



# MCKINLEY COUNTY

## Regional Water Commons Meeting

Friday, February 26, 2021

[Virtual Microsoft Teams Meeting](#)

---

# MCKINLEY COUNTY REGIONAL WATER COMMONS

## MONTHLY CHECK-IN

---

**Friday, February 26, 2021**

**10 AM — 12 PM**

**[Virtual Microsoft Teams Meeting](#)**

---

# A G E N D A

---

OPENING & INTRODUCTIONS	<i>Angelina Grey, NWNMCOG</i>
McKinley County Regionalization: Discussion & Update	<i>Doug Decker, County Attorney Evan Williams, NWNMCOG</i>
County Water & Wastewater Project List: Status & Updates	<i>Marc DePauli, Engineer Angelina Grey, NWNMCOG</i>
Standing Partners: Program Overviews & Spotlights	<i>Angelina Grey, NWNMCOG</i>
OTHER ISSUES & ANNOUNCEMENTS	<i>Angelina Grey, NWNMCOG</i>
ADJOURNMENT	<i>Doug Decker, County Attorney</i>

REGULAR MEETING SCHEDULE (proposed): Second Wednesdays of every month

NEXT MEETING – Wednesday, March 10<sup>th</sup> or April 14<sup>th</sup>



## McKinley County Regional Water Commons Meeting

Friday, February 26, 2021

9:51 AM

### Attendees:

Name	Entity	Email
Evan Williams	Executive Director	<a href="mailto:ewilliams@nwnmcog.org">ewilliams@nwnmcog.org</a>
Brandon Howe	Planner	<a href="mailto:bhowe@nwnmkcog.org">bhowe@nwnmkcog.org</a>
Angelina Gray	Planner	<a href="mailto:Agrey@nwnmcog.org">Agrey@nwnmcog.org</a>
Doug Decker	Attorney	<a href="mailto:ddecker@co.mckinley.nm.us">ddecker@co.mckinley.nm.us</a>
Marc DePauli	Engineering	<a href="mailto:mdepauli@depauliengineering.com">mdepauli@depauliengineering.com</a>
Dominique Catron	Cartron Law & Associates	<a href="mailto:dcartronlaw@cybermesa.com">dcartronlaw@cybermesa.com</a>
Catherine Conran	NMENV	<a href="mailto:catherine.conran@state.nm.us">catherine.conran@state.nm.us</a>
Craig Macias		
Eric Ghahate	COG	
Olga Morales	Rural Community Assistance Cooperation	<a href="mailto:omorales@rcac.org">omorales@rcac.org</a>
Jason Sanchez	Yahtahey Water & Sanitation District	<a href="mailto:jason.sanchez@pinnbank.com">jason.sanchez@pinnbank.com</a>
Jason Sanchez	Gamerco Water & Sanitation District	<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>
John Leeper		
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>
Phyllis Casuse	Allison Water	<a href="mailto:dcasuse@yahoo.com">dcasuse@yahoo.com</a>
Don Casuse	Allison Water	<a href="mailto:dcasuse@yahoo.com">dcasuse@yahoo.com</a>
Rockelle Lengefeld	Williams Acres Water & Sanitation District	<a href="mailto:Rockelle.Lengefeld@gmail.com">Rockelle.Lengefeld@gmail.com</a>
Kristin Lengefeld	Williams Acres Water & Sanitation District	<a href="mailto:gallupsigns@yahoo.com">gallupsigns@yahoo.com</a>
Sherry Botkin	Thoreau Water & Sanitation District	<a href="mailto:sherry_botkin@yahoo.com">sherry_botkin@yahoo.com</a>
Tony Tanner	Catalpa Water Association	<a href="mailto:trtony_101@hotmail.com">trtony_101@hotmail.com</a>
Scott Williams	Whispering Cedars MDWUA	<a href="mailto:popeye_59@yahoo.com">popeye_59@yahoo.com</a>
Karen Torres	NMENV	<a href="mailto:karenm.torres@state.nm.us">karenm.torres@state.nm.us</a>

