

# **Historical Archive G-2**

## **Regional Forum 1**

# Water Planning = Making Choices

## Don't Miss the Next Step



### Why Plan?

--  
**Because We're Over-Budget**

Our region's water supply problem can be likened to the challenge of balancing income and expenses in a household budget. The Rio Grande and its tributaries supply most of the region's income, while expenses include domestic and industrial uses, irrigated agriculture, and riparian needs. Nearly twenty percent of the region's income is lost to evaporation from Elephant Butte Reservoir.

The problem is we're not making ends meet, and even in a year of average precipitation we're drawing down the aquifer – our line of credit – by some 70,000 acre feet to make up the difference. Compounding the problem is drought, growth, and competition for water from other states. Because the region's "financial experts" see no affordable way to increase our region's water income in the foreseeable future, the only option is to tighten our belts and reduce our expenses. Cutting the budget is never easy, but with careful planning it can be done.

### THE WATER PLANNING PROCESS

Balancing the water budget will require help from every member of the household. So, along with scientific studies and surveys, a series of "community conversations" were held this past summer across the planning region. These events offered important information about the water planning process and the complex water picture in the Middle Rio Grande Valley.

The conversations were open and inclusive, and provided members of our regional household with an opportunity to participate in

# Middle Rio Grande Regional Planning Area



Counties

Municipalities

Municipalities

Tribes

Rio Jemez

Rio Puerco

From Bernalillo: "You don't go to the grocery store to buy a bosque"

DOSS-ONECUC

Three Watersheds

Albuquerque: "We all need to share the water." Rural

Los Lunas: "What I don't want to see in the future is a traffic jam to King of the Hill."

Bernalillo: "There's no such as creating new water."

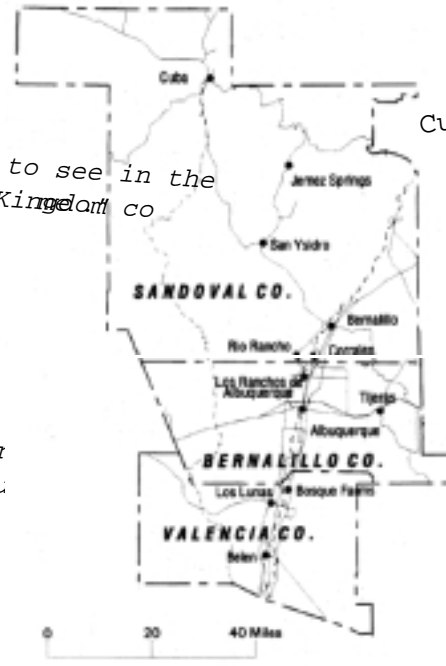
Recreation

Albuquerque: "Any new use means someone has to give something up."

From a Los Lunas farmer: "I feel like a football being gored over by the feds and the environmentalists."

Industry

From an Albuquerque sage: "Elephant Butte? That's where we should pour water to dry up."



Culture

Future

## The Water Planning Process

the process of finding solutions to this common problem. In series one and two of the conversations, participants identified problems and issues in their areas and translated those concerns into local water planning goals and objectives.

The next step is to identify similarities and differences among these local goals and objectives, and to develop regional goals and objectives. This will occur at a Regional Forum on November 4th. As a member of our regional household, you're invited to participate in this important process.

### REPORTS FROM THE COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

Following is a summary of the comments received from the community conversations held from July through September. This input will guide the next steps in the water planning process. (Future water planning events are listed at the end of this report.)"

### VALENCIA COUNTY

#### KEY ISSUES

- Population growth requires action which government will not address
- Survival of Agriculture
- Historical Perspective
- How to develop solutions to water problems given population growth
- Banning High Water-consumptive industry
- Unsound Science
- Federalization
- Watershed Health

# Synopsis of Goals and Objectives

Reports from the August/September Community Conversations (continued)



- Protect Water Uses which Preserve Our Culture
- Preserve Agricultural Uses of Water
- Promote Appropriate Economic Development (in terms of culture, environment, water use)
- Restore and Maintain a Healthy Watershed
- Control Growth to Maximize Water Resources
- Promote Community Control of Water Resources

io Rancho:

Ensure Fullest Possible Public Participation in Water Planning Process

Emphasize Urgency of Drought Situation

Coordinate Water Planning with Other Planning Efforts

Balance Values and Balance Uses with Region

Coordinate Governance of Water

Maintain Quality of Life for Residents

Make Decisions about Water based on its Value

Promote Water Conservation for all Sectors

own of Bernalillo:

Create an Inclusive, Collaborative Water Planning Process

Develop a Water Education Program for Adults and Children

Review and Revise Water Laws, Regulations, and Policies

Promote Water Efficiencies to Maximize Water Supply

Preserve Agricultural, Riparian and Greenbelt Areas



- Ensure Water for the River
- Address Legal Issues to Improve Water Management
- Preserve Irrigated Agriculture
- Manage Residential Development to Protect Water Resources
- Maximize Conservation of Water Resources
- Create an Educated Public about Water Issues



## GOALS for the FUTURE

### Protect Water Uses which Preserve Our Culture

- Develop cultural values education program for students and teachers
- Create ways of celebrating local culture, like water festival
- Control growth which will damage our culture
- Assure water supply for agriculture

