

ENMWUA Regular Board Meeting

DATE:

Thursday December 21, 2023

LOCATION:

Clovis Carver Library, Ingram Room, 701 N. Main Street, Clovis NM, 88101.

1 1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 pm

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4 2. Roll Call

Roll was called, the following ENMWUA Board Members were in attendance in-person: Chairman Morris, Secretary Bryant, Member Garza, Member Lucero, and Member Carter. Vice-Chair Jackson was absent. ENMWUA Administrator Orlando Ortega and staff as well as ENMWUA Attorney Kameron Barnett, and Jim Honea with Jacobs Engineering. Members of the public that attended: Travis LaGrone, Eric Palla, Wayne Palla, Linda Palla, Elida Mayor Durward Dixon, and Portales City Councilman Eldon Merrick.

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3. Approval of Agenda

12 A motion to adopt the agenda was unanimously approved.

Result:	Approved by Vote (5-0)
Ayes: 5	
Nays: 0	

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4. Approval of Minutes

- 15 a) The Board unanimously approved the minutes from the Regular Board Meeting held on Thursday,
- November 16, 2023, at 3:00 pm at the Texico Community Building, Texico, NM.

Result:	Approved by Vote (5-0)
Ayes: 5	
Nays: 0	

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5. Public Input

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19 Chairman Morris addressed the public for any comments.

Property owner Travis LaGrone, address is in Houston, Texas. However, he advised that he also owns property in Quay County. Mr. LaGrone explained that he received a Just Compensation notice from the Authority in reference to a water pump station being installed on the most productive part of his property, which was the first time he had heard of it. He stated that the Just Compensation Offer was a fraction of what is being paid to the State of New Mexico for the same easements. Mr. LaGrone expressed that he was told by the Authority's staff that by moving the water pump station it was going to save a signification amount of money. He shared that he should be considered as his land is valuable. He shared that there was no communication on how to work things out as it went immediately to eminent domain. Mr. LaGrone suggested a meeting with the ENMWUA in January to try and resolve these issues so that it does not have to go into eminent domain. At this time Eric Palla with Bella Terra, LLC, address is 137 Sandzen, Clovis, NM. He announced that since the beginning of his experience with this water project he and other surrounding landowners in which this pipeline must pass through have been minimized. Eric Palla stated that they have spent countless hours trying to make this project work for them as well as the Water Authority. With that being said, he advised that he has real concerns signing the next phase of this project after the current experience on Finished Water 2. Eric Palla explained that he and his dad have spent an extreme amount of time meeting surveyors, engineers, contractors, subcontractors, fence builders, county, and water authority administrators on multiple issues. From cutting their fences and not restretching them, driving on their land and not the easement to discarding asphalt from the highway repair on farmland. Eric Palla expressed that none of these will compare to the Spring when the wind starts to blow when all the scraped easements will blow onto their grass lands. He stated that he feels the Board needs to know the issues being presented as landowners. Eric Palla shared that they have and will continue to cooperate with the Wate Authority however, to this point in time they still do not have a clear contact on who to call with all the many issues. They are unaware of who is directly in charge of the project and who intimately knows what is going on, on a day-to-day basis and who can fix the issues. Therefore, once again he announced that their back is against the wall on an easement agreement, they have negotiated that they either sign today, or as they were informed lose all negotiated items due to the eminent domain. He described that he feels it is important for the Board Members to know their concerns and be heard. He shared that they look forward to the completion of this project. Wayne Palla with Bella Terra, LLC then spoke on issues he has had with the project which include, fencing. He advised that the contractors started cutting his perimeter fencing with no brace or anything to hold the wire. He stated that he spent about three hours every morning with the fence crew showing them how to build the fence suitable so that it would not sag or get loose. Wanye Palla informed the Board Members that after all the fencing problems he spoke with ENMWUA Attorney Kameron Barnett about putting language into the easement agreements that stated that anytime an existing fence is cut, braces need to be put on each of the sides to hold the balance of the fence. He expressed that another real concern for this property is the water lines. He shared that the main water source storage tank and well is on the very south end of this property and he is unsure where these water lines are located. He explained that these water lines supply the entire ranch and if a line is cut, he would like some reassurance that the minute it is cut the contractors

