

**MRGWA SPEAKER SERIES**  
**CENTERING EQUITY IN WATER PLANNING**  
**AUGUST 17, 2023**  
**CHAT FILE**

00:45:14 Brittany Gaume: Past Recordings can be accessed here:  
<https://mrgwateradvocates.org/prior-workshops/>

00:46:03 Brittany Gaume: Register here for the September 21st Speakers Series and Workshop with State Engineer Mike Hamman  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87859395259?pwd=YVFPcE9qVmtadW0vYksybFZoSmodycz09>

00:46:52 William Turner: Replying to "Hello Everyone, Ramo..." Hi Ramon. Any news on Questa Call me

00:46:59 Rex Myers: Rex Myers Bosque del Apache

00:47:08 Brittany Gaume: If you just joined us please introduce yourself in the chat. And if you have any questions please post them in the chat and we will present those to the panelists at the Q and A session

00:48:20 Brittany Gaume: Register for the October Speakers Series Here:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83907596582?pwd=c0RxZ09KNDVjaFdDNmUzVzhNQWN3dz09>

00:48:32 Brittany Gaume: Past recordings are here: <https://mrgwateradvocates.org/prior-workshops/>

00:48:58 Brittany Gaume: The whole schedule of our workshops can be found here:  
<https://mrgwateradvocates.org/workshops-information/#Schedule>

00:50:04 Brittany Gaume: For those who just joined, please introduce yourself in the chat and please place any questions you may have in the chat.

00:50:44 Bob Wessely: Bob Wessely, MRGWA

00:50:48 Martin Zehr: The original regional water plan that took 10 years of inputs, science and user representative voices were shelved.

00:51:46 William Turner: Hello everyone Bill Turner WaterBank

00:52:02 Nancy Singham 350NM: Nancy Singham, 350NM, Unceded Tiwa land, Albuquerque Looking forward to important discussion of Equity and Water in our state

00:53:59 Martin Zehr: No state plan is acceptable as equitable when the plans, voices and representation of the six Pueblos are arbitrarily denied by the Governor.

01:01:28 Brittany Gaume: Please put any questions you may have in the chat

01:02:19 Martin Zehr: A public Welfare Statement establishes the priorities for the goals and objectives of regional water planning. What is the state's Public Welfare Statement currently?

01:10:01 Jeanne Logsdon: Who is speaking?

01:10:10 Brittany Gaume: Marcia Fernandez

01:10:22 William Turner: Paula, the OSE is concerned with nearly everything your touched on, They need more resources.

01:10:50 Brittany Gaume: Marcia Fernandez is a MRGWA Board Member, CESSOS Board Member, SV Neighborhoods Assoc Boards member, South Valley farmer

01:14:26 William Turner: That 399 acre foray has been irrigating since Spanish occupation. They have been wiped out for flooding and drought every other year. No one was there to help them get by.

01:14:47 Jerry Kurtyka: Why are NM farmers still building out nut orchards that are highly water -intensive? Could there be a LT strategy to migrate to less water-intensive crops?

01:15:25 Sigmund Silber: Water Planning Districts are required to consider Public Welfare but there can be disagreement on that. "Equity" seems to be undefined and may conflict with the Priority Doctrine so I think there needs to be a lot of effort on defining "Equity". If not we will be making a lot of attorneys rich which I assume few here favor.

01:16:32 Sofia Martinez: Sofia Martinez, Los Jardines Institute - Albuquerque and Concerned Citizens of Wagon Mound and Mora County.

01:17:29 William Turner: The OSE should adjust water rights requirements according to crops. The 2.1 acre foot requirement per acre of consumptive use is a weighted average that has been in place for man decade. That would be adjusted to be specific to the crops. Cannabis uses very little water whereas alfalfa uses an egregious amount.

01:17:30 Martin Zehr: Big Gulp consumptive users remain the national Labs and Air Force bases and Intel.

01:19:18 William Turner: Those Big Gulp industries were required to buy water existing water rights. They did not enlarge the amount of water rights.

01:20:31 Brittany Gaume: Per the leap ahead report we will all lose 25% of our water supply by 2050. We will all have to reduce our use so that we do exceed our supply.

01:21:29 Brittany Gaume: Correction\* do not exceed supply

01:23:10 Martin Zehr: AF bases need to be reduced so that New Mexico natives have access and appropriations to address their needs. Cleanups at Kirtland and Canon have impaired supplies of the water resource. They are responsible for timely cleanups.

