

# Regional Water Commons Meeting Agenda Packet

## Next Meeting:

Wednesday, May 17, 2023  
9:00AM – 10:00AM

Virtual  
[Microsoft Teams](#)

## A. Next Meeting's Agenda

- a. Attachments

## B. Current Meeting Agenda Items

- a. Agenda
- b. Meeting Minutes
- c. Key Takeaways
- d. Presentation Slides
- e. Handouts



McKinley County  
207 West Hill Avenue  
Gallup, NM 87301



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

[Regional Water Commons Meeting Portal](#)



# Regional Water Commons Meeting

a joint program of McKinley County and the Northwest  
New Mexico Council of Governments

## AGENDA PACKET

### Regional Water Commons

#### **Next Meeting**

Wednesday, May 17, 2023  
9:00AM – 10:00AM

**Microsoft Teams Meeting**



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# REGIONAL WATER COMMONS

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**Wednesday, May 17, 2023**

**9:00 A.M. — 10:00 A.M.**

[Virtual Meeting](#)

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## A G E N D A

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<b>WELCOME</b>	<i>Angelina Grey</i>
<b>PRESENTATIONS</b> <i>NM Finance Authority</i>	<i>Angelina Grey, COG</i>
<b>WATER SYSTEMS LIGHTNING ROUND</b>	<i>Water Systems</i>
<b>COG REVIEW / UPDATES</b>	<i>Angelina Grey</i>
<b>STANDING PARTNER UPDATES</b>	<i>NMED, RCAC</i>
<b>CLOSING</b>	<i>Angelina Grey</i>

**REGULAR MEETING SCHEDULE:**

*These “coffee hour” meetings are intended to keep all small water systems and communities informed on latest news, updates, events, training and funding opportunities. There will be open discussions on issues and needs. This is a line of support and communication to develop efficient planning strategies.*

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

*Meetings to be changed to in-person functions starting FY 2023-24.*

### **NEXT RWC MEETING**

**Wednesday, June 21, 2023, at 9:00AM**

Microsoft Teams

# Regional Water Commons Meeting



**Wednesday, May 17, 2023**

**9:00AM — 10:00AM**

[Microsoft Teams](#)

*Presented by McKinley County and its working partners*



**Next Meeting: Wednesday, June 21, 2023**

In-Person Meeting

Location To Be Determined

## AGENDA

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### WELCOME

*Angelina Grey, COG*

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### PRESENTATION

*New Mexico Finance Authority*

*Mark Montoya, Regional Finance Manager*

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### WATER SYSTEMS LIGHTNING ROUND

*Water Systems*

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### COG REVIEW/UPDATES

*Angelina Grey*

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### STANDING PARTNERS UPDATES

*NMED, RCAC*

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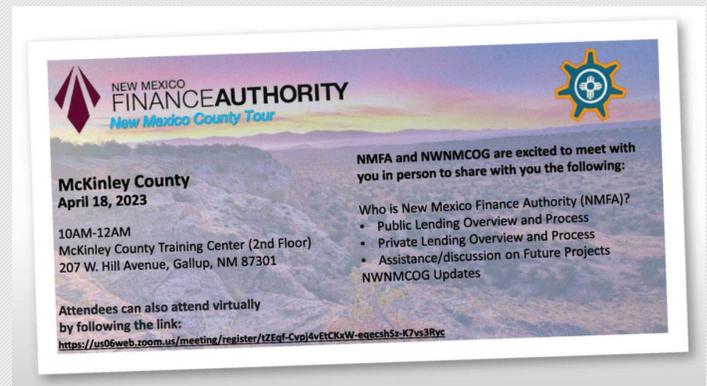
### CLOSING

*Angelina Grey*

# PRESENTATION

NEW MEXICO FINANCE AUTHORITY

- NMFA Roadshow in McKinley County, Tuesday, April 18, 2023
- Overview of NMFA programs
  - Technical Assistance
  - Funding Opportunities



NEW MEXICO  
**FINANCE AUTHORITY**

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## NMFA Water Programs

**Water Project Fund**

**Local Government Planning Fund**

**Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund**

The New Mexico Finance Authority is a government instrumentality created by the New Mexico Legislature in 1992. The mission of NMFA is to advance New Mexico by financing impactful, well-planned projects. NMFA offers a variety of financing programs for infrastructure, capital equipment, and economic development.



The Water Project Finance Act created the **16-member Water Trust Board**, composed of a diverse set of water users and experts.

