CONSERVATION Current

THIS ISSUE

What's on the docket for the coming months? Click here for the latest list of water conservation events.

The NMWCA is still updating its database of water conservation professionals.

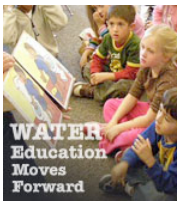
Stay connected and communicate the latest in water conservation information. Register today!

If you are already registered, please take a minute to check your entry and bring it up to date. You can find the database at wrri.nmsu.edu/wrdis/nmwca/database.html.

Thank you!

The City of Santa Fe Buckman Direct Diversion (BDD) Project is designed to ensure the region has a reliable, sustainable drinking water supply now and in the future. Read more about this project and the proposed rate increases to support it.

Read more....



ABCWUA offers free presentations about water conservation and water quality, which are now aligned with State Standards for grades 1–12.

Read more....

This year's conference brought together water conservationists from around the U.S. and world. Read what some New Mexico attendees had to say about the three-day event.

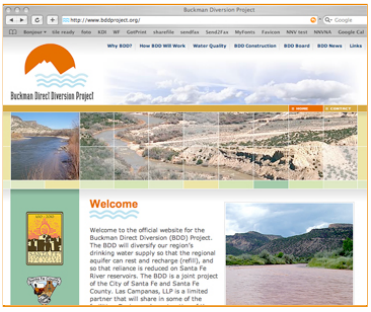
Read more ...

The Alliance for Water Efficiency has announced the formal launch of a comprehensive web-based Water Efficiency Resource Library.

Read more ...

The Bureau of Reclamation mascot, Otto the Otter helps Lynn Kronowit (OMI, Rio Rancho) and the Water Wizard (Ruben Archuletta, City of Rio Rancho) at the Children's Water Festival.

Planning for a Sustainable Future: The Buckman Direct Diversion Project



Buckman Direct Diversion (BDD) Project is a critical component of Santa Fe's efforts to conserve water and plan for a sustainable water future.

The Santa Fe community has worked hard to conserve water and plan for a sustainable water future. We all know water is necessary to meet the residential and business needs and sustain our quality of life. One of the most critical components of Santa Fe's safe and sustainable water system is the Buckman Direct Diversion (BDD) Project, designed to ensure the region has a reliable, sustainable drinking water supply now and into the future. Critical to this project is the word "now."

The City of Santa Fe's Sangre de Cristo Water Division has recommended the Santa Fe City Council adopt a new ordinance that would increase water rates by 9.5 percent each year for five years. The increases would be as follows:

- **Residential water bill** would increase from $31.51 in 2008 to $34.50 in 2009; $37.78 in 2010; $41.37 in 2011, etc.
- **Commercial users** that average a current monthly water bill of $1,030 would see an increase to $1,128 in 2009; $1,235 in 2010; $1,352 in 2011 and so on.

Why five years?

First of all, the increases are necessary in large part to pay for the city's share of the BDD construction costs for the initial years. The yearly increases after 2009 will be used to pay for improvements to Santa Fe's existing infrastructure, including upgrades to the Canyon Road Water Treatment Plant and reservoirs, rehabilitation of existing wells, equipment replacement and additions, and overall system improvements. Spreading these increases over five years will allow better planning and help avoid large, single-year corrections to the rates. Once approved by the City Council, this ordinance and the new rates will take effect on March 1, 2009 and on January 1 every year thereafter for the remaining four years.

Why now?

The City of Santa Fe needs the rate increase now to help pay for construction of the BDD. This project is crucial to supplement current water sources, i.e., the regional groundwater wells and reservoirs on the Santa Fe River. The city is pumping too much water from regional groundwater wells, potentially damaging the underground aquifer. Meanwhile, the Santa Fe River reservoirs supply less than half of the drinking water needed in the best of years. During some dry years, such as 2002, the reservoirs provided very little water, which has caused the city to enact emergency water use measures. The BDD will allow the aquifer to rest and supplement the water supply from the Santa Fe River Reservoirs. It will also ensure the community has a reliable supply of drinking water, regardless of weather conditions.

