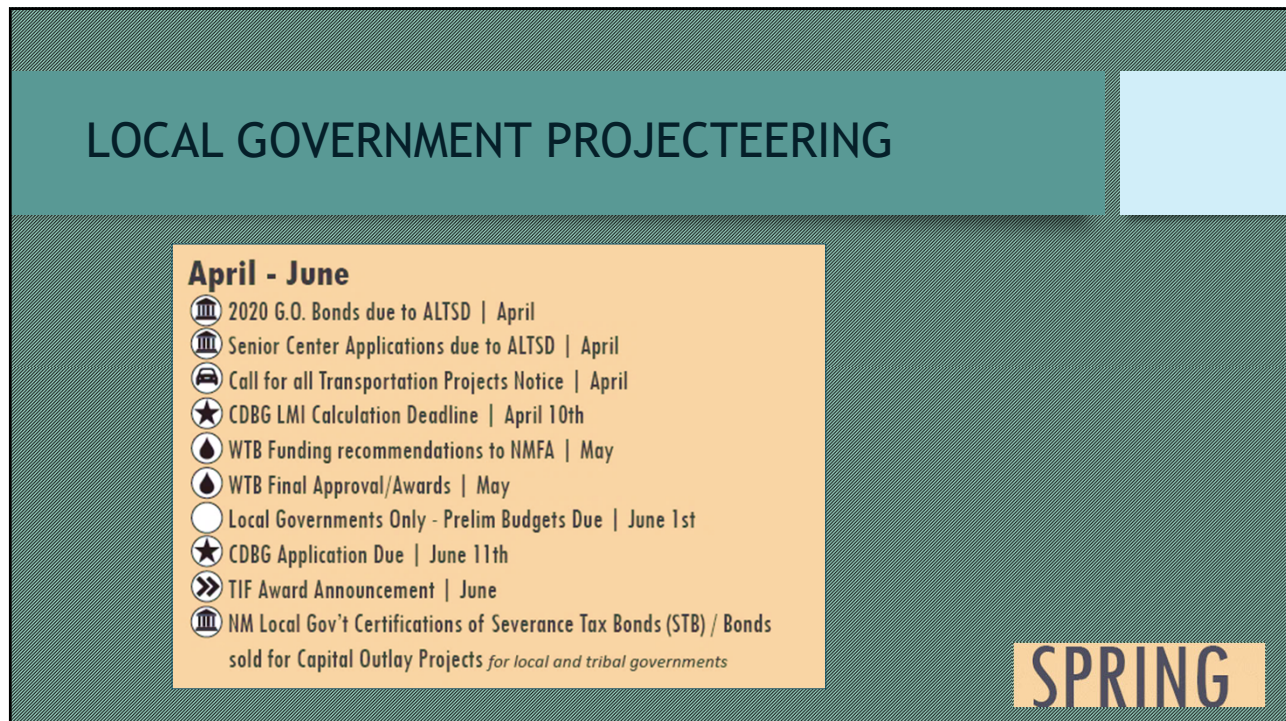


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## LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROJECTEERING

### July - September

-  ICIP Virtual Training Workshops | July 22nd, 28th, 29th, 30th
-  Project Feasibility Forms (PFFs) Due | July
-  ICIP Due for Special Districts | September 4th
-  WTB Notice of Intent | August
-  ICIP Due for Tribal Entities | September 18th
-  CDBG Application Hearing | September 3rd
-  CDBG Allocation Hearing | September 17th
-  Mandatory PFF Consultations w/ NMDOT District Office | August  
*by appointment only*
-  ICIP Due for Municipalities and Counties | September 18th
-  Grant Agreements are issued | July - September

SUMMER

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## COUNTY UPDATES

Doug Decker, County Attorney



### County News and Updates

- Water regionalization
- WIIN Grant
- Project Updates (AG)
  - 2019 CDBG Construction Grant Application: [White Cliffs Water Improvement Project](#)
  - CDBG Planning Grant Application: [Allison Preliminary Engineering Report](#)
  - 2020 CDBG Construction Grant Application: [West Logan Avenue Street & Drainage Project](#)

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## COG UPDATES



1. **Online Survey**  
Review survey questionnaire

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## TRAINING & FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

1. **NM Rural Water Association 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference:**  
**August 3-5, 2021**  
(Registration Fees)



2. **2021 Rural Water Summit:**  
**August 31, 2021**

McKinley County Administration Building, Conference Room (*tentative*)  
(Free event, registration to follow)



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## CLOSING

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



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## CONTACT INFORMATION



### McKinley County

Anthony Dimas  
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[www.co.mckinley.nm.us/](http://www.co.mckinley.nm.us/)



### NWNM Council of Governments (COG)

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[www.nwnmcog.com](http://www.nwnmcog.com)

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# CONTACT INFORMATION

*Standing Partners*



## NM Environment Department (NMED)

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Catherine Conran  
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[catherine.conran@state.nm.us](mailto:catherine.conran@state.nm.us)

[www.env.nm.gov/drinking\\_water/](http://www.env.nm.gov/drinking_water/)



## Rural Community Assistance Cooperative (RCAC)

Olga Morales  
Assistant Director  
(575) 382-6992  
[omorales@rcac.org](mailto:omorales@rcac.org)

Ramon Lucero  
[rlucero@rcac.org](mailto:rlucero@rcac.org)

[www.rcac.org](http://www.rcac.org)



## January - March

- ★ Navajo CDBG Applications due | January
- 🏛️ NM Legislature Opens | January
- 💧 WTB Readiness Application Due | January
- 🏛️ Legislative Capital Outlay Request Forms Due | January
- 🏛️ Senior Center Application Training | January - February
- ★ CDBG LMI Methodology Deadline | February 14th
- 🚗 RTIPR Prioritization | February
- ➡️ TIF Portal Opens | February
- ★ CDBG Threshold Deadline | March 13th
- 🏛️ Final Capital Outlay Bill | March
- 🚗 ZIPPR Prioritization | March
- ➡️ TIF Application Deadline | March
- 💧 WTB Legislature Phase 1 Project Approvals | January - March

# WINTER

## April - June

- 🏛️ 2020 G.O. Bonds due to ALTSD | April
- 🏛️ Senior Center Applications due to ALTSD | April
- 🚗 Call for all Transportation Projects Notice | April
- ★ CDBG LMI Calculation Deadline | April 10th
- 💧 WTB Funding recommendations to NMFA | May
- 💧 WTB Final Approval/Awards | May
- 🕒 Local Governments Only - Prelim Budgets Due | June 1st
- ★ CDBG Application Due | June 11th
- ➡️ TIF Award Announcement | June
- 🏛️ NM Local Gov't Certifications of Severance Tax Bonds (STB) / Bonds sold for Capital Outlay Projects *for local and tribal governments*