NMFA, on behalf of the WTB, **annually accepts applications** for water projects to be funded from the Water Project Fund.

WTB **recommends a list of projects to the Legislature** to be authorized for funding from the Water Project Fund.

The Act requires the WTB consider projects that:

- ◆ leverage local and federal funds;
- ◆ are shovel-ready;
- ◆ are identified as “urgent to meet the needs of a regional water plan accepted by the Interstate Stream Commission”;
- ◆ implement the State Water Plan



### What kinds of water projects can be funded?

- ◆ Water storage, conveyance and delivery
- ◆ Flood prevention
- ◆ Water conservation or treatment, recycling and reuse
- ◆ Watershed restoration and management
- ◆ Endangered Species Act collaborative implementation

### Water Trust Board Policies require:

- ◆ minimum contributions from applicants in the form of local or federal matching funds; **waivers may apply**
- ◆ loan component of between 10% - 40% for projects supported by a rate-paying constituency; **waivers may apply**
- ◆ to the greatest extent possible, awards will be sized to projects that represent a functional project or stand-alone phase of a project that can be accomplished within 12-24 months of award
- ◆ applicants applying for one or more projects in a given cycle may not receive more than 15% of the available funds in any year

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The Water Project Fund annually **receives 9% of senior Severance Tax Bonds and a distribution from the Water Trust Fund**, creating a reliable revenue stream for the program.

Water Trust Board awards are a **combination of grants and loans, (with required match component)**. Size of the loan is dependent on the financial capacity of the applicant.

Match is determined by project type, size of request and entities MHI.

Estimated available funding for the 2024 cycle was between \$130 - \$135 million.



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The Water Trust Board anticipates an increase in funding over the next few years, which will help finance more water projects in NM.

Changes to the WTB policies are designed to help applicants:

- ◆ **Reduced planning document requirements** - A Technical Memorandum prepared by a licensed engineer with cost estimates not older than one year may be accepted in lieu of a full Preliminary Engineering Report.
- ◆ **Additional time to meet regulatory compliance requirements** - Regulatory agencies will certify applicants' compliance with all relevant regulations as part of the Project Application. This will allow applicants to work directly with regulatory agencies much earlier in the process to resolve any compliance issues.

**Match Requirement Waivers:**

For small water systems that may have difficulty providing the required match, the Board may waive the match requirement when:

- i. The applicant serves fewer than 250 connections and has previously secured WTB funding for the proposed project as defined by planning documents; or
- ii. System upgrade is to consolidate with another system; or
- iii. System upgrade/expansion is to incorporate previously unserved customers (not for future development); and
- iv. Applicant has implemented an asset management plan for the current and future maintenance, replacement and repair of the system.

**Loan Requirement Waivers:**

To assist smaller water systems that may not have the financial capability to take on a loan, the NMFA may waive the loan requirement for water projects when:

- i. The applicant serves fewer than 500 connections and has previously secured WTB funding for the same project: or
- ii. The project is to consolidate with another system.
- iii. To qualify for the loan waiver, the applicant must have implemented an asset management plan for the current and future maintenance, replacement and repair of the system.

**Grants for Design:**

The Board may consider awarding 100% grant to “design only” projects with the following conditions:

- i. The project serves or will serve fewer than 500 connections
- ii. Scope is limited to design only – “design” is defined as necessary technical work required to prepare a complete and final set of plans and specifications ready to be bid for construction
- iii. Costs for design must be substantiated with a coordinating approved planning document
- iv. Grants for design may not exceed \$500,000.

August 1, 2022: Notice of Intent period opens

August 19, 2022: Project Application Training

August 25 – **September 23, 2022**: On-line Project Application

September 28 – October 25, 2022: Eligibility/Policy Compliance/Criteria Review

November 2022: WTB Recommendation to the Legislature

December 8, 2023: Readiness Application Training

December 12, 2022 – **January 27, 2023**: On-line Readiness Application

January 27, 2023: Policy Compliance Deadline

March 22, 2023: Regulatory Compliance Deadline

May 3, 2023: WTB Award Decisions

- Attend the **Trainings**.
- Submit a **Notice of Intent** to NMFA. Choose a **local** administrator who is authorized to submit applications for you. This person will be the “**Super User/Primary Contact**.”
- NMFA will assign a **username and initial password** to the Super User and local users. The password should be changed by User.
- Applicant must authorize NMFA (through NOI) to attach any consultants and/or engineers to the applicant profile/application.
- Using your username and password, **access the WTB on-line application** through the **NMFA application system, EnABLE**.
- Complete the application and submit it to NMFA via EnABLE.

