

Scarcity and Water Governance

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Starting Assumptions

GHG are major Climate Change drivers (causes of increasing water volatility and scarcity)

CC effects → changes in precipitation (amount, type, timing)

- Hotter = faster evaporation, evapotranspiration
→ less available moisture overall
- More energy (trapped heat) → more extremes: weather events (fires, floods, etc.)
 - Changing ecological system states

The Actors: Providers, Regulators, and Users

- NM Office of the State Engineer
- NM Interstate Stream Commission
- NM Environment Department
- NM Oil Conservation Division
- US Army Corps of Engineers
- US Bureau of Reclamation
- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- US Environmental Protection Agency
- Tribes and Pueblos
- Federal and State Courts
- Conservancy Districts
- Flood Control Agencies
- Counties
- Municipalities
- Acequia Associations
- Water Suppliers / Utilities
- Farmers
- Businesses
- Residents

Who's In Charge? Anarchy or Polycentric Governance?

Design Principles for Effective Collaboration

- ❖ A task or mandate that is meaningful to the participants.
- ❖ Understanding that trust is built through repeated face-to-face interaction.
- ❖ Commitment to inclusiveness – all interests represented to the extent they wish to participate.
 - ✓ Process encourages dialogue where all are heard and respected and equally able to participate.
 - ✓ Information is accessible and fully shared among participants.
- ❖ A self-organizing process unconstrained by conveners by time or content, permitting the status quo and all assumptions to be questioned.
 - ✓ Participants establish their own ground rules for behavior, decision rules, etc.
- ❖ Process begins with mutual understanding of interests and avoids positional bargaining.
 - ✓ Process focuses first on interests participants have in common – shared elements of a desired future.

Proposed Steering Committee Commitments

- ❖ Review and affirm or amend the Public Welfare Statement in the current MRGWP.
- ❖ Recognize and use the work accomplished in the existing RWP.
- ❖ Incorporate current data and scientific understanding in proposing and evaluating policy, program, and project alternatives.
- ❖ Invite and incorporate input from the Water Assembly and other sources into SC deliberations. Include:
 - ✓ climate change impacts
 - ✓ “water budget” that accounts for all sources, uses, and depletions of water the region
 - ✓ other relevant variables not included in the ISC’s guidance or provided data.
- ❖ Identify entities (including water delivery, management and regulatory agencies) responsible for acting on each recommended strategy and make them accountable for implementing and reporting progress.

Proposed Steering Committee Commitments

(continued)

- ❖ Specify quantified objectives and means for monitoring and measuring the progress of responsible agencies operating in the region toward achieving the plan's goals.
- ❖ Create an interagency and intergovernmental coordination mechanism (or reconstitute an existing one like the Water Resources Board) to act as a forum and venue for periodic review of progress on all adopted strategies, and be a vehicle for continuously updating the plan.
- ❖ Recognize the MRG Water Assembly as a citizen oversight committee, raising issues of public interest and welfare and have them heard by the coordinating body.