

NEW MEXICO INTERSTATE STREAM COMMISSION

COMMISSION MEMBERS

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STACY TIMMONS, Vice-Chair
ELIZABETH K. ANDERSON, P.E., Secretary
ARON BALOK, Commissioner
GREGORY CARRASCO, Commissioner
AARON CHAVEZ, Commissioner
PAULA GARCIA, Commissioner
PETER RUSSELL, Commissioner
PHOEBE SUINA, Commissioner



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**CASE: September 27, 2024 Seeding
Operations and Atmospheric Research
Weather Control and Precipitation
Enhancement Renewal Application**

ORDER FOR RENEWAL LICENSE

THIS MATTER came before the New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission (Commission) on January 21, 2025 for a final decision on a renewal of license WCPE-2022-01. This renewal submitted September 27, 2024 is a renewal pursuant to NMSA § 72-3-8 and 19.17.2.20 NMAC. This renewal application is for a license to conduct weather control and precipitation enhancement operations within the State of New Mexico submitted by Seeding Operations and Atmospheric Research (“Applicant”). The Commission, having reviewed the recommendation from the Weather Control Committee, having heard from the Chair of the Committee and Commission staff, and otherwise being duly informed, voted on the renewal.

“Commissioner Chavez moved, seconded by Vice-Chair Timmons, for approval of the Weather Control Committee’s recommendation regarding SOAR’s license renewal. The motion carried with a roll call vote. Commissioner Suina voted against the motion.” The decision of the Commission is recorded and approved in the minutes of the January 21, 2025 meeting of the New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission. Attached as Exhibit 1.

NOW, THEREFORE, based on vote of the full Commission, the Commission approves the renewal application for a license to conduct weather control and precipitation enhancement operations within the State of New Mexico in the counties of: Chaves, Colfax, Curry, De Baca, Eddy, Guadalupe, Harding, Lea, Lincoln, Otero, Quay, Roosevelt, and Union submitted by Seeding Operations and Atmospheric Research beginning on April 15, 2025 and ending September 30, 2025, subject to all conditions for licenses set forth in 19.17.2 NMAC.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

**MINUTES OF THE
NEW MEXICO INTERSTATE STREAM COMMISSION
January 21, 2025 Meeting**

A regular in-person and webinar/telephonic meeting of the New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission (NMISC) was held on January 21, 2025 at the New Mexico State Land Office, Morgan Hall, 310 Old Santa Fe Trail, Santa Fe, New Mexico. A link and phone number to access the public portion of the meeting was provided for staff and public participation. The meeting agenda, NMISC staff report, and packet materials are available on the NMOSE/NMISC website at https://www.ose.state.nm.us/ISC/isc_meetings.php.

**MEMBERS PARTICIPATING IN
PERSON:**

Chairman Mark Sanchez
Vice-Chair Stacy Timmons
Commissioner Aron Balok
Commissioner Aaron Chavez
Commissioner Peter Russell

**MEMBERS PARTICIPATING
VIRTUALLY:**

Commissioner Gregory Carrasco
Commissioner Paula Garcia
Commissioner Phoebe Suina

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Secretary Elizabeth K. Anderson

NMOSE/NMISC STAFF PARTICIPATING

Adam Beckwith	Julia Bowman
Alec Norman	Katherine Maynard
Ali Effati	Kathryn Becker
Andrew Erdmann	Kristina Romero
Anne Maurer	Lisa Henne
Chris Shaw	Michelle Hunter
Christina Hernandez	Oscar Esparza
Cindy Stokes	Pam Homer
Colleen Cunningham	Paula Jaramillo
Dominique Work	Rico Blea
Frank Scott	Ryan Serrano
Grace Haggerty	Sara Fox
Hannah Riseley-White	Tanya Trujillo
Jennifer Baca	Taylor Chavez
Jennifer Salazar	Yining Bai

AGENDA ITEM 1 – OPENING BUSINESS:

A. CALL TO ORDER

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 10:37 a.m.

B. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Commissioner Balok moved, seconded by Commissioner Russell, for approval of the agenda. The motion carried with a roll call vote.

C. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE DECEMBER 10, 2024 REGULAR MEETING

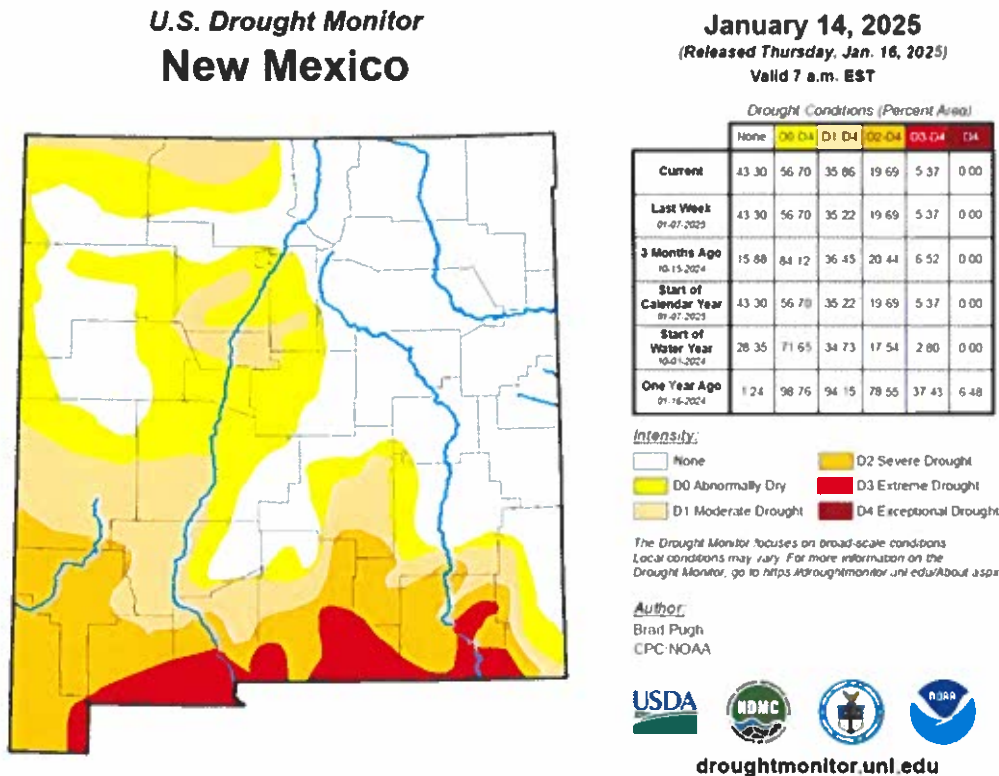
Commissioner Chavez moved, seconded by Commissioner Balok, to approve the minutes from the December 10, 2024 regular meeting. The motion carried with a roll call vote.

D. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments were received.

E. SECRETARY REPORT

Drought conditions in the state have changed due to the recent cooler temperatures throughout New Mexico. As of Today, 35.86 Percent of the state is in D1-D4, 5.37 percent is in D3-D4, and zero percent is in D4.



The National Weather Service reports severe drought (D2) expanded to include all of southern California due to the very dry start to the water year to date (WYTD) from October 1, 2024, to January 13, 2025. The D2 coverage coincides with where WYTD precipitation has averaged less than 5 percent of normal. A number of locations, including San Diego, are having their driest start to the water year. The D2 covers Los Angeles and Ventura counties which are being affected by periodic Santa Ana winds drying out vegetation and large wildfires. Following the two wet winters, the large reservoirs throughout California are at or above normal storage. Based on the 90-day Standardized Precipitation Index, declining soil moisture, and low snow water equivalent, a 1-category degradation was warranted for parts of Arizona and southwestern Utah. A mix of improvements and degradations were made to Idaho, and the depiction is generally consistent with the 2024-2025 WYTD precipitation and snowpack. SWE remained well below normal across the Four Corners Region.

