

3/23/22 NMWCA Meeting

Wednesday, March 23, 2022

10:57 AM

In attendance:

Christine Chavez, President (City of Santa Fe)
Denise Rumley, Secretary (ABCWUA)
Veronica Serrano, Water Conservation Specialist, ABCWUA
Amanda Hatherly, Santa Fe Community College, EnergySmart Academy
Robert Wood, Water Conservation Specialist, City of Santa Fe
Ramon Coriz, Education and Compliance Specialist, City of Santa Fe
Rhonda Diaz, Water Conservation Coordinator, City of Las Cruces
Sean Ogungbenle, Environmental Programs Manager for Rio Rancho
Mark Chavez, Treasurer (Parks, City of Albuquerque)
Jaimie Park, NMAA (what does this stand for)
Sarah Branum, Bureau of Reclamation
Julie Valdez, NMOSE Conservation Bureau
Richard Chapman, SmartUse LLC
Eric Boyda, Water Resource Director, Village of Ruidoso
Steven Glass, Ciudad Soil and Water Conservation District
17 in attendance

- Approval of minutes from 1/26/2022 - membership voted through zoom chat - approved (not sure how we can improve this process moving forward)
- Presentation from Julie Valdez, NMOSE

SP100 -Revision of current statute on cannabis through recent bill in legislature.

- Increased amount of plants from 100 to 1000
- Wanted to remove legal water right 262C-7 of current statute - didn't pass and bill died
- Current requirements requires a legal water right or obtain water from a public supplier
- NMRLD Form review (have Julie send)
- Greenhouse/ indoor facility they will need a commercial right
- Ag rights will need to be changed purpose and place of use to commercial right
- 45 applications at the NMOSE with less than 15% approved
- Water verification requirement isn't just for microproducers, but for all producers, especially corporate cannabis producers
- Patricio Pacheco from city of Santa Fe outlined internal processes on the municipal provider end
Issue is with custom water budgets and these amounts coming in as low as 0.5 gallons/plant/day. These will be closely monitored by the Utility and offset fees will be charged if they go over customer water budget
- Julie mentioned a study that made the OSE take a square footage approach rather than a per plant basis. Hemp was similar to tomatoes/chile when grown outdoors, indoor growers has different growing requirements. (ask Julie for cannabis training webinar she referenced to send out to the group)
- Jaimie Park - no plant limits for corporate cannabis producers, to build in more equity for micro and corporate producers the plant limit was revisited.

- CRA-Cannabis Recreation Act, California, Oregon are states that have already legalized (would be great to learn from them)
- NMAA brought forward the Berkely study to look at water usage (water theft, illegal water use) - we are being proactive now in making sure the legal water right remains established
- Social equity, gentrification issues related to the CRA to engage in this new market to grow commercial cannabis.
- Estimated water and energy usage as part of the application and now regulations require applicants to submit bi-annual usage reports
- Village of Ruidoso - greenhouse applications - what is their wastewater composed of and how is it being
- Can non-potable water be used? In CRA other source of water can be checked but not make for nonpotable use
- Produced Water Act? Rainwater, non-potable water is not currently allowed for irrigation
- 18 states have legal recreational use and 38 have medical use
- The NM Soil and Water Conservation Commission has a Water Quality and Conservation grants program. Applications are open now.
- 12 per household, you can only grown indoors and not outdoors (Valencia county)f
- <https://www.almanac.com/companion-planting-guide-vegetables>
Federal regulated water for cannabis manufacturers which impacts CofSF. We have a mixed system but had to make our case on allowing those approvals.

I've attached a number of NMAA docs regarding the cannabis producer regulations, as well as a coalition letter to the legislature on SB 100 as amended this legislative session. Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment and I appreciate learning about all the various ways local governments are responding.

\$35/person and \$350/ organization = membership fees for the NMWCA

Approval of bylaws - passed

Strategic planning staff for Bernalillo County has offered to assist us with strategic planning. April 13th - Board reviews Vision and Mission

Wednesday May 18th, SWOT analysis and July 20th reports back on findings to membership

Vision

Mission

Assess Current Situation

Action Items

Concept Board software will be used to record and organize everyone's ideas

Rhonda down in Las Cruces relies on NMWCA to learn

Closing thoughts:

Steve Glass

Eric Boyda - leak detection efforts in town, 20% completed, entities doing an AWWA audit. Julie can send out list of AWWA audits as a compliance requirement for water rights. Are the other entities doing 3rd party validation - does get you a higher score.

Sarah Branum - WaterSmart funding with infrastructure
Plans for a specific watershed
<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/search-grants.htm>

Rio Rancho Festival - October 2022

SFCC-Amanda Hatherly

Megan - summer workshops focusing on graywater vs. rainwater training in June, residential rainwater harvesting workshops with Ciudad Soil and Water Conservation District, and LID coalition, Hands on drip irrigation repair with ABCWUA and Bernalillo

Denise Rumley - HOA program with the ABCWUA- and Smartuse to work with them - high water users
How many letters / week are sent out? 6900 gallons saved per person contacted. Conserve Track - f
Mark ABCWUAU - 193 million gallons - 4-6 years-data on parks and golf course collected and has played a big role in grant funding, bond, smartuse is , we should add that award to our website page
Water Conservation Water Pilot - looking at water use in Parks
GSI programs are of interest,

<https://santafenm-gov.zoom.us/rec/share/xA7I9EEGi2B7cj6VE5PSHTLevFfapz3PH5fo01Lg6l212pSrCyyeadGz6iSH-2W.S702nlSHogta41wx>Passcode: j?Am2TEq