

# **BIG MESA MUTUAL DOMESTIC WATER ASSOCIATION**

## **2024 Board Candidate Questionnaire**

Candidate Name: Jeff Mechenbier

**Question 1.** How long have you been a member of the Association?

**I have been a member since 2016.**

**Question 2.** Board members bring experience, wisdom, and strategic thinking. Can you tell us about yours?

**I have over thirty-nine years of working experience in the electric utility power industry. I currently provide engineering consulting services for utility companies.**

**Question 3.** What assets (experience and character) will you bring to the Board?

**I have a strong management and technical background that allows me to be effective as a Board member at Big Mesa. I have been involved with the Big Mesa website and making updates as required. I possess excellent communication and interpersonal skills.**

**Question 4.** Why are you running for the Board?

**I have a vested interest to make sure Big Mesa operates in the best interest of all its customers and to comply with all regulatory requirements laws and employee safety. With my background knowledge, I can provide insight and direction to help Big Mesa with its long-term capital investments to make sure the water service is reliable and meets the needs for the future.**

**Question 5.** What, in your view, are the important issues facing the Association and the community of Conchas Dam?

**The Big Mesa water system and the staff are critical for everyone who lives in the community. Without a reliable water service system and the personnel to run the business office and operate it we do not have a community.**

**Big Mesa was able to secure funding for three capital projects (remotely-read digital water meters, direct pipeline from the filtration system facility to the storage tank, and a new filtration system/building) through grants and a low-interest loan. Big Mesa has completed the first two projects and in the process of bidding out the filtration system/building.**

**In addition, it's critical that we maintain our qualified staff for the water system and trash service. When you turn on your water at your house, there is a lot that goes on behind the scenes that is not recognized by the members.**

**Question 6.** What would you like to accomplish during your term?

**If elected, I will continue to be involved in the one remaining capital project listed above by providing guidance/insight. It's essential that we reinvest back into our water system at the same time keeping water rates at low cost to all the consumers. In addition, I have been actively involved in the analysis to justify Big Mesa investment to install solar panels to offset the electric operating costs of running the filter plant. I will continue to seek grants for this solar project to offset Big Mesa cost.**

**Question 7.** What would your expectations be for the time necessary for our Board?

**Based on my past participation on board activities and meetings, it's about 10 to 20 hours a month which includes training classes.**

**Question 8.** What do you feel could be perceived as a "conflict of interest" if you served as a Board member, and why would it NOT be an issue or a problem?

**I have no conflict of interest serving as Board member for Big Mesa.**

**Question 9.** As an active member of the Big Mesa MDWCA Board of Directors, will you be able to complete 12 hours of initial training, of which six (6) hours of training must be within the first year, and maintain 2 hours of continuing training during each year of term?

**I have completed the necessary training and when I can attend the yearly New Mexico Water Association conference.**

(

Big Mesa MDWCA

2024 Board Candidate Questionnaire

Dave Artery

Question #1 - I have been a member of the association for 25 years.

Question #2 - I have 35+ years of experience that includes small business ownership, project planning/execution, management and operation of large research facilities for a nationally recognized laboratory.

Question #3 - I have extensive experience in facility maintenance that compliments the various disciplines that are possessed by my fellow Board members.

Question #4 - I am running for the Board to continue a long time commitment of supporting our community, the water association members and employees.

Question #5 - The most important issue is the aging water treatment system and infrastructure. We have completed the remote read meter and dedicated water line projects with the new water treatment facility project out for bid at this time. An analysis of the infrastructure needs to be completed with a prioritized upgrade project list.

Question #6 - I would like to see the completion of the Water Treatment Facility and begin an investigation of upgrades/improvements to the aging infrastructure.

Question #7 - I am a full-time resident and can be available 24/7.

Question #8 - Do not percieve any conflict of interest issues.

Question #9 - Yes.