

MINUTES OF THE
SANTA FE COUNTY
WATER POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

February 10, 2022

Santa Fe, New Mexico

SFC CLERK RECORDED 07/21/2022

I. A. This regular meeting of the Santa Fe County Water Policy Advisory Committee (WPAC) was called to order by Chair Shann Stringer at approximately 5:00 p.m. on the above-cited date.

This meeting was conducted via WebEx.

B. A quorum was achieved with the following members present:

Members Present:

Shann Stringer, Chair
Carl Dickens
Mary Helen Follingstad
J.J. Gonzales
Lloyd Gronning
Ken Kirk
Bryan Romero
Steve Rudnick
Emily Wolf

Member(s) Excused:

None

Others Present:

Anna Hamilton, County Commissioner
John Dupuis, County Utilities Director
Christina Chavez, City Water Conservation Manager

C. Review of Agenda

Mr. Dupuis advised the participants that the agenda was not posted properly and no action could be taken at this evening's meeting.

D. Introductions – Deemed unnecessary

2. Matters from the Public – None were presented

4. Discussion Items

A. Update of the Joint City/County Meeting

The meeting was held on February 2nd and WPAC members Dickens, Kirk, Stringer and Romero along with Mr. Dupuis were present with City representatives.

Mr. Dickens said he was impressed by the coordination and work being done by the City and County: there is a real sense of cooperation. In terms of conservation, the issue of well owners was discussed and the City acknowledges that they too have well owners to educate and reach out to.

Mr. Kirk said Christina Chavez discussed the work being done between the City and County and accomplishments achieved. Concerns were expressed regarding an increase in population and that Colorado River water may not be available for use in the future.

Chair Stinger offered to email the minutes prepared by Ms. Chavez and Mr. Dupuis sent a link to the audio file.

Mr. Dupuis said he'd like to better broadcast the information that the City and County are participating together.

B. Update of the City of Santa Fe Water Conservation Committee Meeting

Mr. Kirk said there was a robust discussion regarding the joint City/County meeting.

Mr. Dickens commented that it appears Santa Fe is inching closer to having a regional water authority. He said he was pleased to see the building of a collaborative relationship between the entities. Mr. Kirk agreed that it was extremely important to build a City-County regional authority. Observing it from a monetary perspective, Chair Stringer noted the financial savings by reducing the duplication of efforts.

There was committee consensus to continue to pursue a partnership with the City for a regional system/spacial cooperation.

Commissioner Hamilton said it was her hope that this committee would promote the regional planning concept. Ms. Follingstad noted that concept had been on WPAC's work plan and could be revisited. Mr. Dickens commended the younger staff members for their willingness to reach across the table and work together.

Chair Stringer said this extreme drought presents an opportunity to push the importance of cooperation.

C. Update on Water Resources Plan

Mr. Dupuis said he refers to the joint effort between the City and County on the long-range water

Planning as the “Santa Fe 2100.” There is a current project with a five-year recurring cycle with key parts to be completed annually such that after five years there is a full plan with adaptation strategies for implementation. On year six, the cycle would begin again and concurrently run the implementation of the adaptation strategies identified at year five as well as starting that cycle again. He said it was common to have a recurrence for master planning. Currently, the plan is in year three, closing out year two. This year’s work is focused on water demands. The County demands were worked on extensively and differ from the County growth. The utility can take on existing development which results in sporadic growth. Policy decisions can correlate with increases and from that, predictions developed.

Greg Gates, Water Resources Practice Lead at Hazen and Sawyer, is assisting the County in developing an input/output tool that can incorporate groundwater and surface water with system limitations. This Goldsim model is a powerful and flexible platform for visualizing and dynamically simulating complex systems. All of the components are loaded into the system’s capabilities to assist in making consistent decisions. Mr. Dupuis said the tool is particularly valuable because not many individuals know all of the moving components that will be loaded onto the system.

The County will be contributing additional funds for a groundwater component analogous to a hydrolic model. The Goldsim does not evaluate whether the system can get the water to where the demands are but a hydrolic model will. The City and County are using the same software to combine the hydrolic and Goldsim models. A similar system will need to be developed for groundwater. Steve Finch, Shomaker & Associates, is assisting in evaluating what makes sense in terms of providing groundwater models. Additionally, the consultants will assist in creating modular capability for expansion of the groundwater component.

The County is close to filling its hydrogeologist position and Mr. Dupuis expected an offer to be extended in the next few weeks.

Mr. Gronning asked about the supply side and the varying yields; the geographic scope and whether areas outside of the County utility service area are also being considered. Mr. Dupuis said the study will include “within the proximity” of the utility or what may likely be served in some reasonable timeframe.

