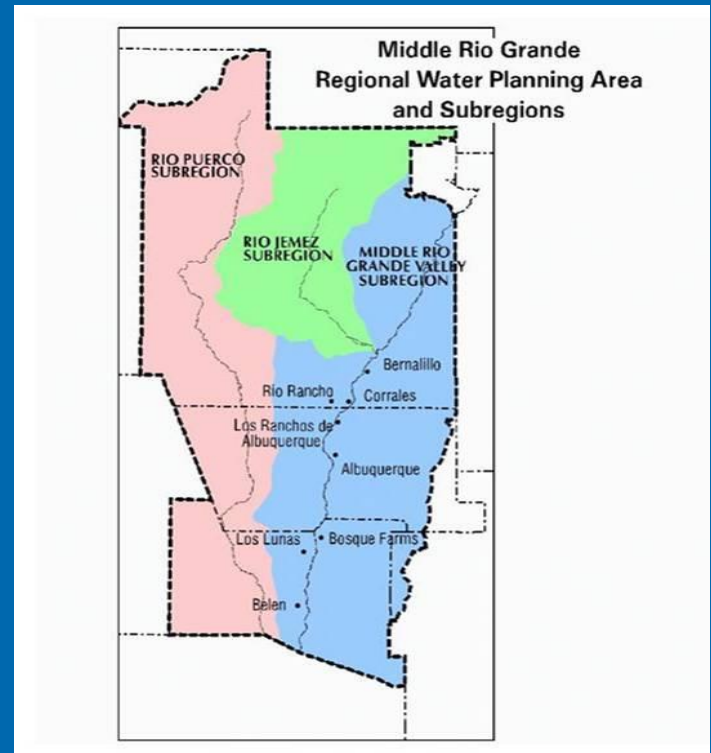


# Middle Rio Grande

*Introduction to the 2004  
MRG Regional Water Plan*

*Presentation to the Update  
Steering Committee*



Bob Wessely  
(505) 454-0555  
Wessely@SciSo.com

March 3, 2015

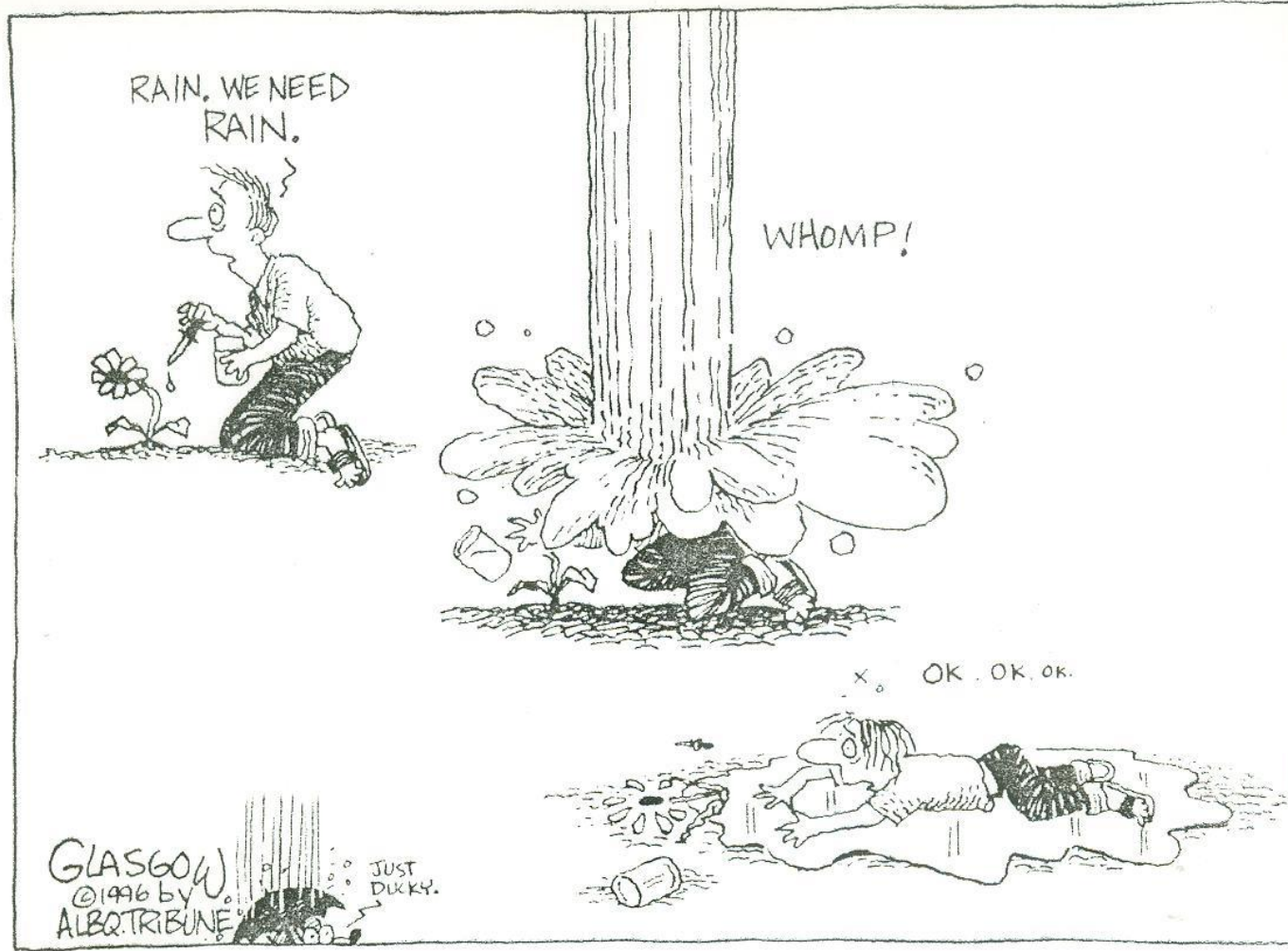


www.WaterAssembly.org  
(505) 454-0555

# Why Are We Here?

To Inform the Steering Committee about  
the Existing Regional Water Plan  
And Present Thoughts about the Update

