

# Water Security Planning Act – Implementation Update

Andrew Erdmann

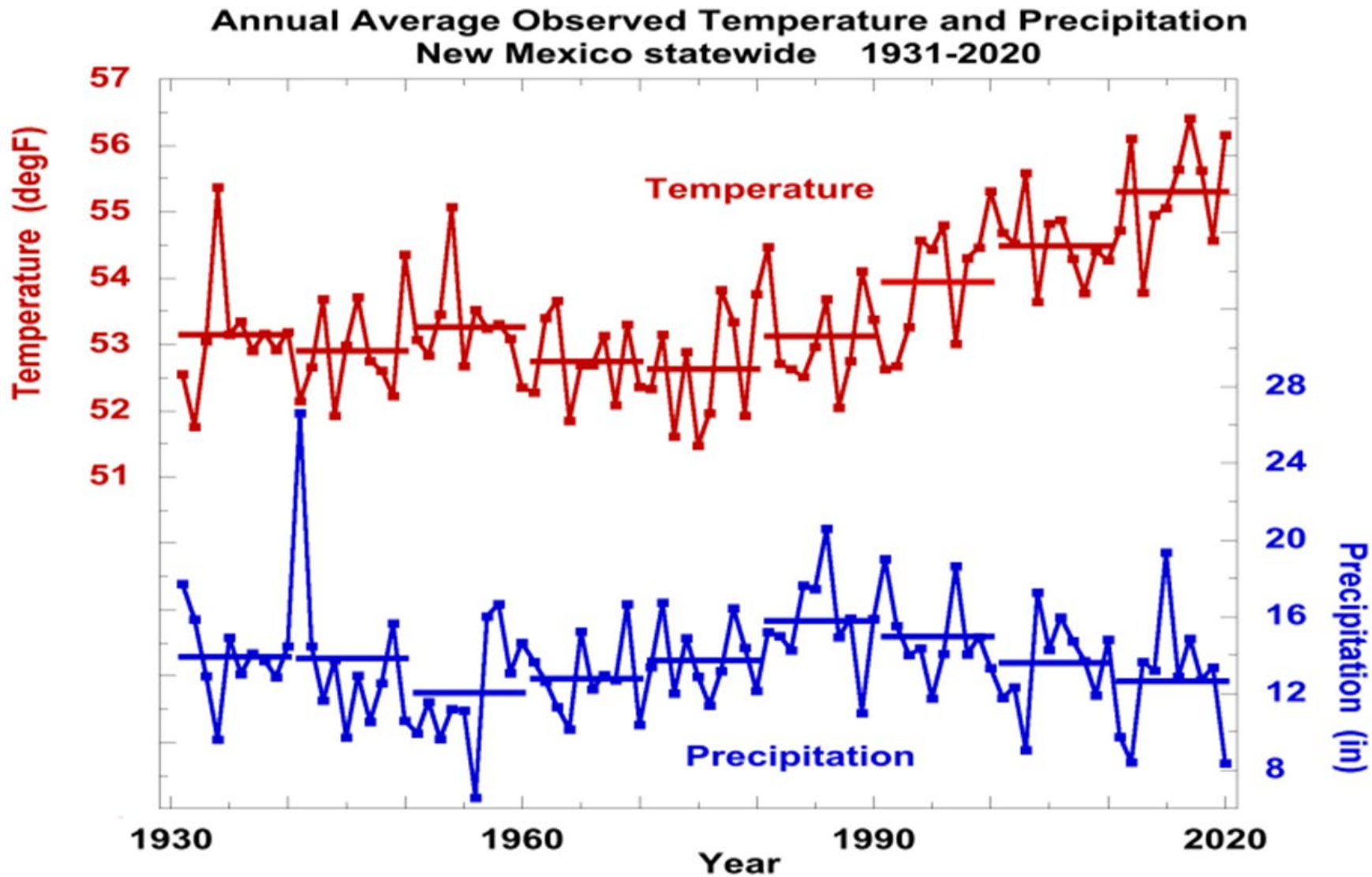
Bureau Chief– Water Planning  
2026 Water Leaders Workshop

