

**MINUTES  
of the  
FIRST MEETING  
of the  
WATER AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

**May 28, 2024  
State Capitol, Room 307  
Santa Fe**

The first meeting of the Water and Natural Resources Committee (WNRC) was called to order by Representative Matthew McQueen, chair, on Tuesday, May 28, 2024, at 1:38 p.m. in Room 307 of the State Capitol in Santa Fe.

**Present**

Rep. Matthew McQueen, Chair  
Sen. Elizabeth "Liz" Stefanics, Vice Chair  
Rep. Gail Armstrong  
Rep. Kathleen Cates  
Sen. Joseph Cervantes  
Rep. Joanne J. Ferrary  
Rep. Susan K. Herrera  
Rep. Tara L. Lujan  
Rep. Kristina Ortez  
Rep. Andrea Romero  
Rep. Debra M. Sariñana  
Sen. Pat Woods  
Rep. Martin R. Zamora

**Advisory Members**

Sen. Linda M. López  
Rep. Patricia Roybal Caballero  
Sen. Antoinette Sedillo Lopez  
Rep. Nathan P. Small  
Sen. Jeff Steinborn  
Sen. Mimi Stewart

**Absent**

Sen. Pete Campos  
Rep. Miguel P. García  
Rep. Marian Matthews  
Sen. Steven McCutcheon II  
Rep. Larry R. Scott  
Sen. Benny Shendo, Jr.

Rep. Christine Chandler  
Rep. Jack Chatfield  
Sen. Crystal Brantley  
Rep. Candy Spence Ezzell  
Rep. Jenifer Jones  
Rep. Rod Montoya  
Sen. Gerald Ortiz y Pino  
Rep. Cristina Parajón  
Sen. Shannon D. Pinto  
Sen. Cliff R. Pirtle  
Rep. William "Bill" R. Rehm  
Rep. G. Andrés Romero  
Sen. Peter Wirth

**Staff**

Sara Wiedmaier, Researcher, Legislative Council Service (LCS)  
Tom Kricka, Staff Attorney, LCS  
Angela Dakan, Staff, LCS  
Michel Rivera, Law Intern, LCS

## **Guests**

The guest list is in the meeting file.

## **Handouts**

Handouts and other written testimony are in the meeting file and posted on the legislature's website.

## **References to Webcast**

The time reference noted next to each agenda item in this document is cross-referenced to the recorded webcast of the committee meeting, which can be found at [www.nmlegis.gov](http://www.nmlegis.gov), under the "Webcast" tab. The presentations made and committee discussions for agenda items can be found on the recorded webcast for this meeting.

## **Tuesday, May 28**

### **Welcome and Introductions (1:39 p.m.)**

Representative McQueen welcomed everyone to the meeting, and committee members and staff introduced themselves.

### **Discussion of the 2024 Work Plan and Meeting Schedule (1:43 p.m.)**

Committee members discussed and offered suggestions for revising the WNRC's work plan and meeting schedule for the 2024 interim. Representative McQueen stated his intent to focus one meeting each on water, energy and conservation, with the topics for one meeting and future meeting locations to be determined. The proposed 2024 work plan and meeting schedule can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=WNR&Date=5/28/2024&ItemNumber=1>.

### **Post-Session Report: Natural Resources (2:22 p.m.)**

Micaela Fischer, deputy director for program evaluation, Legislative Finance Committee (LFC), and Austin Davidson, fiscal analyst, LFC, provided a post-session overview of the General Appropriation Act of 2024, growth in the state's budget for fiscal year 2025 and recurring General Fund and other relevant appropriations for state agencies that deal with natural resources. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=WNR&Date=5/28/2024&ItemNumber=2>.

### **Public Comment (3:23 p.m.)**

A list of individuals making public comment is available in the meeting file.

## **Adjournment**

There being no further business before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 3:32 p.m.