01:23:34 William Turner: No resident of an oasis would consider building on the land that feeds them. Zoning laws might prohibit constructing anything in our floodplains. Preserve it for agriculture. More power to the wonderful work of RGALT and Cecilia Rosacker and her conservation efforts.

01:23:59 Laurie McCann: "This is the only home we have and Mom is really unhappy with the way we have been mistreating her and each other. She's about to ask us to leave."

01:24:28 Laurie McCann: From Bill Spencer, PACEM2050

01:26:18 Brittany Gaume: Think Global and Act Local - Love that

01:27:06 William Turner: In the MRG there is only one acequia system today recognized by the OSE. That is the MRGCD. It is managed only by them according to the MRGCD v. Chavez case.

01:27:11 Brittany Gaume: Please post any question you may have in the chat

01:28:00 Jerry Kurtyka: The entire Southwest needs to consider the idea of no-growth until there is sufficient water. Cadillac Desert :)

- 01:28:12 Kathleen Economy: Water rights were allocated to land owners many years ago when we did not have the love affair primarily eating beef and consuming tons of dairy products, which consume a lot of alfalfa which requires a lot of water. In my mind we need to reduce beef and dairy product consumption and their waste both require a lot of water and pollute a lot of ground water.
- 01:28:32 Steven Siegel: Ultimately the only solution to making water available to everyone is to limit residential growth. Is anyone trying to convince community leaders to control sprawl (like in Rio Rancho) or to stop the movement for increasing density in already established neighborhoods? Politicians don't want to hear this, but it is in the best interest of our state. Are we going to end up like Phoenix?
- 01:30:15 Jerry Kurtyka: Phoenix wants to draw water from a de-salinization plant (built by Israelis) in Puerto Penasco. Talk about water colonialism!
- 01:30:45 Jeanne Logsdon: How do you think that creating regional water districts will affect the amount of water available for agricultural users?
- 01:31:05 William Turner: There are not acequias within the MRGCD. There are ditches but there are no acequia commissions any more. There are some pseudo acequias but there are not historic acequias.
- 01:32:26 Sofia Martinez: They do not respect the rights of small farmers and irrigators. They unethically deliver water inequitably.
- 01:32:28 William Turner: Exporting water from Mexico to the US is out of the question. They have greater shortages than we have.
- 01:33:06 Martin Zehr: Priority administration?
- 01:33:44 Bob Wessely: Question for all panelists: How can we arouse sufficient interest and concern to bring all interests to the table so as to negotiate how to equitably share the pain of substantially reduced water availability?
- 01:34:09 William Turner: The MRGCD does not distribute water inequitably. They are so accurate in operating the system. You must understand how it works.
- 01:36:37 William Turner: There is no shortage of water in the Atrisco Land Grant and there are two grants. Their problem is they don't understand their own land grant. I have been a consultant to the Atrisco Land Grants before it was sold to the Sunco.
- 01:36:41 Jerry Kurtyka: What variable would you attempt to optimize?
- 01:37:02 Kathleen Economy: Right now there are big farm industries cutting alfalfa 3 times a year to feed beef and satisfy our insatiable desire to consume beef as our primary source of protein. My point of view is we need to change the US consumer's eating habits to grow less water thirsty protein sources. This will be a big challenge.
- 01:38:10 William Turner: Alfalfa get 5 to 7 cuts per year depending on where you live.
- 01:38:39 Kathleen Economy: wow, so it is worse than I thought!
- 01:38:40 Jerry Kurtyka: Or move beef production to areas with water, e.g., the Great Lakes states. They already are dairy intensive.
- 01:39:56 Michelle Meaders: How much of the alfalfa is exported, which takes the water out of the watershed? How much to Saudi Arabia and China?
- 01:41:14 Michelle Meaders: Residential use is very small, and the state population isn't growing much. Yes, large dairies shouldn't be here,