# SPRING

# FALL

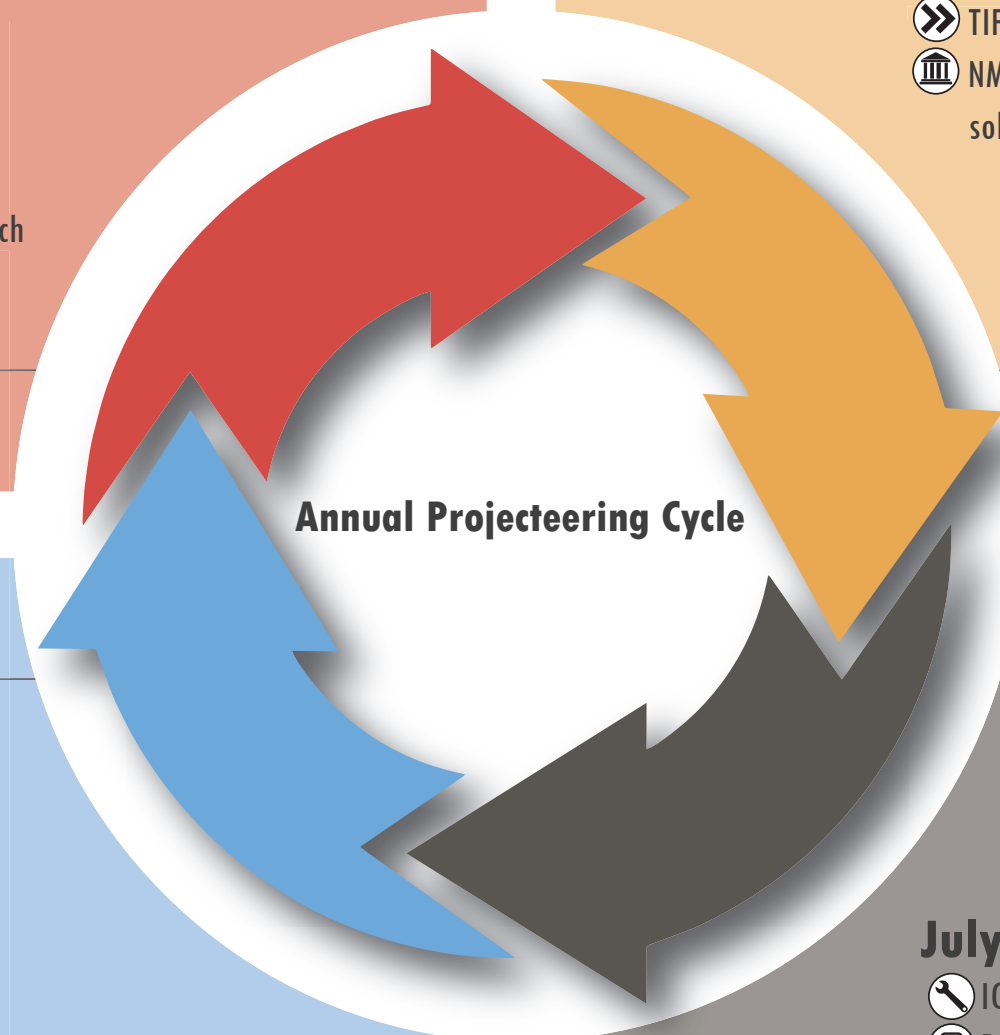
## October - December

- 🔧 ICIP Due for Senior Centers | October 2nd
- 💧 WTB Initial Application | October
- ★ CDBG Implementation Workshop | October 29th
- 💧 WTB Application Presentation | October
- 🚗 Based on approval, Project Prospectus Forms (PFFs) and/or applications due | October
- 🕒 NM Infrastructure Conference | October
- ★ CDBG Application Workshop | December
- 🏛️ Communities prioritize NM Legislative Priority Projects & hold Legislative Forums/Consultations | October - December

## July - September

- 🔧 ICIP Virtual Training Workshops | July 22nd, 28th, 29th, 30th
- 🚗 Project Feasibility Forms (PFFs) Due | July
- 🔧 ICIP Due for Special Districts | September 4th
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# SUMMER



# So Now What...?

## Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan

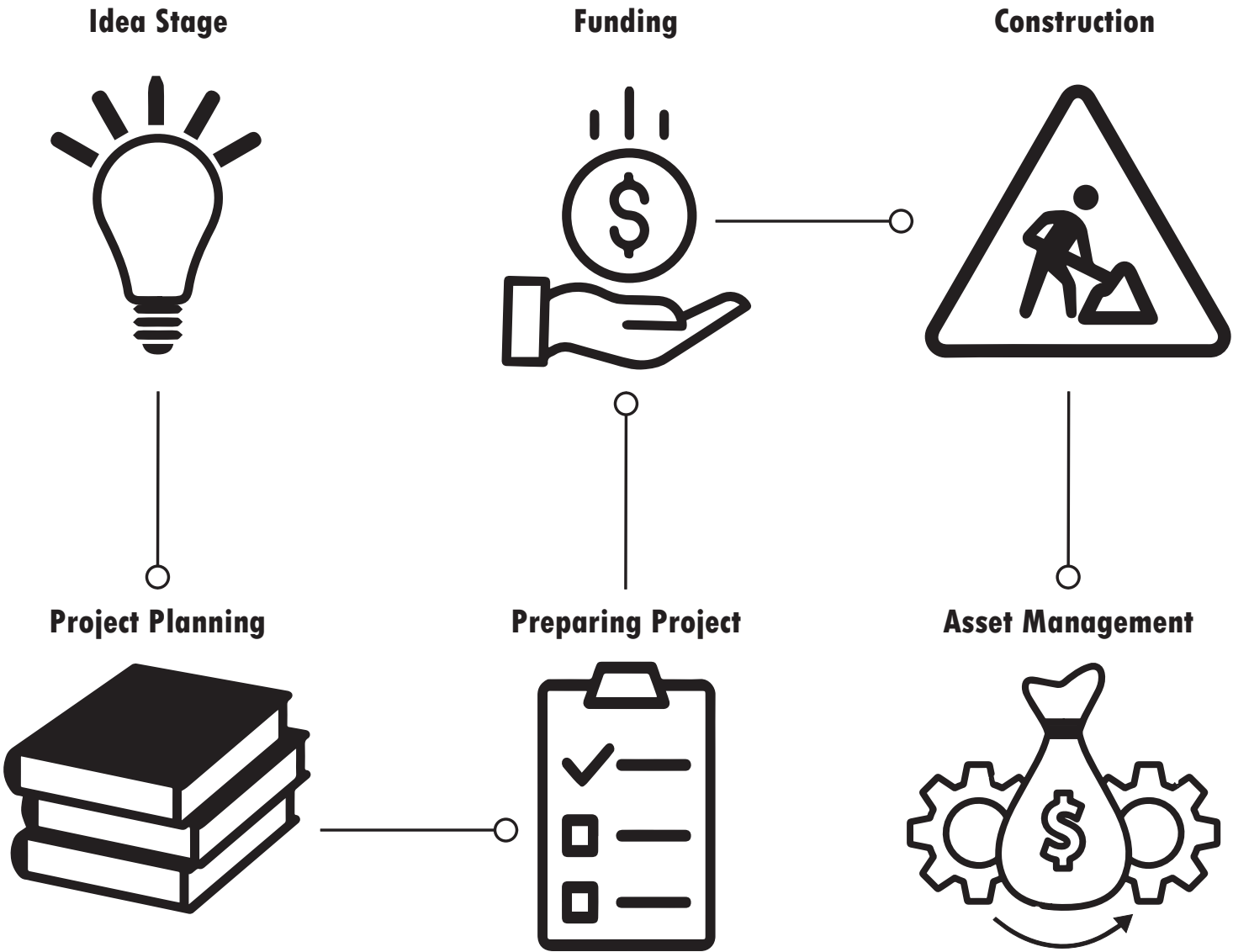
If your community has completed and submitted its Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan (ICIP) – the question becomes, SO NOW WHAT?

We all realize that the ICIP is only a planning tool and a pre-requisite for applying for funding. It really is a process to help policy officials focus and select their top priorities. It is also a way to create a financing strategy and year-round gameplan to attract project resources through various local, State, Federal, and other sources by applying and gaining funding. Each program has different timelines and application processes. The same type of information is used by most grant and loan sources, but no universal application has really been implemented with much success.

## Projecteering

Since it is unlikely to get a major project completed with only one source of funding or in one year these days, “Projecteers” need to systemically plan and time a strategy to pull together a portfolio of investors and sources to get full project funding.

‘Projecteers’ are basically the folks or staff in your community that lose sleep over the “Projecteering” process and successfully completing community projects. ‘Projecteering’ is the process of getting a project from:



## Timing a Project

So, to be a successful Projecteer, the COG recommends that folks live by a full cycle planning and full circle funding philosophy. Basically, this philosophy is that Projecteers plan and update projects on an ongoing basis and work on landing project funding from various sources -- 365 days a year.