### Preserve Agricultural Uses of Water

- Restore and expand agricultural markets for local produce
- Create incentives to keep land cultivated
- Explore ways of more efficient farming
- Explore potential for crop changes

### Promote Appropriate Economic Development (in terms of culture, environment, water use)

- Set standards for economic development based on a common vision
- Develop policies and regulations to protect water resources
- Permit only industries that are water efficient and non-polluting
- Develop eco-tourism
- Develop data on tax base needs
- Provide job training in "attractive" industries

### Restore and Maintain a Healthy Watershed

- Maintain river quality which protects people and the environment
- Maximize water supply to the greatest extent possible, through re-use, recharge, etc.
- Restore the river's natural function
- Use best management practices in watershed management
- Integrate water plans of connected watersheds with federal, state, local, and sector plans
- Create informed and committed decision-makers and citizens
- Develop credible quantitative data

# Bringing Diverse Communities Together



**If you don't join in making the decisions, someone will make them for you!**

- **Concur on Consistent Goals and Objectives**

Identify places where we all agree, or substantially are in agreement. Make sure we really have the same perceptions.

- **Understand Conflicting Goals and Objectives**

Know where the differences are so that we can work toward some kind of compromise or acceptable alternative

- **Discuss Single County Goals and Objectives**

Determine if the goals apply on a wider scale or are truly unique to a single area. Verify lack of conflict.

## Reports from the August/September Community Conversations (continued)

### **Control Growth to Maximize Water Resources**

- Maximize water conservation by all users
- Preserve farmland
- Ensure responsible development compatible with the region and subregions
- Make decisions based on good data and available water supply and infrastructure
- Consider birth control
- Prevent water transfers
- Promote the belief that growth can and must be controlled

### **Promote Community Control of Water Resources**

- Ensure meeting compact requirements
- Return control to the local level
- Put the control in the hands of a single authority which includes all interests

### **SANDOVAL COUNTY - RIO RANCHO**

#### **KEY ISSUES.**

Office of the State Engineer/Interstate Stream Commission Roles Responsibilities  
Drought  
Growth  
How much water is really needed?  
Acequias /Ditches  
Evaporation  
Water as a commodity and the cost of water  
Attitudes about recycling and conservation  
Governance of water

#### **GOALS for the FUTURE**

#### **Ensure Fullest Possible Public Participation in Water Planning Process**

- Institute comprehensive notification, coverage, education about water planning

Emphasize urgency of drought situation

### **Coordinate Planning with Other Planning Efforts**

- Communicate, coordinate with upstream and downstream regions
- Encourage coordination among state, federal, tribal, local entities

### **Balance Values and Balance Uses with the Region**

- Seek cooperative, not competitive solutions
- Address disparate goals and focus on common ground
- Show a realistic, not optimistic, picture

### **Coordinate Governance of Water**

- Connect land use and water planning
- Review and revise laws
- Consider single point/ultimate authority for resolving water issues
- Coordinate decision-making

### **Maintain Quality of Life for Residents**

- Protect historic and culturally important water uses
- Develop mutually agreed upon definition of quality of life and water requirement
- Preserve ability to make future choices

### **Make Decisions about Water based on its Value**

- Price water equitably
- Price water to protect the resource
- Manage water to reflect variety of values of water

### **Promote Water Conservation for all Sectors**

- Develop strategies to reduce evaporation
- Initiate public education & awareness programs
- Develop credible data base of water supply and uses, including evaporation

## **SANDOVAL COUNTY - BERNALILLO**

### **KEY ISSUES**

Need for community input in the planning process  
Plan should be based on water facts, not optimism

Need for public awareness and education to combat apathy  
Pre-existing water rights  
Need to include Pueblo data and needs in plan

Need for water in the river and healthy riparian areas  
Preservation of small scale agriculture  
Changes in the law and policies  
Need for conservation  
Water quality

### **GOALS**

#### **Create an Inclusive, Collaborative Water Planning Process**

- Maximize community input
- Maximize media coverage
- Base plan on reality, not optimism
- Develop a process for balancing uses and resources, collaboratively
- Maintain and respect current laws

#### **Develop a Water Education Program for Adults and Children**

- Engage, and educate, media to inform public
- Educate politicians
- Develop education program based on scientific data, not scare tactics

#### **Review and Revise Water Laws, Regulations, and Policies**

- Address pre-existing water rights
- Clarify the discrepancies between paper water rights and wet water
- Replace disincentives to conserve with incentives
- Address domestic well issues
- Address gaps and overlaps in laws
- Address growth
- Gather data about re-use, distribution, and experiences elsewhere

#### **Promote Water Efficiencies to Maximize Water Supply**

- Develop public education program
- Improve water storage to reduce evaporation
- Reduce contamination
- Provide links between conservation and cultural preservation
- Review, revise price structures for water

## **Preserve Agricultural, Riparian, and Greenbelt Areas**

- Raise public consciousness about the unique character and culture of the subregion
- Protect and promote small-scale agriculture and traditional farming techniques
- Develop land trusts

## **BERNALILLO COUNTY - ALBUQUERQUE**

### **KEY ISSUES**

The importance of not limiting choices in the future  
The dilemma of prior rights  
The future of irrigated agriculture  
Residential development and landscaping  
Aquifer recharge and the needs of the river  
The Campbell Ranch development