### Reviewers

The WTB relies upon a Project Management Team (PMT) to evaluate applications using WTB-established criteria.

The Project Management Team is composed of:

- NM Environment Department
- NM Department of Energy, Minerals & Natural Resources (State Forestry)
- NM Department of Agriculture
- NM Department of Game & Fish
- Office of the State Engineer
- NM Finance Authority

## Project Recommendation to Legislature

- Projects are prioritized based upon the evaluations by PMT
- List is culled to the amount expected to be available for FY 2023
- Section 2.3 of the WTB Policies defines targeted annual funding percentages by project type:
  - Water Storage, Conveyance or Delivery 50% - 75%
  - Water Conservation or Recycling, Treatment or Reuse 15% - 30%
  - Watershed Restoration and Management 10% - 20%
  - Flood Prevention Up to 10%
  - Endangered Species Act Implementation Up to 5%

*NOTE: The timeline for 2024 WTB cycle will be available in July 2023*

Information about the Water Trust Board/Water Project Fund Program is available at <https://www.nmfinance.com/water-project-fund/> or WTBAAdmin@nmfa.net

## Overview

- ◆ Provides grants up to \$50,000 for planning-related documents
- ◆ Communities can qualify for two grants per 24-month period, not to exceed \$100,000
- ◆ Matching funds are determined by a community's MHI, and local water rates as compared to state averages
- ◆ Local match waivers are based on urgent needs and/or declining economic development
- ◆ Applications accepted monthly through EnABLE, NMFA's online application system.
- ◆ More information and the LGPF EnABLE Enrollment Form are available at [www.nmfinance.com/local-government-planning-fund/](http://www.nmfinance.com/local-government-planning-fund/)

### **Eligible Entities**

Municipalities

Counties

Mutual Domestic

Public Water Associations

Irrigation Districts

Indian nations, tribes or Pueblos located wholly or partially in NM

Agencies or Institutions of the State

### **Eligible Plans**

Preliminary Engineering Reports

Asset Management Plans

Environmental Information Documents

Water Conservation Plans

Comprehensive Plans

Economic Development Plans (LEDA)

Metropolitan Redevelopment Act Plans

Economic Development Feasibility Studies

DWSRLF offers low-cost financial assistance to water systems to:

- ◆ Finance repair and replacement of drinking water infrastructure
- ◆ Ensure compliance with drinking water regulations
- ◆ Protect drinking water quality and public health

DWSRLF is jointly administered by New Mexico Finance Authority (NMFA) and New Mexico Environment Department - Drinking Water Bureau (NMED-DWB).

## Advantages of the DWSRLF

- ◆ Broad eligibility
- ◆ Low interest rates (0% - 2%)
- ◆ 25% - 75% subsidy (subject to availability)
- ◆ Funding requests accepted year-round
- ◆ Technical Assistance provided to unsuccessful applicants to enable them to qualify
- ◆ High level of customer service

Eligible systems: Public Water Systems (PWS) that are privately or publicly owned community water systems, or a non-profit non-community PWS

### Examples of Eligible Projects

- ◆ New and replacement sources
- ◆ Treatment
- ◆ Transmission/Distribution
- ◆ Storage
- ◆ Meters
- ◆ Infrastructure to regionalize water systems

### **Water Project Fund**

Angela Quintana, Senior Program Administrator

Alysia Sanchez, Program Administrator

[WTBadmin@nmfa.net](mailto:WTBadmin@nmfa.net)

### **Local Government Planning Fund**

Susan Rodriguez, Senior Program Administrator

Mary Finney, Program Administrator

[LGPF@nmfa.net](mailto:LGPF@nmfa.net)

### **Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund**

Todd Johansen, Senior Program Administrator

[DW@nmfa.net](mailto:DW@nmfa.net)

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**John Brooks**, Chief of Lending and Credit  
jbrooks@nmfa.net

**Ron Cruz**, Managing Director, Lending  
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**Carmela Manzari**, Lead Finance Manager  
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**Mark Montoya**, Regional Finance Manager  
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**Ryan Olguin**, Regional Finance Manager  
rolguin@nmfa.net, (505) 216-8592

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**New Mexico Finance Authority**  
207 Shelby Street  
Santa Fe, NM 87501  
(505) 984-1454 or Toll Free: (877) ASK-NMFA

[www.nmfinance.com](http://www.nmfinance.com)  
lending@nmfa.net

*New Mexico's Partner in Building  
Economic Prosperity and Stronger Communities*

# WATER SYSTEMS LIGHTNING ROUND

Updates from Small Water Systems...