The 2025 Legislative Regular session begins January 21 and runs through March 22. The agency is busy preparing for the session. The legislative prefile timeline was January 2-17. On Friday the House introduced 103 prefilled bills and the Senate introduced 68 prefile bills. There can be 1000 plus bills introduced during a 60-day legislative session.

WATER RIGHTS

The current Backlog of Water Right Applications statewide is 350 which is well below the agency's Performance Measure of 500. WR staff have been able to reduce the backlog and keep it below 500 for several quarters.

The draft "Lease" rule set has been sent out to interested parties and those who have asked to be informed of our pending rules.

F. STAFF REPORT

An overview of highlights from the full staff report was provided by Director Riseley-White as described below. Commissioners, and others, were encouraged to read the staff report in full.

2024 LEGISLATIVE SESSION UPDATES

On January 4, Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham released her FY 2025 Executive Budget Recommendation. The full document can be found on the Department of Finance and Administration's website, here: [Executive Budget Recommendation - Print.book](#)

NMISC staff are still reviewing both the Executive Recommendation and the Legislative Finance Committee Recommendation, which was released on January 15. Related to the NM Office of the State Engineer (NMOSE) and NM Interstate Stream Commission (NMISC), the Executive Recommendation appears to include:

- ~\$7.5 million in additional recurring funding, including:
 - ~\$2.6 million for a corrective salary adjustment to bring agency salaries into alignment with current State Personnel Office salary studies
 - \$2 million for trust fund sustainability – this general fund increase would replace current agency dependency on NMISC trust funds (Irrigation Works Construction Fund and Improvement to the Rio Grande Income Fund)
 - \$800,000 for water planning, education and outreach
 - \$500,000 for Middle Rio Grande administration and enforcement
 - \$500,000 for Indian Water Rights Settlements implementation
 - \$500,000 for additional office space in Albuquerque and Las Cruces
 - \$400,00 for additional vehicle, fuel, document management system costs and other administrative needs
 - \$250,000 for Water Data Act implementation activities
- \$52 million in non-recurring funding including:
 - \$35 million to support and fund Indian Water Rights Settlements

- \$5 million to implement the Water Security Planning Act, the 50-Year Water Action Plan, and modernization of online information and engagement tools
- \$5 million for continued support of interstate litigation
- \$3 million for 2003 Pecos Settlement Agreement implementation
- \$3 million in IT C2 funding for the Real Time Measurement System
- \$1 million in IT C2 funding for the W.A.T.E.R.S. database analysis and discovery

Final executive recommendations related to capital appropriations are still pending, however, NMOSE/NMISC submitted requests for:

- \$1.5 million for statewide surface water and groundwater measurement
- \$1 million for Elephant Butte Delta Channel work
- \$1 million for Ute Reservoir improvements
- \$5 million for acequia and community ditch improvements statewide
- \$9 million for river channel maintenance, habitat restoration and flood control projects statewide

Agency staff are working to evaluate the budget recommendation from the Legislative Finance Committee and will be working on one-page overviews on critical agency initiatives that will include a comparison of associated funding recommendations from the executive and legislative branches. These one-page summaries will be shared with Commissioners.

CANADIAN RIVER BASIN

HYDROLOGY UPDATES

Ute Reservoir is approximately 190,000 acre-feet (93% of capacity). Eagle Nest Reservoir is approximately 29,860 acre-feet (41% of capacity).

KEY UPDATES

Water Supply - Releases below Eagle Nest Reservoir for Water Year 2025 will begin in mid-March. Current snowpack conditions and current storage in Eagle Nest reservoir are computing a 20% reduction in diversion amounts across all Permit 71 stakeholders.