### **GOALS for the FUTURE**

#### **Ensure Water for the River**

- Manage the resource to maximize water supply
- Acquire open space and flood plain for public and habitat use
- Coordinate community restoration projects
- Develop a comprehensive approach through coordination of relevant government and private entities
- Create a political will to implement the vision
- Develop comprehensive education program and incentives to shift public attitude

#### **Address Legal Issues to Improve Water Management**

- Finish water adjudications
- Change laws as necessary to encourage or mandate conservation in all sectors
- Promote collaboration of all interests to resolve water disputes
- Establish a separate water planning agency at the state level
- Establish enforcement mechanisms for regional water plans

- Develop a mutually supported data base of water rights and supply and use

**Preserve Irrigated Agriculture**

- Support local agricultural products
- Change tax structures to encourage farming
- Establish community and school gardens
- Change development patterns
- Create an “e-grange” – electronic support organization for farmers
- Change laws to prevent separating water from land

**Manage Residential Development to**

**Protect Water Resources**

- Build new attitudes about lifestyle, to encourage cluster, dense housing patterns
- Develop user-friendly information on development alternatives
- Develop consensus among water users on appropriate policies
- Change laws, ordinances, policies to promote conservation, infill, realistic impact fees
- Create improved transportation system to support clusters ensure access to open space and parks

**Maximize Conservation of Water Resources**

- Change building codes to mandate water-saving measures
- Change water laws to provide incentives to conserve
- Create public education campaign to promote conservation
- Mandate that local government set a good example
- Track water use of each sector

**Create an Educated Public about Water Issues**

- Create a public and political groundswell for education on water issues
- Strive for consensus on the water picture and the limits of supply with unbiased data
- Secure a major funding commitment
- Create a garden for every school

**COMING ATTRACTIONS**

The Water Assembly, a grass roots citizens group, and the Water Resources Board have been tasked with developing a water plan for the region through an open, inclusive and participatory process. Following this first **Regional Water Forum on November 4**, the process will continue with the following events:

**Community Conversations on Preliminary Alternatives**  
(6:30 pm)

- Nov 9 Rio Rancho City Hall
- Nov 14 Los Lunas High School
- Nov 15 Bernalillo Town Hall
- Nov 20 Indian Pueblo Cultural Center

- - - - -

**Water Resources Board Public Hearing**

Agenda: Adoption by the Board of Regional Goals and Objectives

- Dec 13 6:00 pm 317 Commercial NE

- - - - -

**Saving Water in the Desert:**

A Discussion Series Sponsored by the Water Assembly to explore possibilities for reducing water use in major sectors.

U.S. Department of Agriculture Building  
6200 Jefferson NE at 5:30 pm

- Oct 18 Public Water Supply
- Nov 15 Agriculture
- Dec 20 Evaporation
- Jan 17 Riparian
- Feb 21 Self-Supply
- Mar 21 Summary

The proper indicia for bulk mailing should go here.

Water Assembly and  
Water Resources Board  
317 Commercial NE, Suite 104  
Albuquerque, New Mexico  
87102

Agriculture

# Planning Our Water - Our Future - Together

Municipal

*... putting the pieces together*

how **Regional Water Planning**

what **Regional Water Forum I  
to identify goals and objectives**

when **November 4, 2000  
9 am to 12 pm**

where **Ballroom A, West Complex  
Convention Center  
Albuquerque, NM**

why **We have to balance our water budget  
utilizing our values and visions**

Industry

Riparian

Recreation

## More information

- Assembly - [www.waterassembly.org](http://www.waterassembly.org)
- MRGCOG - [www.mrgcog.org](http://www.mrgcog.org); Jim Gross, 247-1750

*Hosted by the Middle Rio Grande Water Assembly  
and the Middle Rio Grande Water Resources Board*



# Middle Rio Grande Regional Water Planning Area

**Counties**

**ii IS US !!**

**Rio Puerco**

**Three Watersheds**

Cuba: *We need to conserve water near it's point of origin.*

70-100-7

Jemez: *When discussing values, there is no right or wrong answer.*

**Rio Jemez**

**Municipalities**

Albuquerque: *"We all need to share less water."*

From Bernalillo: *"You don't go to the grocery store to buy a bosque!"*

**Tribes**

Los Lunas: *"What I don't want to see in the future is a traffic jam to Kingdom come."*

**Culture**

Bernalillo: *"There's no such thing as creating new water."*

**Drought**

Albuquerque *"Any new use means someone has to give something up."*



**Acequias**

**Rural**

From a Los Lunas farmer: *"I feel like a football being fought over by the feds and the environmentalists."*

**Population Growth**

**Future**

**History**

From an Albuquerque sage: *"Elephant Butte? That's where we send our water to dry out."*

# **Historical Archive G-2**

## **Regional Forum 6**

the  
Planning  
Process

## Why Participate in the Planning

Visions  
&  
Values

Water is making headlines in our community as we learn more about how scarce it is and that we are overusing our supply.

Goals  
&  
Objectives

Balancing  
the Budget

Water shortages affect everything, including jobs, economy, agricultural practices, growth, quality of life, the environment, and taxes. Water planning can ensure that together we work for the future. Our regional water plan will be a part of the state water plan.