## COG REVIEW & UPDATES

1. COG / RCAC to continue with meetings --- summer schedule
  - May 24 – 26
  - Water Leadership Institute (Friday, June 23)
  - Water Leadership Institute (Friday, July 14)
  - Water Leadership Institute (Friday, August 4)
  - Water Leadership Institute (Tuesday, August 30)
2. Next meetings with:
  - Ramah WSD
  - Catalpa WA
  - White Cliffs MDWUA
  - Gamerco WSD
  - Yahtahey WSD
  - Others?

# COG REVIEW & UPDATES

3. 2023 CDBG Construction Application (McKinley County)
  - BOC selected the RMCH Facility Improvement project
  - **Post-selection Public Hearing:** Monday, May 22, 2023, 5:00PM, Microsoft Teams
4. ICIP
  - Schedule meeting: send email to [agrey@nwnmcog.org](mailto:agrey@nwnmcog.org)
  - Complete ICIP Forms
  - **ICIP Resolution** --- must be approved at a regular board meeting
  - Deadline: **Friday, July 14, 2023**
5. Next RWC Meeting: June 21, 2023
  - ICIP review
  - Projecteering
  - Funding strategies

# PROJECTEERING

- Learning how to time your projects.
  - What are your priorities?
    - Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan (ICIP)
  - What will it take to complete a project priority?
    - Archeological Study
    - Environmental Study
    - Right of Way
    - Land Acquisition
    - Permits and Leases
    - Preliminary Engineering Report
    - Design
    - Construction, Installation and Equipment
- 
- **Timelines**
  - **Costs per priority**
- Case-by-Case basis...***

# PLANNING FUNDING

## Local Government Planning Fund.

- Critical funding for planning documents
  - Preliminary Engineering Report (PER)
  - Environmental Assessment
  - Asset management Plan
  - Comprehensive Plan
- \$50,000 ceiling award
- Based on system water rates and MHI to determine eligibility
- Year-round funding (when available)

Contact Senior Program Administrator, Susan Rodriguez at [srodriguez@nmfa.net](mailto:srodriguez@nmfa.net)

<https://www.nmfinance.com/local-government-planning-fund/>



# STANDING PARTNERS

## News and Updates...



New Mexico Department of  
Finance & Administration

# CLOSING

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



*Do You Have  
Any Questions??*

**Next Meeting: Wednesday, June 21, 2023**

In-Person Meeting  
Open For Discussion

# CONTACT INFORMATION



<https://www.co.mckinley.nm.us/>

## **McKinley County**

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<https://www.nwnmcog.org>

## **NWNM Council of Governments (COG)**

**Evan Williams**  
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**Angelina Grey**  
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[agrey@nwnmcog.org](mailto:agrey@nwnmcog.org)

# CONTACT INFORMATION



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

## **NM Environment Department**

### **Tanya Trujillo**

Sustainable Water Infrastructure Group Manager

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### **Melanie Delgado**

Regional Resiliency Team Lead

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### **Anders Lundahl**

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<https://www.rcac.org>

## **Rural Community Assistance Corporation**

### **Blanca Surgeon**

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### **Karen Tapias**

Rural Development Specialist | New Mexico

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# REGIONAL WATER COMMONS MEETING

a joint program with McKinley County and the Northwest  
New Mexico Council of Governments

## AGENDA PACKET

### **Current Meeting**

Wednesday, March 15, 2023  
9:00AM – 10:00AM

[Meeting Recording](#)



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# REGIONAL WATER COMMONS

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**Wednesday, March 15, 2023**

**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</i>
<b>PRESENTATIONS</b> <i>Water Regionalization Updates</i> <i>Funding Programs</i> <i>Water Leadership Institute</i>	<i>Angelina Grey, COG</i> <i>Blanca Surgeon, RCAC</i>
<b>WATER SYSTEMS LIGHTNING ROUND</b>	<i>Water Systems</i>
<b>COG REVIEW / UPDATES</b>	<i>Angelina Grey</i>
<b>STANDING PARTNER UPDATES</b>	<i>NMED, RCAC</i>
<b>CLOSING</b>	<i>Angelina Grey</i>