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immediately repair the line with a four-inch sleeve over the pipeline. He stated that if that water supply gets drained it will take the ranch four days to get caught back up, and in the meantime 1500 or 2000 head of cattle will be left without water. If the water lines are cut his expectations are for the contractors to haul water to the cattle. Wayne Palla described that he does not want the field dirt from the vaults being spread out onto the easement and then covered with topsoil. He expressed that when you start to dig deep enough chances are you're going to get into a lot of hard rock, and he does not want that scattered up on top. Wayne Palla reported that on Hwy 288 where the contractors were crossing the highway, they were driving inside his property to access the easement area. He advised that after the contractors repaired the roadway the extra black top, they had left was spread out over his farm ground. Administrator Ortega addressed Wayne Palla and stated that he did agree with most everything that he had to say that things can be better, and the Authority certainly wants to make them better. He informed Mr. Palla that direct communication needs to take place between the Authority's Administrator and himself. ENMWUA Attorney Kameron Barnett reported that he has been negotiating with Wayne Palla's Attorney Kurt Sommers for months and has revised language within the easement agreements themselves. Mr. Barnett explained to Wayne that some of the things that have been addressed today are not beneficial to him to have on the agreements. He advised Wayne that the way the easements read now is very expansive and says any problems, anything we create, any disruptions that occur, the Authority is responsible. He explained that if you limit it to specific things that can create an ambiguity as to whether it's expansive over everything or it's limited. Attorney Kameron Barnett stated that he was under the understanding after speaking with Mr. Palla's Attorney Kurt Sommers that he was in agreement as well. It was clearly stated that Wayne Palla as well as Eric Palla may contact Administrator Ortega or ENMWUA Attorney Kameron Barnett with questions or concerns that may arise in the future. Property owner Vincent DeMaio then spoke and informed the Board Members that last week sometime the contractors cut an electric line out on his property. He stated it was five days later when the contractor contacted him and advised him that the line had been cut. Mr. DeMaio also advised that the fencing that was built along Curry Road S is all completely on the ground and there's a section where there's a 10-foot ditch inside. Mr. Ortega reported that the temporary construction fence was addressed with the contractors at the construction meeting. He shared that the contractor and the fencing crew were going to go out and inspect all the fencing to make sure it is safe and secure. No other public comments were made.

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6. Monthly Financials

a) Approval of Monthly Financials for the Month Ending November 30, 2023. - Ortega

Mr. Ortega reported total revenues for the month ending November 30, 2023, were in the amount of \$9,006,929.45. Of that amount the Authority received revenue from State Funds and Federal Funds for a total of \$8,851,858.59 those included disbursement requests for SAP funds for Task Orders with Jacobs Engineering for project activities. The Authority also received member contribution from the City of Texico for fiscal 2024 in the amount of \$43,119.00. Interest earned for the month of November was \$1,325.06, expenditures reported for the month of November 2023 was \$5,414,641.31. Bank account balances reported as of November 30, 2023, were as follows: ENMWUA business checking account had a balance

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of \$167,859.75, ENMWUA Money Market account had a balance of \$2,091,886.26, Capital Construction account had a balance of \$3,747,821.28, Restricted ENMRWS Infrastructure had a balance of \$200,000.00, Restricted – Contribution to Debt Service had a Balance of \$936,614.01, ENMWUA CD (1-year term) had a balance of \$2,596,239.94, and the ENMWUA CD (6-month term) had a balance of \$1,500,000.00. Reported as of December 21, 2023, ENMWUA business checking account had a current balance of \$129,346.25, Money Market account balance sits at \$3,228,500.27, Capital Construction account has a current balance of \$19,701.95, ENMWUA CD (1-year term) had a balance of \$2,596,239.94, and ENMWUA CD (6-month term) had a balance of \$1,500,000.00. The total balance of all Authority accounts as of December 21, 2023, was reported at \$7,473,788.41. A motion was made for approval of the monthly financials, and a roll call vote took place.