1. **Opening & Introductions:** Angelina Grey started the meeting at 10:00am. Evan Williams provided a general overview of the COG, including its structure, designation, membership and services provided. Mr. Williams indicated that the meeting was convened based on desires of water systems and the need to ensure the County and its small water systems are aware of the work being done throughout the county.
2. **McKinley Water Regionalization:** Evan Williams and Doug Decker provided a brief overview of the county's overall initiative with small water systems.
  - Doug Decker – The county has been a supporter of small water systems for many years. Initially started a Water Advisory board. The discussion of regionalization has been in the apart of water system development for more than a decade. With the cost of operation and infrastructure build out continuing to rise, McKinley County has identified the needs to regionalize to reduce cost and simplify mechanisms. McKinley County's seat at the NGWSP table has provided benefit to small water systems in the county. Volunteer boards of small water systems have had issues maintaining board due to election rule changes. This has increased the need for consolidation of waters systems.
  - Mr. Williams provided a recap of water work from the last two decades, as well as of recent efforts to future work yet to be done.
  - Marc DePauli provided a brief overview of NMED's requirements for connection to NGWSP and some options that that systems can take including regionalization.
3. **County Water & Wastewater Project List:**
  - Mr. Williams – provided a brief overview of some recent water projects including White Cliffs CDBG.
  - Mr. DePauli – Provided an overview of the capital projects in the works and what each project requires.
  - Rockelle Lengefeld (Williams Acres WSD) provided a brief overview of current projects, and experience with day-to-day activities of managing a water system, as a newly selected delegate.
4. **Standing Partners:**
  - Ms. Grey provided an update from the Rural Community Assistance Corporation (RCAC), including legislation that will impact water systems, as well as provided training and funding opportunities from various agencies and programs. Any water system that is interested in any of these programs should contact Ms. Grey for more information.
5. **Other Issues and Announcements:**
  - Mike Daly thought this meeting was to talk about regionalization.
  - Mr. Williams expressed the need to hear issues.
  - Ms. Lengefeld – once project is designed, one call line location will be an issue, maintenance through contracts are becoming a financial burdens to small water systems. Continuation of staff has also been an issue due to the lack of volunteers.
  - Marty Menapace – original idea was pay for design, get infrastructure built then hand over to the city.
  - Mr. DePauli – it is imperative that small waters systems know how they can connect to the Gallup regional water system. There are two routes.

- i. Annexation – the city builds out infrastructure, the city owns, operates and maintains system, as well as billing; or
  - ii. Establishing a water system – build out infrastructure with organizational resources, then request to tie into city distribution system, billing will be handled by either entity.
- o Jon Leeper - timing is critical as NGWSP is coming soon and small water systems should prepare for connection and make sure formalization and legal requirements are in place.
- o Ms. Grey – posed the question to attendees on whether these types of meetings should continue as a regularly scheduled meeting to continue conversations and to keep in contact with the county on progress and update. No feedback or input. Follow up on next steps with County.

6. Meeting was adjourned at 11:53am.

---

Note: This meeting was pre-recorded for reference purposes. Those who have missed this session can catch up with what was discussed during this meeting, and if you should have any other questions or concerns regarding rural water systems, please feel free to contact Angelina Grey (COG Planner) by email at [agrey@nwnmcog.org](mailto:agrey@nwnmcog.org) or by phone at (505) 728-6198.

To access the recorded video, [click here](#).

# Key Takeaways

February 26, 2021 Water Commons Meeting

## **1. McKinley County Water Regionalization Initiative**

- County establish alliance with water systems
- Discussed ways to regionalize for cost-effectiveness and efficiency
- County identified the need to develop a support network
  - past issues with water systems recognized
  - stresses the need to regionalize
- Relaunching the idea from decades ago
- Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project (NGWSP) overview
  - past discussions on connecting water systems to this project
  - option available for water systems

## **2. Water/Wastewater Project**

- Reviewed list of local water/wastewater projects for water systems
- List will be continually updated
- Developed the Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plans (ICIPs)
  - a step towards asset management strategies for water systems
- Williams Acres WSD project and history
  - new board members
  - Water Trust Board application

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

- New legislation will impact water systems, as well as provided
- Review of upcoming training and funding opportunities

## **4. Other Issues/Announcements**

- Keep regionalization on the table
- Water systems need to know how to connect to NGWSP or the city's distribution system
- NGWSP: Timing is critical.
  - Small water systems should prepare for connection
  - Make sure formalization and legal requirements are in place