Assembling  
Actions

Choosing  
Our  
Options

Building  
Scenarios

Drafting the  
Plan

Why should you participate? Because the plan will impact you, your neighbors, your children !

Adopting  
&  
Implementing

Want to know more? Contact Bob Wessely, Assembly Chair, at 867-3889; wessely@sciso.com, or Mike

Trujillo, MRCOG Water Planning Coordinator, at 247-1750; mtrujillo@mrcog-nm.gov. Or visit our website - [www.WaterAssembly.org](http://www.WaterAssembly.org).

Water Assembly Mission: *To develop a plan of sustainable water management strategies for the Middle Rio Grande Region and to establish a process to implement the plan through an open, inclusive and participatory process.*

## MIDDLE RIO GRANDE REGIONAL WATER PLAN

ANNUAL ASSEMBLY  
&  
REGIONAL FORUM

### Now that we have a draft scenario we need your help



Saturday, June 7, 2003

8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Dane Smith Hall, UNM

Regional Water Planning Partners  
Middle Rio Grande Water Assembly  
&  
Mid-Region Council of Governments

NON PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
ALB NM  
PERMIT 121

MIDDLE RIO GRANDE WATER ASSEMBLY

P.O. Box 25862

Albuquerque, New Mexico 87125862



Balance Water Use with Renewable Supply

## Why Attend this Annual Assembly and Regional Forum?

The scenario will form the framework of the regional water plan. The next series of Community Conversations will be to critique the plan itself. This forum is the last opportunity to have input into the foundation of the plan.

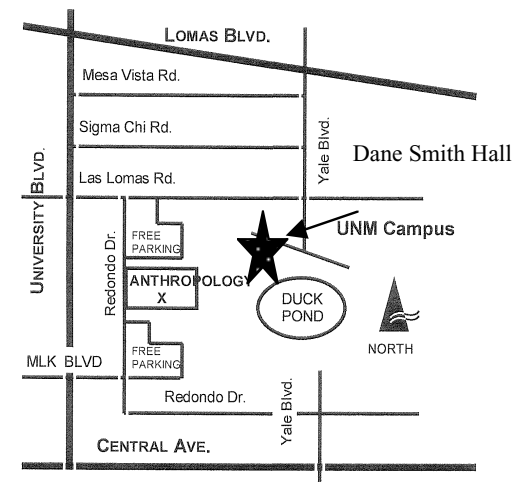
**June 7, 2003**

**8:00 – 9:00 Bagels & Coffee Registration**  
**9:00 – 4:00 Formal Program**

**Topics to be covered include:**

- Regional and subregional planning reports
- Our Current Water Picture
- Presentation & Discussion of Draft Scenario
- Demonstration of Scenario on Computer Model
- Selection of Action Committee Representatives

Final agenda will be posted at [www.WaterAssembly.org](http://www.WaterAssembly.org).



## Bringing it together ... what will our water future look like?

Our regional Water Budget revealed we are using more water than is naturally supplied. **To balance use with renewable supply, we must reduce our current use.** For future growth in the region, we must maintain this balance and hence must juggle uses. We must also abide by agreements like the Rio Grande Compact.

At the March Regional Forum, attendees selected which alternative actions would best balance water use. Since then, members of the Water Assembly have refined scenarios from various perspectives -- Agriculture, Synthesis, Urban, Environment and Water for the Future - using the public's preferred alternative actions. **These scenarios attempt to balance our water budget, while considering the values expressed by a given constituency group, such as urban users.**

In the recent series of Community Conversations, public input was sought on the variety of scenarios. Using that input, the Scenario Development Teams then looked for common features, as well as for variations to form unified core elements of a preferred scenario.

The Scenario Development Teams will present this draft scenario at the June 7 Regional Forum. Attendees will critique the scenario, ensuring that it does include earlier input. **The publicly-preferred scenario will be a major part of the framework of the regional water plan.**

Please join us to ensure that your ideas and values are considered regarding how the Middle Rio Grande region should manage its water.



**Help frame our water future!**

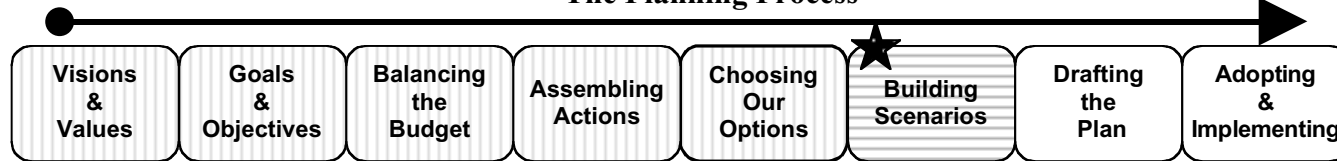
**SEVENTH MIDDLE RIO GRANDE WATER ASSEMBLY**  
*Bringing it together - what will our water future look like?*

**SATURDAY, JUNE 7, 2003**  
**8:00 AM TO 4:00 PM**

Name		Organization	
Street Address		City	
Phone		Fax	
E-mail address		State	
Zip Code		Registration Fee Paid <input type="radio"/> \$5.00 <input type="radio"/> \$10.00	

Free bagels, coffee and lunch will be provided. Contributions will be welcomed.