**REGULAR MEETING SCHEDULE:**

*These “coffee hour” meetings is intended to keep all small water systems and water communities informed on latest news, updates, events, training and funding opportunities. There will be open discussions on issues and needs. This is a line of support and communication to develop efficient planning strategies.*

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

*Meetings to be changed to in-person functions starting May 2023.*

## **NEXT RWC MEETING**

**Wednesday, May 17, 2023, at 6:00PM**

**Northwest NM Council of Governments**

**106 West Aztec Avenue, Gallup, NM 87301**

# Key Takeaways

Regional Water Commons Meeting  
March 15, 2023

## **1. COG/RCAC Work Program:**

- Partnership entering Year 2 of 3.
- RCAC to continue with area visits to meet with small water systems:
  - March 21-22
  - April 26-28
  - May 24-26
- Northwest NM Utility Authority:
  - Continuing with organizational setup
  - Finalize budgets and First Year Finances

## **2. Projecteering Overview:**

- Learning how to time your projects.
- ICIP and timelines of predevelopment activities.
- Review of Winter/Spring funding timeframes.
- CWSRF/DWSRF funding programs for capital infrastructure projects.
- Local Government Planning Fund for plans and studies.

## **3. Water Leadership Institute:**

- For all communities.
- McKinley County's first WLI this summer.
- 4 separate 1.5-day sessions.
- Graduation ceremony at the 2023 Rural Water Summit.

## **4. Next Meeting: [Wednesday, May 17, 2023, from 9:00am to 10:00am.](#)**

Copies of the presentation can be accessed on the COG Water webpage  
<http://www.nwnmcog.org/rwc-meetings.html>

# Regional Water Commons Meeting



**Wednesday, March 15, 2023**

**9:00AM — 10:00AM**

[Microsoft Teams](#)

*Presented by McKinley County and its working partners*



**Next Meeting: Wednesday, May 17, 2023**

In-Person Meeting

Location To Be Determined

# AGENDA

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## WELCOME

*Angelina Grey, COG*

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## PRESENTATION

*Water Regionalization Updates  
Funding Programs  
Water Leadership Institute*

*Angelina Grey  
Blanca Surgeon, RCAC*

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## WATER SYSTEMS LIGHTNING ROUND

*Water Systems*

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## COG REVIEW/UPDATES

*Angelina Grey*

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## STANDING PARTNERS UPDATES

*NMED, RCAC*

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## CLOSING

*Angelina Grey*

# PRESENTATION

## WATER REGIONALIZATION UPDATE

- COG / RCAC partnership.
- Entering year 2 of community outreach.
  - Determine visiting schedule
    - March 21-22
    - April 26-28
    - May 24-26
  - Determine which system to assist next
- What we can assist with:
  - Organization Managerial priorities (board training, budgeting and finances, etc.)
  - Technical priorities (compliance, reporting, etc.)
  - Projecteering and Funding strategies (*timing projects for funding*)

# PRESENTATION

## WATER REGIONALIZATION UPDATE

- Northwest NM Utility Authority Updates.
  - Organizational developments in progress
  - Lots of moving parts
    - RCAC and County providing assistance
    - NWNMUA office (Gamerco WSD)
    - More details at next meeting



# PROJECTEERING

- Learning how to time your projects.
- What are your priorities?
  - Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan (ICIP)
- What will it take to complete a project priority?
  - Archeological Study
  - Environmental Study
  - Right of Way
  - Land Acquisition
  - Permits and Leases
  - Preliminary Engineering Report
  - Design
  - Construction, Installation and Equipment

- 
- **Timelines**
  - **Costs per priority**

***Case-by-Case basis...***

-  ~~NM Legislature Opens | JAN~~
-  ~~Legislative Capital Outlay Requests Due | JAN~~ *Thursday, January 12*
-  ~~WTB Readiness Application Due | JAN~~ *Friday, January 27*
-  ~~Senior Center Application Training | FEB~~
-  ~~RTIPR Approval By RTPO | FEB~~
-  ~~TIF Portal Opens | FEB~~ *Monday, March 6*
-  ~~Final Capital Outlay Bill | MAR~~
-  ~~ZIPPR Prioritization | MAR~~
-  ~~TIF Application Deadline | MAR~~
-  ~~CDBG Threshold Deadline | MAR~~