So, Projecteers need to be well versed on program time-frames, parameters, and nuances.

Next is a list of the normal and routine funding sources and the major due dates – please note there are usually more than meets the eye in terms of what it takes to qualify and be successful.

**Transportation Projects** - there are various sources and programs within the Federal Highway Administration and NM Department of Transportation depending on project type. To make it easier, the Northwest Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RTPO) did a comprehensive "Call for Projects" June 2018. Whether it's a bridge, trail, transit, safe route to school, or any other type of transportation project – there is one universal way into the process, the Project Feasibility Form, which was due July 31st. This will be for funding typically in years FY20-21 and is biennial process. Work through your local RTPO representative for more information.  
[www.nwnmcog.com/rtpo](http://www.nwnmcog.com/rtpo)

**Water Projects** - the Water Trust Fund's Board is soliciting water projects currently. Again, whether it's a storage, flood control, conservation, or restoration type of water project – there is one universal way into the process, the Initial Application, which is due October 4, 2018. Water Trust Fund program information.  
<https://www.nmfa.net/financing/water-programs/water-project-fund/>

**Capital Outlay** - New Mexico is one of only a handful of States that utilizes its severance tax bonds to fund local, regional, and Statewide infrastructure and major equipment projects, including roads, facilities, water, wastewater, etc. Here is a link to the Legislative Council Services background paper on the program:  
[https://www.nmlegis.gov/Publications/Info\\_Bulletins/2017/Capital\\_Outlay\\_Primer\\_For\\_2018.pdf](https://www.nmlegis.gov/Publications/Info_Bulletins/2017/Capital_Outlay_Primer_For_2018.pdf)  
Requests are submitted via local Legislators, using the Legislative Council Services capital outlay request form.  
[https://nmlegis.gov/Publications/Capital\\_Outlay/capital\\_request\\_form.pdf](https://nmlegis.gov/Publications/Capital_Outlay/capital_request_form.pdf)

**Senior Center Facilities** - The Aging and Long-Term Services Department (ALTSD) administers an application process to fund senior center facilities statewide. Such projects include those awarded to both local government and tribal government providers for renovation and construction of senior centers, and for the purchase of vehicles and large commercial kitchen equipment. A capital outlay legislative request for senior center projects is submitted annually by ALTSD.  
<http://www.nmaging.state.nm.us/capital-outlay.aspx>

**Tribal Infrastructure Fund** - TIF was created by the Tribal Infrastructure Act in 2005. This act recognizes that many of New Mexico's tribal communities lack basic infrastructure, including, but not limited to water and wastewater systems, roads, and electrical power lines. All tribes, nations and pueblos in the State of New Mexico have an opportunity to submit project proposals for plan, design and construction. <http://www.iad.state.nm.us/>

**Community Development Block Grant** - a Housing and Urban Development Department (HUD) program that is available to invest funding into various planning and construction projects in low income communities. Applications through the NM Department of Finance's Local Government Division for their small cities and communities program is June 21 2019. Current Application guidelines.  
[http://nmdfa.state.nm.us/CDBG\\_Information\\_1.aspx](http://nmdfa.state.nm.us/CDBG_Information_1.aspx)

**Local Government Budgets** - annually counties, cities, and other governmental entities put together budgets that should support matching funds for critical and prioritized projects. Most entities start putting budgets and holding budget meetings in April/May each year.

**New Mexico Finance Authority** - offers various grant and loan programs for both planning and construction on an ongoing and periodic basis. More information on programs. <http://www.nmfa.net/>

**United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)** - offers various grant and loan programs for both planning and construction on an ongoing and periodic basis. More information on programs. <https://www.rd.usda.gov/nm>

**New Mexico Environment Department** - offers various grant and loan programs for projects related to water, wastewater, and solid waste system improvements on an ongoing and periodic basis. There is one universal way into the process, the Project Interest Survey or <https://www.env.nm.gov/wit/>  
More information on water and wastewater programs: <https://www.env.nm.gov/cpb/FinanceServices.htm>  
More information on solid waste programs: <https://www.env.nm.gov/swb/GrantandLoanPrograms.htm>

**Economic Development Projects**- there are several sources and tax incentives that can be packaged or provided for public works projects and/or business development opportunities to create a fertile business climate. Multiple sources that can be leveraged go through the FUNDIT program, which includes Economic Development Administration's Public Works program and the State's Local Economic Development Act capital outlay program. To learn more, please contact us or Fred Shepherd, Regional Representative, NM Economic Development Department at (505) 490-7966 or go to: <https://gonm.biz/business-resource-center/edd-programs-for-business/finance-development/fundit/>

If you have any questions or need assistance with projecteering, please contact:

**Evan Williams, Executive Director**  
**Northwest NM Council of Governments**  
**Phone: (505)-722-4327**  
**E-Mail: [ewilliams@nwnmcog.org](mailto:ewilliams@nwnmcog.org)**



[https://www.env.nm.gov/drinking\\_water/training-opportunities/](https://www.env.nm.gov/drinking_water/training-opportunities/)

TITLE	DATE/TIME	AGENCY	DURATION	SPECIFIED FOR
<u>Basic Operator Math</u> Register: email <a href="mailto:quintin@nmrwa.org">quintin@nmrwa.org</a>	May 5 & 6 & 12 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM	NMRWA	4 hours (per session)	Operator
<u>Building Resilience &amp; Climate Adaptation: CREAT Toolkit</u>	May 11 & 13 & 18 & June 1 11:00 to 1:00 (MST)	EPA	2 hours (per session)	Board
<u>Basic Board Training</u> (Series 1 of 4) The Safe Drinking Water Act	May 12 10:00 to 12:00 (MST)	RCAC	2 hours	Board
<u>Releases to Sources of Drinking Water: National Occurrence and Resources to Identify Risks</u>	May 13 11:00 to 12:00	EPA	1 hour	Operator
<u>Successfully Accessing Water Infrastructure Funding Programs: Advice from Two Former Loan Officers</u>	May 18 12:00 to 1:00 (MST)	RCAP	1 hour	Board & Operator
<u>GIS Field Data Collection using Trimble GPS Unit</u>	May 19 11:00 to 12:00 (MST)	EFC	1 hour	Board
<u>Valves and Fire Hydrant Training</u> (Email Quintin Cox to register) <a href="mailto:quintin@nmrwa.org">quintin@nmrwa.org</a>	May 19 and 27 10:00 am to 2:00 pm (MST)	NMRWA	4 hours	Operator
<u>Water Operator Test Preparation Series</u>	May 19 (link coming soon)	RCAC	—	Operator
<u>Basic Board Training</u> (Series 2 of 4) Applicable Laws and Responsibilities	May 26 10:00 to 12:00 (MST)	RCAC	2 hours	Board
<u>Biosolids Part 2: Wastewater Treatment Sludge Disposal Methods</u>	May 27 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM (MST)	EPA	1.5 hours	Operator
<u>Basic Board Training</u> (Series 3 of 4) Board Responsibilities	June 2 10:00 to 12:00 (MST)	RCAC	2 hours	Board
<u>Pumps and Motors</u> (Email Quintin Cox to register) <a href="mailto:quintin@nmrwa.org">quintin@nmrwa.org</a>	June 3rd and 10th 10:00 am to 2:00 pm	NMRWA	4 hours	Operator
<u>Setting Effective Rates for Small Systems- New Mexico</u>	June 7 and 8 8:30 to 11:30 (MST)	AWWA	6 hours	Operator
<u>Basic Board Training</u> (Series 4 of 4) Regional Collaboration	June 9 10:00 to 12:00 (MST)	RCAC	2 hours	Board
<u>Protecting your Utility from Disasters</u> (Part 1 of 2) Resiliency	June 24 11:00 to 12:30 (MST)	EPA	1.5 hours	Operator
<u>Building Resilience and Adapting to Climate Change Impacts for Drinking Water and Wastewater Utilities</u> (Part 2 of 2)	July 29 11:00 to 12:30 (MST)	EPA	1.5 hours	Operator
<u>Groundwater and Well Care for Public Water Systems</u>	FREE Anytime	Water Operators	2 hours	Operator

