ENMWUA Regular Board Meeting

DATE: Thursday, February 26, 2026
LOCATION: ENMWUA Conference Room, 5140 N. Prince Street., Clovis NM 88101.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 pm

2. Roll Call

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

Board Members

In-person: Chairman Morris, Secretary Bryant, Member Garza, and Member Merrick

Virtual:

Absent: Vice-Chair Lucero, Member Carter

Staff and ENMWUA Vendors (In-person):

ENMWUA Staff: Executive Director Mark Howl, Deputy Director Jacquelynn Bowens, Celeste Southerland and Victoria Gonzales, Attorney: Kameron Barnett, Thompson Consulting: Joe Thompson, Jacobs Engineering: Jim Honea, Kent Bienlien, and Aaron Smith, contractors: Sam Montoya.

ENMWUA Vendors (Virtual):

Capitol Consultants: John Ryan, Jacobs Engineering: Aleta Powers.

Public Attendees (In-person or Virtual):

Mark Huerta from EPCOR, Mike Davidson from the City of Portales, Walter Bradley from Dairy Farmers of America, and twenty-four members of the public representing the farmers community.

3. Invocation

Member Merrick 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 adopt the agenda was unanimously approved.

Result:	Approved by Vote (4-0)
Ayes: 4	
Nays: 0	

6. Approval of Minutes

a) The Board unanimously approved the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on Thursday, January 22, 2026, at 3:00 pm at the ENMWUA Headquarters, 5140 N. Prince St., Clovis NM 88101.

Result:	Approved by Vote (4-0)
Ayes: 4	
Nays: 0	

7. Public Input

Mr. Eric Palla provided comments to express concerns regarding the deep well injections that are planned.

8. Monthly Financials

a) Approval of Monthly Financials for the Month Ending January 31, 2026. – Southerland

Ms. Southerland reported on financial activities for the month ending January 31, 2026. Total revenues were in the amount of $2,049,494.42. Expenditures as of January 31, 2026, reported at $2,116,329.87.

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

Result:	Approved by Vote (4-0)
Motion: Bryant	
Second: Merrick	
Ayes: 4	
Nays: 0	

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

Chairman Morris informed the Board Members at this time the Executive Director is requesting a monthly transfer of funds for the Authority in the amount of $60,000.00.

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

Result:	Approved by Vote (4-0)
Motion: Merrick	
Second: Garza	
Ayes: 4	
Nays: 0	

9. New Business Items

a) Request for Approval of Resolution 2026-01 Approving the Execution and Delivery of Water Project Fund Loan/Grant Agreement (WPF-6565) by and between the New Mexico Finance Authority and the ENMWUA. – Bowens, Gonzales, & Barnett

Ms. Gonzales explained that WPF-6565 in the amount of $18,700,000.00 is a 90% grant and 10% loan with a closing date of April 10, 2026, with a required match of $5,610,000.00. The scope of work for this project includes construction on Raw Water 1 and 2, also includes design and construction of Intake Pump Station, Caprock Pump Station and Caprock Storage Tanks.

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

Result:	Approved by Vote (4-0)
Motion: Merrick	
Second: Bryant	
Ayes: 4	
Nays: 0	

b) Request for Approval to Enter into the Joint Powers Agreement and Become a Member of The New Mexico Self-Insurers' Fund. – Bowens, Barnett

Ms. Bowens explained that the request for approval of a new procurement process for the ENMWUA insurance for FY27. Mr. Barnett stated that the option appeared to be a good choice for the Board and that he saw no legal issues. Chairman Morris added that the program is designed for municipalities and similar entities in New Mexico and is well suited for the Water Authority.

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

Result:	Approved by Vote (4-0)
Motion: Garza	
Second: Merrick	
Ayes: 4	
Nays: 0	

c) Request for Approval of Texico Lateral Change Order #001 – Howl, Honea, Bienlien

Mr. Howl presented the Request for Approval of Texico Lateral Change Order #001. The change order consists of three separate requests for quotation. The first request relates to a tie-in at the City of Texico tanks and the EPCOR system, which was included in the original project scope. The second request is for additional SCADA instrumentation. The third component is a price adjustment from the contractor, Harper Brothers, due to EPCOR installing a line within the same right-of-way.

The Finance Committee reviewed the change order and recommended approval.

Chairman Morris noted that change orders are not frequently brought before the Board and stated that, historically, change orders have not been overly costly. Chairman Morris also explained that the line can be permitted as “in use” by making the necessary connections on either side, allowing water to flow.