(January - March)  
**WINTER**

-  **G.O. Bonds due to ALTSD | APR**
-  **Call for Transportation Projects Notice | APR**
-  **WTB Project recommendations to NMFA | APR**
-  **ALTSD Senior Center Applications due | APR**
-  **TIF Award Announcement | JUN**
-  **WTB Final Approval/Awards | JUN**
-  **Local Governments Only - Prelim Budgets Due | JUN**
-  **Project Feasibility Forms (PFFs) Due | JUN**
-  **CDBG LMI Calculation Deadline | JUN**

NM Local Gov't Certifications of Severance Tax Bonds (STB) / Bonds sold for Capital Outlay Projects for local and tribal governments

(April - June)  
**SPRING**

# NMED FUNDING OVERVIEW (BIPARTISAN INFRASTRUCTURE BILL)

- BIL Federal Funds funneling through the NM Environment Department
- Project Interest Form (quarterly basis)
- Competitive, based on MHI
- Request for supporting documents
- Initially offered as loans with 0.01% interest rates (of total project cost)
- 100% grants awarded to severely low-income communities\* [CWSRF]

Fund	Agency	Terms	Requirements	Funding Cycle
Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund	New Mexico Finance Authority (NMFA)	Loan program (0.01% interest). Potential loan forgiveness; grant opportunity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Financials</li> <li>• OMA Resolution</li> <li>• Governing Documents</li> <li>• Compliance</li> </ul>	Ongoing
Water and Wastewater Disposal Loans and Grants	US Department of Agriculture (USDA)	Loans/Grant based on corporation and life expectancy of project and ability to pay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PER</li> <li>• Financials</li> <li>• Outstanding debt</li> <li>• Other</li> </ul>	Ongoing
Water Trust Board	NMFA	Loan/Grant up to 90% New policy-systems may be eligible for 100% subsidy for design	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shovel Ready</li> <li>• Compliance</li> </ul>	August through January (annually)
Capital Outlay/Special Appropriation	NM State Legislature/NMED Construction Programs Bureau	Grant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Compliance with financial and audit reporting</li> <li>• ICIP</li> </ul>	December - January (annually)
525 Program	Army Corps of Engineers	Cost Sharing 75% federal, 25% non-federal		Ongoing

# BIPARTISAN INFRASTRUCTURE LAW (BIL) & NM ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT



Available funding programs through [NMED's Drinking Water Bureau](#):

## 1. Drinking Water State Revolving Fund.

- Water projects
- Submit Pre-Applications & Supporting Documents
- Base funding over the next 5-years ~ \$25.5M/year

## 2. Clean Water State Revolving Fund.

- Wastewater projects
- Submit Applications & Supporting Documents

### Project Review Schedule Dates:

1. Quarter 1 (Jan/Feb/March) — Ends March 31<sup>st</sup>.
2. Quarter 2 (Apr/May/June) — Ends June 30<sup>th</sup>.
3. Quarter 3 (Jul/Aug/Sep) — Ends September 30<sup>th</sup>.
4. Quarter 4 (Oct/Nov/Dec) — Ends December 31<sup>st</sup>.

### PROGRAM CONTACTS:

**Catherine Conran**

Infrastructure Finance Specialist

NMED Drinking Water Bureau

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

505-231-2120

# PLANNING FUNDING

## Local Government Planning Fund.

- Critical funding for planning documents
  - Preliminary Engineering Report (PER)
  - Environmental Assessment
  - Asset management Plan
  - Comprehensive Plan
- \$50,000 ceiling award
- Based on system water rates and MHI
- Year-round funding (when available)

<https://www.nmfinance.com/local-government-planning-fund/>



# PRESENTATION

BLANCA SURGEON, RCAC

## Water Leadership Institute:

- Program Overview
- Content and Curriculum
- Alumni Opportunities
- Timeline
- Next Steps



Pixley Cohort CA 2022

# WORKING IN ALLIANCE WITH RURAL COMMUNITIES: THE WATER LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

The Northwest New Mexico  
Council of Governments



The Water  
Leadership  
Institute  
stemmed  
from a  
need to:

Create opportunities for Boards to flourish looking at current and upcoming water topics

**Bring current training on regulatory compliance, funding, board duties and responsibilities, asset management planning & more**

Honor the need of local board leaders to create individually sustainable & resilient water/ww systems

Help operators attend classes to get operator credits

Nurture and/or develop the capacity of local current & emerging leaders

Recognize the need to grow local volunteers to join boards and the need to grow a work on water workforce



# WATER LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE:

DEVELOPING AND SUPPORTING WATER LEADERS TO, advance water equity & resiliency, promote professional development, grow their work force, bring training with water operator credits.



