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Governor Martinez Addresses 22nd Annual Municipal Day



More than 250 municipal officials attended the League's 22nd Annual Municipal Day in Santa Fe on February 23 and heard Governor Susana Martinez tell the officials that educating New Mexico's children was one of her main legislative priorities. In order to achieve that goal, she was adamant about financing part of that effort with a reduction in the state's 25 percent film tax credit and to redirect money from education administration to the classroom.

State Senator Howie Morales of Silver City also addressed the meeting prior to the Governor's appearance with a motivational speech and slide presentation.

League Executive Director William Fulginiti gave the meeting a legislative review and summary of what League staff was trying to accomplish during the session. He stressed that retention of municipal revenue sources was the League's major legislative priority this year, and explained several bills that have been introduced that could potentially jeopardize those revenue sources. The main threat was the possibility of losing municipalities' and counties' hold harmless tax

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Plan to Protect Drinking Water: Why Are Source Water Protection Plans Important?

By Sandra Fallon, National Environmental Services Center

This is the second of a two-part article that provides a brief overview of water pollution and water use problems in the U.S., discusses how we currently go about managing these problems, and poses some considerations for moving ahead.

Water Quality and Water Use Challenges

To be safe, public drinking water systems, which are regulated by another federal law, the Safe Drinking Water Act, are required to treat the water they draw from local water sources. The drinking water they produce for public consumption must not include contaminant levels higher than what the law allows, and public water systems in the U.S. have been very successful in protecting public health and providing safe water to drink.

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League Schedules 2011 District Meetings Statewide

The New Mexico Municipal League has scheduled its 2011 District Meetings to begin on March 31 and finish on April 14.

The main purpose of the meetings is to report to members on the 2011 Legislative Session and new laws affecting municipalities. The agenda also includes a report on the New Mexico Self Insurers' Fund and election of League District Directors. Elections in odd-numbered districts will be conducted at the meetings for Directors for two-year terms. Registration fee is \$30 for the meetings and includes a luncheon.

The following are the dates and locations for the meetings:

DATE	DISTRICT	LOCATION
March 31	#2	Española Mission Museum 101 Calle De Las Españolas (505) 747-8535
April 1	#8	Belen Holiday Inn Express 2110 Camino Del Llano (505) 861-5000
April 4	#4	Portales Memorial Building 200 E. 7th Street (575) 356- 8449

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April 5	#5	Carlsbad Pecos River Village Conference Center 302 Canal (575) 887-6516
April 6	#6	Alamogordo Peppers Grill Restaurant 3200 N. White Sands Blvd. (575) 437-9717
April 7	#7	Mesilla Double Eagle Restaurant 308 Calle De Guadalupe (575) 523-6700
April 11	#3	Clayton Civic Center 124 N. Front Street (575) 374-8331
April 14	#1	Farmington Civic Center 800 Municipal Drive (505) 599-1151

For more information and to register on-line, go to www.nmml.org.



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Editor William F. Fulginiti
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Municipal Day . . . continued from page 1

distribution on receipts of food and certain medical services. He said League staff would closely watch those bills that had the possibility of damaging municipal revenue sources.

Fulginiti also reviewed other League priorities, including adding a municipal judge to the Judicial Standards Commission. Two pieces of legislation are required to accomplish that goal: a Constitutional Amendment and enabling legislation. Both pieces of legislation were introduced in the House by House Majority Leader Ken Martinez.

Fulginiti also reviewed other bills that were introduced that address other League priorities, including revision of PERA return to work provisions, applying the E-911 surcharge on Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) and pre-paid wireless telecommunications services. He also briefly reviewed a few bills that deal with the formulation of agendas for public bodies and the broadcasting of local public meetings. He said that even though legislators did not introduce as many bills as in previous 60-day sessions, there were still a large number of issues being addressed this year and staff would continue to be diligent in monitoring the legislation.

Sierra Blanca Regional Airport Manager Justin King Elected President of Municipal Airport Managers' Group

Justin King, Airport Manager of Sierra Blanca Regional Airport, in Ruidoso, was recently elected President of the New Mexico Airport Managers' Association.

King was born and raised in New Mexico, attended the University of Wyoming and earned a B.S. degree in Architectural/Mechanical Engineering in 2001. He has worked all over the Western United States as an Engineering Consultant prior to attending flight training with Mesa Airlines Pilot Development in Farmington, New Mexico. He earned his private, commercial, instrument and multi-engine certificates from MAPD. He also worked as a project engineer with the Wyoming Department of Transportation. He was recruited in 2008 by the Village of Ruidoso as a project manager and in 2009 he became manager of the airport.

The other officers include Vice President, Mark Fratrack, Taos Airport Manager and Board Members Jennifer Brady, Roswell Airport Manager, Jim Montman, Santa Fe Airport Manager; and Steve Summers, Clovis Airport Manager. These individuals will assume their respective offices in April.