Ute Dam Improvements - A one-million-dollar special appropriation from 2023 for Ute reservoir will expire on June 30, 2025. The funding has been used to work with contractors to assess the needs of Ute Dam and to complete engineering and design work in preparation for the bidding and construction work.

COLORADO RIVER BASIN

HYDROLOGY UPDATES

Snow water equivalent across the Colorado is in general below average snowpack for this time of year, including at the Upper San Juan headwaters at 82% of median and the Gila River at 9% of median. Streamflow recently ranged across the basin from as low as 22% of median at the

Gila above Virden and then flows into Navajo Reservoir where above average at 119% of average. Navajo Reservoir is at 65% full and Lake Powell is at 38% full.

Temperatures in the basin have been warmer and drier than average. The three-month forecast for temperature in the upper basin will be leaning above average, and the precipitation forecast will be leaning below average.

KEY UPDATES

Upper Colorado River Commission (UCRC) – Updates include:

- At its December 4, 2024 regular meeting, the UCRC passed a resolution honoring the service of Mike Hamman, the former New Mexico State Engineer and the alternate UCRC commissioner.
- On December 4, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) and the UCRC executed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for provisional accounting of water conservation and other demonstration activities in the Upper Colorado Basin. This MOU is an initial step for the Upper Division States and Reclamation to test their ability to account for such activities. Additional agreements between the Upper Division States and Reclamation will be needed before the Upper Division States can receive credit for any qualifying activities accounted for under the MOU.

Colorado River Water Users Association (CRWUA) - Staff attended CRWUA's annual conference December 4 through the 6, 2024 in Las Vegas, NV.

Colorado River Salinity Control Program - On December 23, 2024, the President signed H.R.7872 (the Colorado River Salinity Control Fix Act) into law. The passage of this law provides more flexibility for funding the Program.

Post-2026 Colorado River Reservoir Operational Strategies for Lake Powell and Lake Mead – These conversations are ongoing.

WORK AREA OVERVIEWS

Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project (NGWSP) - All Indian Water Rights Settlements legislations, including the PL 111-11 amendments legislation (H.R.3977/S.1898), which would have provided \$700+ million to Reclamation for the implementation of the NGWSP, failed to pass during the 118th Congress. However, on December 20, 2024, Congress passed a Continuing Resolution (CR), that raised the appropriations ceiling for the period of the CR through March 14, 2025, but did not grant any additional funding. By increasing the ceiling, Congress made available some Reclamation Water Settlement Funds that the NGWSP is entitled to under the original PL 111-11. This increase in the amount of \$120 million will fund Reclamation's efforts related to the NGWSP for at least a year, will allow the San Juan Lateral Water Treatment Plant work to move forward and procure several other large contracts. Reclamation will need another raise next year.

Jicarilla Apache Nation and The Nature Conservancy Strategic Water Reserve Lease - Between November 18 and December 3, Reclamation released the NMISC's second block of 10,000-acre

feet of water leased from the Jicarilla Apache Nation. As a result, all 20,000 acre-feet leased for calendar year 2024 was released. One goal of this release was to reconnect or improve water quality in backwater areas. These areas have the potential to be used as overwintering areas by juvenile Colorado pikeminnow and razorback sucker. Staff will start planning for the calendar year 2025 lease soon.

New Mexico Unit Fund Pilot Cycle - Following the NMISC's adoption of a New Mexico Unit Fund pilot cycle policy on September 24, the Water Trust Board (WTB) met on December 17 and approved an application form for the pilot cycle, contingent upon the WTB staff seeking the NMISC's input on the form before opening the pilot cycle. The NMISC staff and the WTB staff met on January 9 to review NMISC staff's comments on the draft form. That application period is expected to open soon.

Arizona Water Settlements Act (AWSA) Prior Grantees - On December 10 the Commission approved re-allocation of the unspent amounts for two prior Arizona Water Settlements Act Non-New Mexico Unit grantees.

