

## Carlsbad Brine Well Remediation Authority Minutes

Special Meeting

January 15, 2020

10:30 am

1220 South St. Francis Drive, Porter Hall

Santa Fe, New Mexico

### Members present:

Sarah Cottrell Propst, Chair	Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department
Dennis McQuillan	New Mexico Environment Department
Tim Parker	New Mexico Department of Transportation
Robert Boatman	Carlsbad Irrigation District
Cholla Khoury	Attorney General's Office
Susan Crockett (via phone)	Eddy County Commission
John Heaton (via phone)	City of Carlsbad

### Item 1: Call to Order; Roll Call

Chair Cottrell Propst called the meeting to order at 10:35 am. Roll call was taken; a quorum was present.

### Item 2: Approval of Agenda

Dennis McQuillan moved adoption of the agenda, seconded by Cholla Khoury. Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

### Item 3: Minutes of the October 25, 2019 meeting

Dennis McQuillan moved adoption of the minutes, seconded by Tim Parker. Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

### Item 4: Status Report

Jim Griswold presented an update on the work going on at the site alongside Dan Kwiecinski, Project Manager at Wood PLC.

Summary of update presented:

- 100 days of accident-free work
- Site is stabilized on the southern portion where the void is not as extensive as previously thought
- Personnel on site are continuing to communicate with Carlsbad Fire and Police
- Gained more details about a large shallow cavity in northern portion of the site which has a volume three and a half times the initial estimate

- Wood is waiting for more results from the sonar survey of the northern cavity. Wood is shifting to sand where applicable and grout deployment will resume after sand operations are complete.

In response to a question from Dennis McQuillan about moving rigs on the site, Dan Kwiecinski explained that they have been having discussions with geophysics personnel about the behavior of the cavity and are confident they can maintain the necessary pressure in the cavity to get rigs in place safely. He said it's important to note there's been traffic over the cavity for 20 years so shutting down the road shouldn't be necessary.

John Heaton asked for clarification on the budget, with sand being a less expensive material. It was explained that while sand is cheaper, there is more material needed given the larger size of the cavity in the northern portion. Secretary Cottrell Propst added that the project updates have changed nothing about EMNRD's budget request.

John Heaton asked if we were able to sell the brine?

Dan Kwiecinski, with Wood, explained that it is being disposed of because they did not find an interested buyer.

John Heaton inquired about alternative funds to meet cash flow issues.

Secretary Cottrell Propst explained that the oil and gas reclamation fund does not have resources for this project but EMNRD is looking at multiple options including short term loans from different agencies. The Secretary emphasized that speaking with legislators who would be helpful to the project.

#### **Item 5: Other Business**

Secretary Cottrell Propst acknowledged there was no other business.

#### **Item 6: Public Comment**

No comments in the room.

#### **Item 7: Adjourn**

Dennis McQuillan moved to adjourn, seconded by Cholla Khoury. Motion passed unanimously by voice vote. Adjourned at 11:40 am.