April 22, 2026



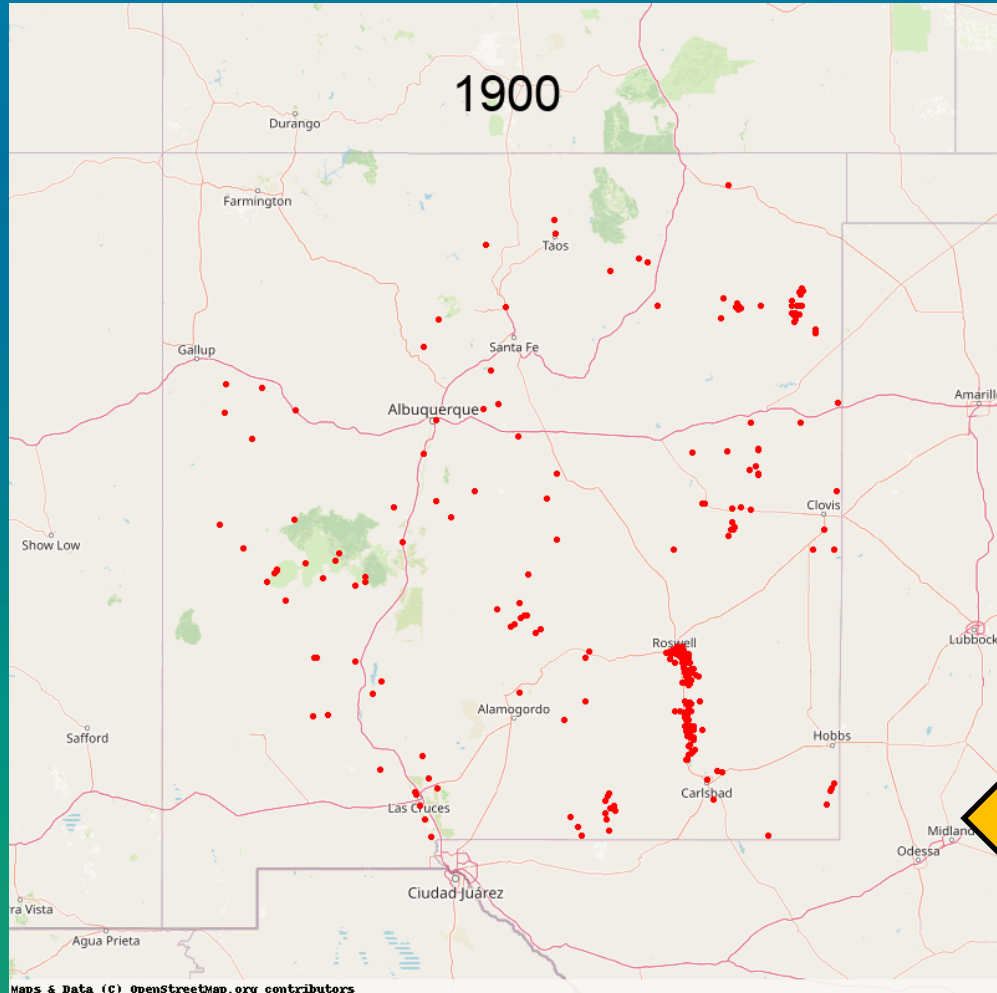
**MAIN  
STREAM  
NEW MEXICO**

# Following the Data = Drier/More Variable



- Average temperatures are projected to increase at least 5-7° F in the coming 50 years
- Precipitation levels are expected to remain highly variable
- Precipitation patterns and snowmelt are expected to change

# Groundwater Use In New Mexico



Groundwater use is a new demand in the past 100 years

- Many communities in NM are entirely reliant on groundwater
- Recharge rates, already very low, are likely to decrease by more than 25% with projected changes

**Thank You Water  
Data Act!**

# New Mexico needs to find a new Water Balance

Water Availability

Water Need



## WATER BALANCE



# Regional Water Planning: Water Security Planning Act

## Focus on local outcomes

- Regional Water Security Planning
  - Upcoming rulemaking hearing
  - Advisory committee
  - Set up of regional water planning councils

# Statewide Water Planning

## Focus on statewide outcomes

- State Water Plan - goal = more ongoing updates
- Surface or groundwater basins with critical issues - interstate compacts, or groundwater
- Development of tools and templates applicable for statewide planning efforts

# Regional Water Planning Vision

1

## *Support communities*

across New Mexico in preparing for and responding to water resources challenges - particularly related increasing water scarcity

2

## *Prioritize resources*

for implementation; track and report on progress

3

*Ensure meaningful outcomes on the ground*

# Regional Water Planning: Water Security Planning Act Implementation



Passage of the Act  
Public & Tribal Input  
Convene the Water  
Security Tribal  
Advisory Council  
(WSTAC)

Finalize Rules and  
Guidelines Based  
on Public and  
Tribal Input  
WSTAC Ongoing

Initiate Regional  
Planning in All  
Future Regions  
WSTAC Ongoing

Ongoing, Iterative,  
Regional Water  
Planning  
WSTAC Ongoing

# Water Security Tribal Advisory Council

## Tribal Advisory Council – 2024

ISC convened a committee comprised of tribal leaders or their designee and technical staff developed guidance to the ISC for the framework for WSTAC. Group continues to meet regularly and is coordinated by Laurie Weahkee on behalf of ISC.