## The Planning Process



### AGENDA

8:00 - 9:00 Registration and Coffee

9:00 Welcome

9:10 Perspectives and Updates

"Relationship of State Water Plan to Regional Water Plans"  
- *Estevan López*, Interstate Stream Commission Engineer

Tribal Perspective  
- *Herb Becker*, Water Rights Consultant

Perspective from the Water Resources Board  
- *Charles "Ted" Asbury*, PE, Chair of Water Resources Board;  
Director of Public Works, City of Albuquerque

Acequia Perspective  
- *Macario Griego*, Chairman, Acequia Madre de Carnué

Update from Río Puerco y Río Jemez Joint Watershed  
Committee  
- *Jennifer Johnson*, RPyRJ Steering Committee member

Summary of Current Water Issues  
- *Elaine Moore Hebard*

10:15 Break

For Middle Rio Grande water planning process --

Overriding preamble for the mission and goals:

**Recognizing the limited resource and consistent overuse of  
the region's water, the following mission and supporting  
goals are established for the regional water plan.**

Overriding mission:

**Balance Water Use with Renewable Supply**

10:30 History of a Scenario  
- *Bob Wessely*, Chair, Water Assembly

The draft converged Scenario  
- *Kristan Cockerill*, volunteer, Water Assembly  
Discussion of the Scenario

noon Lunch & Discussion on Scenario Components  
Also available - Computer Modeling Exercise

1:00 "Local Tools for Implementation"  
*John Hooker*, Mayor, Los Ranchos de Albuquerque  
Vice-Chair, Mid-Region Council of Governments

1:15 Breakout Groups: Perspectives on the Scenario

2:30 Plenary Report from Groups

3:00 Break

3:10 Constituency groups caucus  
- *review of interests*  
- *selection of representatives, alternates & chairs*

4:00 Adjourn

### **The Key Fact About Our Water: Demand Exceeds Supply**

*Framework for Public Input to a State Water Plan*; New Mexico Office Of The State Engineer and the Interstate Stream Commission; December 2002

"Today, the struggles over water can be discerned by relating the problems encountered when society at large attempts to sustain one practice over the other. As such, choices that arise in the allocation of water toward the preservation of the region's unique cultural identity are necessarily value-based judgments." *Evaluation of Alternative Actions for Socio-Cultural Feasibility*; Ted Jojola, Ph.D., Professor, Community & Regional Planning, School of Architecture and Planning, UNM



*The Water Assembly is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.  
As a non-profit organization, we certainly welcome donations!*

Special Thanks to:

- \* WA Public Participation and Communication Working Team
- \* WA Scenario Development Committees
- \* University of New Mexico Water Resources Program
- \* Mid-Region Council of Governments & member governments
- \* Sandia National Labs
- \* UNM Utton Transboundary Resource Center
- \* New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission
- \* ExxonMobil
- \* Albuquerque Metropolitan Arroyo Flood Control Authority

**Upcoming events!**

- \* Next Action Committee Meeting - June 18, 2002, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. in the Rotunda – Park North Building; Science and Technology Park at the University of New Mexico; 801 University Blvd. SE; Albuquerque, NM.
- \* Keep your eyes peeled for the Series 7 sessions, coming your way in September when we will be reviewing the initial Regional Water Plan document.



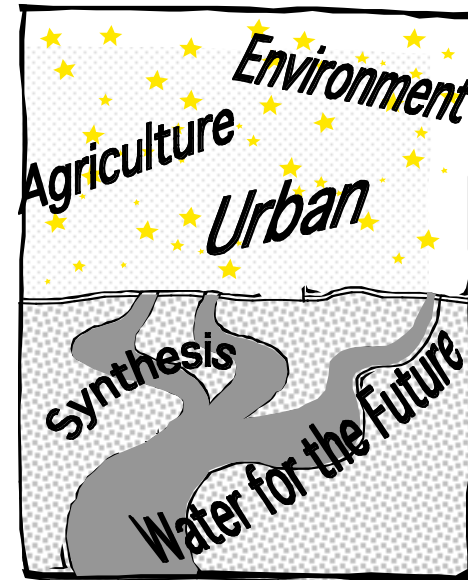
The Middle Rio Grande Water Assembly is an all-volunteer, grassroots organization formed to develop a Regional Water Plan through an open, inclusive and participatory process. The Assembly is working in partnership with the Mid-Region Council of Governments to carry out this purpose. For more information call Bob Wessely, Assembly Chair, at 867-3889 or wessely@sciso.com, or Mike Trujillo at 247-1750 or mtrujillo@mrkog-nm.gov.