COSTILLA CREEK

HYDROLOGY UPDATES

Costilla Reservoir is at approximately 19% of capacity. Snow water equivalent in snowpack is well below average for this time of year, including the Red River Pass #2 which is at 18% of median.

KEY UPDATES

Costilla Creek Operations Manual - Staff is working with Engineer/Legal Advisors on an amendment to the manual to allow for early season deliveries as discussed at the last two Compact Commission Meetings in 2024 and 2023.

PECOS BASIN

HYDROLOGY UPDATES

Santa Rosa Reservoir is approximately 40,400 acre-feet (40% of capacity). Brantley Reservoir is approximately 42,600 acre-feet (99% of capacity). Snow water equivalent in snowpack is well below average for this time of year, including Wesner Springs at 68% of median and Sierra Blanca at 12% of median.

However, as of January 9, the National Weather Service shows much of the basin as no longer being in drought conditions. The lower part of the basin, primarily the Eddy County area, is still in moderate to extreme drought conditions. Overall, this is a significant improvement from the same time last year, when over half the basin was in "extreme" or "exceptional" drought. A La Nina weather pattern is expected through the spring of this year, which suggests a chance of reduced precipitation.

KEY UPDATES

2003 Pecos Settlement Agreement Augmentation Pumping - Pumping is not currently required. Based on current reservoir levels and inflow projections it is likely that augmentation will not be required through the spring. Settlement projections currently show that the March 1 target supply exceeds 50,000 acre-feet.

Vaughan Conservation Pipeline (VCP) - The VCP is currently on.

WORK AREA OVERVIEWS

2003 Pecos Settlement Agreement Implementation - The Carlsbad Project Supply on November 1, 2024 was approximately 46,974 acre-feet (reduced to Brantley Reservoir). The projected supply for Carlsbad Irrigation District's 2025 irrigation season on March 1, 2025 is 76,667 acre-feet, which is more than 25,000 acre-feet higher than the Pecos Settlement's March 1 Target Supply of 50,000 acre-feet. Given current forecasts, augmentation pumping may not be required until the middle of the spring or later.

RIO GRANDE BASIN

HYDROLOGY UPDATES

Snowpack in snow water equivalent ranges throughout the Rio Grande but is also below average. The Upper Rio Grande Basin is about 82% of median and the Jemez River Basin is 24% of median. When it comes to reservoir storage, Abiquiu is at 44% of capacity, Cochiti is at 6% of capacity and Caballo is at 6% of capacity.

KEY UPDATES

Draft/Preliminary Rio Grande Compact Status – Initial calculations indicate that NM added approximately 1,300 acre-feet to its debit status increasing it to approximately 123,500 acre-feet. Final accounting will be conducted by the Engineer Advisors later this year. It was a very challenging year in the Rio Grande and Rio Chama basins. If final volumes are similar to this initial accounting, it will be a very good outcome for New Mexico. Article VII restrictions remain in effect.

Abiquiu Dam Operations – Approximately 1,600 acre-feet of Prior and Paramount (P&P) water and 2,100 acre-feet of incidental native water was not released from Abiquiu Reservoir by the end of the calendar year and became debit water. The US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) immediately released this debit water after receipt of a demand letter from Texas.

El Vado Reservoir Operations - Reclamation plans to store 16,500 acre-feet of P&P water in El Vado Reservoir in 2025. Reclamations reassessment regarding construction to rehabilitate the dam is ongoing.

WORK AREA OVERVIEWS

Rio Chama Plug Updates - Following extraordinary precipitation events in the Rio Chama basin in 2024, sediment in the river below Abiquiu Dam continues to be a problem and releases below the dam are limited to approximately 500 cfs. If channel capacity is not increased, this will impact Compact deliveries and deliveries of water to the San Juan-Chama Project Contractors this spring. In November 2024, the NMISC mobilized a contractor to increase channel capacity in the section most affected and the funding for this work will be exhausted by mid-February. The NMISC contractor's efforts increased channel capacity within the project area to greater than 500 cfs, however flooding and saturation have potentially developed in Chili, NM, which is below the project area. The NMISC is continuing to collaborate with partners at the USACE, Reclamation, Albuquerque Bernalillo Water Utility Authority, and the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District (MRGCD) to find solutions and further increase channel capacity.

