

MINUTES OF THE
SANTA FE COUNTY
WATER POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

May 12, 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 Chair Shann Stringer at approximately 5:00 p.m. on the above-cited date.

This meeting was conducted via WebEx. Due to a noticing issue, no action would be taken at this meeting.

B. The following members present:

Members Present:

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

Member(s) Excused:

Bryan Romero
Steve Rudnick

Others Present:

John Dupuis, County Utilities Director
Deborah Leyba, County Utilities Division Staff
Christina Chavez, City Water Conservation Manager

C. Review of Agenda

D. Approval of Minutes

No action could be taken.

E. Introductions of WPAC Members, Staff, and Guests

This was deemed unnecessary.

SFC CLERK RECORDED 07/21/2022

3. **Matters from the Public**

A. **Christine Chavez, Update on the Next Generation Water Summit and Community Event**

Ms. Chavez provided the following information on the Summit:

- The New Generation Water Summit is scheduled for May 19 and 20
- County and City residents can attend for free
- The focus is growth in the time of drought
- Registration is via watersummit.com

An event, "Santa Fe Save Water Day," is planned at the railyard on Saturday, May 21st from 10-2 with over 25 educational activities. The City Water Conservation Committee members will be volunteering and she invited WPAC members to attend and volunteer. Also, on May 21st a garden tour and rain catcher tours are planned.

The *Education Resource Booklet* will be provided to classrooms, summer camps, etc.

The joint committee continues to be on hold until additional County capacity is identified. Mr. Dubuis noted that the County hired two next staff members, the Water Resource Manager and Deputy Utility Director.

Ms. Chavez said she has developed a grant application for the water resource indicator. She encouraged the members to reach out with recommendations, suggestions, etc.

Chair Stringer invited Ms. Wolf and Mr. Dickens to present an update on their project.

5. **Matters from the Committee**

A. **Update – Drought Outreach Program Presentation**

Ms. Wolf said the City has an amazing variety of programs and they are looking for ways to expand the programs to create compatibility with the County. At this point, she and Mr. Dickens along with the City are developing the needs required to carry the concepts further. A point person in County staff to work with the communities with water systems is an important component. This educational outreach could extend to schools and be tailored for the area and teachers. This would require a County investment.

Mr. Dickens advocated that the County's Sustainability Division would be the appropriate venue to develop the conservation programs.

Mr. Dupuis said the Public Works Director has agreed to extend \$5,000 from the current fiscal budget available for developing outreach programs. He agreed that Sustainability should be involved.

Ms. Chavez said her budget is derived via an annual conservation fee.

Mr. Dickens observed that the topic of a regional water authority is coming up more often mentioning the recent League of Women Voters candidate panels.

As far as levying a conservation fee on County utility customers, Mr. Dupuis said it would need to be part of a rate structure study. Because the conservation fee is not part of WPAC's approved work plan, he suggested that prior to publishing the concept on the June agenda he would discuss the matter with Commissioner Hamilton.

Mr. Gronning questioned the equity of limiting the conservation fee to utility customers rather than expanding it to the mutual domestics, private well users, etc. Perhaps a countywide fund would be better. Chair Stringer asked what type of mechanism could be used to reach a broader swath of County residents. Someone from the County Attorney's Office would be appropriate to discuss this with, stated Mr. Dupuis.

Chair Stringer said he would broach the concept with Commissioner Hamilton.

Ms. Chavez said the conversations regarding regionalization appear to be friendly and conservation is not something people can disagree with. With appropriate resources, outreach can be accomplished. She noted that the issues are the same.

Ms. Chavez was recognized for her efforts for the County.

6. Matters from County Staff

C. Cañada de los Alamos application regarding water

Mr. Dupuis said the County has an application process for water supply assistance and this is one of the tasks WPAC is charged with. He mentioned that the County committed to assist Hyde Park Estates, Chupadero and Cañoncito. The surcharge on those communities will not cover the cost and will require subsidizing.