**Check [www.WaterAssembly.org](http://www.WaterAssembly.org) for further information!**

MIDDLE RIO GRANDE WATER ASSEMBLY, Post Office Box 25862,  
Albuquerque, NM 87125-5862

**Middle Rio Grande Water Plan  
Seventh Annual Assembly  
&  
REGIONAL FORUM - SERIES 6**

**Bringing it together ... what will  
our water future look like?**



**Now that we have a draft scenario  
we need your help**



Saturday, June 7, 2003  
8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
Dane Smith Hall, UNM



**Unmodeled Alternative Actions**

Category	Alternative Action	Alt. Id No.	Not modeled
Increase Water Supply	<i>Watershed Plans</i>	<i>A-66</i>	X
	Soil and Vegetation Management	A-33	X
	Storm Water Management	A-34	X
	Vegetation Management	A-40	X
	Wetlands	A-36	X
	Weather Modification	A-42	X
Decrease or Regulate Water Demand	Metering Water Supply Wells	A-8	X
Change Water Uses to Increase Supply/Decrease Demand	<i>Land Use</i>	<i>A-30</i>	X
	<i>Instream Flow</i>	<i>A-63</i>	X
	Water Rights Adjudication	A-71	X
	Evaporative Loss Accounting	A-51	X
Water Quality Protection	Water Quality	A-47	X
	Domestic Wastewater	A-26	X
	Well Head Protection	A-50	X
Implementation of Water Plan & Management of Water Resources	<i>Water Bank/Authority</i>	<i>A-67</i>	X
	Public Involvement Program	A-53	X
	Maintain Water Resource Database	A-73	X
	Active Water Resource Management	A-143	X

\* *In Italics are the detailed evaluations of 25 Alternative Actions.* \* *In regular print, are the qualitative evaluations of 19 Alternative Actions (Compiled by the Alternative Working Team and the Analysis Working Team)*  
Prepared by the Public Participation and Communication Working Team of the Water Assembly, April 2003

**Indirectly Modeled**

Category	Alternative Action	Alt. Id No.	Indirectly modeled
Increase Water Supply	<i>Surface Modeling</i>	<i>A-38</i>	x
	Vegetation Removal Products	A-2	X
Decrease or Regulate Water Demand	<i>Urban Conservation</i>	<i>A-18</i>	X
	<i>Conservation Incentives</i>	<i>A-22</i>	X
	<i>Education</i>	<i>A-56</i>	X
	<i>Agricultural Metering</i>	<i>A-7</i>	X
	Domestic Well Controls	A-61	X
	Acequia Conservation Programs	A-60	X
Change Water Uses to Increase Supply/Decrease Demand	<i>Low-Water Crops</i>	<i>A-11</i>	X
	Preserve Deep Water for Drinking	A-15	X
Water Rights Regulation	<i>Conjunctive Management</i>	<i>A-144</i>	X
Implementation of Water Plan & Management of Water Resources	<i>Growth Management</i>	<i>A-52</i>	X
Water Funding	Severance Tax	A-59	X
	Regional Water Planning Program	A-58	X

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Prepared by the Public Participation and Communication Working Team of the Water Assembly, April 2003

**Modeled**

Category	Alternative Action	Alt. Id No.	Modeled
Increase Water Supply	<i>Bosque Management</i>	<i>A-1</i>	X
	<i>Reservoir Management</i>	<i>A-45</i>	X
	<i>Aquifer Storage</i>	<i>A-46</i>	X
	<i>Reuse Greywater</i>	<i>A-24</i>	X
	<i>Reuse Treated Effluent</i>	<i>A-27</i>	X
	<i>Desalination</i>	<i>A-39</i>	X
	Importation of Water	A-69	X
	Water Harvesting	A-44	X
Decrease or Regulate Water Demand	<i>Urban Water Pricing</i>	<i>A-21</i>	[1]
	<i>Irrigation Efficiency</i>	<i>A-10</i>	X
	<i>Conveyance Systems</i>	<i>A-9</i>	X
Change Water Uses to Increase Supply/Decrease Demand	<i>In-Fill/Density</i>	<i>A-28</i>	X

[1] Model includes single pricing rather than block pricing.

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Prepared by the Public Participation and Communication Working Team of the Water Assembly, April 2003

# Regional Water Forum 6

## Summary of Comments from Break-out Groups

### June 7, 2003

*The following issues and points are a summary of issues and ideas that were discussed in the Regional Water Forum/ Water Assembly Annual meeting. There were five break-out groups made up of people randomly assigned to a group. Their goal was to reflect on the scenario and concepts presented in the morning session and provide a reality check to the water assembly.*

#### *Approach to the problem*

- The mission to balance use with renewable supply makes sense.
- The way the water problem has been approached in the scenario isolates issues and how they interact with one another. This leads to overly simplistic and disjointed scenarios.
- A better approach would deal with interrelated issues in a systems approach.
- The water plan should rely on a greater amount of analysis from a variety of sources.
- There is a need to meaningfully include all stakeholders in this process.
- Planners and implementers must understand that there are constraints, and facts of life that define what can be done in the areas of water savings.
- Givens include the Compact, Indian Water Rights, other pueblo water rights, rights of acequias, the priority system.
- Some felt that in-migration should be added to that list of “givens,” since our form of government does not allow restrictions on who moves where.
- Some felt that there was a serious gap between the Plan’s vision and the actions recommended.
- Decision-makers need some principles to help them move from the vision to the actions.
- Some of these principles might speak to cultural values, or to regional priorities, like preserving a healthy bosque.
- There was much interest in Lee Brown’s “non starter” label on the scenario
- Perception that the planning group lacks a common vision of the future.
- How is a plan possible when there isn’t a common vision?
- People are eager to see a plan and respond to it.
- Actions need to be prioritized.

