

MINUTES OF THE
SANTA FE COUNTY
WATER POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

October 10, 2019

Santa Fe, New Mexico

I. This Santa Fe County Water Policy Advisory Committee (WPAC) meeting was called to order by Chair Mary Helen Follingstad at approximately 5:00 p.m. on the above-cited date at the Santa Fe County Projects Complex, 901 W. Alameda, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

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

Members Present:

Mary Helen Follingstad
Bryan Romero, District 1
Ken Kirk, District 2
Emily Wolf

Member(s) Absent:

Denise Fort, BDD Board
Shann Stringer, Soil & Water Conservation
Steve Rudnick, District 5

Staff Present:

Anjali Bean, Utilities Department
John Dupuis, Utilities Department

III. Approval of Agenda

Mr. Kirk moved to approve and Mr. Romero seconded. The motion passed without opposition.

IV. Approval of Minutes: September 12, 2019

Corrections were offered and incorporated into the minutes that were resubmitted for recording/posting.

Mr. Kirk moved to approve as corrected. Ms. Wolf seconded and the minutes were unanimously approved.

V. Introductions – That item was deemed unnecessary

VI. Matters from the Public - None were present

VII. Action Items - None were listed

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VIII. Discussion Item

A. Discussion on the County's Stance on Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR)

Mr. Kirk said the City has a potential plan to build a pipeline to the Rio Grande for their wastewater to get return flow credits. As part of that project there has been a discussion to acquire Las Campanas' 10 million gallon lagoon, which is used for overflow, and its treatment plant. In the event that happens, Las Campanas would send its effluent to the City's plant. The concept is very similar to what ABCWUA is doing.

Mr. Romero recalled that there was discussion about using ASR at the time the Pojoaque water treatment plant was being considered. Noting it was before she was with the County, Ms. Bean said the hydrologic assessment revealed that the area's geology was not appropriate for deep injection and there was a uranium issue.

Ms. Bean said one of the first things WPAC investigated was ASR and whether it was a good option for a backup supply. WPAC developed a white paper that supported the 2015 resolution which set out that ASR is potentially viable water supply component and water resource management tool that requires the follow prerequisites:

- Source of permitted, often treated, water supply to infiltrate or inject into the aquifer
- Geohydrologic conditions that allow infiltration or injected water to be received, stored without excess loss, and reliably recovered
- Infrastructure to convey water to and from the injection/recovery location
- Permissive regulatory framework.

Ms. Bean said things have changed since the 2015 resolution and the State has approved ASRs and she distributed the drought resiliency grant that the County wrote in partnership with Rancho Viejo for the program run by BOR.

In 2007 Rancho Viejo received permitting for a pilot ASR project and this recent grant will piggyback on that work. OSE is interested in permitting and supporting ASR projects. Rancho Viejo is committed to be the private partner and providing the required grant match in exchange for taps and water for their future development.

Chair Follingstad recommended revising the resolution to include the new information. She suggested repealing and redrafting as the appropriate process. Ms. Bean offered to work on that for presentation at WPAC's November meeting.

Mr. Romero mentioned that there is a big difference between raw Rio Grande water and direct treated effluent recharge. He said they are distinct components that should be defined within the resolution. Noting that Albuquerque has already received ASR permitting the County should work from that example.

The grant proposal is structured identifying that the County has water rights in excess of what it uses and during phase one of the project treated BDD water would be stored. Permitting treated water is easier and over time the permit could be amended to include treated wastewater. Mr. Dupuis said there are groundwater discharge regulations that have to be met.

SFC CLERK RECORDED 11/18/2019

Mr. Dupuis said the complexity noted in the white paper of acquisition or development of wells is resolved with the proposed project with approved Rancho Viejo grant project. The expenses are reduced and the infrastructure has already been tested.

There was consensus that the white paper required an update to reflect the existing ASR permits.

Ms. Bean offered to also review the white paper, identify the changes that have occurred over the past four years in preparation for further WPAC discussion.

Regarding the grant, Ms. Bean said the County received notice that they have been selected to receive the grant provided everything is well prepared and organized. The BCC will have to approve the grant agreement.

Mr. Romero introduced a motion directing staff to review the white paper and Resolution 2015-14 for modifications that would support a positive County stance on ASR. Ms. Wolf seconded and the motion passed without opposition.

The grant opportunities should be highlighted in the resolution “whereases.”

Mr. Dupuis offered that the BDD goes down approximately 12 percent to 17 percent of the time which is not related to drought but instead operations and turbidity. He attributed the fact the Rio Grande has not gone dry to ABCWUA water resource manager, John Stomp, asking San Juan-Chama contractors to give water to make the river wet. Otherwise, in the summer of 2018 it would have gone dry. “Stay in the river” is making a call on San Juan-Chama water rather than native water. The City does not have native rights while the County does. The County has not used its San Juan-Chama water and instead, because it is the most mobile, sells it to BOR – the managers of the Abiquiu Reservoir – who basically uses it for entities incurring hardship.

Mr. Dupuis said the County strategic planning has established a priority to have backup water which should be included in the whereas of the resolution.

The Quill plant could be considered in discharging to the Rancho Viejo ASR but was not included in the grant proposal. Mr. Dupuis said he understood there were six ASR projects in the state and only one, Rio Rancho, for direct reuse injection.

B. Continued Discussion of Draft Outline for a Santa Fe County Drought Management Plan

The tiered charges appear the most appropriate for the County. Mr. Stringer is developing additional triggers that he will present at the next meeting.

IX. Matters from the Committee

Ms. Wolf said she spoke with someone from UNM about a student working with WPAC to develop a drought plan. The student would be part of the water resources professional division

which is housed in the economics department. Chair Follingstad suggested writing a letter outlining the scope of the project.

X. Matters from County Staff

A. Aamodt Regional Water System

Ms. Bean said a public meeting has been noticed for October 15th at the Cities of Gold from 6 to 8 p.m. with a focus on the 611(g) agreement.

B. Update on Next Joint Committee Meeting with WPAC and WCC

To date, nothing has been scheduled. Commissioner Hamilton and City Councilor Romero Wirth are expected to develop an agenda and date for meeting.

C. Status of Member Vacancies

BDD representative Denise Fort will formally resign from WPAC. It was suggested that staff contact BDD counsel Nancy Long and ascertain the next step in appointing a BDD member. There was general consensus that a BDD representative serving on WPAC was beneficial.

The need for a representative from the south was mentioned.

XI. Adjournment

Chair Follingstad declared this meeting adjourned at approximately 6:45 p.m.

Approved by:



Mary Helen Follingstad, Chair

Respectfully submitted by:

Karen Farrell, Wordswork

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COUNTY OF SANTA FE)
STATE OF NEW MEXICO) ss

WATER POLICY ADVISORY
PAGES: 4

I Hereby Certify That This Instrument Was Filed for
Record On The 18TH Day Of November, 2019 at 01:18:53 PM
And Was Duly Recorded as Instrument # 1902183
Of The Records Of Santa Fe County



Witness My Hand And Seal Of Office
Geraldine Salazar
Deputy  County Clerk, Santa Fe, NM