# Why Plan?



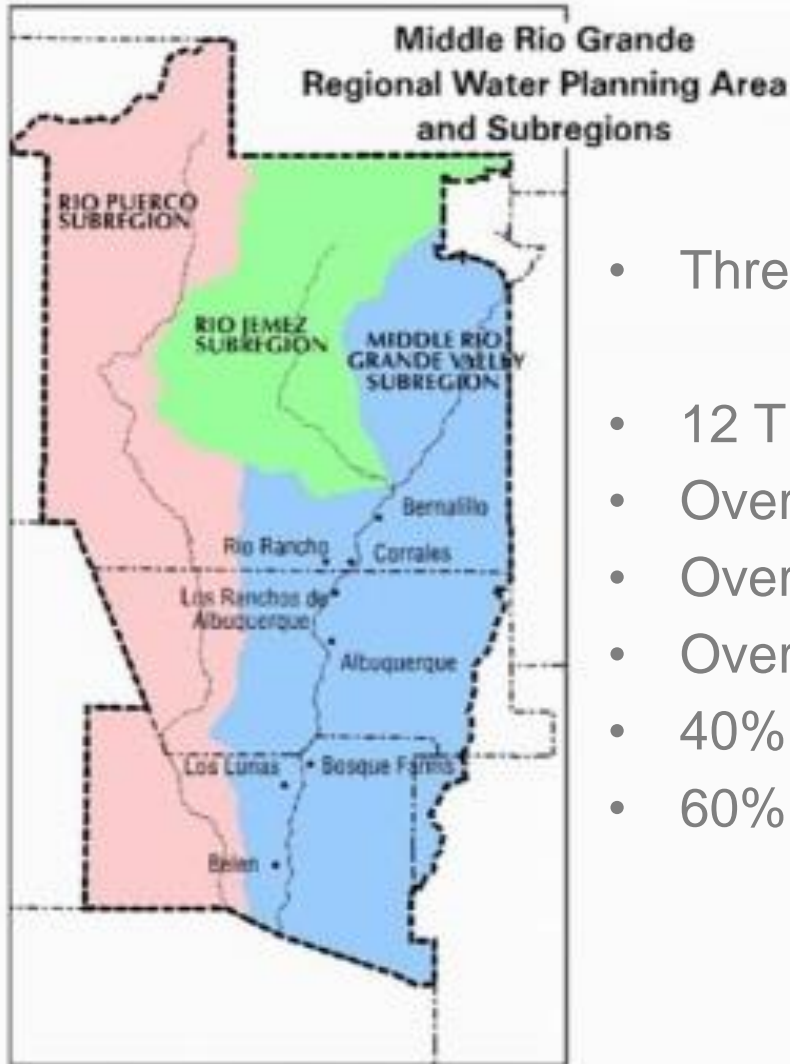
To turn lemons into lemonade

# What Is the Water Assembly?

- Since 1997, Diverse, All Volunteer, Non Profit, 501(c)3
- Led MRG Regional Water Planning in partnership with MRGCOG Water Resources Board
- Annual Assembly Convocations - During and Since
- Six Advocacy Groups
  - Agricultural Business and Production Advocates
  - Cultural and Historic Water Use Advocates
  - Environmental Preservation and Improvement Advocates
  - Industrial, Institutional and Business Advocates
  - Residential Water Use Advocates
  - Technical Specialty Advocates

**Dedicated to open, inclusive water planning**

# Selected Regional Attributes – all numbers approximate



- Three Counties; Three Watersheds  
Three Subregions
- 12 Tribes
- Over 20 Local Government Entities
- Over 130 Public Water Supply Providers
- Over 30 Acequias
- 40% of the State's Population,
- 60% Component of the State's Economy

**A complex, diverse region**

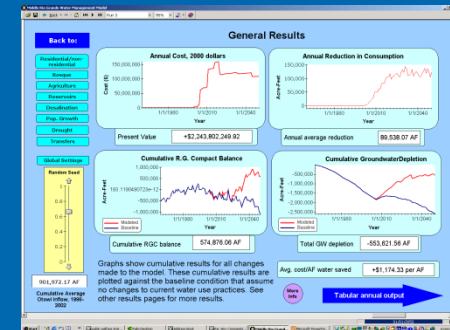
# Existing Regional Water Plan - 2004

- Coordinated by the Water Assembly and the Water Resources Board
- Seven Year Open and Inclusive Process
- More than 100 Public Meetings throughout Region
- About 100 Briefings to Agencies, Groups, Governing Bodies
- About 500 Water Assembly Meetings
- About 60 Water Resources Board Meetings
- Over 30,000 Water Assembly Volunteer Person-Hours
- \$1.2 Million in State, Local Government and Private Funds
- Extensive Analysis Studies and Computer Modeling
- 2004 Acceptance by All 20 Local Governments and ISC

**An extensive, publicly developed product**

# Key Plan Contents

- Water Budget – Factual Basis for Planning
  - Actual Performance, Not Future Projections
  - Water Incomes – From Where?
  - Water Outgoes – To Where?
  - Difference – Net Inflows/Outgoes