Photo credits: Shutterstock; EDF

# RCAC'S LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE (LI)

**2004** – Ford Family Foundation trains RCAC staff to begin the LI



**2008** – RCAC & Western New Mexico University develop new curriculum



**2012**- RCAC's Leadership Program translated to Spanish



**2021** – RCAC Water Leadership Institute goes Virtual



**2016** – RCAC develops curriculum for the Youth Leadership Institute



**2013** RCAC begins offering the Water Leadership Institute



**2022** – Hybrid Water Leadership Institute delivered & going back to in person!

# BUILDING CAPACITY WITHIN LOCAL COMMUNITIES

The **Water Leadership Institute**, is very interactive – throughout the day we are engaging the participants, developing leadership skills and water knowledge, so they can play a more active role in shaping local water management.



# Content & Curriculum



Leverage existing education materials developed by RCAC and different current and upcoming Water Topics developed by NMED and other Assistant Providers.



Shape curriculum based on local priorities and worries (e.g., groundwater, water contamination, regional trends, connecting to local resources/funding).



Adapt curriculum to focus on the cultural history to water and on a broader water community **vision**.

# Alumni Opportunities

Connect alumni with...



Water networks, Local Agencies, Assistance Providers,



State legislative process, local decision-making processes & other civic engagement opps



Media (to share their stories)



Organizations and boards needing to fill positions



Alumni can become trainers or guest speakers for future cohorts

# Target Audience & Recruitment Process

- Potential Applicants:
  - Board members (and prospective members), Water System Staff, Water operators, Water community, Small business owners, and other water users/representatives/work for water interested persons.
- Recruitment Process
  - Help us with the outreach and recruitment efforts.
    - Invite participants
    - Send us the name of people to invite and we will send the invite

# Proposed Timeline

To be refined with partners

## ORGANIZING

Define potential location,  
Customize topics,  
adapt curriculum,  
Start in June and end in August  
2023

## IMPLEMENTATION

- In person sessions
- Starting on Friday lunch and all-day Saturday. Lunch included.
- Must attend all sessions to receive Leadership Certificate



# VISION FOR New Mexico FUTURE

- ★ Co-created together
- ★ Cohorts in different geographies with new local partners
- ★ Strong network of alumni/community water leaders, learning from and supporting one another
- ★ Graduates actively engaged in shaping water decisions and strategies at different levels and bringing focus training to their area!



Questions about the Water  
Leadership Institute?

# Questions or Suggestions?

- What are your thoughts on **location**?
- What **water topics/concerns** should we prioritize?
- Would you be **interested in partnering** with us as presenters or participant?

# Next Steps

Confirm location, dates, times,

Create & market the invite and on-line registration

Confirm topics, presenters, etc.

- Adapt curriculum to meet local needs
- Invite guest speakers and presenters (any ideas?)

# Contact & Watch the Video!



**Angelina Grey**  
**NWNM COG**  
**agrey@nwnmcog.org**



**Laura Dubin**  
**RCAC**  
**ldubin@rcac.org**



**Watch our Water Warriors**  
**Video**  
**<https://youtu.be/A5ADVcAyKvA>**

# COG REVIEW & UPDATES

## Updates.

1. CDBG Pre-selection meetings
  - 2 meetings
  - 2 potential projects
2. Water Trust Board applications
  - SB 314 – Water Trust Fund
3. Legislative Session – ends Saturday, March 18<sup>th</sup>, at Noon
  - Capital Outlay
4. ICIP season is around the corner.
  - Not too late for boards to start talking and prioritizing local capital projects.
  - Look into getting cost estimates updated.

# COG REVIEW & UPDATES

## News.

### 1. Water Audit Loss.

- Southwest Environmental Finance Center, UNM program
- [swefc@unm.edu](mailto:swefc@unm.edu)

### 2. Source Water Protection Plan.

- NMED
- [drinking.water@state.nm.us](mailto:drinking.water@state.nm.us)

### 3. Asset Management Plans

### 4. Water Conservation Plans

### 5. Sanitary Surveys

### 6. Emergency Response Plans

### 7. LMI Surveys

# STANDING PARTNERS



## News and Updates

- Senate Bill 1 - Regional Water System Resiliency Act** was passed and signed by the Governor.
  - This legislation allows small mutual domestics to form a shared services model with their neighboring water systems.
  - NMED will receive funding through House Bill 2 with passage of this bill.



