

MINUTES OF THE
SANTA FE COUNTY
WATER POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

November 8, 2018

Santa Fe, New Mexico

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

II. The following members were present:

Members Present:

Mary Helen Follingstad, Chair
Steve Rudnick, Vice Chair, District 5
Bryan Romero, District 1
Ken Kirk, District 2
Shann Stringer, Soil & Water Conservation

Member(s) Absent:

Denise Fort, BDD Board

Staff Present:

John Dupuis, Utilities Department
Anjali Bean, Utilities Department

Guest(s):

Anna Hamilton, County Commissioner

An error occurred in posting the meeting agenda which resulted in no action being taken at this meeting.

III. Approval of Agenda – The agenda was accepted by consensus.

IV. Approval of Minutes – Postponed until the next meeting.

V. Introduction of WPAC members, staff and guests

Anjali Bean introduced herself stating she has been with the County Utilities Division for a month and works directly under Rita Bates in the Aamodt project. She has a master's in water resources management from UNM and experience in public policy/international development.

The committee members introduced themselves.

SFC CLERK RECORDED 07/16/2019

VI. Matters from the Public - None were offered

VII. Discussion Items –

C. Discussion of Joint City-County meeting on future cooperation and coordination

1. Next steps – outline of topics; schedule of meetings

Chair Follingstad said the meeting ended with the notion that each committee would discuss next steps and reconvene as a joint committee in the future. Consider scheduling the next joint meeting to occur in mid-January.

Commissioner Hamilton said the first meeting was strictly introductory in nature – learning what the City and County do independent of one another and what the committees are exploring as a means to develop joint discussion points. She and Councilor Romero-Wirth, who chairs the City’s Water Conservation Committee, will meet to discuss an agenda for the second meeting.

Brainstorming revealed the following concepts for productive joint endeavors:

- Identify and focus on overlaps within the two entities
- Obvious topics are conservation, drought planning and plan implementation
- Eliminate the legacy of blame between the entities and focus on the future
- Identify existing joint activities
- Amy Lewis, a consulting hydrologist, and hydrogeologist Peggy Johnson were recognized as good resources
- Develop a category of “what we can do together”
- Present to the joint committee what WPAC is working on
- A principal reason to continue joint discussion is to explore the creation of a regional authority
- Rather than a “regional entity” which apparently is a charged phrase to many, the term “special collaboration” or “regional cooperation” was easier to support

Wells

- Water rights can turn a discussion difficult
- The City’s northwest well, Buckman, other City wells, the 8,000 domestic wells in the County and resting wells should be considered as a backup resource
- Manage, monitor and share wells data
- Develop ground rules on discussion of wells
- Questions: Are the resting wells recharging? Are they being monitored? Is it speculative that they are recharging?
- Review data regarding the flow from Eldorado to La Cienega and the drawdown

Data

- The entities should gather data together – data should be complementary and evaluated as common data
- Develop one report rather than two

- Align studies
- Exploit opportunities to cooperate: Aerial photography was mentioned as an example of the two entities working from the same RFP and the same contractor
- Warehouse data
- Discuss the types of data pools that could be developed jointly – what data is needed to make decisions?
- Determine where to maintain the data warehouse
- Monitor and collect data on resting wells to determine whether they can be used for backup
- Consider a joint regional modeling study. Separate modeling will not reach conclusions. These models need to be shared and warehoused
- Use the same model to produce future water use numbers
- The water is only separate on paper.
- What do we need the data for? What standards are needed to build the models – these are technical steps that a policymaking body is not equipped to do

Joint Infrastructure - i.e., Eldorado/Cañoncito, Hyde Park Estates

- Outline the economic savings in joint infrastructure to bolster the conversation
- Populate the joint group with examples that have been worked on together regionally. Have a larger example of cooperation beyond just staff

Water rights

- Think bigger than the OSE, then you write your own rules – bigger than what is required by regulation
- The County and City could work together to offset water rights

Regarding, aquifer storage and recovery (ASR), it appears the City is already investigating this concept and it may be appropriate for the County to participate. There may be water rights issue involved.

Staff

- Mr. Dupuis has been meeting with Shannon Jones, City Public Utilities Department Director
- For the efforts to be sustainable it requires more than staff outreach and needs Commission/Council buy-in
- Water resources and their management should be transparent and staff was cautioned about cutting deals without a record.

