# ENMWUA Regular Board Meeting

DATE: Thursday, April 23, 2026

LOCATION: Texico Community Building, 211 Griffin St. Texico, NM 88135

## 1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 pm

## 2. Roll Call

The meeting commenced with roll call. The following were in attendance:

**Board Members**

**In-person**: Chairman Morris, Vice-Chairman Lucero, Secretary Bryant, Member Garza, Member Merrick, and Member Carter.

**Virtual:**

**Absent**:

**Staff and ENMWUA Vendors (In-person):**

ENMWUA Staff: Executive Director Mark Howl, Deputy Director Jacquelynn Bowens, Attorney: Kameron Barnett, Jacobs Engineering: Jim Honea and Aaron Smith.

**ENMWUA Vendors (Virtual):**

Jacobs Engineering: Kathy Croll, Kristen Griebel, and Dave Grigsby. Capitol Consultants: John Ryan, Thompson Consulting: Joe Thompson.

**Public Attendees (In-person or Virtual):**

Casey Bartholomew and Scott Wiley with Matrix Design Group, and ten (10) members of the public representing local landowners in Clovis, Portales, and Texico were present.

## 3. Invocation

Chairman Morris delivered an invocation prior to the commencement of the Board meeting.

## 4. Pledge of Allegiance and Salute to the New Mexico Flag

Chairman Morris led the Board members in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag and the Salute to the New Mexico Flag.

## 5. Approval of Agenda

A motion to approve the agenda was unanimously approved.

| | |
|---|---|
| **Result:** | Approved by Vote (6-0) |
| **Ayes: 6** | |
| **Nays: 0** | |

## 6. Approval of Minutes

a) The Board unanimously approved the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on Thursday, March 26, 2026, at 3:00 pm at the Portales Memorial Building, 200 E. 7th Street, Portales, NM, 88130

| | |
|---|---|
| **Result:** | Approved by Vote (6-0) |
| **Ayes: 6** | |
| **Nays: 0** | |

## 7. Public Input

No public input was received, however, Chairman Morris provided an informational update on the Cannon AFB Resilience Review and introduced guests from Matrix Design, the consulting firm assisting the City of Portales, City of Clovis, Roosevelt County, and Curry County with the NAG Military Installation and Readiness Review Grant. Chairman Morris recognized Casey Bartholomew of Matrix Design, who presented an overview of the federally funded Military Installation Readiness Study through the Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation (OLDCC). Mr. Bartholomew explained that the project began in January and is transitioning from data collection to data analysis. The study involves multiple regional partners and focuses on water resources, energy security, critical infrastructure, transportation, installation access, public facilities, and regional assets. Stakeholder interviews and data reviews have been completed, with recommendations expected by December.

The Board members expressed appreciation for the presentation. No action was taken.

## 8. Monthly Financials

a) Approval of Monthly Financials for the Month Ending March 2026

Ms. Bowens reported on financial activities for the month ending March 31, 2026. Total revenues were in the amount of $1,320,983.16. Expenditures as of March 31, 2026, reported at $12,361,967.41.

A motion was made for approval of the monthly financials, and a roll call vote took place.

| | |
|---|---|
| **Result:** | Approved by Vote (6-0) |
| **Motion: Bryant** | |
| **Second: Merrick** | |
| **Ayes: 6** | |
| **Nays: 0** | |

b) Approval of Monthly Bank Transfer Request from ENMWUA LGIP Account STO# 8043 to Business Checking Account #7101

Chairman Morris informed the Board members at this time that the Executive Director is requesting a transfer of funds for the Authority in the amount of $98,000.00.

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

| | |
|---|---|
| **Result:** | Approved by Vote (6-0) |
| **Motion:** Garza | |
| **Second:** Bryant | |
| **Ayes: 6** | |
| **Nays: 0** | |

## 9. New Business Items

a) Request for Approval of a Professional Services Agreement between ENMWUA and CWA Strategic Communications for Consulting Services. – Howl

Mr. Howl summarized that the agreement supports the next phase of the project and explained the scope includes enhanced communication and outreach efforts such as refreshing the website, expanding public education initiatives, increasing social media engagement, and strengthening communication with constituents. These services will help guide the project as it progresses toward the anticipated start of water delivery in 2031.

