

57<sup>th</sup> Annual  
New Mexico Water Conference

NM WRI Report No. 361

# Hard Choices:

## Adapting Policy and Management to Water Scarcity

co-hosted by

Senator Tom Udall  
and

New Mexico State University President Barbara Couture

August 28, 2012  
NMSU Corbett Center Ballroom  
Las Cruces, New Mexico



**New Mexico  
Water Resources Research Institute**

# HARD CHOICES:

## Adapting Policy and Management to Water Scarcity

A record crowd of over 470 people registered for the conference and another 50 students attended sessions as their class schedule allowed. The conference was available via a live webcast and is archived for viewing at <http://2012.wrri.nmsu.edu/webcast>. The webcast is divided into sections for convenient viewing. Photos by Will Keener unless otherwise noted.



USDA Rural Development State Director Terry Brunner and Deputy Undersecretary for Rural Development Judy Canales presented plaques at the luncheon funding award ceremony to Brazito, La Union, and Lake Roberts projects.



Thirty posters were presented on a wide variety of water related research, many by students.



Current New Mexico State Engineer Scott Verhines confers with his predecessor, John D'Antonio.



The first panel focused on where and how much water we have in New Mexico. Panelists included (from left) Sam Fernald, Dagmar Llewellyn, Del Archuleta, Mike Darr, and Steve Vandiver.

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August 28, 2012, Corbett Center, New Mexico State University



Conference participants networked throughout the day.



Different perspectives on the state's water issues were voiced by panelists (from left), Paula Garcia, Richard Sayre, Denise Fort, and Larry Webb.



A highlight of the conference was the "Straight Talk" panel of experienced officials from the New Mexico Office of the State Engineer, moderated by Senator Udall. Seated next to Senator Udall are John Hernandez, Eluid Martinez, Tom Turney, and John D'Antonio.



NMSU professor and conference moderator Phil King took this photo of (from left) Herman Settemeyer (Texas Commission on Environmental Quality), Estevan Lopez (NM Interstate Stream Commission), Gary Esslinger (Elephant Butte Irrigation District), and Mike Gabaldon (Bureau of Reclamation). "It illustrates the power of the annual water conference. These gentlemen have been among the players in many past, current, and pending litigation actions, each against the others. The WRRRI meeting brings us all together and reminds us (fleeting, perhaps) that we have commonality and community, even in the depths of drought," said Dr. King.

## Co-sponsors:

- Los Alamos National Laboratory
- Elephant Butte Irrigation District
- Rio Grande Basin Initiative
- Hazel & Ulysses McElyea Endowment
- Sandia National Laboratories