For more information about the proposed water rate increases, contact Gary Martinez at (505) 955-4201 or (505) 780-0700 or gpmartinez@santafenm.gov.

Draft 10-Year Financial Plan Proposed Presentation/Hearing Schedule

- **Monday, October 27, 2008**
  5:15 pm Public Works Committee
  Item for approval at City Hall
  City Council Chambers
- **Monday, November 3, 2008**
  5:15 pm - Finance Committee
  Item for approval & Public Hearing
  at City Hall - City Council Chambers
- **Wednesday, November 5, 2008**
  5:15 pm - Public Utilities Committee
  Item for approval & Public Hearing
  at City Hall - City Council Chambers
- **Wednesday, November 12, 2008**
  5:15 pm - City Council Request to Publish
  at City Hall - City Council Chambers
- **Wednesday, December 10, 2008**
  5:15 pm - City Council Public Hearing/Item approval
  at City Hall - City Council Chambers

For additional information re the schedule, please contact Maya Martinez, Public Utilities Department at (505) 955-5731 or mfmartinez@ci.santa-fe.nm.us

[to top]

No Child Left Behind Won't Leave Water Education Behind

Free Classroom Water Presentations

Once again this year, Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority (ABCWUA) is offering free presentations about water conservation and water quality to teachers in grades 1–12. Each of these hands-on presentations

- is tailored to the grade level or class where the activity is presented,
- comes with extension activities for follow-up, and
- includes free water-related resources for teachers and students.

Could it get any better than that? Yes!

This year, classroom teachers will receive a list of the New Mexico Content Standards and Benchmarks (NMSB) that were covered during the classroom activity, as well as a list of Standards and Benchmarks for the workbooks left behind. That is important for three reasons.

#1: No Classroom Time for "Interesting" Activities
First, with the passage of the No Child Left Behind Act, teachers are now responsible for making sure they cover all the important academic concepts written into the NMSB, which leaves less time for topics that are not part of these standards/benchmarks.

North Star Elementary

Kindergarten students look for clues in the pictures to determine who is the water saver and who is the water waster.

Unfortunately, the topics of water conservation and water protection are not specifically written into the Standards and Benchmarks, which is why presenters have chosen activities that not only cover the required topics but also lead them directly into discussions of how to save local waters. By reassuring teachers their students will learn the material they need to know, presenters make the material more valuable as they teach about conservation.

#2: Water Education Tied to Grade Level Goals
Determining what was covered in the activities can be exceedingly time-consuming since the curriculum about water uses science, social studies, math, and language arts. Presenters save elementary teachers the

aggravation of looking through four sets of Standards and Benchmarks — one for each of these topics. (Each document is about 50 pages long.) In the same vein, they also save middle school and high school teachers a search through their own Standards and Benchmarks.

#3: Learning Continues After Presenters Leave
It is much more likely that teachers will spend classroom time on follow-up when the materials left behind have been tied to their classroom goals. Since presenters can only spend 45 minutes to an hour in a classroom, teachers who continue the water education ensure students learn the material at a much deeper level.

Public Academy for the Performing Arts


7th-graders at Public Academy for Performing Arts are given a career and they build a water web based upon how they use water and what services they provide to our city. The jugs of water are 70% full (representing the river) and 30% full (representing the aquifer).

But that's not all. In November ABCWUA presenters will be offering two presentations in Spanish to elementary students, which are also tied to the appropriate Standards and Benchmarks.

ABCWUA expects to increase the number of presentations from 400 to at least 600 this year. Explore the website to see a list of the presentations for each grade and their respective Standards and Benchmarks.