Result:	Approved by Vote (5-0)
Motion: Bryant	
Second: Lucero	
Ayes: 5	
Nays: 0	

b) Approval of Monthly Bank Transfer Request from Money Market Account #7111 to Business Checking

Account #7101. - Ortega

111 Mr. Ortega informed the Board Members at this time the Authority is requesting a monthly transfer in the amount of \$55,000.00.

113 A motion was made for approval, and a roll call vote took place.

Result:	Approved by Vote (5-0)
Motion: Garza	
Second: Bryant	
Ayes: 5	
Nays: 0	

7. New Business Items

a) Request for Approval of Resolution 2023-17 Approving the Execution and Delivery of a Water Project Fund Loan/Grant Agreement (WPF-5952) by and between the New Mexico Finance Authority and the

120 ENMWUA. – Ortega, Bowens, Barnett

Mr. Ortega explained before you is a resolution and Loan/Grant agreement for the closing of WTB WPF-5952 award in the amount of \$13,900,000.00. 10% of the total is in loan to the ENMWUA in the amount of \$1,390,000.00 and 90% grant in the amount of \$12,510,000.00. Mr. Ortega stated the ENMWUA submitted this WTB application on November 16, 2022, and an award was announced June 8, 2023. The ENMWUA submitted all necessary "Readiness Items" and "Readiness to Proceed" items as requested by the WTB and NMFA. This funding is earmarked and budgeted for RW1 pipeline construction. As part of the execution of this Loan/Grant Agreement, each of the ENMWUA member communities have adopted a resolution supporting their share/or allocation of the loan. As part of the execution of this Loan/Grant Agreement, the NMFA have each member community also sign and attest to the agreement. A signature page for each member is included in the agreement. Mr. Ortega informed the Board Members that the adoption of the resolution before you today will allow the Chairman and Secretary to sign the Loan/Grant Agreement. The ENMWUA's Attorney Kameron Barnett will also have some documents to sign. The Loan/Grant Agreement has been reviewed by your Administrator, Grants Manager, Ms. Bowens, and ENMWUA Attorney, Mr. Barnett. Mr. Ortega then asked Ms. Bowens to provide further comments. Ms. Bowens advised Water Trust Board WPF-5952 is in the amount of \$13,900,000. The required non-state match is \$2,780,000.00. Match will be met using Federal funding through USBR Grant Agreement R22AC00674. The proposed Grant closure date will be February 2, 2024. Interim Period will be 24 months (2 years). Project description is as follows: Construction of portions of the Eastern New Mexico Rural Water System, including but not limited to the construction of the Raw Water Conveyance projects for sections 1, 2, and 3; the Texico Lateral; the Caprock area Storage Facilities and booster pump stations and shall include such other related work and revisions necessary to complete the project. Reporting is on a quarterly basis, and the spend down requirement is 24 months. ENMWUA Attorney Kameron Barnett stated that he has reviewed the resolution for WPF-5952 and did not see any issues or concerns. A motion was made for approval, and a roll call vote took place.

Result:	Approved by Vote (5-0)
Motion: Garza	
Second: Lucero	
Ayes: 5	
Nays: 0	

f) Request for Approval of Easement Agreements with Bella Terra, LLC, a New Mexico Limited Liability Company and the ENMWUA for RW3 Pipeline Phase. — Ortega

Parcel No. 1 202 028 264 264 00 (Parcel RW3-BE)

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Chairman Morris stated that at this time the Authority does not have a signed easement agreement for this parcel. He shared that during public comment Mr. Palla expressed his concerns and needs which notes have been made. Chairman Morris addressed property owner Mr. Wayne Palla and asked how he would like to move forward from here. Eric Palla expressed that Bella Terra, LLC would like to see language put into the easement agreements on the concerns and discussion that were raised during public comments. Eric Palla stated that he appreciates the discussion and open dialogue on this situation as it has been very helpful. Chairman Morris asked ENMWUA Kameron Barnett to explain how all the notes, concerns, and

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discussions spoke about today will be implemented in the easement agreements. Mr. Barnett advised that all concerns and specifications would either go in the bid contract for the contractors to see and abide by. Or the alternative would be to draw up an ancillary agreement to the easement that states in consideration for signing the easement, the Authority will make sure that these items are listed. Administrator Ortega informed property owner Wayne Palla that the Authority has in the past added special language to the bid specifications on requests from property owners. He stated that anytime there is a request from a property owner the Authority certainly takes it into consideration and will make the right accommodations necessary. Mr. Ortega recommended to the Board members that this item be tabled for today until an agreement can be made by Mr. Barnett stating all the specifications that were requested by Mr. Palla.