Middle Rio Grande Endangered Species Collaborative Program - On December 10, 2024, staff attended a facilitated meeting of Executive Committee members for the Middle Rio Grande Endangered Species Collaborative Program (MRGESCP or Collaborative Program) to discuss future goals, including implications of the settlement for "WildEarth Guardians v. United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS or Service), United States Bureau of Reclamation, and Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District, United States District Court, Case No. cv-00914" described previously to the Commission. As part of the Settlement, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has agreed to reconsult with Reclamation to consider the following in a revised Biological Assessment: (1) development of enforceable conservation measures; (2) analysis of climate change; (3) analysis of river management impacts; (4) analysis of river drying on listed species; (5) analysis of water rights administration impacts and water diversions on listed species; (6) analysis of habitat suitability and fish passage in the Angostura and Cochiti Reach; and (7) analysis of impacts of use of a 30,000 to 50,000 acre-foot conservation pool. The USFWS agreed to issue a new Biological Opinion by October 30, 2028. The public will have the opportunity to provide comment.

LOWER RIO GRANDE

Rio Grande Project Storage - As of mid-November, usable water in Rio Grande Project Storage was 135,375 acre-feet. Elephant Butte Reservoir gained ~10,000 acre-feet since September of this year.

Limited Releases for Elephant Butte Irrigation District (EBID) Farmers - Very low Project Storage suggests a very low allotment year within EBID (four to six inches) and a late start for project releases from storage. Staff anticipates that June 1 will be the 2025 start date.

Lower Rio Grande (LRG) Water Alliance - On Friday, November 15, the NMISC convened the third meeting of the "LRG Water Alliance," formerly known as the "LRG Task Force." The meeting was well attended by local stakeholders and the group made progress in the development of a purpose statement, committee structure, and project timeline. This alliance is a critical effort that has broad support from the local community.

ACEQUIA BUREAU

KEY UPDATES

Acequia and Community Ditch Infrastructure Fund (ACDIF) - Continued support is ongoing for all ACDIF projects approved to receive engineering and construction funding for FY2025. All funding agreements are executed, and work is currently underway.

Capital Outlay – Staff continues to work with all acequias that have received capital outlay funds by providing assistance on how funds can be spent and what requirements must be met to ensure timely expenditures before funds revert.

WATER PLANNING PROGRAM

KEY UPDATES

Water Security Planning Act (WSPA) Implementation

- Recent Publications, including Observations and Considerations Report, Summary Report, and the MainStream Magazine, can be found at mainstreamnm.org.
- Discussion Draft of the WSPA Rule and Guidelines - A discussion draft for the rule and guidelines called for in the WSPA will be presented during the January 21 NMISC meeting. NMISC is releasing this discussion draft in advance of rule promulgation to provide an additional opportunity for discussion and to collect and incorporate feedback in advance of formal rulemaking. The Discussion Draft incorporates feedback collected from partner state agencies on a preview provided to those partners in December. Input on this discussion draft is encouraged and being collected through an online survey, to be available on mainstreamnm.org that also has a printable option.

WORK AREA OVERVIEWS

Mainstreamnm.org Website – Please continue to check the website for ongoing updates.

Developing Tools for Water Planning / Support for Future Regions - Staff is continuing to work with contractors and partners to develop products for use in future regional water planning under the WSPA, including maps and decision support tools.