## **5. Next Meeting: Wednesday, May 26, 2021**

---

# McKINLEY COUNTY REGIONAL WATER COMMONS MEETING

Friday, February 26, 2021  
10AM —12PM



---

Presented by McKinley County and COG



**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



---

## AGENDA

### OPENING & INTRODUCTIONS

*Angelina Grey, NWNMCOG*

---

**McKinley County Regionalization:**  
Discussion & Update

*Doug Decker, County Attorney*  
*Evan Williams, NWNMCOG*

---

**County Water & Wastewater Project List:**  
Status & Updates

*Marc DePauli, Engineer*  
*Angelina Grey, NWNMCOG*

---

**Standing Partners:**  
Program Overviews & Spotlights

*Angelina Grey, NWNMCOG*

---

**OTHER ISSUES & ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

*Angelina Grey, NWNMCOG*

---

**ADJOURNMENT**

*Doug Decker, County Attorney*

---

# Introductions

---



## McKinley County

- Anthony Dimas, County Manager
- Doug Decker, County Attorney



## Northwest New Mexico Council of Governments

- Angelina Grey, Planner
- Evan Williams, Executive Director



---

# McKinley County Regionalization

---

## McKinley County

Doug Decker, County Attorney

## COG

Evan Williams, Executive Director





# County Water / Wastewater Project List

The County develop a **Water & Wastewater Projects List** for the small water systems and districts that highlight what each community needs to complete these projects.

- Review and discuss projects list
- Update information



## Current Project

### **White Cliffs MDWUA Water System Improvement Project:**

In 2018, the COG and DES assisted the County with the 2019 CDBG Application process. The County was successfully awarded \$500,000 in October 2019 to complete this project. *Currently still in progress.*

- Public participation meetings
- Low-to-Moderate Income (LMI) methodology and surveys
- Application prep
- Final presentations

### **Project Detail:**

New construction of a 50,000-gallon water storage tank, a 6,000 primary storage tank, including an 8"-waterline, a duplex pump station, chlorination system, sensors, pump controls, electrical, sitework and fencing. Also, the removal and replacement of access gravel road. The project costs includes preliminary studies (i.e. archeological clearance, environmental assessment, etc.).



# CDBG Funded Projects

---

## CDBG GAMERCO WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT (2014): \$50,000

Developed an Asset Management Plan for McKinley County  
Developed a Preliminary Engineering Report for the Thoreau WSD

## CDBG COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE (2010): \$50,000

Comp Plan provided vision on growth & development within the jurisdiction of McKinley County

## CDBG THOREAU WSD WASTEWATER IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (2009): \$450,000

Lining ponds  
Regulating discharge  
Compliance  
Mitigated public health (ground water pollution)  
Reduced operations and maintenance costs  
Increased efficiency and safety

## CDBG RURAL WELL & WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT PLAN (2008): \$50,000

Developed an Asset Management Plan for McKinley County  
Developed a Preliminary Engineering Report for the Thoreau WSD

---

# Recent Project Applications

---

## **U.S. EPA — WIIN Grant:**

In 2020, the County and COG were selected a potential awardees for the 2021 Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) Grant program that addresses, supports, and improves America's drinking water infrastructure. County is awaiting next steps from its partner, the NM Environment Department's Drinking Water Bureau (DWB). This fund will advance the county's water systems regionalization initiative that is more than a decade in the making.

### **Assistance for Small and Disadvantaged Communities**

Section 2104 of the WIIN Act establishes the "Assistance for Small and Disadvantaged Communities" grant to "establish a program under which grants are provided to eligible entities for use in carrying out projects and activities the primary purposes of which are to assist public water systems in meeting the requirements of this title." [Learn more](#)

<https://www.epa.gov/dwcapacity/water-infrastructure-improvements-nation-act-wiin-act-grant-programs>

# Recent Project Applications

## **Williams Acres WSD Water Distribution System Project:**

In 2020, the COG and DES assisted the Williams Acres WSD and the County with the 2021 Water Trust Board (WTB) Application process. Application award yet to be determined. Request amount of \$900,000 to complete Phase I of III.

## **Project Detail:**

The proposed project is a critical need for the community of Williams Acres that has no reliable water supply infrastructure in place. Residents utilize various methods to secure water for daily needs. By establishing a water delivery system connected to the Gallup Regional Water distribution system and the Navajo Gallup Water Supply infrastructure, the community of Williams Acres can be assured safe and reliable water for the foreseeable future.

Total Capital Outlay funding: \$300,000



# Standing Partners



New Mexico Department of  
Finance & Administration



**NEW MEXICO**  
**RURAL WATER**  
ASSOCIATION

- Program Overviews
- Spotlights
- Funding Opportunities



# Updates and Highlights

---

## Rural Community Assistance Cooperation (RCAC)

There are two pieces of legislation related to public water systems:

1. **House Bill 92** which proposes to increase the water conservation fee from \$0.03 to \$0.05 for water produced to meet the increased cost of water sampling and laboratory testing.
2. **House Proposal 103** which increases the fees for utility operator certification which will provide access to computer-based exams for water and wastewater operators. Attached are two fact sheets for each bill with further detail.

