

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

**August 11, 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

**B.** The following members present:

**Members Present:**

Shann Stringer, Chair  
Carl Dickens  
J.J. Gonzales  
Lloyd Gronning  
Ken Kirk  
Steve Rudnick

**Member(s) Excused:**

Emily Wolf

**Others Present:**

John Dupuis, County Utilities Director  
Deborah Leyba, County Utilities Division Staff  
Michelle Hunter, County Water Resource Manager  
Dennis McQuillan, NMED retiree  
Mori Hensley, Executive Director, Santa Fe Watershed Association

**C. Review of Agenda**

Upon motion by Mr. Rudnick and second by Mr. Kirk, the agenda was unanimously approved as published. [Mr. Dickens was not present for this action.]

**D. Approval of Minutes**

**July 14, 2022:** Mr. Kirk moved to approve and Mr. Gonzales seconded. The motion passed without opposition. [Mr. Gronning abstained and Mr. Dickens was not present for this action.]

SFC CLERK RECORDED 01/10/2023

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

Mori Hensley introduced herself as the executive director of the Santa Fe Watershed Association.

**2. Matters from the Public**

**A. Christine Chavez, Update**

Ms. Hunter advised the committee that Ms. Chavez was not able to attend today and had asked her to convey that applications and résumés for the City's Water Conservation Committee (WCC) were being accepted to fill the three vacancies. Ms. Hunter said she attended the City's WCC meeting this week.

Mr. Kirk said he is terming out of the WCC and someone from this committee would be a welcome member.

Chair Stringer noted that he has not heard back about his membership to the Santa Fe/Pojoaque Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD).

**3. Action Items – None were presented**

**4. Matters from the Committee**

**A. Update – Joint City County Meeting – No meeting occurred.**

**B. Update of the City of Santa Fe Water Conservation Committee Meeting [See 2.A. above]**

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

Mr. Dupuis said a scope for the project was received from Bill Schneider at the City. Staff forwarded the scope to the WPAC. The scope will include developing projections regarding demand and supply. The City's groundwater component is fairly fixed while the County's will change in the future with well-users joining the utility. Carollo Engineering is the contractor.

Mr. Gronning requested a more formal update on Santa Fe Water 2100. Jesse Roach, City Water Division Director, was recommended as the appropriate person for the update.

Mr. Rudnick said there is a lack of education about water resources and residents are particularly piqued by approvals of new development and want to know where that water is coming from. The answer to the question of where new developments are getting water rights has not been adequately answered. Mr. Dupuis said he made a presentation to the BCC on this topic that appeared helpful and he offered to bring that to WPAC.

Chair Stringer recalled an issue that SWCD has with the County in that subdivision review comments were not being extended to SWCD for review. He requested that staff investigate

whether those reviews are occurring and who was the proper entity to pay for the review. Ms. Hunter offered to follow up.

#### **E. Pipeline Coalition/County RFP**

Mr. Dickens said the Pipeline Coalition's draft RFP, for a facilitator to work on the stakeholders-involved planning process, was submitted earlier this week. He offered to email the draft to the group. The RFP will address legacy issues on the Santa Fe River. The City is supportive of restoring the streams in La Cienega. The Coalition, which is a group of 20 organizations, is seeking to slow down and spread the water to improve the aquifer.

There was a discussion about beavers as a resource to slow the water down the river. A five plus year study documenting the down flow of beaver dams would be useful.

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

#### **A. Any Matters from the Committee**

Mr. Gronning requested the water resource plan address the County's strategic goal to develop a backup water supply equal to the previous year's distribution, as well as any other goals. Chair Stringer said the issue of long-term sustainability needs to be addressed.

Mr. Dickens said Andy Erdmann, ISC Program Manager, presented ISC's 50-year plan. Mr. Dickens said the different levels of water planning are very interesting. The plan is available on line and ISC is soliciting feedback.

The state is offering zero percent interest loans in an effort to assist communities that lack funds to address water system issues. Many water systems do not collect enough revenue to maintain the facility.

Mr. Dupuis mentioned that the review of the application materials for Cañada de los Alamos is imperative and requires attention. Aztec Springs is in the queue for review. Their well is on the brink of going dry and they are adjacent to the water system. The County would require that the community system increase their rates to match or exceed the County utility rates. Raising their rates will help to avoid the emergency situations that occur. Education on how to run a small mutual domestic system is clearly necessary. Chair Stringer recommended developing a simple storyboard to illustrate how these smaller systems benefit from the County's intervention. The storyboard could be used to educate legislators.

The Cañada de los Alamos Subcommittee report will be on the September agenda as an action item along with a status report on Cañoncito. The Cañoncito pipeline is constructed and connections are ongoing. The Eldorado agreement is being reviewed by the parties.

### **6. Matters from County Staff**

#### **A. Update on SJC Return Flow Pipeline and Planning Process**

Ms. Hunter said she is reviewing the RFP.

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

Ms. Hunter said there is a weekly meeting with the BOR to work through easement issues. Work continues on the plant construction. The Ranney wells have been installed.

**C. County Staff Update**

Ms. Hunter said a deputy utility director was hired and will start at the end of August. The hydrogeologist position remains vacant but staff is hopeful it will be filled soon.

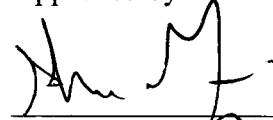
Chair Stringer requested that WPAC's past meeting minutes, agendas and white papers be downloaded and available on the County website. Ms. Leyba said once minutes are recorded by the County Clerk they are uploaded. Chair Stringer requested that staff forward a link to the WPAC members.

Mr. McQuillan said he was appreciative that the County extended the waterline from Rancho Viejo to Eldorado which will improve Eldorado's sustainability and assist some of the neighboring communities.

**7. Adjournment**

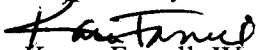
Chair Stringer declared the meeting adjourned at 6:12 p.m.

Approved by:



Shann Stringer, Chair

Respectfully submitted by:




Karen Farrell, Wordswork

COUNTY OF SANTA FE                   )  
STATE OF NEW MEXICO            ) ss                   WATER POLICY ADVISORY  
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I Hereby Certify That This Instrument Was Filed for  
Record On The 10TH Day Of January, 2023 at 05:16:07 PM  
And Was Duly Recorded as Instrument # 2004630  
Of The Records Of Santa Fe County

Witness My Hand And Seal Of Office  
Katharine E. Clark

Deputy  County Clerk, Santa Fe, NM