LEGAL BUREAU

Texas v. New Mexico and Colorado, No. 141 Original “Original Action” on the Rio Grande Compact before the United States Supreme Court. The States of New Mexico, Texas, and Colorado met with the United States, and the amici for mediation December 10-12 in Washington D.C. In advance of the mediation, New Mexico provided the parties and amici with a detailed settlement proposal that would address both the issues between the states and the federal government, and existing New Mexico intrastate disputes and water management questions.

Texas and Colorado supported the New Mexico proposal. The proposal included the key elements of the index decree that the states agreed to in 2022. The proposed index decree provides a

method of compact accounting for deliveries to the Texas state line, as well as specific remedies for over- and under-deliveries.

The United States expressed opposition to the inclusion of mandatory language in a decree requiring the Bureau of Reclamation to transfer water at the demand of the states. The states, for their part, remained firm in their desire to maintain enforceable remedies in the decree.

The United States offered to develop a counter-proposal for how to address this critical issue. However, the United States stated that it needs until mid-February 2025 to fully develop its counter-proposal. The Compacting States expressed concern about a delay of two months, but the mediator set a deadline for the United States counter-proposal in accordance with the United States's suggested timeline. The United States will make its counter-proposal on the proposed index decree's enforceability/primacy by **February 18, 2025** and the parties will reconvene for an in-person mediation session on **February 25, 2025** in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania where the Special Master will be sitting. The Special Master will then hold a status conference on **February 27, 2025** at which time the Special Master may set a trial date if the parties are not close to settling.

In addition to the overarching primacy/enforceability issue, New Mexico had very productive discussions with the United States and the amici about other elements of the settlement proposal, which included details about future management of groundwater depletions. The United States and the amici will likely request changes on those issues, but overall, the reception to New Mexico's proposal was positive. We have also had very positive conversations with EBID.

The NM Department of Justice is leading the mediation effort for New Mexico.

AGENDA ITEM 2 – ELECTION OR RE-ELECTION OF NEW MEXICO INTERSTATE STREAM COMMISSION OFFICERS.

Commissioner Balok moved, seconded by Commissioner Russell, nomination by acclamation for Commissioner Sanchez to be re-elected as Chair and Commissioner Timmons to be re-elected as Vice-Chair. The motion carried with a roll call vote.

AGENDA ITEM 3 - REQUEST BY STAFF FOR COMMISSION ADOPTION OF 2025 OPEN MEETINGS ACT RESOLUTION.

Lisa Henne requested Commission adoption of the 2025 Open Meetings Act Resolution.

Commissioner Chavez moved, seconded by Vice-Chair Timmons, for approval of the 2025 Open Meetings Act Resolution. The motion carried with a roll call vote.

AGENDA ITEM 4 - PRESENTATION BY THE CITY OF BAYARD AND GRANT COUNTY WATER COMMISSION AND REQUEST BY THE CITY OF BAYARD FOR COMMISSION APPROVAL TO REALLOCATE UP TO \$1,343,823.31 FROM BAYARD'S REMAINING NON-NEW MEXICO UNIT ALLOCATION FOR USE TOWARDS INSPECTION, TESTING, AND REHABILITATION OF AN EXISTING

WELL NEAR SANTA CLARA, AND DESIGN OF A WATER TRANSMISSION LINE FROM THAT WELL TO THE SANTA CLARA BOOSTER STATION.

John Ojinaga, City of Bayard Mayor, Martha Salas, City of Bayard Clerk, Priscilla Lucero, Southwest New Mexico Council of Governments Director, and Alex Brown, Silver City Town Manager and Grant County Water Commission Chair, gave a presentation and requested Commission approval on Agenda Item 4 as listed.

Comments and questions by the Commission followed.

Commissioner Russell moved, seconded by Commissioner Chavez, for approval to reallocate up to \$1,343,823.31 from Bayard's remaining Non-New Mexico Unit allocation for use towards inspection, testing, and rehabilitation of an existing well near Santa Clara, and design of a water transmission line from that well to the Santa Clara Booster Station. The motion carried with a roll call vote.

