

**MINUTES OF THE**  
**SANTA FE COUNTY**  
**WATER POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**March 10, 2022**

**Santa Fe, New Mexico**

**I. A.** This regular meeting of the Santa Fe County Water Policy Advisory Committee (WPAC) was called to order by Vice Chair Carl Dickens at approximately 5:05 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:**

Carl Dickens  
Mary Helen Follingstad  
J.J. Gonzales  
Ken Kirk [5:36 arrival]  
Steve Rudnick  
Emily Wolf

**Member(s) Excused:**

Shann Stringer, Chair  
Lloyd Gronning  
Bryan Romero

**Others Present:**

John Dupuis, County Utilities Director  
Deborah Leyba, County Utilities Division Staff

**C. Review of Agenda**

Mr. Dickens announced there would be no update of the Joint City/County meeting as it was cancelled due to lack of participation. It will be rescheduled toward the end of the month. There were no other changes and Ms. Wolf moved approval. Mr. Rudnick seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

**D. Approval of Minutes  
December 9, 2021**

Ms. Follingstad moved approval and Ms. Wolf seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

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**January 13, 2022**

Ms. Follingstad moved to approve the January meeting minutes. Mr. Rudnick seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

**E. Introductions of WPAC Members, Staff, and Guests**

Mr. Dickens welcomed Deborah Leyba to the meeting and thanked her for her organizational work.

2. **Action Items** – No action items were presented
3. **Matters from the Public** – None were presented

4. **Discussion Items**

**A. Update of the Joint City/County Meeting**

Mr. Dickens said he believe the meeting would be held March 29<sup>th</sup>.

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

Mr. Dickens stated there was a presentation by Nea Denton concerning a bill to streamline procedures for builders to avoid duplication of efforts between the City and State. Mr. Denton will be brining the bill back to the committee after it has passed through other committees' review.

Mr. Dickens advocated for including water conservation in the purview of the task force as well. Ms. Follingstad asked if this was a staff committee, and Mr. Dickens said it was, and Jacqueline Beam is the program manager. Mr. Dupuis agree this was a great opportunity, especially for those not served by the utility. Sustainability was under Public Works and is now a division of Community Development with a higher priority. He suggested communicating with Commissioners to ensure conservation for wells be included under the Sustainability umbrella. He offered to reach out to Ms. Beam. Ms. Wolf and Ms. Follingstad volunteered to get involved. Ms. Follingstad noted that it is easier to send out information to constituents through water bills as opposed to dealing with the 43 percent on groundwater or mutual domestic systems.

Mr. Dickens mentioned that the City has a program at the Community College to train water auditors, geared toward commercial users. He wondered if that resource would be available to the County. Mr. Dupuis said he has heard of the program through the Water Alliance, and there is also a rebate program. The County could make use of such a program.

Mr. Dickens said the City is also comparing water use in different neighborhoods as a pilot program. The City requires monitoring water use for landscaping over 1,000 square feet. Ms. Follingstad said the County has a rooftop requirement and Mr. Rudnick added a cistern is required for homes with square footage over 2,400 square feet.

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Ms. Follingstad alluded to the difficulty of metering and monitoring private wells. Mr. Dickens said La Cienega initially had watershed conditions in the 1990s with a well metering requirement with County oversight. That never worked out. The Sustainability Division could be instrumental in identifying "water hogs." He said he and Ms. Wolf are working on a plan to work with well users, and those on the 85 permitted systems using groundwater. Ms. Follingstad indicated the drought plan had a table attached that outlined groundwater users. Ms. Wolf said NMED has a table.

Returning to the Water Conservation Committee meeting, Mr. Dickens stated there was a conversation on where the money comes from to fund the program. In addition to the neighborhood comparison pilot program the City is planning turf projects at Ragle baseball park and at the MRC. Additionally, there is a conservation scorecard to track how the Conservation Office is doing, although this needs modification. This is another measure the County could look into.

The WCC is doing outreach with 21 watershed tours scheduled and informational backpacks. The Watershed Association has constructed a rain garden in town.

Mr. Rudnick stated Next Generation Water will have workshops in May and he encouraged participation by the County and the WPAC members.

#### **C. Update on Water Resources Plan**

Ms. Follingstad said she believed the County didn't have much involvement. Mr. Dupuis said this aligned with Santa Fe 2100, a joint long-range planning effort with the City. Consultants have been provided updated projections and are working on adaptation strategies. The County has finalized its demand requirements over an extended period. He offered to provide the projection numbers to the committee.

#### **5. Matters from the Committee**

Ms. Follingstad said she noticed a whitepaper had been called for concerning outreach to groundwater users. Mr. Dickens indicated he and Emily have been working on that issue and should be able to present at the next meeting. Mr. Rudnick advocated for having something in schools' science curriculum, particularly since SFPS has a new science coordinator. Ms. Wolf said that is part of the plan. Mr. Dickens noted they also need to address the schools in the county. Ms. Follingstad mentioned the outlying areas of Pojoaque, Route 14, and Edgewood, noting that the WPAC no longer had a member from the far south.

Speaking of the agenda for the next meeting, Mr. Dickens suggested talking to Ms. Beam in order to have someone from Sustainability speak at WPAC.

Ms. Follingstad asked they be notified when there is a joint City-County meeting.

## 6. Matters from County Staff

### A. Update on SJCP Return Flow Pipeline and Planning Process

Mr. Dickens, spokesperson for the Pipeline Coalition, stated they are putting together a scope of work for an RFP for a facilitator to oversee the planning process. Additionally, they are reaching out to the All Pueblo Governors Council and have identified four pueblos that might want to get involved. He speculated about getting someone from the Bureau of Geology and Mineral Resources involved as well. Mr. Dupuis said \$250,000 has been devoted to the issue, and perhaps Stacy Timmons could provide support.

### B. Update on Pojoaque Basin Regional Water System

Mr. Dupuis said they have been contacted by Pojoaque Pueblo regarding discussion on the operating agreement. They will meet with San Ildefonso on March 15<sup>th</sup> to firm up expense allocations and details of the agreement.

### C. County Staff Update

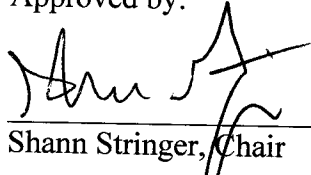
Regarding representation from the southern part of the county, Mr. Dupuis said he has spoken with Dan McGregor, president of the Estancia Basin Water Planning Committee, as well as Bernalillo County Natural Resource Service Sector Manager. The County provides \$10,000 per year to the committee, so requesting that someone participate on the WPAC seems reasonable. That area has extreme well challenges and it would be good to get input from there.

Ms. Follingstad asked if a hydrologist had been brought on board. Mr. Dupuis said an offer was made to a candidate, who accepted a previous offer. They will be going out again. The pay has been increased over time. He noted there are candidates graduating and staff is open to people from other states or someone recruited from a local organization.

## 7. Adjournment

Mr. Dickens declared the meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

Approved by:

  
Shann Stringer, Chair

Respectfully submitted by:

  
Debbie Doyle, Wordswork

COUNTY OF SANTA FE )  
STATE OF NEW MEXICO ) ss

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I Hereby Certify That This Instrument Was Filed for  
Record On The 21ST Day Of July, 2022 at 10:46:16 AM  
And Was Duly Recorded as Instrument # 1993429  
Of The Records Of Santa Fe County

Witness My Hand And Seal Of Office  
Katharine E. Clark

Deputy  County Clerk, Santa Fe, NM