- Regional Water Modeling
  - Explore Future Implications of Possible Actions
- 43 Recommendations in 9 Categories
- Statement of Public Welfare for the Region
- List of Resultant Infrastructure Needs



Key features that need update

At this Point, Hand Out  
And Discuss  
the List of RWP Recommendations

Include Public Welfare Statement  
on handout

# List of Unresolved Issues (1 of 2)

## Primarily Local Issues

- Inter-Jurisdictional Coordination of Actions (intra- and multi-level)
- Public/Political Support for Making Difficult Choices/Decisions
- Economic and Wet Water Impacts from Water Rights Transfers
- Export/import to/from Other Regions
- Shortage of Local Resources to Implement Needed Actions

**Copied from presentation to ISC, August 2004**

# List of Unresolved Issues (2 of 2)

## Primarily State and/or Federal Issues

- Means to Resolve Impending Rio Grande Compact Shortfall
- ESA Requirements (e.g., silvery minnow, willow flycatcher)
- Ambiguity of Native and Non-Native Americans' Water Rights
- Lack of Completed Adjudications
- Fundamental Policies such as Domestic Wells, Use It/Lose It
- Appropriate Methods/Constraints for Transferring Water Rights
- Authorization for Albuquerque Drinking Water Project
- Funding Mechanisms for Local Plans and Projects

# What's Changed? Why Update?

- Urban Use of Surface Water (ABCWUA / DWP)
- MRGCD Water Diversion Upgrades
- Improved User Conservation – Agricultural and Urban
- Population Changes – Quantity and Distribution
- Legal Decisions and Statutory Changes
- Improved Hydrological and Climate Knowledge
- Experience with Periodic NM Drought and Climate Change
- Impending and Approved Development Projects
- Known Shortfalls in 2004 Plan; e.g., implementation
- Stationarity Assumptions Flawed; Plan for Extremes

