

# “Choosing Our Future”

## AGENDA

- 8:00 Registration, Continental Breakfast  
9:00 Welcome and Introductions  
Kevin Bean, Water Assembly President  
9:05 Background – The Futures Project – Purpose, Status and Plans  
John Brown – Water Assembly Treasurer  
9:20 Scenarios and Scenario Planning – The Concept  
Jack Jekowski, - Scenario Planner  
9:50 Futures Project Scenarios – Approach for the Day  
Lucy Moore - Facilitator  
10:20 Break – Continental Breakfast Left Overs  
10:30 Four Breakout Sessions, Each Designs a Future Scenario  
Discuss Basic Forces for the Scenario  
Identify Driving Events or Actions  
Choose a Name for the Scenario  
12:30 Election of Water Assembly Directors (during buffet lunch)  
Advocacy Groups Elect Two Directors, One Alternate  
(see reverse side for advocacy group descriptors)  
1:30 30 Minute Plenary Review of Each Scenario (10 report, 20 discussion)  
Jack Jekowski – Scenario Planner  
3:30 Wrap Up – Next Steps  
4:00 Adjourn 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Water Assembly  
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4:05 Introduction and Scheduling Meeting for New Board of Directors  
4:15 Adjourn Board of Directors Meeting

We intend for these professionally facilitated breakout sessions and the follow-up discussions to produce a set of scenarios that will stimulate productive regional debate about our future direction.

Want to know more?

Review the Experts' Baseline Scenario and the Regional Water Plan  
[www.WaterAssembly.org](http://www.WaterAssembly.org)

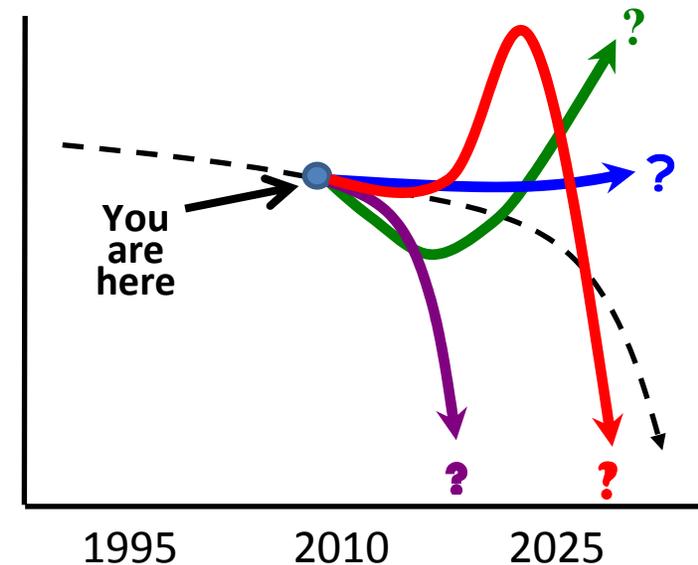
Middle Rio Grande Water Assembly  
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Special thanks to:

University of New Mexico Water Resources Program

# The 15th Annual Water Assembly

## “Choosing Our Future”



## AGENDA

Saturday, November 5, 2011

Dane Smith Hall, UNM

9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Registration and Breakfast begin at 8:00

Middle Rio Grande Water Assembly is a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization. The Water Assembly's purpose is to assure effective implementation of the Middle Rio Grande Regional Water Plan through an open, inclusive, and participatory process so as to achieve the common interests of the people and stakeholders of the region for a sustainable water future that balances water use with renewable supply in accordance with the stated goals of the Water Plan.

## Water Assembly Advocacies

The Water Assembly consists of diverse people who have an interest in water. While interests are varied, and almost always overlapping, people have tended to focus in particular areas. In order to ensure a balance among these interests in our deliberations, we annually elect a Board of Directors with two representatives chosen from each of six advocacy areas. The Board of Directors meets approximately every other month to guide working teams in achieving the objectives of the Water Assembly through the year.

The six titled advocacy areas are listed alphabetically below with the most recent description of the key issues and intent of the people focusing in those areas. Please meet with the advocacy group of your choice. We are asking the advocacy groups during lunch to:

- (a) Update the description of their advocacy area
- (b) Select two board representatives and an alternate for the coming year, and
- (c) Determine when the advocacy group would like to reconvene as a whole to support its positions.

### **a. Agricultural Business and Production Advocates -**

Representing interests in sale crop and personal crop farming, dairy farming, ranching, agricultural suppliers, etc.

Today, America loses over 1 million acres of farmland a year to urban sprawl, and New Mexico is no exception. Agriculture is the business that provides food necessities for life across the nation. The capacity to produce foodstuffs for human consumption still exists in the Middle Rio Grande region of New Mexico. That capacity may prove to be an important national resource in future decades if unpaved farmland continues to exist along the Rio Grande. The Agricultural Business and Production Advocates seek to preserve and enhance agricultural practices, profitable farming and ranching business, businesses supported by and ranching farming, agricultural lifestyles, and water rights.

### **b. Cultural and Historic Water Use Advocates -** Representing Native American tribal and pueblo, acequia, traditional, and land grant interests, etc.

Traditional uses and allocations of water for have developed in New Mexico over the past centuries, both prior to and since the immigration of Europeans. Over time, the residents have learned to make a living in the desert through effective use of sparse water and development of associated communities. Concurrently, water was also seen as carrying great religious significance. Cultural and Historic Water Use Advocates see these ancient techniques for managing and respecting water resource, for living and working together, and for maintaining a viable society to be an intrinsic part of New Mexico that is critical to preserve for future generations.

### **c. Environmental Preservation and Improvement Advocates -**

Representing interests related to species, bosque, river, open space, water quality, etc.

The Rio Grande has been modified substantially through recent centuries of human help and human neglect. Dams, diversions, channels, substances, have affected the river flow as well as plants and animal life in the river valley. The Environmental Preservation and Improvement Advocates are pressing for 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.

### **d. Industrial, Institutional and Business Advocates -** Representing interests of small and large business, schools, hospitals, etc.

New Mexico is one of the economically poorest states in the nation. Despite less than a quarter of the New Mexico's new residents being born here, the population is rapidly increasing. The availability of sufficient water of sufficient quality at an acceptable price is a critical ingredient for business development and well paying employment. The Industrial, Institutional and Business Advocates seek to build the economy by attracting and retaining income producing businesses. As such the advocates seek have water managed through market forces so as to maximize its economic benefit to the community.

### **e. Residential Water Use Advocates -** Representing rural and urban residential interests.

We are all residents in the Middle Rio Grande Region. We receive water in our homes through urban utility systems, through community well systems, through individual wells, and through bottling distributors. We use the water for drinking, for washing, and for growing plant life at our homes. Residential Water Use Advocates seek to have good quality water conveniently available for us and for our grandchildren at an affordable price.

### **f. Technical Specialty Advocates -** Individuals, government agency and water utility staff providing expertise in geology, hydrology, water law, and other technical expertise.

Providing water for the diverse community that is the Middle Rio Grande is a complex combination of art and science, with a critical need to focus upon the latter. Over time, and particularly recently, we have gained a substantially improved understanding of water and how to manage it. This includes better knowledge of the complex and interdisciplinary side effects and consequences of particular actions. Consisting of professionals who have specialized in the water resource field, Technical Specialty Advocates seek to ensure that the recommendations and decisions that are made have an appropriately sound scientific, engineering, economic and legal basis, or are properly qualified portrayed as tentative, needing additional work to obtain the sound bases.