#### *Feedback on the model*

- It is important not to overuse the model.
- The model is complex and difficult to understand.
- It is not always clear where the data in the model is from.
- Is the program that runs the model available to the public?
- Where do the water settings come from?
- Model doesn’t demonstrate an accurate understanding of agriculture.



- For example, the consumption by agricultural users reflected in the model is too high.

#### *Acequias*

- Meeting the increased demands of urban users will occur at the expense of rural communities and traditional water users.
- Acequia communities tend to be economically depressed and are more vulnerable to economic pressure to sale water rights.
- Acequias can be understood as the entire system of ditch users from traditional acequia associations and pueblo users to ditch irrigators within the conservancy district.

#### *Agriculture*

- The rate of urban growth creates pressure on rural water users.
- Maintaining lands in agricultural production creates food security.
- The numbers in the model for agricultural water uses were challenged.
- The way the case is made in the model and scenario suggests that agricultural efficiency is one of the largest single contributors to balancing the water budget. The numbers that support this analysis were challenged.
- A better understanding of the common good of agriculture needs to be considered in the planning process. The value of farmland for food, a view shed, and maintaining a greenbelt is a common good.
- Agriculture is a vibrant industry. Within the region it is a 3.24 billion dollar industry. With processing, it is a 4.5 billion dollar industry.

#### *Urban Water Use*

- The scenario didn't acknowledge inefficiencies in the urban water systems.
- The group agreed it would be helpful to use the model to pinpoint urban water uses as a way to prioritize those uses. For example the group thought it would be helpful to categorize municipal, industrial, school, commercial, and institutional users. Uses are valued differently.
- A recommendation was made to create a task force to prioritize including this analysis in the scenario.

#### *Connect land use planning and water planning*

- This issue was not prominent enough in the scenario.
- There needs to be some way to end double and triple dipping. If water rights are sold off of land, the land should not be developed in a way that will continue to use water.
- Developers should be required to acquire water rights before a plan is approved.

#### *Environmental impacts*

- Compliance with the endangered species act is a given.
- All alternative options should be weighed in terms of environmental impacts.

### *Conservation*

- Water pricing- if price increases there is not necessarily a long-term decrease in the use of water.
- In Albuquerque water usage has gone down and prices have increased. There may not be a workable financial incentive to conserve.
- Conservation has value beyond monetary incentives. There was an understanding within the group that water conservation makes sense because we live in a desert.
- Xeri-scaping is an oversimplified response to the need to conserve water. The issue was framed by the group in terms of “appropriate landscaping.” Xeri-scaping in the river valley can create micro climate change. This would not be an example of appropriate landscaping.
- Using native vegetation to provide turf alternatives and using soil amendments is a way to use water more efficiently in parks and golf courses.
- Xeri-scaping can be appropriate and covenants that stand in the way of water conservation should be revised.
- Need to clarify the efficacy of rooftop harvesting.

### *Desalination*

- needs to be better understood.
- Concern that heavy reliance on this option assumes there is a technological fix to living beyond our means. This approach was described as “problematic.”
- Someone brought up analysis by John Holly citing the enormous environmental impacts.
- This option seems cost prohibitive.
- A question was raised about comparing the costs of desalinating with the costs of better treating effluent to reach potable standards.
- It’s better to maintain and control the water we have than to try to replace what is misused/wasted.

### *Water Management*

- The best approach might be to decentralize how water is processed.
- Communities and households could be encouraged to treat water in a way that is locally appropriate.
- Look at new sources of water.
- Need to properly use the water we get.

### *San Juan Chama*

- clarify/ verify the diversion volume- how much water will actually be received within the region?
- need to address existing water laws

### *Metering*

- There needs to be better strategies to meter (pre-basin, sand points, permits)
- commercial wells and agricultural wells are already metered
- The State Engineers numbers are inaccurate.
- It would be difficult to pay for and implement metering.

- Metering might help us to better understand what amount of water we have, what is being used and realize that water is a finite resource.

#### *Population:*

- The group discussed the kinds of populations in the demographic projection, and the incentives and disincentives which motivate people to move.
- Some felt that the in-migration, like the birth rate, could not be managed or influenced, but was a function of jobs.
- Others looked to models like Portland, Oregon, which has undertaken some level of growth management.

#### *Connections*

- Participants were overwhelmed by the interconnectedness of both the geography and the mechanics represented in the Plan. Groundwater recharge from agricultural land, the role of the Albuquerque Wastewater Treatment Plant, a drought in the Chama basin – these activities and phenomena, and many more, can severely influence the future resources for the middle Rio Grande.

#### *Implementation:*

- The group agreed that without a serious implementation effort, the Plan will be worthless.
- Who will undertake implementation?
- How will it be done?
- Who will pay?

#### *Drought*

- A participant questioned why there would be “no drought” run of the model, believing that what we call drought is really a normal state for the region.

#### *Aquifer*

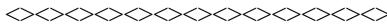
- It’s not clear what the past effects of pumping groundwater are.
- Is aquifer injection storage feasible?

#### *Compact*

- Does it make sense to have a scenario that doesn’t meet the compact?
- How can we comply with compact agreements?
- Compact renegotiation should be limited to negotiation of storage upstream or artificial recharge.