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

Result:	Approved by Vote (4-0)
Motion: **Bryant**	
Second: **Garza**	
Ayes: 4	
Nays: 0	

d) Request for Approval of Indenture by and between the State of New Mexico, Acting by and through its Comminssioner of Public Lands and the Eastern New Mexico Water Utility Authority for Right-of-Way Easement No. R43147 – Howl

Mr. Howl presented the easement between Public Lands Office, and the Eastern New Mexico Water Utility Authority and informed those present that this easement is for an access road for the future Caprock Pump Station.

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

Result:	Approved by Vote (4-0)
Motion: **Merrick**	
Second: **Garza**	
Ayes: 4	
Nays: 0	

10. Unfinished Business – N/A

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, Jim Honea

FW1 – Kent Bienlien with Jacobs Engineering advised the project is mostly complete, with a few minor items and some major items outstanding. The contractor is behind schedule but plans to resume full work in January, with substantial completion expected March 2026 and final completion May 2026.

RW3 – Kent Bienlien with Jacobs Engineering reported that topsoil removal is 67% complete, temporary fencing 75% complete, and pipe installation 26% complete. The project is progressing on schedule, with final completion expected by June 15, 2027.

Texico Lateral – Kent Bienlien with Jacobs Engineering reported that substantial completion should be in July of 2026 and final completion should be in September of 2026.

RW1A - Mr. Honea reported that bids are due May 20, 2026.

RW1B/RW2 – Mr. Honea reported that the target completion for a bid package is May 2026. All required permitting has been submitted.

Elida Lateral – Mr. Honea reported that the Elida Lateral design has resumed and is progressing toward 90% completion, which is anticipated by July 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 fully operational. The deep well injection permit is under State review. The administration and maintenance buildings 90% design is underway.

Spotlight – Dr. Janet Burtock of Jacobs Engineering presented an overview of the paleontological monitoring requirements for the ENMRWS. She discussed the Paleontological Resources Protection Act of 2009, which defines fossils as "any fossilized remains, traces, or imprints of organisms preserved in or on the earth's crust that are of paleontological interest and provide information about the history of life on Earth." Dr. Burtock also shared a recent finding on the Raw Water 3 Project involving a possible mammoth discovery.

d) Ute Reservoir USGS Report – Bowens

Currently the Ute Reservoir Storage in ac/ft as of January 27, 2026, the Reservoir was at 195,000 ac/ft and as of today February 26, 2026, was reported at 193,400 ac/ft for a loss of 1,600 ac/ft. The Ute Reservoir Water Surface Elevation in ac/ft as of January 27,2026 was reported at 3,786.98 ft and as of today February 26, 2026, was reported at 3,786.77 ft for a loss of 0.21 ft/2.52 in.

e) Report from the Chair – Morris

Chairman Morris congratulated the City of Texico on the recent project groundbreaking, noting his disappointment at being unable to attend. He emphasized that once completed, this will be the Authority's first line placed into active service. Chairman Morris stated that he met with Ms. Schmidt, who works with the Secretary of the Air Force Office and is the point person on water security projects. He also met with the director of the REPI (Readiness Environmental Protection Integration) project. Chairman Morris told Ms. Schmidt that he's grateful for the partnership and is willing to remain partners and participants in the water security initiatives. He also noted that House Bill 109 passed unanimously during the legislative session, streamlining the water application process by allowing multiple application cycles throughout the year. He assured those present that he will continue meeting with delegates and coordinating with John Ryan to keep progressing the project.

f) Report from the Executive Director – Howl

Mr. Howl reported that six offer letters have been issued for the Raw Water 2 project related to easement acquisition. He noted that he met with the Project Lead, Senior Quality Control staff, Senior Technologist, Project Engineer, and the project's peer review partners for the water treatment plant. Mr. Howl also shared that he met Ms. Schmidt and was pleased to report that discussions have begun on how the project supports addressing regional water scarcity challenges, including those affecting Cannon Air Force Base (CAFB). In addition, Mr. Howl attended the Texico groundbreaking ceremony on February 25, 2026, as well as the Texico stakeholder meeting for potentially affected property owners. Lastly, he informed the Board that he is scheduled to be present at the Elida City Council meeting on March 11 and has a potential meeting planned with the Curry County Commission on March 17.

12. Future Agenda Items

a) Next Regular Meeting, Date, Time, and Location: Thursday, March 26, 2026, at 3:00 p.m. at Portales Memorial Building 200 E. 7th Street, Portales, NM 88130.

13. For the Good of the Order

Commissioner Seth Martin requested that the public continue to be given a rundown of information for a smoother process.

14. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned officially at 4:07 pm

X ______________________	X ______________________
Michael A. Morris	Chris Bryant
Chairman	Secretary