New Mexico Department of  
Finance & Administration

# CLOSING

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

*Do You Have  
Any Questions??*



**Next Meeting: Wednesday, May 17, 2023**

In-Person Meeting  
Location To Be Determined

# CONTACT INFORMATION



<https://www.co.mckinley.nm.us/>

## McKinley County

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**Doug Decker**

County Attorney

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## NWNM Council of Governments (COG)

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Executive Director

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**Angelina Grey**

Associate Planner III

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# CONTACT INFORMATION



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

## NM Environment Department

### **Jill Turner**

Sustainable Water Infrastructure Group Manager

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### **Catherine Conran**

SWIG Community Services Coordinator (NW region)

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



<https://www.rcac.org>

## Rural Community Assistance Corporation

### **Blanca Surgeon**

[bsurgeon@rcac.org](mailto:bsurgeon@rcac.org)

### **Karen Tapias**

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



# Water Leadership Institute

Working in alliance with rural communities

This program aims to support community water leaders, connect them to each other and to regional and external resources, and to forge strong relationships to effectively advocate for their communities' water interests.

The Leadership Institute was created by Rural Community Assistance Corporation (RCAC) in partnership with Western New Mexico University out of a recognition of the need to create sustainable communities and develop the capacity of local leaders working hard to manage local water resources.

Local rural community water leaders must know regional, state, and national challenges and need to be at the center of decision making, shaping solutions to foster community wellbeing. To address this, we are focusing on leadership strengthening topics, community outreach, and water topics from regulatory compliance existing and upcoming regulations, a new era of funding, statewide water planning, resiliency tools, work force development, volunteer recruitment and more which are needed in water decision-making.

We believe that cultivating and strengthening local leadership from within communities, rather than relying on external forces to make resource decisions, will be critical to ensuring that rural communities throughout the Western United States are more resilient in the long term.

## Goals

The Water Leadership Institute aims to:

- Help build trust and increase the participation and input in local decision-making spaces.
- Strengthen local water leadership and grow new leaders.
- Connect participants to information, opportunities, and resources to effectively advocate for their water interests.
- Create spaces for dialogue, unity, collaboration, and mutual understanding.
- Build a support network of community water leaders.



## It is best when the whole board attends

### Building Water Leaders in Biola

The impact of the Leadership Institute can be felt today in the small rural community of Biola, located just outside of Fresno, California. With a population of 1,440 and a poverty rate of 38.3% as of 2020., Biola is considered a severely disadvantaged community and faces infrastructure and water management challenges.

But that has not stopped local leaders from pursuing solutions. “There are a lot of needs in Biola: the infrastructure, the sidewalks, curbs, gutters,” says Reyes Lozano, a Biola Community Services District board member. “And I want to be part of that solution.”

Every member of Biola's board (pictured above) attended the Leadership Institute we hosted in California's Central Valley. Today, the community has a seat on the North Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency board and the opportunity to advocate for their water needs.



In order to secure enough money from the EPA we need to know if your water system intends to apply for funding for lead service line replacement projects.

# HELP US HELP YOU



**Without a list of public water system project needs, the state will not be able to apply to EPA for the full funding under the Lead Service Line Replacement BIL.**

**Please help us bring money to New Mexico by filling out the pre-application.**

## [PLEASE CLICK HERE TO FILL OUT THE PRE-APPLICATION](#)

There is NO OBLIGATION to move forward with a loan under the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF).

We welcome your pre-application at anytime, but to be included in the first round of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) funding please submit the pre-application by **March 31, 2023**

Lead & Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR) deliverables are due October 16, 2024.  
Does your water system need monetary assistance to fulfill the requirements?  
**DWSRF can help with funding**  
**for service line inventories and lead service line replacement plans!**

For more information and to find the link for the pre-application visit: [env.nm.gov/drinking\\_water/infrastructure-projects-and-funding](https://env.nm.gov/drinking_water/infrastructure-projects-and-funding)



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# PWS Deliverables to DWB:

October 16, 2024

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\*Lead service line **inventory**.

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\*Lead service line replacement **plan**.

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\*Monitoring for lead in Schools and  
childcare **plan**.

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For information regarding all things lead and copper:  
Contact the Lead and Copper Administrator: Diana Aranda

[Diana.Aranda@env.nm.gov](mailto:Diana.Aranda@env.nm.gov) (505) 372-8166

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: [Lead and Copper Program \(nm.gov\)](https://www.nm.gov/lead-and-copper-program)