AGENDA ITEM 5 - PRESENTATION BY STAFF ON A DISCUSSION DRAFT OF RULES AND GUIDELINES TO IMPLEMENT THE WATER SECURITY PLANNING ACT, PROCESS FOR CONTINUED STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT, AND PREPARATION FOR RULE PROMULGATION.

Andrew Erdmann and Sara Fox gave a presentation on Agenda Item 5 as listed.

Comments and questions by the Commission followed.

AGENDA ITEM 6 - PRESENTATION BY STAFF ON UTE RESERVOIR.

Rico Blea and Julia Bowman gave a presentation on Agenda Item 6 as listed.

Comments and questions by the Commission followed.

AGENDA ITEM 7 - INFORMATIONAL UPDATE AND PRESENTATION BY STAFF ON THE LOS LUNAS SILVERY MINNOW REFUGIUM.

Grace Haggerty gave a presentation on Agenda Item 7 as listed.

Comments and questions by the Commission followed.

AGENDA ITEM 8 - PRESENTATION BY STAFF ON THE LICENSE RENEWAL APPLICATION BY SEEDING OPERATIONS AND ATMOSPHERIC RESEARCH (SOAR) FOR CLOUD SEEDING ACTIVITIES UNDER THE SAME CONDITIONS GRANTED FOR THE 2024 CALENDAR YEAR, AND REQUEST FOR COMMISSION APPROVAL OF THE WEATHER CONTROL COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATION REGARDING SOAR'S LICENSE RENEWAL.

Frank Scott gave a presentation and requested Commission approval on Agenda Item 8 as listed.

Commissioner Chavez moved, seconded by Vice-Chair Timmons, for approval of the Weather Control Committee's recommendation regarding SOAR's license renewal. The motion carried with a roll call vote. Commissioner Suina voted against the motion.

AGENDA ITEM 9 - REQUEST BY NMISC STAFF FOR COMMISSION APPROVAL TO EXECUTE AMENDMENT #3 TO FOUR-YEAR CONTRACT NO 24891A, SPENCER FANE, PREVIOUSLY APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION, TO INCREASE THE COST CEILING FROM \$1,000,000.00 TO \$2,000,000.00 FOR CONFIDENTIAL WORK RELATED TO LITIGATION IN THE RIO GRANDE BASIN.

Jennifer Baca requested approval of Agenda Item 9 as listed.

Vice-Chair Timmons moved, seconded by Commissioner Russell, for approval to execute Amendment #3 to four-year Contract No 24891A, Spencer Fane, previously approved by the Commission, to increase the cost ceiling from \$1,000,000.00 to \$2,000,000.00 for confidential work related to litigation in the Rio Grande Basin. The motion carried with a roll call vote. Commissioner Suina abstained from the vote.

AGENDA ITEM 10 – SET FUTURE MEETING DATE, OTHER BUSINESS AND INFORMATIONAL ITEMS NOT REQUIRING NMISC ACTION:

Director Riseley-White suggested and the Commission agreed that regular meetings for calendar year 2025 be held on the morning of the third Thursday of each month. Upcoming meetings will be virtual on February 20, 2025 and on March 20, 2025. The March 20 meeting could be held in person/hybrid and could coincide with an informal work session to discuss the draft rule and guidelines for the Water Security Planning Act.

The next Water Leader Workshop will be held in Silver City, NM on April 14 through 16, 2025 and a coordinated in person/hybrid meeting could be considered for April 17, 2025.

AGENDA ITEM 11 – ADJOURNMENT:

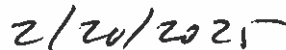
Vice-Chair Timmons moved, seconded by Commissioner Balok, to adjourn. The motion carried with a roll call vote. The meeting adjourned at 12:35 am.

Minutes were prepared by Jennifer Salazar and edited by Hannah Riseley-White and Lisa Henne.

Approved at the February 20, 2025 meeting of the New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission.



Mark Sanchez, Chair



Date