

Message from the President

This past year has been one of re-direction for the Middle Rio Grande Water Assembly. As a neutral convener on Middle Rio Grande water issues, we were not causing the desired impact on the region's water resiliency. We decided instead to become an advocacy organization focused on causing improved water administration and planning. Accordingly, we renamed ourselves Middle Rio Grande Water Advocates, extended our geographic coverage, and adopted a substantially revised mission, which is:

The purpose of the MRG Water Advocates is to create a sustainable, resilient water future for the Middle Rio Grande (Otowi Bridge to Elephant Butte Dam) by seeking allies, advocating for, and demanding water management and administration decisions and actions consistent with best available science and applicable law.

New Mexico is faced with, but has not faced up to, important water resource limitations: downstream delivery obligations, federally mandated requirements, and state-permitted water uses and authorizations that substantially exceed sustainable supplies. Without action to address articulated problems, our current and future water supplies as well as our pocketbooks are at risk.

Making the Case for Change is a proposal on how to start facing up to our risks. In summary, the core initiatives to address those problems are:

- Strengthen leadership and capacity in appropriate state agencies
- Use Compact constraints to drive water administration
- Reform water planning to be an effective management tool
- Base decisions on hydrologic and analytic reality
- Fund the reforms with a significant one-time two-year appropriation

Beginning with this Council, the Water Advocates seek to build political will that stimulates action on all or part of the proposal. Join us to press for better water policy and strategies to manage our over-committed, declining water resources.

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MIDDLE RIO GRANDE REGIONAL WATER ADVOCATES (formerly the MRG Water Assembly)

18th Council

Making the Case for Change *Too Many Promises, Too Little Water* A Call to Action!



Saturday, November 10, 2016
8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Room 125, Dane Smith Hall, UNM
coffee and bagels at 8:00 a.m.

AGENDA

- 8:30 **Welcome, Introduction, Plan for the Day**
Bob Wessely, President
- Why Change Is Needed / Why We Need to Act**
- 8:45 **We're Getting Hotter and Drier, and Will Continue To Do So!**
Dagmar Llewellyn, hydrologist
- 9:00 **Addressing Our New Normal**
Laura Paskus, environmental journalist
- 9:20 **Stories from the Region**
Agricultural Impacts
Marcia Fernandez, irrigator
Neglect - Groundwater Sources Dying
Lynn Montgomery, mayordomo
Environmental Impacts
Gina Dello Russo, riparian ecologist
Recreational Impacts
Stacy Timmons, hydrogeologist
Urban Impacts
Judith Phillips, landscape designer
- 9:45 **The Need for Bold Leadership**
Adrian Oglesby, Director, UNM Utton Center
- 10:00 **Break**
- 10:15 **A Pueblo Perspective**
Kai-T Blue-Sky
- 10:30 **A Proposal for Action**
Members of the HM1 Working Group:
Bob Wessely
Theresa Cardenas, NM Rep, Union of Concerned Scientists
Norm Gaume, P.E. (ret.)
Making the Case for Change
Making Water Planning Effective
Questions / Comments
- 11:40 **Election of Board Members Explanation**
Elaine Hebard, Vice-President
- 11:45 **Lunch and Election of Water Advocates' Board of Directors**
- 12:45 **Taking Action - Moving from Concept to Action**
Making Change: Proposed Legislation
HM1 Legislation
Bob Wessely
Complimentary Legislation on Lowering Greenhouse Gas Emissions
Tom Solomon, co-coordinator of 350 New Mexico
Questions / Comments
- 1:15 **Organizing Ourselves to Make Change Happen**
Dr. Virginia Necochea, Director of CESOSS
Questions / Comments
- 2:00 **Governor-Elect Michelle Lujan Grisham's Water Plan: An Opportunity to Make Change Happen**
Dr. John Mitchiner
- 2:15 **Wrap-Up and Adjourn**
- 2:20 **Short Board of Directors Meeting!**