---

## Other Issues & Announcements

---

1. Upcoming Training Opportunities
2. CDBG Planning Grants
3. Brief Updates from Water Systems
4. Discuss/Establish quorum on meeting schedule

# Upcoming Training Opportunities

## **NM Environment Department — Drinking Water Bureau:** [https://www.env.nm.gov/drinking\\_water/training-opportunities/](https://www.env.nm.gov/drinking_water/training-opportunities/)

- Small Systems Operator Training—March 23-25, 2021
- Flexible/Low-cost Compliance Solutions —March 25
- Small Systems Cybersecurity Workshop —April 6-7, 2021
- Groundwater and Well Care —*available anytime*

## **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency — Water Security Division:**

- Community-Based Water Resiliency Case Study Webinar —March 3, 2021
- [Register here](#)...

CBWR assists drinking water and wastewater utilities, and the communities they serve, in increasing resiliency to water interruptions from all hazards

# Upcoming Training Opportunities

## **U.S. EPA: *Creating Resilient Water Utilities (CRWU) Initiative:***

- CREAT Toolkit training to help drinking water, wastewater and stormwater utilities
- No cost resilience planning and adaptation planning
- 4 sessions scheduled in April 2021
- [Register here](#)

### **Training Objectives**

- Conduct a risk assessment using CREAT.
- Identify and share information on adaptation strategies to build utility long-term resilience.
- Share information on available resources for financing resilience and adaptation.

### **Training Topics and Agenda Highlights**

Session 1	Training Overview and CREAT modules 1 (Climate Awareness) and 2 (Scenario Development)
Session 2	CREAT modules 3 (Consequences and Assets) and 4 (Adaptation Planning)
Session 3	CREAT module 5 (Risk Assessment) and an overview of financial resources utilities can apply for to fund adaptation strategies
Session 4 (Optional)	An open agenda for attendees to ask questions on using CREAT, how to apply it to their circumstances, and how to seek funding for adaptation strategies

# Upcoming Training Opportunities

---

## **NM Rural Water Association**

<https://nmrwa.org/training/>

- System Operator Training: *(for water operators)*
- Free Online Learning and Training <https://www.suncoastlearning.com/courses/nm%20>
- 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference: April 13-15, 2021
- Registration costs
- **More information at...**

# CDBG Planning Grants

---

The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) is an annual grant program founded under the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD). There are several grant programs, including CDBG construction grants and CDBG planning grants.

**Lead State Agency:** NM DFA's Small Cities CDBG Grant Program

**Funding/Request Limit:** \$50,000

Grant assistance can be used to develop or update:

- a. comprehensive plan *(if not current or updated within the last five years)*;
- b. preliminary engineering report (PER);
- c. feasibility studies; base mapping, aerial photography, GIS systems;
- d. codes and ordinances



---

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
BLOCK GRANT

## *Brief Updates from Water Systems*

---

**Open floor to attendees...**

## *Regional Water Common Meetings*

---

Discuss and form a regular meeting schedule

- Second Wednesdays of every month
- Next Meeting:
  - ☐ Wednesday, March 10<sup>th</sup>
  - ☐ Wednesday, April 14<sup>th</sup>
- Time:
  - ☐ Same or change? \_\_\_\_\_



**Thank You!**



*Questions  
or  
Comments?*



**Contact Information:**

**McKinley County**

110 West Aztec Avenue  
Gallup, NM 87301

Anthony Dimas (County Manager)  
Doug Decker (County Attorney)  
Muriel Plummer (County Grants Manager)

[adimas@co.mckinley.nm.us](mailto:adimas@co.mckinley.nm.us)  
[ddecker@co.mckinley.nm.us](mailto:ddecker@co.mckinley.nm.us)  
[mplummer@co.mckinley.nm.us](mailto:mplummer@co.mckinley.nm.us)

**NWNMCOG**

106 West Aztec Avenue  
Gallup, NM 87301

Evan Williams (Executive Director)  
Angelina Grey (Planner)

[ewilliams@nwnmcog.org](mailto:ewilliams@nwnmcog.org)  
[agrey@nwnmcog.org](mailto:agrey@nwnmcog.org)