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

| | |
|---|---|
| **Result:** | Approved by Vote (6-0) |
| **Motion:** Lucero | |
| **Second:** Bryant | |
| **Ayes: 6** | |
| **Nays: 0** | |

b) Request for Approval of a Professional Services Agreement Between the Eastern New Mexico Water Utility Authority and The Ferguson Group for Federal Advocacy Services. – Howl

Mr. Howl presented to the Board members a review of the professional services agreement with The Ferguson Group (TFG) for federal consulting services and noted that the contract is being submitted for renewal with no changes requested by either party.

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

| | |
|---|---|
| **Result:** | Approved by Vote (6-0) |
| **Motion:** Garza | |
| **Second:** Merrick | |

**Ayes: 6**

**Nays: 0**

c) Request for Approval of the FY 2026 Audit Contract with De'Aun Willoughby CPA, PC. – Bowens

Ms. Bowens explained that the Board considered approval of the FY 2026 audit contract with Willoughby and Willougby CPA in the amount of $16,190.63. She noted that the contract resulted from a three-quote procurement process completed in 2024 for a three-year professional services agreement under $60,000, and had been approved by the Office of the State Auditor in compliance with state statute and internal policy.

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

| | |
|---|---|
| **Result:** | Approved by Vote (6-0) |
| **Motion:** **Merrick** | |
| **Second:** **Carter** | |
| **Ayes: 6** | |
| **Nays: 0** | |

d) Request for Approval of a Professional Services Agreement between the Eastern New Mexico Water Utility Authority and Blake Curtis in providing Expert Consultation with Land Restoration Initiatives on an as Needed Basis. – Bowens, Curtis

Ms. Bowens explained that the one-year, as-needed agreement begins May 1, 2026, has a total value under $60,000, and complies with state statute, internal policy, and budgetary guidelines. Mr. Curtis provided an informational overview of recent and ongoing right-of-way land restoration efforts, including weed control, use of drone technology, revegetation with native plants, and coordination with landowners. He noted progress to date, ongoing challenges, and the need for adequate establishment time before restored areas are returned to landowners.

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

| | |
|---|---|
| **Result:** | Approved by Vote (6-0) |
| **Motion:** **Carter** | |
| **Second:** **Garza** | |
| **Ayes: 6** | |
| **Nays: 0** | |

e) Recommendation for Approval of Financial Management Policies and Procedures. – Bowens

Ms. Bowens provided an overview of the proposed FY 2026 Financial Policy update, noting that the policy serves as the Authority's framework for financial governance. She explained that the update does not alter the existing financial structure but instead clarifies roles, updates terminology, and strengthens internal controls.

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

**Result:** Approved by Vote (6-0)

**Motion:**
**Merrick**

**Second:**
**Bryant**

**Ayes: 6**

**Nays: 0**

<u>f) Recommendation for Approval of Notice of the Right to Request Public Records and Request for Public Records Form. – Bowens, Barnett</u>

Ms. Bowens reported that the update includes minor grammatical revisions, administrative title changes, clarification of the custodian of public records, and a transition to a monitored ENMWUA email address for record requests. Mr. Barnett noted that the revisions are largely non-substantive and intended to improve clarity and accessibility.

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

**Result:** Approved by Vote (6-0)

**Motion:**
**Garza**

**Second:**
**Lucero**

**Ayes: 6**

**Nays: 0**

<u>g) Recommendation for Approval of ENMWUA Vehicle Use Policy. - Bowens</u>

Ms. Bowens highlighted that the key revisions clarify that only ENMWUA representatives defined as employees and Board members are authorized to operate Authority vehicles, while vendor employees may ride in vehicles when necessary for official business. She noted that the policy explicitly prohibits family members and other non-ENMWUA individuals from riding in Authority vehicles. Additional updates include the removal of restrictions on evening and weekend travel and administrative title changes to align with the current organizational structure.

