ENMWUA Regular Board Meeting

DATE: Thursday, March 27, 2025

LOCATION: Portales Memorial Building, 200 E 7th Street, Portales NM, 88130.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 pm.

2. Roll Call

Roll was called. The following ENMWUA Board Members were in attendance in-person: Chairman Morris, Secretary Bryant, Member Garza, Vice-Chair Lucero, Member Merrick, and Member Dixon. ENMWUA Administrator Orlando Ortega and Deputy Administrator Jacquelynn Bowens as well as ENMWUA Attorney Kameron Barnett, Joe Thompson with Thompson Consulting, Wendy Christofferson and Jim Honea with Jacobs Engineering, Richard Olmos with Oscar Renda Contracting, Inc., and Robby Sanders with Smithco Construction, were also present. Members of the public who attended included Michael Cone with the Roosevelt County Soil and Water Conservation District, Grant McGee from the Eastern New Mexico News, and Texico City Councilman Max Carter.

3. Approval of Agenda

A motion to adopt the agenda was unanimously approved.

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

4. Approval of Minutes

a) The Board unanimously approved the minutes from the Regular Board Meeting held on Thursday February 27, 2025, at 3:00 pm at the Clovis Carver Library (Ingram Room), Clovis NM, 88101.

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

5. Public Input

a) Presentation by the Roosevelt County Soil and Water Conservation District on RAIN – Rain Augmentation in New Mexico. – Michael Cone

Mr. Cone delivered an in-depth PowerPoint presentation on rain augmentation in Eastern New Mexico. He detailed the key components of rain augmentation, including cloud seeding, meteorologists, technology, radar, and aerosol/cloud physics research aircraft, explaining how each element collaborates to make the process effective.

No further action was taken on this item.

6. Monthly Financials

a) Approval of Monthly Financials for the Month Ending February 28, 2025. – Ortega

Mr. Ortega reported on financial activities for the month of February that included administrative, professional services, and capital construction. Total revenues reported for the month ending February 28, 2025, were in the amount of $14,429,660.43. Interest earned for the month of February 2025 was $5,199.65. Expenditures reported for the month ending February 28, 2025, were a total of $14,486,880.01. The total balance of all Authority accounts as of February 28, 2025, was reported at $9,522,764.88.

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

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

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

Mr. Ortega informed the Board Members at this time the Authority is requesting a monthly transfer for funds in the amount of $76,000.00.

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

Result:	Approved by Vote (6-0)
Motion: **Garza**	
Second: **Dixon**	
Ayes: 6	

Nays: 0	

7. New Business Items

a) Request for Approval of a Professional Services Agreement between the Eastern New Mexico Water Utility Authority and Howe Water Science LLC to provide Expert Peer Review on the ENMRWS Pilot Water Treatment Plant and Water Treatment Plant on an As Needed Basis. – Ortega, Bowens

Chairman Morris explained to the Board Members that Jacobs Engineering is highly skilled and experienced. However, Chairman Morris believes the Authority should consider the potential benefits of adding an extra layer of expertise and going the extra mile in our due diligence. Specifically, it could be valuable to have a peer review process, where someone independent can review the design and provide input, and confirm the decisions Jacobs Engineering is making, as well as the ones we are being asked to approve related to that design. With that in mind, Chairman Morris advised that the Executive Committee interviewed three consulting firms that were qualified and capable of performing this work. After conducting these interviews, one firm that stood out, Howe Water Science LLC, led by Dr. Howe and his wife. Chairman Morris then asked Administrator Ortega to provide further details. Mr. Ortega reported that three interviews were held, with Howe Water Science LLC being the most favored. Mr. Ortega shared that the Executive Committee made a recommendation to bring this information and request to hire Howe Water Science, LLC to the Board for consideration. Ms. Bowens explained that the procurement of this contract is a one-year professional service contract under $60,000.00, allowable under NM state statute 13-1-125 subsection B.

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	

8. Executive Session

a) Enter Executive Session: motion to move into executive session to discuss acquisition of real estate, to discuss limited personnel matters and attorney-client privilege pertaining to threatened or pending litigation in which the public body is or may become a participant pursuant to Sections 10-15-1 H(8), 10-15-1 H(2), and 10-15-1 H(7) NMSA 1978 of the New Mexico Open Meetings Act.

