

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

**August 25-26, 2022**  
**Clovis Civic Center**  
**801 Schepps Boulevard**  
**Clovis**

The third meeting of the Water and Natural Resources Committee for the 2022 interim was called to order by Representative Matthew McQueen, co-chair, on Thursday, August 25, 2022, at 9:37 a.m. at the Clovis Civic Center in Clovis.

**Present**

Rep. Matthew McQueen, Co-Chair  
Sen. Elizabeth "Liz" Stefanics, Vice Chair  
Sen. Pete Campos  
Rep. Tara L. Lujan  
Rep. Kristina Ortez  
Rep. Larry R. Scott  
Sen. Benny Shendo, Jr. (8/25)  
Rep. James R.J. Strickler  
Rep. Candie G. Sweetser (8/25)  
Sen. Pat Woods  
Rep. Martin R. Zamora

**Advisory Members**

Rep. Jack Chatfield  
Sen. Ron Griggs  
Sen. Gerald Ortiz y Pino  
Sen. Shannon D. Pinto  
Rep. William "Bill" R. Rehm (8/26)  
Sen. Antoinette Sedillo Lopez  
Sen. Mimi Stewart

**Absent**

Rep. Derrick J. Lente, Co-Chair  
Rep. Gail Armstrong  
Rep. Kay Bounkeua  
Sen. Joseph Cervantes  
Sen. David M. Gallegos  
Rep. Pamelya Herndon  
Rep. Susan K. Herrera  
Sen. Stuart Ingle  
Rep. Marian Matthews  
Sen. Jeff Steinborn

Sen. Crystal R. Diamond  
Rep. Rebecca Dow  
Rep. Candy Spence Ezzell  
Sen. Carrie Hamblen  
Rep. T. Ryan Lane  
Sen. Linda M. Lopez  
Rep. Rod Montoya  
Rep. Roger E. Montoya  
Rep. Greg Nibert  
Rep. Andrea Romero  
Rep. G. Andrés Romero  
Rep. Patricia Roybal Caballero  
Sen. Joshua A. Sanchez  
Rep. Debra M. Sariñana  
Rep. Nathan P. Small  
Sen. Peter Wirth

**Guest Legislator**

Rep. Randal S. Crowder

(Attendance dates are noted for members not present for the entire meeting.)

**Staff**

Tom Kricka, Staff Attorney, Legislative Council Service (LCS)

D. Martin Fischer, Staff Attorney, LCS

Sabina Gaynor, Staff Attorney, LCS

Sara Wiedmaier, Research Assistant, LCS

**Guests**

The guest list is in the meeting file.

**Handouts**

Copies of all handouts and 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 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

**Thursday, August 25****Welcome and Introductions (9:37 a.m.)**

Representative McQueen welcomed the members to the meeting and then asked individual members of the committee to introduce themselves. Mike Morris, mayor, City of Clovis, also provided a brief introduction.

**Update on Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances Contamination (9:56 a.m.)**

James C. Kenney, secretary, Department of Environment (NMED); William Grantham, assistant attorney general, Consumer and Environmental Protection Division, Office of the Attorney General; and Art Schaap, owner, Highland Dairy, provided a presentation regarding state efforts to address per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances contamination. The presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/WNR%20082522%20Item%201%20NMED%20PFAS.pdf>.

### **Update on the Ute Pipeline Project (11:03 a.m.)**

Mike Hamman, state engineer, Office of the State Engineer, and Mr. Morris, chair, Eastern New Mexico Water Utility Authority, provided an update on the status of the Ute Pipeline Project. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=WNR&Date=8/25/2022&ItemNumber=2>.

### **Electrical Transmission in and Through New Mexico: Streamlining the Process While Protecting Local Interests (11:47 a.m.)**

Cynthia B. Hall, chair, Public Regulation Commission; Stephen Fischmann, commissioner, District 5, Public Regulation Commission; Fernando Martinez, executive director, New Mexico Renewable Energy Transmission Authority; Jeremy Turner, director, New Mexico Project Development, Pattern Energy; and Danielle Garcia, field manager, ReNew Mexico, provided a presentation regarding state and community stakeholder interests related to energy development. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=WNR&Date=8/25/2022&ItemNumber=3>.