A motion was made to table items F and G, and a roll call vote took place.

Result:	Approved by Vote (5-0)
Motion:	
Bryant	
Second:	
Garza	
Ayes: 5	
Nays: 0	

g) Request for Approval of Easement Agreements with Bella Terra, LLC, a New Mexico Limited Liability

172 Company and the ENMWUA for RW3 Pipeline Phase. – Ortega

173 Parcel No. 1 203 033 254 198 00 (Parcel RW3-AT)

174 Parcel No. 1 203 032 264 264 00 (Parcel RW3-AV)

175 Parcel No. 1 203 031 264 264 00 (Parcel RW3-AX)

176 Parcel No. 1 203 030 264 264 00 (Parcel RW3-AZ)

177 Parcel No. 1 203 029 264 264 00 (Parcel RW3-BB)

178 Parcel No. 1 202 029 264 264 00 (Parcel RW3-BC)

Chairman Morris stated that at this time the Authority does not have a signed easement agreement for this parcel. He shared that during public comment Mr. Palla expressed his concerns and needs which notes have been made. Chairman Morris addressed property owner Mr. Wayne Palla and asked how he would like to move forward from here. Eric Palla expressed that Bella Terra, LLC would like to see language put into the easement agreements on the concerns and discussion that were raised during public comments. Eric Palla stated that he appreciates the discussion and open dialogue on this situation as it has been very helpful. Chairman Morris asked ENMWUA Kameron Barnett to explain how all the notes, concerns, and discussions spoke about today will be implemented in the easement agreements. Mr. Barnett advised that all concerns and specifications would either go in the bid contract for the contractors to see and abide by. Or the alternative would be to draw up an ancillary agreement to the easement that states in consideration for signing the easement, the Authority will make sure that these items are listed. Administrator Ortega informed property owner Wayne Palla that the Authority has in the past added special language to the bid specifications on requests from property owners. He stated that anytime there is a request from a property owner the Authority certainly takes it into consideration and will make the right accommodations necessary. Mr. Ortega recommended to the Board members that this item be

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tabled for today until an agreement can be made by Mr. Barnett stating all the specifications that were requested by Mr. Palla.

A motion was made to table items F and G, and a roll call vote took place.

Result: Approved by Vote (5-0)

Motion:
Bryant

Second:
Garza

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

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h) Request for Approval of Easement Agreements with Travis LaGrone and the ENMWUA for RW3 Pipeline

200 Phase. - Ortega

201 Parcel No. 1 201 048 132 264 00 (Parcel RW3-G)

202 Parcel No. 1 200 049 264 264 00 (Parcel RW3-D)

Chairman Morris shared that during public comments property owner Mr. Travis LaGrone expressed his desire to have direct sit-down conversation about these easement agreements as well as the location of the storage tank. Chairman Morris asked the Board Members what action they would like to take on these items. Member Lucero moved to table items H and I.

A motion was made to table items H and I, and a roll call vote took place.

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Result:	Approved by Vote (5-0)
Motion: Lucero	
Second: Carter	
Ayes: 5	
Nays: 0	

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- 210 i) Request for Approval of the Purchase of Real Estate from Travis LaGrone to the ENMWUA for the Use
- 211 <u>of Eastern New Mexico Rural Water System Facilities. Ortega</u>
- 212 Replat of a Portion of Section 32
- 213 Township 9 North, Range 34 East of the New Mexico Principal Meridian
- 214 Quay County, State of New Mexico
- 215 Tract 1
- 216 Approximately 10.313 Acres
- 217 Chairman Morris shared that during public comments property owner Mr. Travis LaGrone expressed his
- 218 desire to have direct sit-down conversation about these easement agreements as well as the location of
- the storage tank. Chairman Morris asked the Board Members what action they would like to take on these
- items. Member Lucero moved to table items H and I.