**Ten drivers for the update**

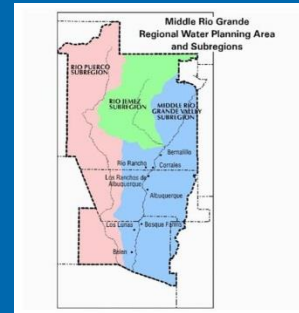
# Objectives for RWP Update

- Manage Water to Maintain Our New Mexican Values
- Sustainable Water Supply for the Region -  
At Reasonable Price, Very Long Term
- Identify and Account for Infrastructure, Behavioral,  
Informational and Attitudinal Changes Since 2004
- Deal with Known, Unaddressed Items in 2004 RWP
- Address and Adapt to Climate Change Impacts
- Guide Managers and Others to Cooperate and  
Coordinate Land Use and Water Plans and Actions

**A serious challenge**

# Approach to RWP Update

- Use Best Data Available -  
Augment the Draft Updated Water Budget
- Update RWP Modeling Projections
- Develop Progress Metrics
- Review, Update and Quantify Recommendations
- Consider Rio Puerco / Rio Jemez Subregions
- Follow Open, Inclusive, Transparent Decision Process
- Seek Extensive Public Dialogue and Input from the Start



**Should not over-simplify**

# Our Desired Products from RWP Update

- Water Budget Based on Current Data
- Planning for Extremes (beyond averages)
- Increased Levels of Public Awareness and Political Will
- Intra- and Inter-Regional Coordination Mechanisms
- Revised Set of Recommendations
- Strengthened Statement of Public Welfare
- Identification of Resultant Infrastructure Needs
- Guidance by and for Local Governments
- Plan Implemented ... and Progress Measured

**An investment, not an expense**

# As We See The Challenge:

For Each Person, For Each Entity, For Each Level

- Think Cooperatively
- Think Broadly
- Think Wet Water
- Beyond Boundaries of Jurisdiction
- Beyond Duration of Term of Office
- Beyond One's Own Special Interests
- Beyond Our Current Generation

**Plan for effective actions !**

**For our grandchildren, and for their grandchildren**

CROCK

RUMBLE,,

AT LAST... THE RAINY SEASON, JUST AS I PREDICTED!



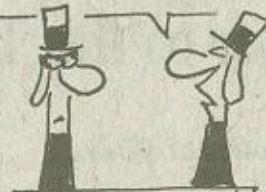
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PUNK



SHOULD WE BREAK OUT THE BLUEPRINTS FOR THE ARK?



Calvin

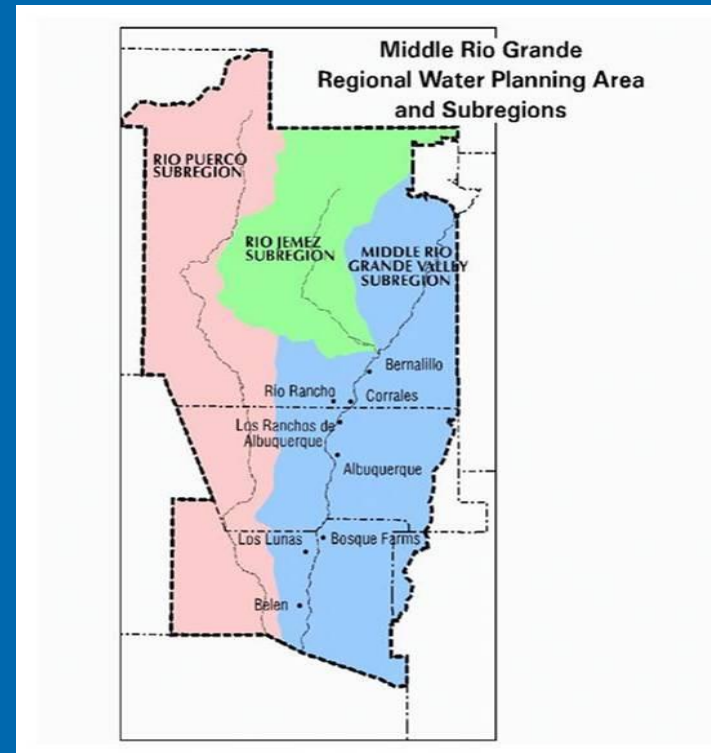
# Thank You !

*Questions?*

*Comments?*

Bob Wessely  
(505) 454-0555  
Wessely@SciSo.com

March 3, 2015



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(505) 454-0555

**Water Assembly**



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el agua nos une**

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