

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

**October 21-22, 2021**  
**State Capitol, Senate Chambers**  
**Santa Fe**

The fifth meeting of the Water and Natural Resources Committee (WNRC) was called to order by Senator Elizabeth "Liz" Stefanics, chair, on October 21, 2021 at 9:20 a.m. in the Senate Chambers of the State Capitol in Santa Fe.

**Present**

Sen. Elizabeth "Liz" Stefanics, Chair  
Rep. Matthew McQueen, Co-Vice Chair  
Rep. Kay Bounkeua  
Sen. Pete Campos  
Sen. Joseph Cervantes (10/21)  
Sen. David M. Gallegos (10/21)  
Rep. Susan K. Herrera  
Sen. Stuart Ingle  
Rep. Tara L. Lujan  
Rep. Marian Matthews (10/22)  
Rep. Kristina Ortez  
Rep. Larry R. Scott  
Sen. Benny Shendo, Jr.  
Sen. Jeff Steinborn  
Rep. James R.J. Strickler  
Sen. Pat Woods (10/22)  
Rep. Martin R. Zamora

**Advisory Members**

Rep. Jack Chatfield  
Sen. Ron Griggs  
Sen. Linda M. Lopez  
Rep. Rod Montoya  
Sen. Gerald Ortiz y Pino  
Rep. Andrea Romero (10/22)  
Rep. Debra M. Sariñana  
Sen. Antoinette Sedillo Lopez  
Sen. Mimi Stewart

**Absent**

Rep. Derrick J. Lente, Co-Vice Chair  
Rep. Gail Armstrong  
Rep. Candie G. Sweetser

Sen. Crystal R. Diamond  
Rep. Rebecca Dow  
Rep. Candy Spence Ezzell  
Sen. Carrie Hamblen  
Rep. T. Ryan Lane  
Rep. Raymundo Lara  
Rep. Roger E. Montoya  
Rep. Greg Nibert  
Sen. Shannon D. Pinto  
Rep. William "Bill" R. Rehm  
Rep. G. Andrés Romero

Rep. Patricia Roybal Caballero  
Rep. Angelica Rubio  
Sen. Joshua A. Sanchez  
Rep. Nathan P. Small  
Sen. Peter Wirth

**Guest Legislator**

Sen. Harold Pope (10/22)

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

**Staff**

Shawna Casebier, Legislative Council Service (LCS)  
Tom Kricka, LCS  
Sara Wiedmaier, LCS  
Christian Carrillo, LCS

**Minutes Approval**

Because the committee will not meet again this year, the minutes for this meeting have not been officially approved by the committee.

**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 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, October 21**

**Welcome and Introductions (9:20 a.m.)**

Senator Stefanics welcomed everyone to the meeting, and the members of the committee and the LCS staff introduced themselves.

**Community Solar Rulemaking Update (9:25 a.m.)**

Joseph M. Maestas, commissioner, District 3, Public Regulation Commission (PRC); John Reynolds, director, Utility Division, PRC; and Arthur O'Donnell, United States Department

of Energy fellow, PRC, presented an update on community solar rulemaking. The handout for the presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/WNR%20102121%20Item%201%20Community%20Solar%20Act%20Implementation%20Update.pdf>.

**Discussion of Proposed Revisions to the Sustainable Building Tax Credit (10:20 a.m.)**

Robin Ribble-Harder, portfolio manager, New Mexico Residential Programs, ICF International; Amanda Hatherly, director, New Mexico EnergySmart Academy, Santa Fe Community College; and Steve Hale, program director, Build Green New Mexico, discussed proposed revisions to the sustainable building tax credit. The handout for the presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/WNR%20102121%20Item%202%20Sustainable%20Building%20Tax%20Credit.pdf>.

**Letter to the Secretary of Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources (10:44 a.m.)**

At the request of the chair, and without opposition, staff was directed to draft a letter to the Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department (EMNRD) requesting that the department prepare a legislative initiative to remedy a gap in funding between the 2015 and 2021 sustainable building tax credits for new homes.

**Technology to End Flaring (10:58 a.m.)**

Anna Pierini, business development manager, Crusoe Energy Systems, Inc., and Vincent Whisker, technical business development manager, Crusoe Energy Systems, Inc., discussed technology to end flaring. The handout for the presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/WNR%20102121%20Item%203%20New%20Technology%20for%20Flare%20Mitigation.pdf>.

**Approval of Minutes (11:41 a.m.)**

On a motion made, seconded and duly passed, the minutes of the committee's September 7-8, 2021 meeting were approved as submitted.

**Update on New Mexico Agriculture (11:43 a.m.)**

Tiffany Rivera, director of government affairs, New Mexico Farm and Livestock Bureau; Debbie Hughes, executive director, New Mexico Association of Conservation Districts; and Charles Marquez, lobbyist, New Mexico Chile Association, updated the committee on agriculture in the state. Loren Patterson, president, New Mexico Cattle Growers' Association, and Beverly Idsinga, executive director, Dairy Producers of New Mexico, joined the panelists to respond to questions from the committee. The handout for the presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/WNR%20102121%20Item%204%20New%20Mexico%20Agriculture.pdf>.