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Result:	Approved by Vote (5-0)
Motion:	
Lucero	
Second:	
Carter	
Ayes: 5	
Nays: 0	

b) Recommendation/Action for Approval of Annual Contract with Thompson Consulting, LLC. – Ortega

Mr. Ortega advised this contract is with Thompson Consulting, LLC, involving consulting services and legislative support for the ENMWUA. This contract has been renewed annually and begins on January 1st of the calendar year. The contract has been reviewed by the ENMWUA Administrator, Chief Procurement Officer Jacquelynn Bowens, the Finance Committee, and Thompson Consulting, LLC. Mr. Ortega stated that one request from the Board is that Thompson Consulting attend Board meetings in person at a minimum on a quarterly basis. He informed the Board members that Mr. Thompson was present via teams if anyone has any questions. Chairman Morris addressed Mr. Thompson and asked if he has reviewed the contract and if so, how does he feel about it. Mr. Thompson expressed that he has reviewed the contract and would be pleased to renew with the ENMWUA with the additional encouragement to attend quarterly meetings.

A motion was made for the approval of the annual contract with Thompson Consulting, LLC, and a roll call vote took place.

Result:	Approved by Vote (5-0)
Motion: Bryant	
Second: Garza	
Ayes: 5	
Nays: 0	

c) Recommendation/Action for Approval of Annual Contract with Capitol Consultants, LLC. - Ortega

Mr. Ortega stated this contract is with Capitol Consultants, LLC, involving consulting services and federal and congressional support for the ENMWUA. This contract has been renewed annually and begins on January 1st of the calendar year. Mr. Ortega explained that the contract has been reviewed by the ENMWUA Administrator, Chief Procurement Officer Jacquelynn Bowens, the Finance Committee, and Capitol Consultants, LLC. Mr. Ortega stated that one request from the Board is that Capitol Consultants, LLC attend Board meetings in person at a minimum on a quarterly basis. He informed the Board members that Mr. Ryan was present via teams if anyone has any questions. Mr. Ryan stated that it has been a

pleasure to work on this project for 15 years. He advised that he would be happy to help the ENMUWA complete this project and continue his contract.

A motion was made for the approval of the annual contract with Capitol Consultants, LLC, and a roll call vote took place.

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Result:	Approved by Vote (5-0)
Motion: Garza	
Second: Bryant	
Ayes: 5	
Nays: 0	

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<u>d) Annual Review and Recommendation for Adoption of Resolution 2023-18 Per Diem Rates for the Travel</u> of Public Employees and Public Officials of the ENMWUA. — Ortega

Chairman Morris advised to the Board members that the Finance Committee did review this item and recommended it for approval today. He explained that it is very straightforward and just mirrors the States Rates.

A motion was made for approval, and a roll call vote took place.

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Result:	Approved by Vote (5-0)
Motion: Garza	
Second: Lucero	
Ayes: 5	
Nays: 0	

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e) Annual Review and Recommendation for Adoption of Vacation/Paid Time Off (PTO) Policy. – Ortega

Mr. Ortega explained this policy is regarding paid vacation for ENMWUA employees and was amended last year to allow staff to carry over a certain number of hours to the next year. Chairman Morris shared to the Board members that the Finance Committee did review tie item and recommended it for approval today.

A motion was made for approval, and a roll call vote took place.

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Result:	Approved by Vote (5-0)
Motion: Bryant	
Second: Garza	

Ayes: 5
Nays: 0

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8. Unfinished Business - N/A

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9. Reports from Board Members and Staff

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a) State Activities – Thompson

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Mr. Thompson explained he had two things for the Authority to consider. The first, being a recommendation that the Authority officially submit a \$15 million dollar Capital Outlay request and upload it into the system so that there is funding in place during the Session. The second is that the ENMWUA hold their January Board Meeting in Santa Fe, NM sometime during the Legislative Session, preferably in the first week or so.