The Cañada de los Alamos system has \$2 million in funding and has submitted an application to the County. Mr. Dupuis requested a subcommittee be created to review the application.

Mr. Dupuis mentioned a Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) report that identifies the problems with New Mexico water funding. The report outlines the different funding opportunities and the typical ratio of grant to loan and loan percentages.

A subcommittee to review and make recommendations regarding the Cañada application was created with Ms. Follingstad and Mr. Gronning. Mr. Rudnick will be contacted to ascertain his interest. Mr. Dupuis suggested holding four two-hour meetings and he will forward material.

Mr. Dupuis clarified that the proposed water line alignment for Cañada would come through the 1.5 million gallon Rancho Viejo tank and go up through 9-Mile Road with a small booster station in between. That pipeline would connect to the Sunlit Hills Water System providing a backup supply and a portion of that water would be wheeled to Cañada, similar to how Eldorado wheels to Cañoncito. Sunlit Hills uses approximately 120 acre-feet per year.

3. **Action Items** – No action items were presented
4. **Discussion Items**
 - A. **Update of the Joint City/County Meeting** - No update at this point.
 - B. **Update of the City of Santa Fe Water Conservation Committee Meeting**
[See Page 2]
 - C. **Update on the Water Resources Plan** - No update was presented

5. **Matters from the Committee**

South Santa Fe WPAC Member: Mr. Dickens said he spoke with Dan McGregor, the Bernalillo County representative of the Estancia Valley Water Authority, about engaging the southern part of the county to participate on WPAC. It was Mr. McGregor's suggestion that WPAC write an email to the authority soliciting participation. Mr. McGregor serves on a tri-county water group which was developed through an MOU which he offered to email.

Ms. Follingstad said Edgewood has a municipal water system called Entranosa. Information can be found in the document she and Ms. Wolf assembled.

Chair Stringer and he and Mr. Dickens would work on an email.

Chair Stringer is working on a Gmail account for WPAC where a google folder can hold information. Ms. Follingstad mentioned Basecamp, another software system for projects.

Drought outreach program. [See page 2]

6. **Matters from County Staff**
 - A. **Update on SJCP Return Flow Pipeline and Planning Process**

Mr. Dickens, spokesperson for the Pipeline Coalition, said there is a core group of people meeting twice a month. They recently drafted their mission and vision statements for the introduction to the RFP for a facilitator for the stakeholder-involved planning process for the lower Santa Fe watershed.

- B. **Update on Pojoaque Basin Regional Water System**

Mr. Dupuis said the BOR approved the County's request to include the Phase 3 distribution pipes and Phase 1 construction in the current design-build work to get water to customers faster. Currently, they are reviewing/selecting which distribution line to construct with the available \$10 million.

- C. **County Staff Update**

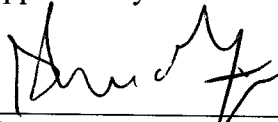
Mr. Dupuis said other than Cañoncito the County is working on a distribution pipeline in Rancho Viejo/Community College District. The line would have increased pressure to get water to

Eldorado rather than wheeling water through the City. A pilot program for the adverse terrains in Hyde Park Estates using AMI (advanced metering infrastructure) is being investigated.

7. Adjournment

Chair Stringer declared the meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

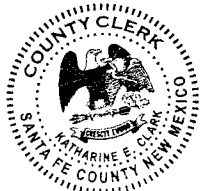
Approved by:



Shann Stringer, Chair

Respectfully submitted by:



Karen Farrell, Wordswork



COUNTY OF SANTA FE)
STATE OF NEW MEXICO) ss

WATER POLICY ADVISORY
PAGES: 5

I Hereby Certify That This Instrument Was Filed for
Record On The 21ST Day Of July, 2022 at 10:46:18 AM
And Was Duly Recorded as Instrument # **1993431**
Of The Records Of Santa Fe County

Witness My Hand And Seal Of Office
Katharine E. Clark
Deputy  County Clerk, Santa Fe, NM

SFC CLERK RECORDED 07/21/2022