# New Mexico

## VIRTUAL WATER WORKSHOP

May 18th-20th



### DRAFT AGENDA \*subject to change

Start	End	Title	Topic Area	Presenter	Affiliation
<b>TUESDAY, MAY 18TH</b>					
11:00 AM	11:10 AM	Welcome & Opening Remarks			
11:10 AM	11:40 AM	HOT TOPIC/KEYNOTE: Fate of Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) in Advanced Water Treatment for Potable Reuse	Water Treatment	Eva Steinle-Darling	Carollo Engineers
11:40 AM	11:45 AM	Stretch Break & Transition to Next Session			
11:45 AM	12:15 PM	HOT TOPIC/KEYNOTE: Extreme Drought Management and Risk Mitigation – The Wichita Falls Story	Management & Planning	Samir Mathur, P.E., BCEE	CDM Smith
12:15 PM	12:20 PM	Stretch Break & Transition to Next Session			
12:20 PM	12:50 PM	City of Santa Fe 2100 Water Planning; Why Now?	Management & Planning	Steven Schultz	Hazen & Sawyer
12:50 PM	12:55 PM	Stretch Break & Transition to Next Session			
12:55 PM	1:25 PM	Finding Opportunities for Green Stormwater Infrastructure in Arid Communities	Management & Planning	Vincent Steiner	Bohannon Huston
<b>WEDNESDAY, MAY 19TH</b>					
11:00 AM	11:10 AM	Welcome & Opening Remarks			
11:10 AM	11:40 AM	HOT TOPIC/KEYNOTE: Make a Plan, Implement the Plan, Expect the Plan to Go Horribly Wrong, Throw Out the Plan: How the best laid plans are less important than your team and network	Emergency Management	Clarence Wittwer	City of Pearland, TX
11:40 AM	11:45 AM	Stretch Break & Transition to Next Session			
11:45 AM	12:15 PM	Successful Aquifer Storage and Recovery with Collaboration and Coordination	Management & Planning	Diane Agnew	Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority
12:15 PM	12:20 PM	Stretch Break & Transition to Next Session			
12:20 PM	12:50 PM	Efficient Destruction of Nitrate and Other Groundwater Contaminants Using Fixed-Bed Biological Treatment	Water Treatment	Jess Brown	Carollo Engineers
12:50 PM	12:55 PM	Stretch Break & Transition to Next Session			
12:55 PM	1:25 PM	Everything You Need to Know About Filter Surveillance - Plus Recent Results from Santa Fe	Water Treatment	Jason Assouline Kristin Johansen Ben Murphy	Carollo Engineers City of Santa Fe Carollo Engineers
5:00 PM	6:30 PM	HAPPY HOUR/SOCIAL EVENT			
<b>THURSDAY, MAY 20TH</b>					
11:00 AM	11:10 AM	Welcome & Opening Remarks			
11:10 AM	11:40 AM	HOT TOPIC/KEYNOTE: The Ultimate Dream Job: Upgrading the Water Resource Recovery Facilities Serving the Grand Canyon	Water Resource Recovery	Joel Rife	Jacobs Engineering Group
11:40 AM	11:45 AM	Stretch Break & Transition to Next Session			
11:45 AM	12:15 PM	Aerobic Granular Sludge: Design of the First AGS WWTP in North America	Water Resource Recovery	Sean Scuras	Garver USA
12:15 PM	12:20 PM	Stretch Break & Transition to Next Session			
12:20 PM	12:50 PM	Communication for High Performing Teams	Management & Planning	Laura Suazo	Bohannon Huston
12:50 PM	12:55 PM	Stretch Break & Transition to Next Session			
12:55 PM	1:25 PM	City of Jal, New Mexico Wastewater Treatment: From out of compliance to 100% Re-use	Water Resource Recovery	Patricia Bolliger & Raj Chavan	Stantec
1:25 PM	1:30 PM	Closing Remarks			
2:45 PM	3:45 PM	(Optional Add-On Training) ETHICS: The Fork in the Road: What Impacts Ethics Decisions	Ethics	Dennis Gatlin	Boxelder Sanitation
3:45 PM	4:00 PM	Stretch Break & Transition to Next Session			
4:00 PM	5:00 PM	(Optional Add-On Training) ETHICS: Engineers Shall Hold Paramount the Safety, Health & Welfare of the Public: But How Safe is Safe?	Ethics	Bruce Thomson	University of New Mexico

Last updated: 4/19/21



## **Free Workshop for New Mexico Water Loss Control, Optimizing Performance & Accessing Funding to Improve Small Systems**

**Virtual Workshop on the GoToTraining Platform**

**Tuesday, July 20<sup>th</sup> & Wednesday, July 21<sup>st</sup>, 2021  
8:00 am – 11:00 am**

### **EARN 6 FREE TRAINING CREDIT HOURS FOR YOUR NEW MEXICO LICENSE**

This workshop is part of a special series made possible through a collaboration of the American Water Works Association (AWWA), Rocky Mountain Section AWWA, the US Department of Agriculture (USDA), and the Partnership for Safe Water.

#### **What Will I Learn?**

- ✓ Water Loss Challenges for Small Systems
- ✓ Defining Non-revenue Water
- ✓ Using AWWA's Water Balance and Free Water Audit Software
- ✓ Understanding Production and Customer Metering Losses (Apparent Losses)
- ✓ Controlling Leakage (Real Losses)
- ✓ How to apply for low interest funding through the USDA

#### **Eligibility to Attend:**

- ✓ Small Systems in New Mexico serving populations of 10,000 and under
- ✓ Must have own email address, good internet connection and desktop or laptop computer (*for verification purposes, no sharing of screens*)

#### **Who Should Attend:**

- ✓ Small Water System Operators (including Contract Operators)
- ✓ Small Water System Board Members (decision makers)
- ✓ Municipal Officials (including Clerks/Treasurers)
- ✓ Consultants who work with Small Water Systems

**Registration (FREE):** Space is limited to 50 attendees. Advance online registration is required. Registration deadline is July 13, 2021. <http://bit.ly/OptUSDA-NM>

**Continuing Education:** **6 credit hours**, for New Mexico attendees only. Must attend both days to earn credits.

**Questions:** Rocky Mountain Section AWWA Office | 720-404-0818 | [info@rmsawwa.org](mailto:info@rmsawwa.org)





## Free Online Training for New Mexico Water Operators

Posted on April 7, 2020



Drinking Water Bureau



NMED Drinking Water Bureau and New Mexico Rural Water Association are offering Free On-Line Training for New Mexico Water Operators

**Update: ALL free online training spots have been filled.**

### Classes offered are:

Math Basics – 5 credits

Pump and Motor Maintenance – 10 credits

Small Water Systems 1 – 5 credits

Valve and Hydrant Maintenance – 5 credits

These trainings are free for New Mexico Water Operators who register between April 1<sup>st</sup> and April 30<sup>th</sup>. Space is limited so registration preference will be given to participants associated with small water systems that serve a population of 500 or less.

Posted in [Uncategorized](#).

← [2020 State of New Mexico...](#)

### Upcoming Events

**42nd Annual Conference – NEW DATES!!!**  
August 3 - August 5

[View All Events](#)

### Latest News

Free Online Training for New Mexico Water Operators

2020 State of New Mexico Water/Waste Water/Sampler Certification Exam Schedules

ATTN High School Students: Enter NMRWA Essay Contest to win up to \$500

41st Annual Conference Recap

Agua de Nuevo Mexico

### Quick Links

[Join NMRWA](#)

[Training Calendar](#)

[Online Training](#)

[Post a Job](#)

[Funding Programs](#)

[Legislation & Grassroots Action](#)

### About NMRWA

The New Mexico Rural Water Association (NMRWA) is a non-profit organization with over 480 water and wastewater system members, representing over 1,297,000 New Mexicans. NMRWA strives to provide the highest quality training and technical assistance, and to represent the legislative and regulatory interests of our members.