Mr. Dupuis said when NMED began contacting community water system to about their emergency response action plans the County utility was put on alert. He said it was very troubling when representatives of those systems contact the County asking what the County’s plan was to save them. The County’s plan was basically to direct them to the bulk water station and/or water haulers. He noted that the bulk water station locations are being expanded.

Mr. Dupuis said Sustainability is developing additional data which may be useful and the geohydrologist will be helpful in incorporating the information.

Chair Stringer asked whether there are written detailed plans on how to deal with water outages for smaller communities in the County and, if so, is NMED aware of these plans. Mr. Dupuis offered that the ground work for the demand was to provide data in a timely manner for the work

that the City is leading and the County, as a partner, is providing its information timely. Secondly, a strategic staffing plan for the utility for the next 10 year period. A significant growth impact is expected within the next seven years, and it is important to be appropriately positioned and prepared. The demand for utility water produces revenue and as an enterprise fund that revenue stream can sustainably fund the increase expenses of additional staff. He'd like the City utility to align operator requirements in an effort to maintain staff and to coordinate wages so the two utilities are not swapping personnel. A strategic staffing plan which requires cross-training between governmental organizations will improve on communications and flexibility between the entities.

Chair Stringer lauded the concept as proactive and then delineated the steps that occur once a mutual domestic or smaller system has a water outage from the Governor to the National Guard and NMED.

Mr. Dupuis said the County receives water usage data from some mutual domestics, Sunlit Hills, Cañada de los Alamos, Eldorado and Cañoncito.

Chair Stringer said even if individuals are on a shared well they need to participate in Santa Fe County's rescue plan. Wells need to be monitored and levels reported to the County.

Mr. Dickens mentioned there are RV parks at the entrance to the La Cienega community with over 100 water users. Mr. Dupuis said that data is not shared and he hopes to extend the La Cienega master planning boundaries to include Lower Santa Fe River group as a whole.

Mr. Dickens said outreach to educate the community to get on the County water system is important.

Mr. Romero also lauded the concept of City and County staff working together and suggested GIS mapping was an important component.

Commissioner Hamilton said that she was pleased to hear the regional concept surfacing, and the fact that WPAC and WCC, as well as the staff, are working together further serves the concept. The threatening drought will serve as a motivating factor. Chair Stringer said he wanted the current organic growth to continue.

Mr. Dupuis observed that working together benefits each other and is the best path. He spoke confidently about the agreements between the two entities stating that legal staff understands and appreciates the complexities of water.

Mr. Dickens suggested the water-related successes of the County and City should be shared with the community. That communication may assist in shifting resistance. Mr. Dupuis encouraged WPAC to develop a storyline of utility successes.

Ms. Chavez recognized that conservation is a small piece and she would continue to build a foundation based on internal relationships and working together. The SaveWaterSantaFe website provides resources for all residents.

5. Matters from the Committee

Regarding the joint meetings, Ms. Follingstad requested that all members of WPAC receive an invitation to participate.

Chair Stringer asked that WPAC's minutes be provided to the City's WCC.

6. Matters from County Staff

A. Update on SJCP Return Flow Pipeline and Planning Process

Mr. Dupuis said there is a lower Santa Fe River planning process that the County is leading. At this point, a scope creation has occurred and a group has been identified to refine that scope. The hydrogeologist, the County hopes to hire, will be tasked to work on this issue.

B. Update on Pojoaque Basin Regional Water System

Mr. Dupuis said 90 percent of the plans on the pipes from Pojoaque to Nambe have been completed. BOR is designing that portion and he estimated within the next six months the plans would be 100 percent and ready to go to bid. The review date with the pueblos is March 14-16.

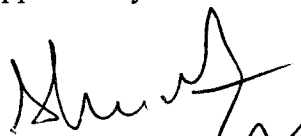
C. County Staff Update

Regarding the County strategic staffing plan, Mr. Dupuis said there is a component for pay alignment with the City to retain current employees – although the County is slightly lower. Positions to be filled include the hydrogeologist, water resource manager and deputy division director.

7. Adjournment

Chair Stringer declared the meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Approved by:



Shann Stringer, Chair

Respectfully submitted by:

COUNTY OF SANTA FE)
STATE OF NEW MEXICO) ss

WATER POLICY ADVISORY
PAGES: 5

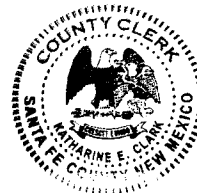
Karen Farrell, Wordswork

I Hereby Certify That This Instrument Was Filed for
Record On The 21ST Day Of July, 2022 at 10:46:15 AM
And Was Duly Recorded as Instrument # 1993428
Of The Records Of Santa Fe County

Witness My Hand And Seal Of Office

Katharine E. Clark

Deputy  County Clerk, Santa Fe, NM



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