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

**Result:** Approved by Vote (6-0)

**Motion:**
**Garza**

**Second:**
**Bryant**

**Ayes: 6**

**Nays: 0**

## 10. Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business.

## 11. Reports from Board Members and Staff

a) State Activities – Thompson

Mr. Thompson reported on State Activities.

b) Federal Activities – Ryan

Mr. Ryan reported on Federal Activities.

c) Project Development Activities – Jacobs Engineering, Jim Honea, Sam Montoya

- FW1 – Mr. Smith (Jacobs Engineering) advised the final connection is comlete on the Pipe and Fiber Optic installation, vault pipe painting is 95% complete, the chain link fence is 85% complete and the cathodic protection system is 75% complete. Based on discussion with the contractor, substantial completion is on target for May of 2026 and final completion is expected for July 2026.
- RW3 – Mr. Montoya (Harper Brothers) reported that topsoil removal is 74% complete, temporary fencing 82% complete, and pipe installation 36% complete. The project is progressing on schedule, with final completion expected by August 1, 2027.
- Texico Lateral – Sam Montoya (Harper Brothers) reported that substantial completion should be August 6th, 2026 and final completion should be October 5th, 2026.
- RW1A - Mr. Honea reported that bids are due May 20, 2026.
- RW1B/RW2 – Mr. Honea reported that thier request for approval of bid from the Board is set for June 2026, bid advertisement is due July 2026 and bids will be due in October of 2026.
- Intake/Caprock Pump Station – Mr. Honea reported that there are no new updates. The bid-ready documents have been stamped and are prepared for release.
- Elida Pump Station – Mr. Honea reported Elida pump station 90% design has been completed.
- Water Treatment Plant – Mr. Honea reported that the pilot plant at the Intake Site is operating and gathering data and is extending to July. An Open House is being planned. The deep well injection permit is under State review. The administration and maintenance buildings 90% design is underway.
- Spotlight: – Water Treatment Support Facilities – Jacobs staff presented an overview of the proposed Water Treatment Support Facilities project, which includes construction of operational buildings, storage tank, and maintenance facilities at the future water treatment plant site. These facilities are intended to be constructed in advance of the treatment plant to provide centralized operations, maintenance space, and equipment storage as pump station construction begins.

  A short video and images were presented illustrating the site layout and planned facilities. Staff noted that the design package is approximately 90% complete and largely permitted. Remaining tasks include responding to permitting comments, completing quality control reviews, updating cost estimates, and finalizing documents for bid.

  Mr. Grigsby stated that the design aligns with comparable facilities and incorporates cost-efficient, best-value materials. He noted that the project has been developed to minimize the need for future value engineering, as cost considerations have been integrated throughout the design process.

d) Ute Reservoir USGS Report – Bowens

Currently the Ute Reservoir Storage in ac/ft as of March 24, 2026, the Reservoir was at 191,700 ac/ft and as of today, April 23, 2026, was reported at 188,200 ac/ft for a loss of 3,500 ac/ft. The Ute Reservoir Water Surface Elevation in ac/ft, as of March 24,2026, was reported at 3,786.52 ft and as of today, April 23, 2026, was reported at 3,786.01 ft for a loss of 0.51 ft/6.12 in.

e) Report from the Chair – Morris

The Chair reported that a federal funding request resulted in $77 million awarded for FY 2026, which is sufficient to maintain the current project schedule and fully fund the project through the final major funding phase. The Chair also reported receipt of $24.3 million from the State Water Trust Board. Additionally, the Chair reported ongoing participation in Air Force–related water security coordination efforts, continued regional groundwater challenges, and progress on the pipeline project, including the potential bidding of the final major construction package this year.

f) Report from the Executive Director – Howl

Mr. Howl reported that most pipeline segments below the water treatment plant are complete, with remaining segments either under construction or scheduled for bid this year, and that all segments are fully funded. Mr. Howl reported that the project is transitioning to development of intake-station facilities, pumps, and tanks to activate the pipeline, and that the FY 2027 funding request was submitted on March 27 with award notification received on April 14. He also reported continued participation in Air Force–related water resiliency coordination, recent hiring and training of part-time operators for valve exercising, a project update provided to the Clovis Water Policy Committee, and ongoing coordination with landowners on restoration and temporary construction easements.

## 12. Future Agenda Items

a) Next Regular Meeting, Date, Time, and Location: Thursday May 28, 2026, at 2:00 p.m. at ENMWUA Headquarters at 5140 N. Prince Street in Clovis, NM 88101

## 13. For the Good of the Order

## 14. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned officially at 3:43 pm

X ______________________ X ______________________

Michael A. Morris
Chairman

Chris Bryant
Secretary