*New Mexico Rural Water Association is a proud member of the National Rural Water Association, America's largest utility membership.*

### Contact Us

**New Mexico Rural Water Association**  
8336 Washington Place NE  
Albuquerque, NM 87113 | [View Map](#)

Phone: (505) 884-1031 | (800) 819-9893  
[Email Us »](#)

### Connect on Facebook

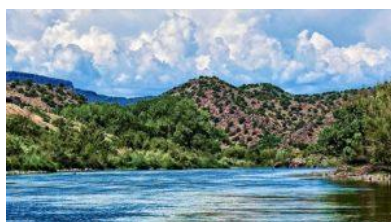


[« All Events](#)

## 42nd Annual Conference – NEW DATES!!!

August 3 - August 5

### About the Conference – **NEW DATES!!!**



NMRWA's Annual Conference is the premier water and wastewater utility industry training event in the state and brings together board members, managers, operators, regulators, industry representatives, funding agency staff, lawmakers, and community leaders.

Cost: \$300 for non-members; \$225 for members

Due to State of New Mexico COVID numbers looking better, we are changing the dates of our annual conference with hope that this event will take place in person. State, local and facility COVID guidelines at the time of the conference will be strictly adhered to.

Stay safe and healthy, and stay tuned for more updates in the near future!

[+ GOOGLE CALENDAR](#)[+ I CAL EXPORT](#)

### Details

**Start:**

August 3

**End:**

August 5

### Organizer

NMRWA

**Phone:**

(505) 884-1031

**Email:**

[info@nmrwa.org](mailto:info@nmrwa.org)

### Venue

Isleta Resort and Casino

11000 Broadway SE  
Albuquerque, NM 87105  
United States  
[+ Google Map](#)

**Phone:**

505-724-3800

**Website:**

<http://www.isleta.com>

### Upcoming Events

**42nd Annual Conference – NEW DATES!!!**

August 3 - August 5

[View All Events](#)

### Latest News

[Free Online Training for New Mexico Water Operators](#)

[2020 State of New Mexico Water/Waste Water/Sampler Certification Exam Schedules](#)

[ATTN High School Students: Enter NMRWA Essay Contest to win up to \\$500](#)

[41st Annual Conference Recap](#)

[Agua de Nuevo Mexico](#)

### Quick Links

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[Training Calendar](#)

[Online Training](#)

[Post a Job](#)

[Funding Programs](#)

[Legislation & Grassroots Action](#)





# Regional Water Commons (RWC)

## AGENDA PACKET

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### Regional Water Commons

#### **Previous Meeting**

Wednesday, May 26, 2021  
9:00AM – 10:00AM

[Microsoft Teams Meeting](#)



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# MCKINLEY COUNTY REGIONAL WATER COMMONS

## MONTHLY MEETING

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**Wednesday, May 26, 2021**

**9 AM — 10 AM**

**Virtual Meeting**

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# A G E N D A

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<b>WELCOME</b>	<i>Angelina Grey, NWNMCOG</i>
<b>PRESENTATIONS</b> <i>Navajo Gallup Water Supply Project</i>	Dennis Romero, City of Gallup
<b>COUNTY UPDATES</b> <i>Water Regionalization Initiative</i>	<i>Doug Decker, County Attorney</i> <i>Dominique Cartron, Attorney</i>
<b>STANDING PARTNERS</b> <i>Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund</i> <i>Operator Certification Programs</i> <i>WIIN Grant Application Update</i>	<i>Jill Turner, NMED</i> <i>Karen Torres, NMED</i>
<b>COG UPDATES</b>	<i>Angelina Grey, NWNMCOG</i>
<b>SYSTEM LIGHTNING ROUND</b>	<i>Water Systems</i>
<b>TRAINING &amp; FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES</b>	<i>Angelina Grey, NWNMCOG</i>
<b>CLOSING</b>	<i>Doug Decker, County Attorney</i>

### REGULAR MEETING SCHEDULE:

*These regularly scheduled meetings will be conducted as a “coffee hour” platform where attendees are free to discuss issues, provide updates and news, provide guidance, etc. This is your time to connect with the County and its working partners to establish a line of communication and support to work towards efficient strategies.*

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

**NEXT MEETING – Wednesday, June 16, 2021, from 9:00AM to 10:00AM**





## McKinley County Regional Water Commons Meeting

Wednesday, May 26, 2021

9:02 AM

Virtual meeting was recorded. Access video [here](#).

### Attendees:

Name	Entity	Email
Doug Decker	Attorney	<a href="mailto:ddecker@co.mckinley.nm.us">ddecker@co.mckinley.nm.us</a>
Dominique Catron	Cartron Law & Associates	<a href="mailto:dcatronlaw@cybermesa.com">dcatronlaw@cybermesa.com</a>
Marc DePauli	Engineering	<a href="mailto:mdepauli@depauliengineering.com">mdepauli@depauliengineering.com</a>
Lisa Marquez	Project Manager	<a href="mailto:lmarquez@depauliengineering.com">lmarquez@depauliengineering.com</a>
Catherine Conran	NMED	<a href="mailto:catherine.conran@state.nm.us">catherine.conran@state.nm.us</a>
Karen Torres	NMED	<a href="mailto:karenm.torres@state.nm.us">karenm.torres@state.nm.us</a>
Jill Turner	NMED	<a href="mailto:jill.turner@state.nm.us">jill.turner@state.nm.us</a>
Olga Morales	RCAC	<a href="mailto:omorales@rcac.org">omorales@rcac.org</a>
Ramon Lucero	RCAC	<a href="mailto:rlucero@rcac.org">rlucero@rcac.org</a>
Jason Sanchez	Gamerco WSD/Yahtahey WSD	<a href="mailto:gamercowsd@hotmail.com">gamercowsd@hotmail.com</a>
Mike Daly	White Cliffs MDWUA	<a href="mailto:arrowengineering1@gmail.com">arrowengineering1@gmail.com</a>
Carmelita Chee	White Cliffs MDWUA	<a href="mailto:coolnativefemale@yahoo.com">coolnativefemale@yahoo.com</a>
John Leeper	John Wood Group PLC	<a href="mailto:john.leeper@woodplc.com">john.leeper@woodplc.com</a>
Mark Gartner	Catalpa Water Association	<a href="mailto:pinon@pingbot.com">pinon@pingbot.com</a>
Marty Menapace	Catalpa Water Association	<a href="mailto:mmenapace@ricoautocomplex.com">mmenapace@ricoautocomplex.com</a>
Tony Tanner	Catalpa Water Association	<a href="mailto:trtony_101@hotmail.com">trtony_101@hotmail.com</a>
Rockelle Lengefeld	Williams Acres WSD	<a href="mailto:Rockelle.Lengefeld@gmail.com">Rockelle.Lengefeld@gmail.com</a>
Kristin Lengefeld	Williams Acres WSD	<a href="mailto:gallupsigns@yahoo.com">gallupsigns@yahoo.com</a>
Scott Williams	Whispering Cedars MDWUA	<a href="mailto:popeye_59@yahoo.com">popeye_59@yahoo.com</a>
Sherry Botkin	Thoreau WSD	<a href="mailto:sherry_botkin@yahoo.com">sherry_botkin@yahoo.com</a>
Sherry Lambson	Ramah WSD	<a href="mailto:sklambson@gmail.com">sklambson@gmail.com</a>
Evan Williams	Executive Director	<a href="mailto:ewilliams@nwnmcog.org">ewilliams@nwnmcog.org</a>
Angelina Grey	Planner	<a href="mailto:agrey@nwnmcog.org">agrey@nwnmcog.org</a>
Brandon Howe	Planner	<a href="mailto:bhowe@nwnmkcog.org">bhowe@nwnmkcog.org</a>

1. **Welcome:** Angelina Grey started the meeting at 9:02am, welcoming and thanking everyone for joining in this morning. Ms. Grey reminded attendees of a few housekeeping items, including the meeting being recorded for reference purposes, for folks who could not attend this morning. Meeting has a busy line up of presentations from local and state working partners. Copies of presentation and agenda were sent out prior to the meeting. Ms. Grey introduced Dennis Romero (Water and Sanitation Director, City of Gallup) to give an update on the Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project.

