

**2021 PROPOSED
WORK PLAN AND MEETING SCHEDULE
for the
WATER AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

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Proposed Work Plan

The Water and Natural Resources Committee was created by the New Mexico Legislative Council on May 3, 2021. The committee proposes to focus on the following topics, as scheduling permits:

A. reports from water- and natural resources-related executive agencies regarding initiatives, legislation passed and budget and staffing needs;

B. topics concerning water, including:

1. statutory reports from the Office of the State Engineer (OSE) and the Interstate Stream Commission (ISC), including reports on the New Mexico Unit Fund, the Strategic Water Reserve and state water planning;

2. implementation of the Water Data Act;
3. the status of drought in the state and policy to address drought conditions, including weather modification;
4. water administration challenges;
5. water deliveries to Indian nations, tribes and pueblos and the status of Indian water rights litigation and settlements;
6. issues pertaining to the Pecos River;
7. dropping water tables and the metering of farm wells;
8. issues pertaining to acequias, including the Acequia and Community Ditch Infrastructure Fund and an update on the acequia manager position at the ISC;
9. dam and acequia infrastructure funding and needs;
10. contaminated ground water sites;
11. surface water protections, including impacts of the federal Clean Water Act of 1977;
12. per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), including a study of PFAS present in water in New Mexico;
13. water speculation issues;
14. assessment of public drinking water systems' needs;
15. Water-Use Leasing Act policy implementation; and
16. updates on *Texas v. New Mexico* and other water-related litigation;

C. topics concerning energy, including:

1. renewable energy projects, including solar and wind projects and recycling, bonding and reclamation issues;
2. the Public Regulation Commission's implementation of the Community Solar Act;
3. sustainable housing, energy efficiency and weatherization;

4. proposed expansion of sustainable building tax credits;
5. low-income energy access and rate reporting; and
6. a community energy efficiency development block grant program;

D. topics concerning oil and gas, including:

1. practices and policies of the State Land Office pertaining to oil and gas development on state lands, including bonding and reclamation practices and policies;
2. violations and penalties pursuant to the Oil and Gas Act;
3. practices and policies related to produced water;
4. the status of the spill rule petition; and
5. implementation of the natural gas waste rule;

E. topics concerning agriculture, land management and animals, including:

1. the status of implementation of the Healthy Soil Act;
2. hemp and marijuana production and the protection of water rights;
3. proposed updates to the Natural Heritage Conservation Act and the Natural Lands Protection Act;
4. climate-informed reforestation efforts and watershed restoration projects;
5. wildfire preparedness and response;
6. wild horse management issues;
7. cage-free eggs; and
8. a report from the Rio Grande Trail Commission; and

F. other topics concerning natural resources, including:

1. progress on achieving Executive Order 2019-003 carbon reductions and other climate targets; and
2. a proposed green amendment to the Constitution of New Mexico.

**Water and Natural Resources Committee
2021 Proposed Meeting Schedule**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>
June 15	Video Conference
July 12-13	Gallup
August 12-13	Taos
September 7-8	Santa Rosa/Duran/Corona
October 21-22	Santa Fe