## **MIDDLE RIO GRANDE WATER ASSEMBLY CONSTITUENCY GROUPS**

Water Assembly participants are divided into five broad categories of water interests. After reviewing the descriptions below, please choose a Constituency Group to join. The Groups will be gathering in Dane Smith Hall: Specialists - Room 224, Managers - Room 225, Agricultural/Cultural/Historical Advocates - Room 226, Environmental Advocates - Room 227, and Urban Users & Economic Development Advocates - Room 228.



### **AGRICULTURAL, HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL INTERESTS**

Farming has been practiced in New Mexico for over a thousand years. Long before the Pilgrims arrived at Plymouth Colony, herding and ranching were being practiced here. New Mexico has always been an agriculturally based society and our history and cultures are founded on it. Today, America loses over 1 million acres of farmland a year to urban sprawl, and New Mexico is no exception. The Ag/H/C Group seeks to preserve agricultural practice, economies, lifestyles, and water rights through water planning.

### **WATER MANAGERS INTERESTS**

The Manager's Constituency is made up of, as its name describes, organizations that are responsible for obtaining and distributing water to ultimate users of water. Members can include government-owned and investor-owned water utilities, cooperative-type water utilities, and other organizations and associations that manage water for the benefit of their customers or members that are end users of water.

### **SPECIALISTS INTERESTS**

This Constituency Group consists of professionals who have specialized in the water resource field as a matter of training or practice, e.g. hydrologists, hydrogeologists, engineers, ecologists, economists, lawyers, and other pertinent disciplines.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL ADVOCATES INTERESTS**

The Environmental Advocates Constituency Group is charged with advocating for a water plan that incorporates environmentally sustainable water-use practices such as the maintenance and increase of riparian areas, keeping the river wet, and the survival of the Rio Grande's unique riverine habitat.

### **URBAN USERS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVOCATES INTERESTS**

The Urban Users And Economic Development Advocates (UUEDA) support sensible water planning to sustain an urban life style, a healthy economy in the rural and urban regions, and a quality of life which includes preservation of open-space. This group promotes a conservative use of water and recognizes its responsibility to preserve water for all uses -- urban, agricultural, and environmental-- within the region. It incorporates the interests of developers and rural economic promoters, together with those of apartment dwellers, home-owners and business. The UUEDA is made up of individuals with diverse backgrounds and is always looking for input from the community at large. If you have a home or a business within the region, we encourage you to come join our group!

#### **Water Assembly Mission**

*Through an open, inclusive and participatory process, to develop a plan of sustainable water management strategies for the Middle Rio Grande Region and to establish a process to implement the plan.*

## Guidelines for Constituency Groups

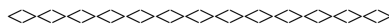
The constituency groups were formed to represent the many interests and values of all stakeholders - that is, everyone that uses or depends upon our scarce and unpredictable supply of water. It isn't just water right holders who have legitimate interests in how water is allocated; all of us do. Furthermore, we all have multiple stakes and multiple values. The five constituency groups (CG) are broad aggregations of people who are likely to share a number of values and differ on others. Some individuals within every CG might easily have joined another group, because of overlapping interests, but each person has a right to belong to whichever CG she feels best reflects her interests and values.

These diverse groups each select five of their number to represent the range of values in the group on the Action Committee. It is important before voting for AC delegates and alternates, for CG members to engage in dialogue about their interests and values of, to identify where there are differences and where there is common ground, and to try to find ways to bridge the gaps. The aim of the exercise is not to create a "bloc" of single-minded delegates representing one interest, but as fairly as possible to ensure that a variety of voices representing the full range of CG values and interests will be at the AC table.

The Action Committee suggests that each CG might retain three AC representatives for continuity, and to select two new representatives. If the CG follows the general guidance for CG elections, as many as three of the five delegates sent by a CG may be returned to the AC without voting. (There may be fewer, if a current delegate no longer wishes to serve.) Elections should be held for the remaining positions, but only after the group has had ample opportunity to understand the values and interests those being returned without re-election intend to represent. Separate ballots should be held for the remaining positions, to allow the CG members present to learn who was elected first, in order that they may vote for someone with differing values and interests in the subsequent round."

During the breakout session, each group is to complete three specific tasks:

- (1) Review the interests of the Constituency Group as formulated June 23, 2001, and change as need be;
- (2) Select five voting representatives and five alternates to the Action Committee; and
- (3) Select a chair or co-chairs who will represent the group at two semi-monthly executive committee meetings.

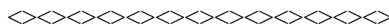


On June 23, 2001, members of the Assembly defined the interests of the five Constituency Groups. The list of interests for each group can be found in the respective classrooms. As we select new members and alternates, please take the opportunity to review whether these definitions represent the interests of the group. If not, please add to or delete from the list, and then consensually accept the list.

Next, determine what interests set out on the list are represented and which are not. It may be that the interests can be clustered and a representative nominated and selected for a given cluster. However the group determines to proceed, the objective is to have consensus on the people that best represent the range of interests identified.

Each group is to select five voting members and five alternates. The group may determine to have alternates which are paired with voting members or who are unassigned.

Finally, each group is to select a chair. The group may determine to select co-chairs, a vice-chair or simply a chair.



**Facilitators: Don't forget to return the completed tally to Bob Prendergast!**