2. **Presentation:** Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project, given by Dennis Romero, Water and Sanitation Director, City of Gallup.

Mr. Romero began his presentation with a review of the Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project (NGWSP) map that shows location of NGWSP lines, particularly in the Gallup regional system, off the San Juan Lateral. The project area is about the size of New Jersey. For the Gallup regional system, the NGWSP line will skirt the city limits and connect to its water facilities. The city will draw 7,500-acre-feet a year, piping water to the east, south and west, connecting Navajo communities and other rural areas, including all the different water systems in this region.

**The Cutler Lateral.** The eastern section of the project has been completed and is on-line. The water treatment plant has a 6.2 million-gallons-a-day (MGD) capacity; currently delivering 100,000-gallons a day. Distribution systems on eastern side of the project were not built out but is currently in progress with Navajo Nation; will be in commissioning mode for the next few months. The operator contracted with the federal government is Jacobs. The Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) is in the process of identifying a tribal utility authority to take over operations of the facility. Some communities are already getting water from this project.

**The San Juan Lateral.** Scheduled to be completed by the end of 2022, possibly into the first part of 2023, but confident it will be completed early. Project had a completion date of December 31, 2024. The city is underbudget for the Gallup regional system. Construction on the SJL-Blocks 9-11 (Tohatchi-Naschitti) is completed. Construction on the SJL-Blocks 6-8 (Naschitti-Newcomb) is in progress. San Juan Water Treatment Plant is experiencing issues and BOR is considering delaying the project from December 31, 2024 to November 2027. As a result, the Gallup regional system and surrounding areas will not get treated surface water until 2027, the earliest.

The cause of the delay was from the Navajo Tribal Utility Authority's (NTUA) request to BOR to include a reservoir storage in connection to the project. As heard in the news, the Public Service Company of New Mexico, or PNM, is shutting down its San Juan Generating facility, near Farmington, that has a storage reservoir NTUA is interested in acquiring. Negotiations are in progress between NTUA, the City of Farmington, BOR and PNM to purchase and have joint-use of the reservoir. With other interests in transforming the generating station into green energy for the City of Farmington, such negotiations are often drawn to longer delays, with possible delays beyond 2027.

This federal project is over budget by \$250 million, and the city is over budget/behind schedule on the course of the project the city is responsible for.

**Public Law 111-11.** Delays to federal projects must be approved by Congress. BOR confirmed this process and must include the three original parties: the Navajo Nation, the State of New Mexico and the United States. The City of Gallup has requested \_\_\_\_\_. Currently, the City Council has neither discussed nor approved any further action. What Congress also needs to approve is the cost ceiling and the availability of funds. Additionally, BOR needs to reconvene with project partners in a value planning effort to change project design concepts while still meeting the overall goal of the project.

#### **Regional effects.**

- Potential water shortage. City has two aging wells that was not invested due to the future outcome of the NGWSP. G22



- Water rights application. approved by the NM Office of the State Engineer (OSE) last year. Navajo Nation asked if the city is willing to provide more groundwater to the Chichiltah area, and the city said yes. City requested Navajo Nation for assistance with a 1983 protest of the Gallup's increase, or Supplemental GEA Application. Resulting in the Bureau of Indian Affairs over a year to drop its protest. The city resubmitted application and was approved by the OSE with additional paperwork. City now has water rights but needs assistance with its municipal wells; has requested federal assistance.
- Navajo Nation Water Resources Department (NNWR) offered a water rights settlement in return for 20% of the water rights settled, to be set aside for Navajo Nation. NNWR is currently looking to provide \$2-3 million in funding to the City of Gallup for one municipal well. A great example of a success story through collaborative planning and coordination between local governments.
- Water Trust Board has an additional \$2.5-3 million in funding available and had asked if the City of Gallup needed this funding for Reach 27.11. Mr. Romero forwarded a letter to the WTB Project Management Committee requesting if this same funding can be applied to an additional groundwater well. Request is currently under review and will still need to be presented to the formal WTB for final approval.

**Additional funding.** City also seeking additional federal funding for more wells. Reason being that the city initially put all its eggs in one basket with no added investment forecasted in infrastructure today, and with the anticipated project delays, this could become problematic for the city. The most recent well was drilled in 1993-94, while other wells were constructed from the 1950s through the mid-80s. So, the city is determined to find additional funding to avert any complexities.

#### **Gallup Regional System.**

- completed reaches:
  - 13, 27.9, 27.8, 27.7A, 27.6, 27.5, 27.3, 27.13, 27.1.
- remaining reaches:
  - 27.10 — (near Mendoza) construction started; completion June 2021.
  - 27.11 — funded; construction in CY2021, going out to bid soon.
  - 27.7A — (east side) funded; construction in CY2022.
  - 27.12 — design at 60%; review and bid soon; construction in CY2022.

**Recent news.** Article on the delays of the NGWSP and its impact on the City of Gallup: <https://nmindepth.com/2021/05/07/navajo-gallup-water-delay-spurs-problem-solving-in-arid-southwest/>

### **3. County Updates:**

#### **a. Doug Decker: County Updates**

County has hired Dominique Cartron to document and facilitate the legal process of merging small water systems in the county with an overall goal to improve procedural activities (e.g., maintenance, operation) for systems interested in consolidating resources, billing, and other services to reach

benefits of scale. Last fall, County included in its budget to hire an attorney to assist with the regionalization of water systems and to identify an efficient approach and method to formalize in shortest amount of time possible.

And almost simultaneously, the COG learned of the WIIN grant through NMED that identified the County/COG efforts to regionalize water systems as an eligible activity, thus proceeded with applying on behalf of our region. Application deadline was in November 2020. During spring, some water systems encouraged the County to proceed with the regionalization efforts without delay. The Board of Commission (BOC) voted to continue, and the County has budgeted to start the process. And with the aid of the WIIN grant, the project will be benefited.

Dominique is tasked to develop a plan on how the county should approach the regionalization of water systems, what that looks like and how long it should take, etc. Some key items are:

- Drafting up a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) for the water systems that are prepared to start the regionalization process:
  - Gamerco WSD,
  - Yahtahey WSD, and
  - White Cliffs MDWUA
- Review new amendments to statutes for small water systems.
  - define “super water and sanitation district”.
  - research organizational structure of the new system.
- Identify which systems prepared to join, which systems are considering, and which systems wish to remain unchanged.
- Summer: schedule meetings with small water systems, educational workshops, regionalization topics, changes to take place and gauge member approval, etc.
- Local Entity Elections for board members associated with water systems, water and sanitation districts, soil and conservation districts, etc. Held each November of odd numbered years through the County Clerks Office.

#### **b. Dominique Cartron: Water Regionalization Update**

Doug gave a good overview of the tasks at hand right now. Currently focusing on different organizational structures of small water systems, pros and cons, functionality, etc. The outcomes of these meetings and activities will be presented at the Rural Water Summit that is scheduled for August 2021.

Next focus would be to gauge existing conditions, status, etc. of the small water systems. Based on the initial discussions held in 2008, most water systems were interested in regionalizing but were hesitant to the idea of letting go of an existing system versus combining all resources. Will work with Angelina in surveying the water systems to see where everyone stands.