Teachers can also find the Standards and Benchmarks for *Rio*, *The Water Detective* and *Discover the Waters of New Mexico* on the website for the New Mexico Office of the State Engineer, http://www.ose.state.nm.us/water-info/conservation/h2o-outreach.html.

to top]

NMWCA Members Attend 2008 WaterSmart Innovations Conference and Expo

The first ever WaterSmart Innovations Conference and Expo was held this year in Las Vegas, Nevada from October 8-10. Considered a success, this conference brought together attendees from all over the region, many from the New Mexico Water Conversation Alliance. This conference is one of the most effective avenues for water conservationists in the U.S. and the world to come together to discuss water efficiency practices and policies with their colleagues and peers.

Below are highlights from the conference in the words of a few NMWCA members.

Dan Ransom said "I feel the best part of any conference is the exhibitors. Is it a gimmick or is there a real potential for water savings? Talking with the manufacturers, sales staff, and even inventors is one of the best ways to gain information about conservation technology. I am able to ask specific questions to better determine the practical use of a technology and determine if it is proven to save water. The Expo offered a very good representation of technologies from toilets to sprinklers. By the way, I did pass up on the red light green light shower head; however, I think they could improve it by only allowing cold water after ten minutes.

The conference offered many tracts and subjects, although I think there was too much emphasis on ET controllers. In the future, I would like to see more training sessions and workshops, but overall, I would recommend next year's conference to anyone interested in water conservation. Nowhere else will you find a conference this devoted to water conservation!"

Daniel Ransom, CID, CIC, CGIA, CAIS
Water Conservation Manager
Sangre de Cristo Water

Cheri Vogel lists her opinion of the best resources from the conference:

- **The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California** has launched an on-line training program, "California Friendly Landscape and Gardening Classes" at http://www.bewaterwise.com/training01.html#online. The classes are aimed at the homeowner, the professional and the Spanish-speaking professional. Each class is easy to use, easy to understand and comes with varying degrees of interaction. The more professional, detailed classes require a little more interaction, but they all provide good information no matter what state you live in.
- **EPA WaterSense** presented their model of a WaterSense Home. You can find their draft specifications at http://www.epa.gov/watersense/specs/index.htm and all the comments made on the draft specifications at http://www.epa.gov/watersense/news/index.htm#home_comment.
- **Seattle Public Utilities** published the 2006 Residential Water Conservation Benchmarking Survey and Attribute/ Consumption Analysis, http://savingwater.org/docs/2006Regional%20Survey.pdf. Among other findings, the survey pointed to awareness (aka

education) as a key to increased action and reduction of water use.
Check out Section 6 of the Survey for more information.

Cheri Vogel
Water Conservation Coordinator
NM Office of the State Engineer

Darell Rogers found Mary Ann Dickinson's presentation had "wild" ideas and thoughts for EPA WaterSense 2020. Mary Ann is from the organization Alliance for Water Efficiency . Some of her ideas are:

1. Install a beacon that changes color based on how you are meeting your water budget. This would require an active meter reading and tracking system.
2. Test and certify landscapers and demonstrate actual results of landscape savings by tracking actual use over a period of time.
3. Establish and train gray water and rainwater experts.
4. Test and certify green plumbers and demonstrate actual results.
5. Require water utilities to meet low water loss standards.
6. Establish WaterSense hotels that benchmark water use per guest at 40 gpcd and use no potable water for landscaping.
7. Benchmark auto manufacturers on water use
   • that meet zero water waste,
   • have a carbon neutral footprint, and
   • that recycle all cooling tower water.

Gary Klein also gave an exciting presentation on water heating and hot water distribution. He said as the water rate (gpm) for fixtures is reduced, the wait time is longer for hot water if you don't properly design your hot water distribution system. The challenge is to deliver hot water to every fixture in the house wasting no more energy than we currently waste and wasting no more than one cup as we wait for hot water to arrive at the faucet. He pointed out that if you don't want to wait more than three seconds, you can only store 1/10 of a gallon in the pipe. In order to design an energy and water efficient system, you need to follow what Gary refers to as "structured plumbing guidelines," which requires a distribution system located within one cup of every hot water fixture. The recommended design procedures are:

1. Determine how much water to waste at each fixture. Minimize the waste and wait at sinks and showers.
2. Install pipe that contains less than half that volume between the fixture and the hot water loop.
3. Insulate the loop and the branches.
4. Select one of the Structured Plumbing designs.
5. Design and build to code.
6. Verify that "as-built" performs "as designed."