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Scenes from the 22nd Annual Municipal Day





Rural Business Enterprise Grant Program Seeks Applications for Business Enterprises

USDA Rural Development in New Mexico is accepting applications for the Rural Business Enterprise Grant (RBEG) program. The RBEG program is available to public bodies, nonprofits, and Indian tribes to facilitate and finance the development of small and emerging private business enterprises in rural areas. "Rural" is applicable to those communities up to 50,000 in population.

Grant funds may be used to finance and facilitate the development of small, private, business enterprises which includes any private business which will employ 50 or fewer new employees and has less than \$1 million in projected gross revenues. Grant funds can also be used by making a loan to the business as a revolving loan fund. The RBEG funds can also be used to pay for technical assistance, or purchasing real or personal property to be leased to the business. Technical assistance could provide money for such things as feasibility studies, business plans, business development training, or workshops.

Applications are selected for funding based on an established competitive scoring process. Priority will be given to application requests in the amount of \$50,000 or less. Applications will be accepted until the close of business, Friday, April 1, 2010. More information on the RBEG program can be obtained from the Rural Development State Office in Albuquerque at (505) 761-4953.



An advertisement for webinars. On the left, a vertical black bar contains the text "eCode360®" and "Webinars" in white. To the right, a laptop is shown on a keyboard. Text reads: "Visit us online or call to sign up for our FREE webinars", "Greater Access to Your Code", "powered by eCode360®", "GENERAL CODE", "800-836-8834", and "www.generalcode.com".

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Drinking Water . . . continued from page 1

But given the fact that federal and state regulations allow certain levels of pollution to enter our water sources in the first place, local leaders and drinking water system personnel may ask “Are our current water protection strategies adequate?” Or, “What costs are imposed on the drinking water utility and the community to treat the water and remove contaminants?”

The issues surrounding current water use and water pollution practices are complex, but in the end, there are important questions at stake. Is it best to prevent or seek to control water pollution? Who has the right to pollute? Who is responsible for cleaning it up? To what extent do citizens have the right to a reliable supply of clean and safe water? At what point do economic, agricultural, or private property interests infringe on public health or water availability? What is the appropriate balance for protecting everyone’s rights? And finally, where do local governments and their public drinking water systems stand and what options are available at the local level?

Source Water Protection Planning Can Help

Source water protection planning involves a series of steps that can help a community, group of communities, or everyone in a watershed work toward preventing or limiting threats to the water sources. A watershed is an area of land that drains into a river, river system, or other body of water such as a lake. Watersheds and the water flowing through them may cross many boundaries such as city, county, state, and even national borders. Planning on a watershed level, rather than for a single community or body of water, has the potential to be more effective in protecting waterways. It’s not surprising that the most successful source water protection planning requires the combined efforts of many partners, such as local leaders; economic, energy, and agricultural interests; public and private water systems; resource managers; citizen groups; and the public. Local watershed organizations may already be working on source water protection and may have a lot of information available.

Initial planning steps include identifying the watershed or source water protection area; identifying contamination or threats to water availability; and evaluating how susceptible the water sources are to these threats. State drinking water agencies have already identified some of this information for every public drinking water system in their state. It is available in a document called a source water assessment. This assessment may need to be updated and developed in more detail, but it can be a good starting place.

The next steps include developing action plans detailing what will be done, when, and by whom; determining management measures to prevent, reduce, or eliminate threats (measures can include zoning, developing local ordinances, purchasing land near the water source, and public education); and identifying alternative sources of water in case of emergencies. There are many resources available to help with watershed or source water protection planning, and you may want to consider working with an outside facilitator, such as a technical assistance provider from the Rural Community Assistance Partnership or your state drinking water agency.

Developing a source water or watershed protection plan is a voluntary activity that requires time, effort, resources, and local leadership. Important payoffs can include reduced costs for drinking water treatment, more reliable water supplies, and increased public health, quality of life, economic opportunities, and environmental protection. Ultimately, ensuring we have safe and clean water to drink is everyone’s responsibility. However, local decisions are critical for protecting water sources from pollution and overuse. Investigating the situation in your community, state, or watershed; bringing all parties to the table; discussing all perspectives; setting priorities; and enacting workable solutions at the local level may offer the best chance to prevent contamination and ensure safer and more sustainable water sources for the long term.

The Rural Community Assistance Partnership (RCAP) and the National Environmental Services Center (NESC) (www.rcap.org; 800-321-7227) and its programs across the country offer water and wastewater training and assistance to small and rural communities, tribes, and water utilities. NESC (www.nesc.wvu.edu; 800-624-8301) offers information, technical assistance via telephone, educational resources, and magazines and newsletters addressing water and wastewater issues for these same audiences.



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