The next focus would be to develop roadmaps, with a primary focus on systems preparing to regionalize, and another roadmap for systems who are undecided. Based on results, we will be able to determine what really makes sense, or what really makes the most impact for other rural water systems. Will it make



sense to form different regional systems due to the geographic locations of systems within the county? What do the changes in statutes look like and will it impact our efforts? All the details will be determined. Will work on talking with systems, have a well-developed plan and approach for regionalization ready before the November elections.

- Comment/Question. Jason Sanchez (court-appointed receiver for the Gamera/Yahtahey WSDs and Gamera WSD board member) concerned about (a) upcoming November elections, (b) its impact on regionalization, (c) certain level of reorganization and learning curve associated with new members, etc., and (d) the amount of time the regionalization will take.
  - In 2008, systems were hesitant to let go of certain powers. But the underlying issue is the level of accountability associated with the managing a small water system that become overwhelming for folks who are volunteering their time. This is something that must happen to help systems stay in compliance and divide amount of time invested. Personally, unable to carry on with the duties and responsibilities after this year. The regionalization is the best option for water systems and is open to systems that are interested.
  - How long will it take? What can small water systems do to help fast track it?

The fastest approach is to initiate a JPA between two systems to formalize efforts and to agree to operate under existing statutory authority allocated to the entities going under the JPA process. On the other hand, creating a super water and sanitation district can get complicated. Changes in processes have to go through the water and sanitation procedures, get BOC approval, get special district approval through district court, etc. This option is not the best option in terms of short timelines. If fast is the ask, then we can initiate the JPA process before the elections.

- Comment/Question. Mike Daly (White Cliffs MDWUA Manager) stated what is really needed is a timeline and the development of four organizations is not necessary, but to develop one organization.

This would be to create a new water and sanitation district, which is a longer process. Formulating a JPA does not change the existing model of water systems. A water and sanitation district will still require an active board and to maintain other formal business.

- Comment/Question. Mr. Sanchez reminded the group of the complexities involved with managing a system on a voluntary basis and trying to stay in compliance with regulations and requirements with limited resources and certified help. Need to create a system that takes care of all the necessary tasks (e.g., billing, operator, accountant).
- Comment/Question. Mr. Daly. What are the timelines for both processes? Is it possible to move forward with both options at the same time?

We can work towards developing a timeline and share that with everyone in August. Meanwhile, water systems can send us copies of their respective bylaws and other formalization documents to help us understand the formality and structure of each system. Dominique and Angelina will prepare an online survey with pertinent questions asking small water systems to aid use and development of a regionalization process.

Mr. Daly suggested that Dominique work with Frank Coppler, who wrote the legislation for ideas and approach. Mr. Sanchez expressed to be ready if any assistance is needed from the water systems to hasten the process. Requested that Dominique forward a list of documents that are needed from the water systems.

Mr. Decker restated that there are three (3) systems that are interested and are starting the process and suggested that water systems start talking about this before the survey get out. County very interested in how many systems are opting to regionalize. And the water system boards are the ones that have to make final decisions and approvals on local planning efforts. It would be good for the board to gain an understanding of the implications of moving forward with this decision and what their priorities are.

#### **4. Standing Partners:**

##### **a. Jill Turner, Sustainable Water Infrastructure Group (SWIG) Manager, NMENV-Drinking Water Bureau (DWB)**

To provide a brief overview of the upcoming events and changes with DWB.

- NMEV's utility operator's certification program changed structure of exams from in-person to web/computer-based exams. Currently working with the NM Department of Workforce Solutions (DWS) and are offering exams on a continuous basis, that are 5-days-a-week, at various locations throughout the state. Currently have 14 locations and expecting to increase to 22 soon. People now have greater access.
- (2020) Applied for a \$200,000 grant through the EPA's Environmental Justice Grant and working with the San Juan College to develop an operator training program and a water/wastewater operator training program. A grant signatory is the NTUA that is also interested in the program and is now an active project partner.
- WINN Grant (\$420,000) is a non-competitive grant/funding opportunity for states. Worked with community partners with RCAC (Ramon Lucero and Olga Morales) in compiling the application. Currently under internal process before official submission in a week or two. Expecting to receive funding in July 2021. The McKinley County regionalization initiative is one of the projects DWB and RCAC is supporting.

##### **b. Karen Torres, SWIG Community Services Program Manager, NMENV-DWB**

- Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund is co-managed by NMED and NMFA. Working with partners on making this program more flexible and accessible in meeting the needs of the people and communities.



Small water system communities are known to have populations of less than 3,300 people, not connections. Most systems are financially struggling due to rates, capacity, etc. Program will offer more points for small water systems projects, disaster mitigation, and phased projects.

- **Available.** Plan and Design loan program will have 5- to 7-year terms, with a 75% subsidy eligibility (depending on economic status of community), and if there is no subsidy, DWB can work with communities. Loans can be repaid after 2-3 years. Open applications year round, no deadline. Additionally, there are more federal funding anticipated and NMED wants to make sure that water systems are prepared and apply. If there are non-construction costs (e.g., planning), water systems can be reimbursed for those costs. DWB working to meet community needs with the most output and benefit available.

Another suggestion from Mr. Romero. One option is to work with legislators to set aside funding to conduct planning and design activities throughout the state. Another program to keep in mind is the Interstate Stream Commission (ISC) Acequias Construction Program as an option. The ISC is contracted with the USDA's Natural Resource Conservation Services (NRCS) program. NRCS can prepare planning and design documents for acequias at no cost.

The program is funded through the \_\_\_\_ budget at about \$350,000 to \$400,000 a year. Mr. Romero also suggested that NMED work with legislators, NRCS and other state agencies and set aside a pot of money that is specifically dedicated to the development of planning and design documents, including Preliminary Engineering Reports, or complete the process for local organizations to avoid any delays (i.e., grant, contractual, project).

For more information about the ISC Acequia Construction Program, go to:  
[https://www.ose.state.nm.us/Acequias/isc\\_acequiasConstruction.php](https://www.ose.state.nm.us/Acequias/isc_acequiasConstruction.php)

**5. COG Updates:** Ms. Grey provided a brief overview of the COG updates, including:

- a. **Water Page.** Found off of the COG website, under "Programs", go to "Water" to find more information about NGWSP, the County regionalization initiative, and other updates. Still under construction, will continue to finetune.
- b. **Online Survey.** Will work with Dominique in develop a survey questionnaire to gauge existing conditions, level of need, etc. for each water system.
- c. **Rural Water Summit.** This event will be scheduled for late August 2021. More information to follow.
- d. **McKinley County CDBG Planning Grant Application.** COG completed and submitted on behalf of the Allison community. Grant will be used to develop a Preliminary Engineering Report for much needed water/wastewater projects for the community. Status update to follow.

**6. Systems Lightning Round:**

Floor was opened to water systems that wished to provide updates or have any questions or comments.

- Rockelle (Williams Acres WSD, Project Manager) inquired about a solar project and how that might impact systems and asked Doug for more information.

Mr. Decker stated that this update pertains to the issuance of an industrial revenue bond for a 350-megawatt (MW) solar generating plant and a 100-MW battery storage system, near Pueblo Pintado, in the northeastern corner of the county. It is a self-funded IRB. Water and sanitation districts were mentioned because some WSDs have the power and authority to apply property tax for their areas. County is giving notice for this project may or may not affect property taxes. Should not have any impact on water systems.

- 7. Training & Funding Opportunities:** Included in the agenda packet was a list of training opportunities with NMED-DWB that are open and free. Share this information with those who wish to get the necessary training and certification.
- 8. Closing:** There were no closing remarks.
- 9. Meeting was adjourned at 10:04am.**

If you have any questions, issues or concerns regarding rural water systems, please contact Angelina Grey (COG Planner) at [agrey@nwnmcog.org](mailto:agrey@nwnmcog.org) or (505) 728-6198 (mobile).