**Public Comment (12:53 p.m.)**

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

**Confinement of Egg-Laying Hens (1:41 p.m.)**

Jerry Wilkins, Morning Fresh Farms; Glenn Hickman, Hickman's Family Farms; and Jessica Johnson, chief government affairs officer, Animal Protection Voters, presented on the confinement of egg-laying hens. The handouts for the presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=WNR&Date=10/21/2021&ItemNumber=5>.

**Agriculture in the Classroom (2:44 p.m.)**

Ms. Rivera and Traci Curry, director, New Mexico Agriculture in the Classroom, discussed a nonprofit educational outreach program called "Agriculture in the Classroom". The handout for the presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/WNR%20102121%20Item%206%20Agriculture%20in%20the%20Classroom.pdf>.

**Report on the New Mexico Unit Fund (3:06 p.m.)**

Ali Effati, Colorado River Basin bureau chief, Interstate Stream Commission (ISC); Marquita Russel, chief executive officer, New Mexico Finance Authority; Priscilla Lucero, executive director, Southwest New Mexico Council of Governments, and member, Water Trust Board; Hannah Riseley-White, deputy director, ISC; and Jennifer Baca, program manager, ISC, presented a report on the New Mexico Unit Fund. The handouts for the presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=WNR&Date=10/21/2021&ItemNumber=7>.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION (Closed Meeting): Update on *Texas v. New Mexico* (4:00 p.m.)**

Cholla Khoury, director, Consumer and Environmental Protection Division, Office of the Attorney General, provided the committee with an update on the progress of the *Texas v. New Mexico* lawsuit.

**Recess**

The committee recessed at 4:57 p.m.

**Friday, October 22****Reconvene**

Senator Stefanics reconvened the meeting at 9:19 a.m.

**The Work of the Natural Resources Trustee (9:20 a.m.)**

Maggie Hart Stebbins, natural resources trustee, Office of Natural Resources Trustee; William Grantham, assistant attorney general, Consumer and Environmental Protection Division, Office of the Attorney General; and Michelle Hunter, executive director, Office of Natural Resources Trustee, discussed the work of the natural resources trustee. The handout for the presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/WNR%20102121%20Item%208%20Office%20of%20the%20Natural%20Resources%20Trustee.pdf>.

**Department of Game and Fish Budget and Staffing Needs (10:04 a.m.)**

Michael Sloane, director, Department of Game and Fish, presented on the budget and staffing needs of the Department of Game and Fish.

**Public Regulation Commission Budget and Staffing Needs (10:38 a.m.)**

Wayne Propst, chief of staff, PRC, and Renada Peery-Galon, director, Administrative Services Division, PRC, discussed the budget and staffing needs of the PRC. The handout for the presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/WNR%20102121%20Item%2010%20Public%20Regulation%20Commission.pdf>.

**EMNRD Budget and Staffing Needs (11:24 a.m.)**

Sarah Cottrell Propst, secretary, EMNRD; Todd Leahy, deputy secretary, EMNRD; Matthew Lovato, director, Administrative Services Division, EMNRD; and Adrienne Sandoval, director, Oil Conservation Division, EMNRD, discussed the budget and staffing needs of the EMNRD. The handouts for the presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=WNR&Date=10/21/2021&ItemNumber=11>.

**Department of Environment (NMED) Budget and Staffing Needs (1:02 p.m.)**

Stephanie Stringer, deputy secretary, Operations, NMED, and Rebecca Roose, deputy secretary, Administration, NMED, discussed the budget and staffing needs of the NMED. The handouts for the presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=WNR&Date=10/21/2021&ItemNumber=12>.

**Office of the State Engineer (OSE) Budget and Staffing Needs (1:58 p.m.)**

John R. D'Antonio, Jr., P.E., state engineer, OSE; Rolf Schmidt-Petersen, director, ISC; and Jeff Primm, program support director, OSE, discussed the budget and staffing needs of the OSE. The handouts for the presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=WNR&Date=10/21/2021&ItemNumber=13>.

**Report on Funding Support for the New Mexico State University Agricultural Experiment Station and its Statewide Science Centers (3:00 p.m.)**

Senator Stefanics provided the committee with an update on funding support for the New Mexico State University Corona Range and Livestock Research Center. The handout for the presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/WNR%20102121%20Item%2014%20Corona%20Range%20and%20Livestock%20Research%20Center.pdf>.

**Consideration of Legislation for Endorsement (3:02 p.m.)**

The members of the WNRC discussed legislation for endorsement. The legislation endorsed by the committee can be found here:

[https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/endorsed\\_legislation?CommitteeCode=WNR&Year=2022](https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/endorsed_legislation?CommitteeCode=WNR&Year=2022).

**Adjournment**

There being no further business before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 4:29 p.m.