Gary's presentation can be found at http://www1.eere.energy.gov/solar/pdfs/sda_saving_water.pdf.

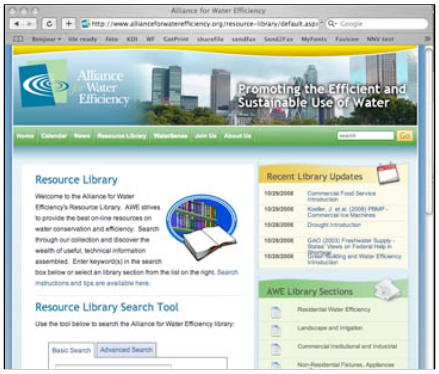
Darell Rogers
Operation Lead for Sandia Infrastructure
Sandia National Lab

Ruben Archuleta said "the best part of the conference for me was making contacts with other cities and talking about the way they run their water conservation programs. The programs were somewhat helpful, and I learned at least one new thing from the class presentations. The location was good."

Ruben Archuleta
City of Rio Rancho
Water Conservation Tech

[to top]

AWE and U.S. EPA Announce Major Information Web Site on Water Efficiency with a Resource Library



The Resource Library is intended as a one-stop shop for water efficient product and program information.

CHICAGO – October 6, 2008 The Alliance for Water Efficiency (AWE), a national non-profit organization that promotes the efficient and sustainable use of water, has announced the formal launch of a comprehensive web-based Water Efficiency Resource Library, in cooperation with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, who is a major partner and funder of the program. The Resource Library is located at www.allianceforwaterefficiency.org. The announcement was made in conjunction with the WaterSmart Innovations Conference in Las Vegas, October 8-10.

"Water is America's greatest liquid asset, and citizen awareness is the most powerful tool to protect it," said EPA Assistant Administrator for Water Benjamin H. Grumbles. "EPA commends the Alliance for Water Efficiency for increasing public understanding, spreading the ethic of efficiency, and building partnerships to sustain the water planet." The Resource Library has been under construction for nearly two years. "We were very pleased that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency provided funding and support to assist us with this important project," said Carole Baker, Chair of the Alliance for Water Efficiency Board. "The nation needs the kind of detailed information that the Resource Library will provide to help address increasing water shortages, while saving the utilities and consumers money at the same time."

The Resource Library is intended as a one-stop shop for water efficient product and program information. Library sections cover residential plumbing and appliances, toilet testing, landscape and irrigation, commercial and industrial water conservation, water rates and rate structures, water loss control, codes and standards, drought

planning, and numerous other topics. Research reports, published documents, and case studies are included, providing a comprehensive picture of what water efficiency measures prove to be the most successful, and how water utilities and consumers can best achieve water efficient use. Upcoming features being added to the site are state by state summaries and an on-line discussion forum.

“We are thrilled to finally have such a nationwide resource on water efficiency and sustainable water use,” said Mary Ann Dickinson, Executive Director of the Alliance for Water Efficiency. “We view the Resource Library to be a very significant step toward promoting greater water-efficiency, which will help water utilities reduce the costs of needed infrastructure and help avoid the need for new and more expensive water supply options.”

The Alliance for Water Efficiency is a new non-profit organization created in 2006 and devoted to promoting water efficiency programs in the United States. Funding and support to build the Resource Library web site were provided by the membership of the Alliance for Water Efficiency as well as the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Information will continue to be added to update the web site on a daily basis.

www.allianceforwaterefficiency.org
http://www.epa.gov/watersense

For more information:
Contact: Mary Ann Dickinson, Executive Director / maryann@a4we.org; Phone: 866-730-A4WE
Contact: Enesta Jones, EPA Press Office / jones.enesta@epa.gov; Office phone: 202-564-4355

Article reprinted courtesy of AWE.

[to top]

A Newsletter Published by the New Mexico Water Conservation Alliance