# Key Takeaways

McKinley County Regional Water Commons  
May 26, 2021, Meeting

## **1. Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project**

- NGWSP line to skirt the Gallup boundary line; to connect to city facilities.
- Cutler Lateral (eastern section of project) is complete; water treatment facility complete; to connect Navajo communities; BOR seeking tribal utility authority to take over facility operations and management.
- San Juan Lateral (western/southern section) is currently in progress; Blocks 9-11 complete; Blocks 6-8 under construction; this section of the project is ahead of schedule and under budget.
- Project currently delayed; currently over budgeted by \$250 million.
  - Public Law 111-11: BOR to request for Congressional approval; final approval to be determined.
  - currently seeking additional funding to offset increasing costs.
- Navajo Water Resources Department to acquire funding for City of Gallup to extend NGWSP line to southern Navajo Chapters.

## **2. Water Regionalization Update**

- County hired Dominique Cartron (Attorney) to
  - research/develop JPA files for Gamera/Yahtahey/White Cliffs.
  - review recent amendments to statutes.
  - identify systems wanting to join, considering, etc.
  - summer workshops/meetings with small water systems.
- Develop online survey to gauge level of need for systems.
  - provide feedback/results at Rural Water Summit.

## **3. Standing Partners: NMED**

- Information on the utility operator's certification program
- Working with San Juan College to develop certification programs.
- WIIN grant update: to be submitted after internal review (within two weeks); submit; await grant award in July 2021.

- Information on the state revolving loan fund that is available.
  - loans can be used towards preliminary planning documents.
- USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS) also has funding available, as do state legislators.

#### **4. COG Updates**

- Water webpage found on COG main website; reference and resources for water systems.
- Online survey forthcoming.
- Rural Water Summit being scheduled for Tuesday, August 31, 2021; more details to follow.
- CDBG Planning Grant submitted on behalf of Allison water; if approved, funds will be used to develop a preliminary engineering report (PER).

#### **5. Next Meeting: Wednesday, June 16, 2021**



# McKINLEY COUNTY REGIONAL WATER COMMONS MEETING

**Wednesday, May 26, 2021**  
9AM—10AM



McKinley County  
207 West Hill Avenue  
Gallup, NM 87301  
(505) 863-1400

NWNM Council of Governments  
110 West Aztec Avenue  
Gallup, NM 87301  
(505) 722-4327



1

## agenda

WELCOME	Angelina Grey, NWNMCOG
PRESENTATIONS	Dennis Romero, City of Gallup
COUNTY UPDATES	Doug Decker, County Attorney Dominique Cartron, Attorney
STANDING PARTNERS	Jill Turner, NMED Karen Torres, NMED
TOPICS OF DISCUSSION & UPDATES	Angelina Grey, NWNMCOG
TRAINING & FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES	Angelina Grey, NWNMCOG
CLOSING	Doug Decker, County Attorney

*Presented by McKinley County and its working partners*

2



# NAVAJO GALLUP WATER SUPPLY PROJECT

*Dennis Romero, Water & Sanitation Director, City of Gallup*



- Brief Background
- Project Updates

3

## COUNTY UPDATES

*Doug Decker and Dominique Carton, Attorneys*

1. General Count Updates
2. McKinley County Water Regionalization Initiative Update

4



## STANDING PARTNERS

*Jill Turner and Karen Torres, NMED*

1. Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund
2. Operator Certification Programs
3. WIIN Grant Update

5

## TOPICS OF DISCUSSION & UPDATES

1. Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund
2. Operator Certification Programs
3. WIIN Grant Update

6



## Other Issues & Announcements

*Open floor for Water Systems and other attendees*

- Are there any local updates that others should know about?
- Do you have any other questions or concerns?

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## TRAINING & FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

1. NMED Drinking Water Bureau Training Schedule  
(Open, Free)
2. 2021 NM Water Workshop: May 18-20, 2021  
(Registration fees)
3. NMWA 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference: August 3-5, 2021  
(Registration Fees)

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## CLOSING

1. Closing Remarks
2. Questions or Concerns



9

## CONTACT INFORMATION



### MCKINLEY COUNTY

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Angelina Grey (Planner)

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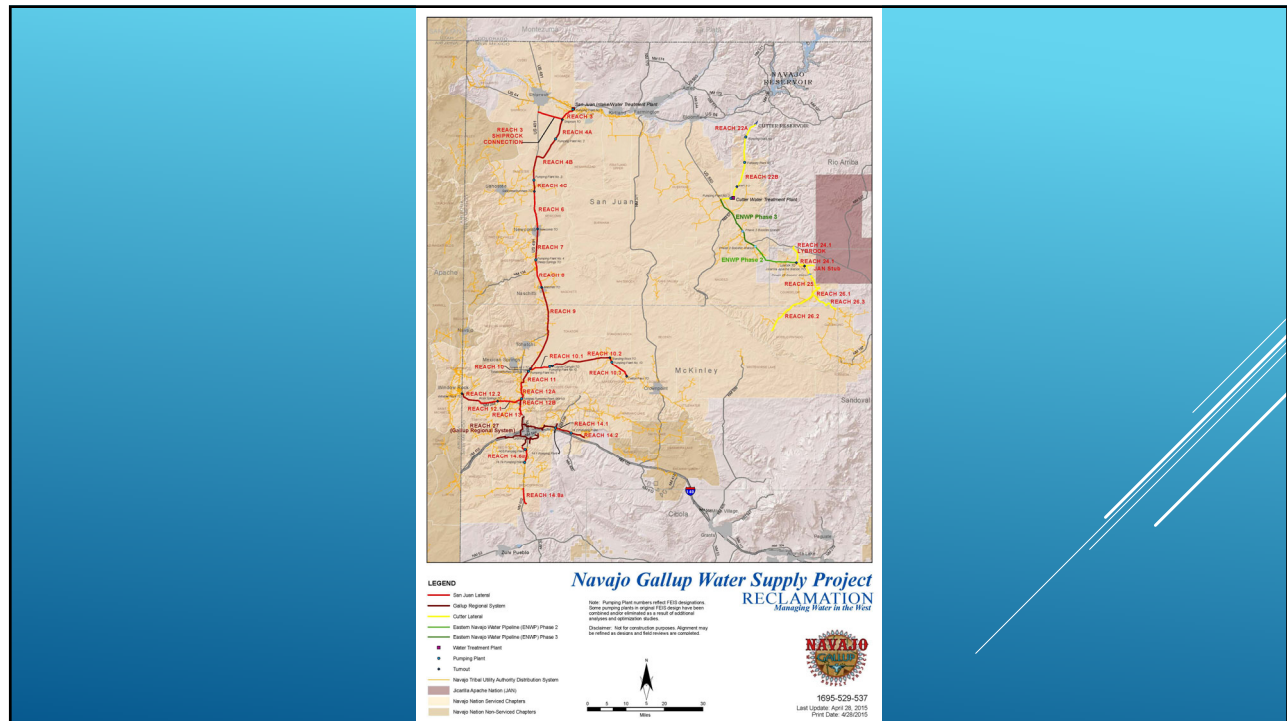
10



# NAVAJO GALLUP WATER SUPPLY PROJECT

Update to McKinley County Water Commons  
May 26, 2021

1



2



2



# PROJECT UPDATE

## Federal Project

Delay must be authorized by Congress

Increase in cost ceiling must be authorized by Congress

Value Planning Efforts

## Effects to Gallup

Potential Water Shortage

Groundwater Wells

Have Water Rights

Need funds for municipal wells

Potential well funding

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# PROJECT UPDATE

## Gallup Regional System

Completed Reaches
13
27.9
27.8, 27.5
27.1
27.3
27.7A
27.6
27.13

Remaining Reaches
27.10 – In construction – completion June 2021
27.7A – funded, construction in CY2022
27.11 – funded, construction in CY2021
27.12 – design in progress – construction in CY2022

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## RECENT NEWS STORY

<https://nmindepth.com/2021/05/07/navajo-gallup-water-delay-spurs-problem-solving-in-arid-southwest/>