- 01:42:41 Stefi Weisburd: People are fighting Campbell ranch in the east mountains.
- 01:42:48 William Turner: Alfalfa is exported everywhere. It goes to Florida from Roswell and Artesia.
- 01:43:28 William Turner: The best alfalfa is watered by groundwater. Surface water is loaded with weed seeds.
- 01:46:15 William Turner: Nut orchards are pecans and to lesser extent pistachios. The pecan crop is purchased on forward contracts and sent to China where they are turned into other produces and sent back to the U.S. We should be producing those other products.
- 01:48:27 Betsy Diaz: For sustainability, Water itself (in terms of replenishment of natural bodies of water, including aquifers) and healthy riparian soils must be represented at water planning & management decision making tables. Water (not corporations) are considered persons in a very few countries with Indigenous population., is there any room for that in the MRGCD?
- 01:48:37 Jerry Kurtyka: We need to close the loop on the water/food/consumption value-chain so that the water and the food stays here rather than being exported.
- 01:49:27 William Turner: Saudi Arabia major aquifers are the Minhur and Was Formations that were being severely dewater by agriculture. The curtailed agriculture in SA and moved to Egypt where they created off channel irrigation when the Egyptians found through Nile river monitoring that the Nile actually flowed more water than they thought. The have bought up ag land throughout Africa Canada and the U.S> and South America/
- 01:50:04 Stefi Weisburd: Oil and gas should not be able to buy water rights from farmers and ranchers.
- 01:50:22 Kathleen Economy: unfortunately, until we pay our legislators, they will be easily manipulated by big-agra.
- 01:51:13 William Turner: Why not its temporary and it leads to enormous funding for the State Land office that by law funds schools and hospitals.
- 01:51:35 Michael Campana: Denver is the new Albuquerque
- 01:51:47 William Turner: Ony a few legislators really understand water.
- 01:52:43 Michael Campana: Albuquerque is the new Phoenix Phoenix is the new Hell
- 01:52:44 Brittany Gaume: Collective Future!
- 01:54:10 William Turner: The MRGCD is so advanced in their system. The questioner has no idea of their high degree of MRGCD technology.
- 01:55:38 Stefi Weisburd: We need to reserve some water for fighting fires too. There's going to be more of those too.
- 01:55:55 Nancy Singham 350NM: Reacted to "We need to reserve s..." with 👍
- 01:56:06 William Turner: The MRGCD pirates more than 1000 miles of ditches. That is one heck of a lot and they today do a marvelous job. They are also responsive to irrigators.
- 01:57:16 Brittany Gaume: And domestic wells unless shared or in specific areas are not metered
- 01:57:58 Kathleen Economy: many small land owners that own water rights are selling was rights to big cities or big agra-business for much needed \$\$, they are small struggling, entities. In my mind we need to rethink how water rights are transferred to entities that are far away from the original land owner.

01:58:04 Brittany Gaume: Santa Fe and Rio Rancho have limited new domestic wells within their service area

01:58:21 Kathleen Economy: selling water rights (typo above).

01:58:22 Stefi Weisburd: That's an equity issue. People where I live can't afford to drill deeper wells. Yet there are companies that fill up and sell their water everywhere over the state.

01:59:49 William Turner: Domestic wells are used also for small gardens and livestock. They may not be used for commercial purposes. The state Engineer has severely limited water use from domestic wells from 3 acre feet to as little as 0.25 acre feet. Domestic wells can be barred by court order. They only have to transfer water into a domestic well for commercial wells and must buy commercial water rights.

02:00:42 Antoinette Sedillo Lopez: Thank you! The presentations were excellent!

02:00:51 Stefi Weisburd: Thank you!!

02:01:04 William Turner: The present market price for an acre foot of commercial water rights is about #22,500 per acre foot of consumption

02:01:09 Jerry Kurtyka: I think LT we're going to have to focus on local sustainable food and water versus export crops.

02:01:11 Martin Zehr: We did start it long ago.

02:01:12 Ladona Clayton: Thanks so much! Such an interesting and important conversation requiring thoughtful and relentless action.

02:01:14 Brittany Gaume: Please take our survey it helps us develop these workshops

02:01:15 Brittany Gaume:  
[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdfQe32rbBVSOPqAyocclciPyReAwlgLVBAJ8LWkJDGokgDiQ/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdfQe32rbBVSOPqAyocclciPyReAwlgLVBAJ8LWkJDGokgDiQ/viewform?usp=sf_link)

02:01:40 Gina Dello Russo: Thank you panelists and MRGWA for presentations and this series.

02:01:59 Brittany Gaume: Register for Sept workshop here:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87859395259?pwd=YVFPCe9qVmtadW0vYksybFZoSmodyz09>

02:02:04 Kathleen Economy: Thank you panelists!

02:02:06 Nancy Singham 350NM: thank you for this important discussion

02:02:20 Ruth Striegel: Thank you!