### **Presentation from the Future Farmers of America (12:49 p.m.)**

The committee received presentations from students from the Future Farmers of America.

### **Approval of Minutes (2:02 p.m.)**

The minutes from the July 25-26, 2022 meeting of the committee were approved.

### **Municipal, County and Tribal Public Power Options (2:10 p.m.)**

Erin Dayl, energy lead, Public Power New Mexico; Jay Levine, board member, Renewable Taos; Jonathan Juarez-Alonzo, policy lead, Youth United for Climate Crisis Action; and Les Rubin, finance director, Pueblo of Picuris, provided a presentation regarding local options for power. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=WNR&Date=8/25/2022&ItemNumber=4>.

### **Home and Building Electrification: Funding, Appliance Standards and Building Codes (3:22 p.m.)**

Patricia Sullivan, associate dean, Outreach and Recruitment, College of Engineering, New Mexico State University (NMSU); Dr. Olga Lavrova, associate professor of electrical and computer engineering, College of Engineering, NMSU; Robin Ribble-Harder, senior manager, ICF International; and Steve Hale, executive director, Build Green New Mexico, provided a presentation regarding residential and commercial property electrification. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=WNR&Date=8/25/2022&ItemNumber=5>.

### **Electric Vehicle Charging in New Mexico (4:19 p.m.)**

Paul Montoya, program director, Department of Transportation; Mary Jane Parks, solar energy innovator fellow, Public Regulation Commission; and Alaric Babej, manager, Customer Program Marketing and Development, Public Service Company of New Mexico, provided a presentation regarding electric vehicle charging across the state. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=WNR&Date=8/25/2022&ItemNumber=6>.

### **Recess**

The meeting recessed at 3:10 p.m.

### **Friday, August 26**

### **Reconvene**

The meeting reconvened at 9:07 a.m.

### **Geothermal Developments and Opportunities (9:10 a.m.)**

Senator Ortiz y Pino; Tom Solomon, electrical engineer and co-coordinator, 350 New Mexico; and Dr. Shari Kelley, senior geophysicist and field geologist, Bureau of Geology and Mineral Resources, New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology (NM Tech), provided a presentation regarding the potential for state geothermal energy sourcing. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=WNR&Date=8/25/2022&ItemNumber=7>.

### **Green Hydrogen Development and Potential (10:12 a.m.)**

Dave Warren, principal, The Warren Group, LLC, provided a presentation to the committee regarding green hydrogen development and potential. The presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/WNR%20082522%20Item%208%20Green%20Hydrogen-%20Warren.pdf>.

### **Carbon Capture Sequestration Costs and Effectiveness (11:40 a.m.)**

Robert Balch, director, Petroleum Recovery Research Center, NM Tech, and Adrienne Sandoval, director, Oil Conservation Division, Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department (EMNRD), provided a presentation regarding the expense and efficacy of carbon capture sequestration. The presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/WNR%20082522%20Item%209%20Balch%201.pdf>.

**Methane Regulations: Recent Developments and Next Steps (12:56 p.m.)**

Sarah Cottrell Propst, secretary, EMNRD; Ms. Sandoval; John Smitherman, senior policy advisor, New Mexico Oil and Gas Association; Jon Goldstein, senior director, Regulatory and Legislative Affairs, Environmental Defense Fund; Secretary Kenney; and Lara Katz, assistant general counsel, NMED, provided an update regarding methane regulations.

**Orphaned and Abandoned Well Cleanup and Bonding Sufficiency (2:25 p.m.)**

Ms. Sandoval and Dr. Mahmoud Reda Taha, regents' lecturer and chair, Department of Civil Engineering, University of New Mexico, provided a presentation regarding efforts to clean up and secure orphaned and abandoned oil and gas wells. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=WNR&Date=8/25/2022&ItemNumber=11>.

**Modernization of the Oil and Gas Act (3:46 p.m.)**

Tannis Fox, senior attorney, Western Environmental Law Center, provided a presentation regarding proposed legislation to update the Oil and Gas Act. The presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/WNR%20082522%20Item%2012%20Oil%20&%20Gas%20WELC.pdf>.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 4:26 p.m.