
1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 INDIVIDUALS INVOLVED IN WATER PLAN DEVELOPMENT

Key individuals involved in the development of this Lea County Regional Water Plan (the Plan) are listed below along with their role. The interest of their participatory organizations is discussed more fully in Section 2.3.

1.1.1 The plan was prepared for the Lea County Water Users Association (LCWUA). The LCWUA was represented in the planning process by its Board of Directors:

Chairman	Buster Goff, Lea County,
Vice Chairman	Bob Carter, Lovington,
Secretary/Treasurer	Scott Bussell, Hobbs,
Member	State Rep. Stevan Pearce, Lea County,
Member	County Comm. Bill Brininstool, Lea County,
Member	Mayor Betty Rickman, Tatum,
Member	Don Bratton, Hobbs,
Member	Jim Britton, Hobbs,
Member	Becky Jo Doom, Jal,
Member	John Norris, Lovington,
Member	J. W. Neal, Lea County, and
Ex Officio	County Mgr. Dennis Holmberg, Lea County.

1.1.2 The Board of Directors delegated oversight of the Plans development to a Steering Committee consisting of five individuals:

Public Utilities	John Benard, Lea County Electric Coop,
Agriculture	Leon Hemann, Local Farm Bureau President,
Oil & Gas	Chris Williams, OCD - Energy & Minerals,
Municipalities	Ernie Wheeler, Hobbs Fire Department, and
Domestic Users	Cleve Griffin, Private Well Driller.

1.1.3 The Plan was prepared by a **Consulting Team** consisting of four key professionals:

Leedshill-Herkenhoff	Dan Boivin PE, Project Engineer,
Leedshill-Herkenhoff	Jerry May EI, Project Scientist,
John Shoemaker & Assoc.	Roger Peery CPG, Hydrogeologist,
Montgomery & Andrews	Galen Buller, Attorney.

1.1.4 The LCWUA hired an **Independent Consultant** to review and advise the Consulting Team on their work:

Progressive Environmental Systems Len Stokes, President.

1.1.5 In addition, through the LCWUA and through the public participation program all the Officials and Citizens of Lea County and the Municipalities and Associations therein were involved.

1.2 PREVIOUS WATER PLANNING IN THE REGION

Previous water-related planning conducted in the region includes the following:

City of Hobbs Water Master Plan, 1999;
Leedshill-Herkenhoff, Inc., 1999 (unpublished)

Capitan and Jal Underground-Water Basin Study;
SNMEDD, F.L. MILLER, 1994 (draft)

Water and Wastewater Master Plan, 1975-1995, Phase II, Water Supply Study;
Gordan Herkenhoff & Associates, 1976

Lea County Water Resources Assessment for Planning Purposes;
Interstate Stream Commission, State Engineer Office, 1975.

Interim Basin Plan, Lea County Basin;
Fossmark and Herkenhoff, 1972

1.3 CONTENTS OF THE WATER PLAN

This Regional Water Plan (Plan) follows the New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission's Regional Water Planning Handbook (1994) and the Regional Water Planning Template contained therein. The Plan includes background information on the Planning Region (Lea County), a discussion of legal issues, an overview of water resources in the region, estimates of water demand, a discussion of water planning alternatives for the region, and a recommended water plan with a 40-year horizon.

The Plan describes actions to be taken through the planning period (year 2000 to year 2040) which will extend and possibly preserve Lea County's water supply. While the actions are to occur within the next 40 years, an emphasis has been placed on bringing the human habitation and activity within Lea County into a sustainable balance with the area's renewable water resources.

The Plan is summarized in the Executive Summary.