Result:	Approved by Vote (6-0)
Motion: Merrick	
Second: Bryant	

Ayes: 6	
Nays: 0	

b) Exit Executive Session: motion to move back into open session, noting that nothing was discussed other than: acquisition of real estate; to discuss limited personnel matters; and attorney-client privilege pertaining to threatened or pending litigation in which the public body is or may become a participant pursuant to Sections 10-15-1 H(8), 10-15-1 H(2), and 10-15-1 H(7) NMSA 1978 of the New Mexico Open Meetings Act.

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

c) Board action, if any, Regarding the Acquisition of Real Property discussed in Executive Session. - Lucero

No action was taken on this item.

d) Board Action, if any, Regarding Limited Personnel Matters Related to the Administrator. – Lucero
Member Dixon made a motion to offer Administrator Orlando Ortega a 6% salary increase.
A motion was made for approval, and a roll call vote took place.

Result:	Approved by Vote (6-0)
Motion: Dixon	
Second: Merrick	
Ayes: 6	
Nays: 0	

9. Unfinished Business

10. Reports from Board Members and Staff

<u>a) State Activities – Thompson</u>

Mr. Thompson reported that the ENMWUA project is often referred to as the gold standard, especially when viewed in the context of large-scale water delivery projects.

<u>b) Federal Activities – Ryan</u>

Mr. Ryan stated that he and Administrator Ortega are focused on IIJA funds, which will be allocated either in fiscal year 25 or 26, depending on the administration's decision.

c) Project Development Activities – Jacobs, Jim Honea, Kent Bienlien.

FW1 – Richard Olmos with Oscar Renda Contracting, Inc., advised pipe installation is 99% complete (approx. 15.4 miles), temporary fencing is 100% complete (approx. 13.6 miles), vaults are currently in progress and are 70% complete, fiber optic conduit installation is 99% complete (approx. 15.4 miles), and restoration is 95% complete (approx. 14.7 miles).

FW3B – Robby Sanders with Smithco Construction reported vaults are currently under construction, fiber optic installation is 36% complete (approx. 2.0 miles), topsoil removal is 70% complete (approx. 3.9 miles), temporary fencing is 70% complete (approx. 7.8 miles), and pipe installation is 68% complete (approx. 3.7 miles).

RW3 – Kent Bienlien with Jacobs Engineering advised that Harper Brothers is currently in the pre-mobilization phase and will receive notice to proceed in April. Mr. Bienlien shared trenchless casing installation on highway 209 and 469 is completed. Trenchless casing installation on highway 275 is progressing. Fencing installation continues south of the staging area at highway 209.

RW1A – Mr. Honea reported bid documents were completed in November 2024. He advised the bid publication is pending some permitting and easement acquisition.

RW1B/RW2 – Mr. Honea stated Jacobs is targeting design completion in July 2025. Target completion for bid documents is set for September 2025.

Elida Lateral – Mr. Honea shared target completion for 60% design is May 2025. He stated that Jacobs is finalizing the 90% design for the two Elida pump stations.

Texico Lateral – Texico Lateral bids were received on March 26, 2025, all bids come in lower than the Engineer's estimate. Mr. Honea explained that Jacobs plans to have a recommendation for an award at the next Finance Committee meeting.

Intake Pump Station – Mr. Honea explained the bid ready documents have been stamped and will be delivered next week.

Caprock Pump Station – Mr. Honea advised the bid ready documents have been stamped and will be delivered next week.

Water Treatment Plant – Pilot Plant: Mr. Honea stated the purchase order has been completed between CES and Smithco Construction. He shared that Jacobs is currently working on schedule with Smithco Construction. Injection well investigation: Jacobs is working towards finalizing a basis of design report, permit, and preparing for discussions on procurement.

d) Ute Reservoir USGS Report – Bowens

Currently the Ute Reservoir Storage in ac/ft as of February 25, 2025, the Reservoir was at 189,100 ac/ft and as of today March 27, 2025, was reported at 187,800 ac/ft for a loss of 1,300 ac/ft. The Ute Reservoir Water Surface Elevation in ac/ft as of February 25, 2025, was reported at 3,786.15 ft and as of today March 27, 2025, was reported at 3,785.94 ft for a loss of 2.52 inches.

e) Report from the Chair – Morris

Chairman Morris exited the meeting early and did not provide a report due to his departure.

f) Report from the Administrator – Ortega

No report was given by Administrator Ortega.

11. Future Agenda Items

a) Next Regular Meeting, Date, Time, and Location: Thursday, April 24, 2025, at 3:00 p.m. at the Elida Community Center, 704 State Street, Elida NM.

12. For the Good of the Order

13. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned officially at 6:26 pm

X ______________________________ X ______________________________

Michael A. Morris
Chairman

Chris Bryant
Secretary