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b) Federal Activities – Ryan

Mr. Ryan stated Washinton is currently in a holding pattern due to the fact that Congress has not passed any Appropriation Bills and specifically the Energy and Water Appropriation Bill. Mr. Ryan explained that January 19, 2024, is the continuing resolution that will expire for several appropriations and one of those that needs to be approved by January 19, 2024, is the Energy of Water Appropriation Bill.

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c) Project Development Activities – Jacobs, Jim Honea

- 287 <u>FW1</u> Mr. Honea advised pipe installation is 20% complete. Clearing and Grubbing is 59% complete.
- Orange temporary fencing is 55% complete. Pressure reducing vault walls and floors of air release and
- 289 blowoffs are currently in progress. Fiber optic conduit installation is 10% complete.
- 290 <u>RW3</u> Mr. Honea stated bid documents have been delivered and are currently preparing for pre-bid meeting.
- 292 <u>FW3B</u> Mr. Honea reported submittals and request for information process is ongoing.
- 293 Texico Lateral Mr. Honea shared the design is on hold. Appraisals/review appraisals are complete.
- 294 <u>RW1/RW2</u> Mr. Honea reported RW1A, quality control review of alignment and easements. RW1B, the
- design team is progressing 60% design. RW2, the design team is progressing 60% design.
- 296 <u>Elida Lateral</u> Mr. Honea shared the design team is progressing 60% design.
- 297 <u>Pump Stations/Tanks</u> Mr. Honea explained the design team is progressing 60% design.
- 298 <u>Water Treatment Plant</u> Mr. Honea stated Jacobs is revising alternatives tech memo based on USBR comments.

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d) Ute Reservoir USGS Report – Marez

Currently the Ute Reservoir Storage in ac/ft as of November 21, 2023, the Reservoir was at 163,800 ac/ft and as of today December 21, 2023, was reported at 162,800 ac/ft for a loss of 1,000 ac/ft. The Ute Reservoir Water Surface Elevation in ac/ft as of November 21, 2023, was reported at 3,782.30 ft and as of today December 21, 2023, was reported at 3,782.13 ft for a loss of 2.04 inches.

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e) Report from the Chair - Morris

Chairman Morris announced to the Board Members that during the Finance Committee Meeting held December 20, 2023, it was decided to move forward with the pilot plant design for the Water Treatment

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Facility. He stated moving forward it has now been about six weeks ago that the Authority and its Board met with the leaders of Texico, and we're asked to put Texico Lateral on hold. He shared that perhaps a follow-up with Texico is appropriate.

f) Report from the Administrator – Ortega

Mr. Ortega reported that the Authority has completed its annual audit that also included a Federal single audit and had a very positive response. He advised the ENMWUA is also working on closing out the Water Trust Board WPF-5952. Mr. Ortega thanked all property owners for attending the ENMWUA Board meeting and shared that his hopes are to be able to work together and be able to satisfy everyone involved.

10. Future Agenda Items

a) Next Regular Meeting, Date, Time, and Location: Tuesday, January 30, 2024, at 10:00 am at the New Mexico Municipal League, 1229 Paseo De Peralta, Sanat Fe NM, 87501.

11. Public Input N/A

12. For the Good of the Order N/A

Executive Session

Motion: to move into executive session to discuss acquisition of real estate 10-15-1 H (8), NMSA 1978 of the New Mexico Open Meetings Act and attorney-client privilege pertaining to threatened or pending litigation in which the public body is or may become a participant 10-15-1 H (7), NMSA 1978 of the New Mexico Open Meetings Act.

Result:	Approved by Vote (5-0)
Motion: Carter	
Second:	
Ayes: 5	
Nays: 0	

Motion: to move back into open session, noting that nothing was discussed other than acquisition of real estate and attorney-client privilege pertaining to threatened or pending litigation in which the public body is or may become a participant in accordance with Section 10-15-1 (H)(2), NMSA 1978 of the New Mexio Open Meetings Act and no final action on personnel was taken.

Result:	Approved by Vote (5-0)
Motion: Bryant	
Second: Lucero	
Ayes: 5	
Nays: 0	

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13. Adjournment

344 Meeting adjourned officially at 5:06 pm

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346 Michael A. Morris

347 Chairman

Chris Bryant

Secretary