## Ad Hoc Committee

Initial focus on providing input for proposed rules and guidelines, including consideration of tribal-specific content, determining ongoing role and process for council, and engaging in regional planning. Delivered written comments to the Interstate Stream Commission and engaged tribal leaders from 8 different Tribes and Pueblos to deliver comments to the October 15 public hearing.



# Water Security Planning Act Rulemaking Hearing

A public hearing was convened on October 15 at the Willie Ortiz Building in Santa Fe. The ISC staff presented technical testimony, and the public was afforded the opportunity to present written and verbal comments.

Following the hearing, the Commission will deliberate to adopt, adopt with amendments, or reject the proposed rule. Once finalized, NMISC will begin convening regional water security planning councils across the state. Please check the Mainstream NM website for updates.

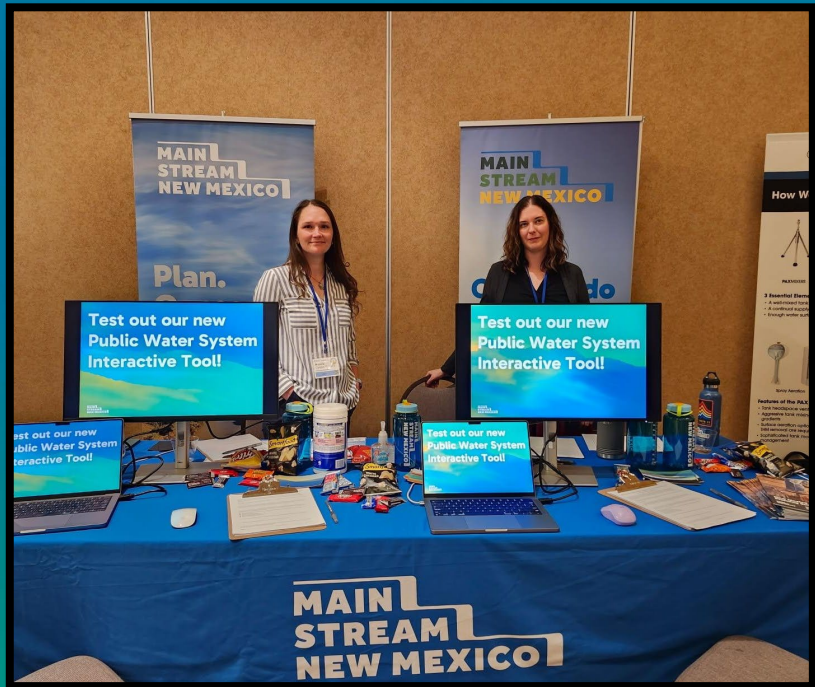
# WSPA Guidelines

After the adoption of the WSPA Rule, the Water Planning Bureau will present the WSPA Guidelines to the ISC Commission for adoption. The Guidelines will address the following at the minimum:

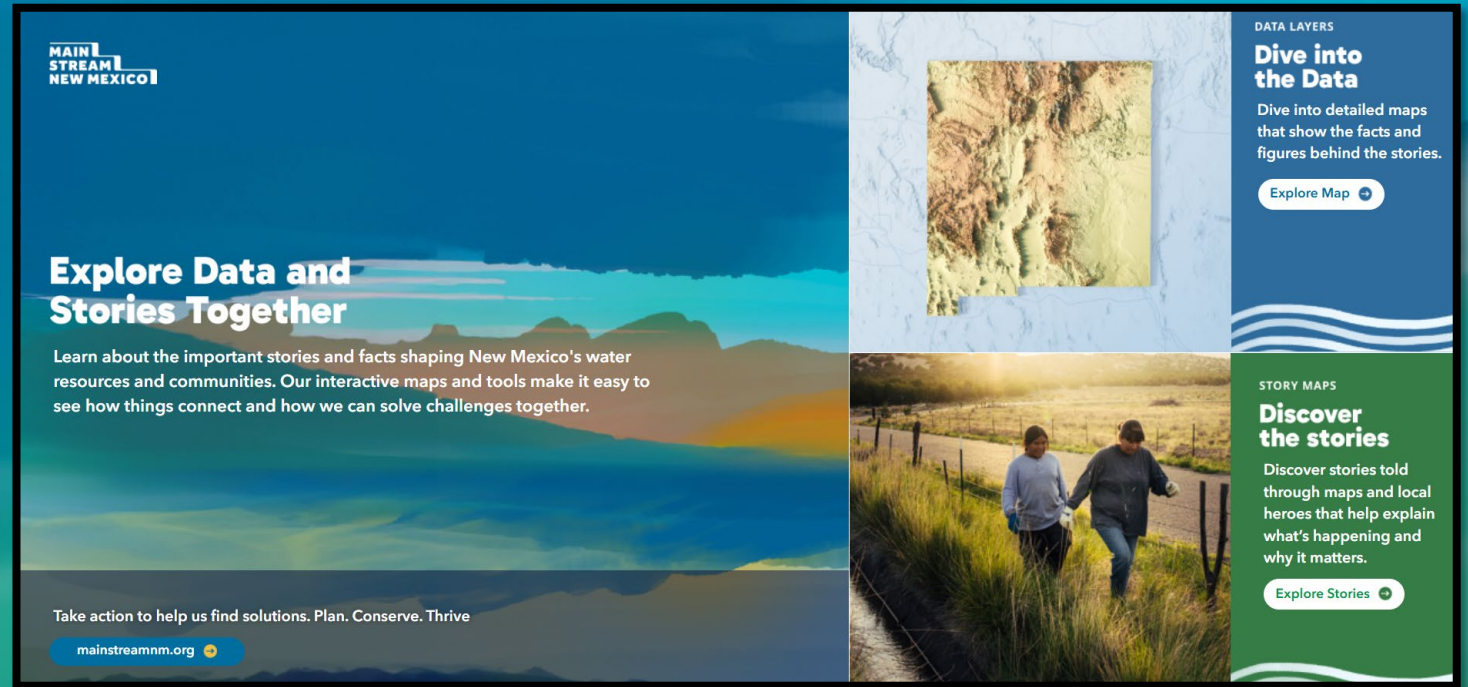
- Opportunities for Stakeholder Collaboration
- **Funding for Planning Activities**
- Process for State Agency Collaboration
- Metrics for Reporting on Regional Water Projects, Programs, and Policies and Water Security Plan Implementation
- Procedures to Support the Implementation of a Regional Water Security Plan
- Schedule for Implementation of Regional Water

Developing in coordination with NMDFA

# Tools & Templates



**Water TAP – a Public Water Decision Support Tool Available soon at Main Stream**



**New Mexico's Regional Water Planning Mapping Tool – available now at Main Stream**

# Tools & Templates Continued

## Atlas of Plans

Atlas of Plans A tool featuring an interactive map with filtering capabilities by geographic region, allowing users to locate and explore existing water-related plans relevant to their area. Atlas of Plans will allow access to plans developed by multiple entities to support compliance with the WSPA requirement that planners “must consider all other plans within the planning region

## Drought Toolkit

A Drought Toolkit that includes policy guidance templates for small, local systems, as well as recommended actions and proposed messaging for each drought stage. This standardized, easy-to implement approach will enable rapid deployment and accessibility for communities throughout the state.

# Introducing: NM Water Technical Assistance Portal

## Planning tool to help water managers:

- Find funding
- Fix vulnerabilities
- Plan for more reliable water future




**New Mexico Water Technical Assistance Portal**

**Shaping a shared future.**  
New Mexico launched a collaborative 50-Year Water Action Plan that puts local communities first. Public water systems across the state can have a voice in shaping our water future.

**A Portal for Solutions.**  
This interactive tool is made to help New Mexico's public water systems make their water supply more resilient and better prepared for unexpected challenges.

**Resilience to new challenges.**  
Through floods and droughts, New Mexicans have always adapted. Now, as new challenges reshape our water future, it's time to act together. Small changes can secure our shared water future, because we are all connected by water.

[LAUNCH TOOL](#) [ABOUT THIS PLATFORM](#) [ABOUT WATER RESILIENCE](#)

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# Water Education - Statewide

## How Does Groundwater Work?

### Water Facts for New Mexicans



# Main Stream Magazine

Scan to Download



# Contact



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# Thank You!