Drought management and conservation

- There needs to be more drought planning
- Running out of wet water is inevitable whether it is this year or in 20 years and planning for extreme weather and conservation is imperative

Mr. Dupuis pointed out that the amended, restated water resources agreement signed 12/14/2016, resulted in the use of surface water before groundwater. Mr. Rudnick stated that all the files he

found were clearly labeled “draft” conjunctive management plan. [Links for a number of studies were emailed by Mr. Rudnick following the meeting] Resolution 2015-14 cites a series of tasks for WPAC to be involved in.

Big Picture:

With the larger water issues in mind, Mr. Dupuis said he was seeking what the County can manage. A new governor and administration will be coming in at the first of the year and additional funds have been identified. Mr. Dupuis supported lobbying to get funding and use it, in a regional sense, tying it to the Texas lawsuit on the Pecos and the Rio Grande, and begin to tackle the water issues so New Mexico is never in this current situation with Texas again. Santa Fe, as the state’s capitol, may be the right place to tackle the water issue and create a model. He cited County Resolution 2006-57 (Santa Fe County Water Resources Department Line Extension and Water Service Policy) as the groundwork document. He envisioned Santa Fe City and County, the four pueblos, Eldorado, Las Campanas – everyone within the aquifer, working together as partners. “If you can put a straw in it and it’s in our backyard then we need to tell you how to use that straw.” He advocated asking the legislature for money for a study/modeling on how the aquifer can be used conjunctively.

- BOR was mentioned as having matching funds
- The end result is a motivating guide for a policy that may not be otherwise popular.
- Start with a model and then extrapolate out. Sandia Labs has a large water modeling program that could be utilized. The model and data collection are the low hanging fruit
- Jointly develop this large-scale study that is supported by a model such that policy can be accepted

Key words from the discussion were identified as follows:

- Wells
- Perspective
- Data – one aquifer
- Infrastructure
- Aquifer Storage Recharge
- Studies, existing
- Regional Coordination/Cooperation in lieu of authority
- Conjunctive management
- 2016 Amended Restated Agreement WPA
- Ordinance 2002-09, La Cienega water restrictions – as building block
- Drought Management
- Conservation
- Funding Opportunities: BOR Water Smart Program – for matching funds
- Leadership – Santa Fe as the example
- Water rights to backup delivery – policies that have caused a shift in water rights

In terms of a joint 40-year plan preliminary work needs to begin in order to have something cogent by summer 2019.

VII. A. Discussion of revisions to the WPAC resolution

Regarding the enabling resolution, WPAC requires greater staff assistance in developing papers, etc. It was also noted that perhaps the WPAC BDD member did not need to be the public member.

Commissioner Hamilton mentioned that Deputy County Manager Flores has suggested this committee would benefit from an official Commission liaison. This suggestion was supported by the committee.

The concept of having specific representation was seen as a plus with greater flexibility of the designated committee member positions.

With the WPAC's input, Commissioner Hamilton said she could work on making the resolution changes with Mr. Flores. Chair Follingstad she would get the discussion draft out to the membership.

VIII. Matters from the Committee

The draft Water Utility Master Plan and the remainder of the agenda was postponed until the next meeting. Staff was reminded to notice the meeting with adequate time for action items.

Dave Gutzler, who served on the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, is giving a lecture at UNM next week.

IX. Matters from County Staff

A. Update on Aamodt Regional Water System

Anjali Bean, Utilities Department, reported that representatives of the four pueblos went to Washington, DC and reported successful meetings with the Department of Interior, Bureau of Reclamation and the Office of Management and Budget. Pending cost negotiations with 611G (which is a section of the Act requiring BOR to facilitate cost discussions) BOR is willing to begin "limited" construction.

B. Update on Community Systems - postponed

C. Status of Member Vacancies - postponeed

Next Meeting: December 13, 2018 @ 5 p.m.

XI. Adjournment

Having completed the agenda and with no further business to come before this Committee, the meeting adjourned at approximately 7:05 p.m.

Approved by:



Mary Helen Follingstad, Chair

Respectfully submitted by:

Karen Farrell, 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 16TH Day Of July, 2019 at 01:34:55 PM
And Was Duly Recorded as Instrument # **1891358**
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Witness My Hand And Seal Of Office
Geraldine Salazar

Deputy  County Clerk, Santa Fe, NM