

# Memorandum

To: File

From: D. Kidder

Date: 5/12/2026

Re: Summary of ARMP Public Input Meeting on 5/11/2026

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**Wilson Facilitators:** Peter Steele, Marlene Hoskie, Dalton Kidder

**Location:** Mexican Water Chapter House

**Number of Attendees:** 13

**Sign-In Sheet Attached.** Yes

**Key Themes from Attendees:**

- Attendee used to have 5 acres of cropland, one year the river got contaminated and they had to move.
- Attendee is trying to carry on tradition of raising sheep. Carrying on tradition is very important, but they need some help. Soil is depleted of nutrients, trying to rotate crops. "Came together as family and dug a well."
- "First issue I have is with horses all over. They're everywhere." Family has been farming for a long time. They would share what they produced. Strong family ties. Attendee feels there is a lot of uncertainty and not a lot of clarity. "We're back to stock reduction because of how the land is." There are also feral donkeys. Camelthorn is taking over by the river, as is Russian olive.
- "They (BIA?) reduced our livestock because of the drought." Windmill water got contaminated with uranium and arsenic. New cows being brought in are reducing quality of the land. Cows "don't belong to that family." Not sure what that means. Niece taking over operations. Horses are a big issue.
- **Mexican Water Grazing official:**  
Horses are a big issue. Asked for support but haven't got enough to do anything. Farming is difficult because they must haul water. Needs more support.
- Not sure how things are going to end up well while water is so limited. There is a lot of wind. Wonders if wind can be better used to obtain water.
- **Politician campaigning:**  
One idea is to get water to Navajo Cortez. Bring water up from the San Juan during the winter. The second important thing is to get the water to farmers. Farms are shrinking and dying out because of lack of water. First discussion needs to be water. A lot of red tape gets skipped when the people in power want to establish something. Which is very frustrating for community members.

- **Reagan Wytsalucy (Utah State Rural Water):**  
Chapters have some good direction; would love to see larger scale entities backing it up. Need better communication and support from Window Rock (tribal government). Lack of communication leads to a lot of double effort. Rural Water Utah is already involved in the community. She wants to make sure that the stuff we draft has the infrastructure to be implemented at the ground level. Consistent training and expectations are needed. Too much blame and division within the tribe. No one is committed to cleaning up contaminated water. Plan needs to include pipelines to secure funding. Top needs are water and cleanup of contamination. Promotion of science based agricultural practices helps people harness the resources they do have. There are a lot of untapped local resources. There seems to be a lot of redundancies. A lot of repeated effort, mostly from lack of communication. Information is hard to come by sometimes.
- Both BIA and Navajo Nation have limited staff and funding. Where will the resources come from to support this plan?
- **Reagan Wytsalucy:**  
Schools might be better places to hold meetings than Chapter houses because they will host meetings at night. Location specific information should still be incorporated in the ARMP if possible.
- Need money to do anything. Need to incorporate funding considerations.
- **Mexican Water CLUPC chair:**  
Wants help with native plant seeding/growing.
- Migrating sand dunes are causing issues, both with residences and agriculture and natural springs.
- **Mexican Water Chapter Vice President:**  
Community is not against feral horse round-up, just difficult to do. Officials give up after getting told 'no' once.
- **Mexican Water CLUPC chair:**  
Had horses rounded up from their corral. Not against feral horse round up, but against round up of permitted horses.
- "I think everyone's first problem is water." Need dams or something to hold water.
- **Mexican Water CLUPC chair:**  
Has been drinking water the Navajo EPA says was contaminated for 10 years.
- **Mexican Water Chapter Vice President:**  
Tried to get people to start their own gardens. Lacked funding to really implement it. "We have a lot of people who gatekeep a lot of knowledge." People say things are easy, but don't often walk through steps. Chapter has successfully applied for some federal grants. Half the community is in Utah, and the other half is in Arizona, which complicates funding sometimes.
- Need gatekeepers (grazing permits, etc.) to keep things in check.
- **Grazing official (in the parking lot, after meeting had concluded):**

"I was the one that rounded up (the CLUPC chair's) horses." They were not permitted for any horses. She felt "a little personally attacked" during our meeting. Also, every Mexican Water Chapter official except for this grazing official is family, and they often leave her out. She wasn't notified of today's meeting until it had already started.

**Key Messaging by Wilson staff:**

- The ARMP is to be the Nation's Plan.
- BIA will approve the ARMP, but it will be the Nation's Plan.
- Proposed Project Area is based on Nation's mapping and being part of the Nation.
- A draft ARMP will be made available for "your" review "to see if we got it right".
- Presentation will be sent to Chapter

**Observations:**

1. Most attendees knew each other well. They made note that the attendees at our meeting were essentially the same group that attended any given chapter meeting.
2. May need to host meetings at schools to allow more people to attend an evening meeting.

**Of-Interest:**

- Reagan Wytsalucy, Utah State University, Extension San Juan County.  
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