

NEW MEXICO INTERSTATE STREAM COMMISSION

COMMISSION MEMBERS

MARK SANCHEZ, Chair
TANYA TRUJILLO, Vice-Chair
JOHN R. D'ANTONIO JR., P.E., Secretary
ARON BALOK, Commissioner
BIDTAH BECKER, Commissioner
GREGORY CARRASCO, Commissioner
PAULA GARCIA, Commissioner
MIKE HAMMAN, Commissioner
STACY TIMMONS, Commissioner



BATAAN MEMORIAL BUILDING, ROOM 101
POST OFFICE BOX 25102
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO 87504-5102
(505) 827-6160
FAX: (505) 827-6188

MEMORANDUM

DATE: November 9, 2020

FROM: Hannah Riseley-White, Deputy Director

TO: NM Interstate Stream Commission

RE: Presentation by NMISC Staff on Proposed Plan and Schedule for Commission Activities in 2021 Based on Feedback from Commissioners

Background:

Between mid-July and mid-September Herb Crosby, NMISC consultant specializing in strategic planning facilitation, and I conducted individual meetings with all NM Interstate Stream Commissioners. Given that as of July 2020 most Commissioners had served for one year, the purpose of the meetings was to take stock of the year behind and gather feedback to help guide Commission activities moving forward.

Description:

Some common themes emerged in our meetings. They are summarized below:

1. All Commissioners expressed a true commitment to serve New Mexicans and make a positive difference related to water management in our state.
2. There is an urgent sense of needing to help New Mexico plan for scarcity and a changing climate.
3. The Commission's role in setting policy can help NMISC staff see the bigger picture, connect the dots on water management issues and be creative in identifying partnerships and available resources to support effective management.
4. There is a desire to learn and engage more, including:
 - All Commissioners expressed appreciation for the field trip to the Gila conducted in November 2019 before the coronavirus pandemic. More opportunities to see things on the ground, have informal discussion and talk with stakeholders would be valuable as soon as that is possible.
 - Many Commissioners suggested increased opportunities for educational meetings. These would be non-business meetings interspersed between regular meetings.

- A retreat could be a helpful format in which staff could provide additional educational content, especially related to issues that Commissioners need to be up to speed on in the coming year, as well as to have discussion related to setting agency priorities.
5. The current pandemic has colored the year behind us. The ability to have in person meetings and participate in group activities will be appreciated as soon as that is possible.

Recommendation:

Based on this feedback from Commissioners, we propose the following plan and schedule for 2021.

- Additional Educational Meetings – Beginning in January, staff will organize periodic (every other month if possible) additional meetings with educational content. Each meeting will focus on a single topic.
- Field Trips – To be planned as soon as viable given public health and safety concerns.
- Commission Retreat – To be planned for April after the legislative session. Although in person is always preferred, if that is still not possible at that time, staff will plan a web-based retreat.
- Strategic Planning – By June of each year staff finalize updates to the agency strategic plan. Commission input, perhaps through the retreat, would be valuable.

Again, we would like to thank each of you for your time. Any additional feedback is welcome.