

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

**June 13, 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 5:10 p.m. on the above-cited date at the Santa Fe County Projects Complex, 901 W. Alameda, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

II. Lacking a quorum, no action was taken. **???are there a bunch of vacancies?**

**Members Present:**

Mary Helen Follingstad, North  
Steve Rudnick, District 5  
Ken Kirk, District 2  
Bryan Romero, District 1

**Member(s) Absent:**

Denise Fort, BDD Board  
Shann Stringer, Soil & Water Conservation

**Staff Present:**

Anjali Bean, Utilities Department

**Others Present:**

Anna Hamilton, Commissioner

**III. Approval of Agenda**

Mr. Kirk moved to approve the agenda as published. Mr. Rudnick seconded and the motion passed without opposition.

**IV. Approval of Minutes: April 11, 2019 & May 9 2019**

Mr. Kirk moved to approve both sets of minutes as presented. Mr. Romero seconded and the motion passed without opposition.

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V. Introduction of WPAC members, staff and guests  
VI. Matters from the Public

These two items were deemed unnecessary.

VII. Action Items  
A. Final Action on WAPC Resolution for BCC Approval

Chair Follingstad said the previously approved WPAC resolution was forwarded to Assistant County Attorney Ames who reformatted and reworded it. She met with Ms. Bean and Ms. Bates and reviewed the revised document that is now presented for WPAC's final approval. She noted there were changes that appear to alter the substance of the document.

Ms. Bean said the resolution was presented tonight in its official, ready for BCC approval format along with a redline noting substantive changes.

A discussion ensued regarding the need for flexibility of the membership composition. Concern was raised that the revised resolution continues to restrict appointments. The Central, Estancia Water Planning Committee, and the South continue to be vacant positions. Ms. Bean offered to discuss the issue of Commissioner appointments with Mr. Ames to determine how strictly it needs to be followed. She noted that the clause "the above seats may be double-filled" could be reconsidered.

There was consensus to change 4.h. (later changed to 5.h) to read: The remaining members shall be chosen by the Commissioners ~~to represent their districts~~.

Item 4, rather than "shall" the committee preferred the resolution provides guidance rather than mandate the membership. Relaxing the language provides flexibility to the membership composition.

The importance of having representation beyond the Santa Fe Watershed was highlighted.

A rearrangement moving item 5 into item 2 was agreed upon.

Mr. Rudnick offered to forward a spreadsheet Mr. Nylander developed on water associations. Mr. Romero said a generic phrase to incorporate all the different water entities would be helpful, i.e., water systems from the unincorporated county.

Referring to #6, "A County resident who is interested..." there was agreement to remove the second sentence which restricts flexibility in the membership.

Having one member specifically slated to represent Estancia Basin Water Planning Committee limits the membership and exchanging that with a member from the Southern Planning Area was suggested.

The idea of promoting practicality in WPAC's membership was stressed.

Promoting diversity shall be emphasized to the extent practical.

There was agreement to review the document by email for presentation to the BCC in July.

Mr. Romero offered the following language:

The committee members shall be selected to ensure that the committee reflects a wide range of expertise and experience, including membership in established community water groups, professional practice in a water-related field, including agriculture and volunteer experience.

To achieve this diversity and representation, committee members should be appointed from the following areas where applicable:

- a) One member from a water system, i.e., mutual domestic, water cooperative, rural cooperative, rural water system, or water district;
- b) One member from an agricultural organization, i.e., Soil and Water Conservation District;
- c) One member from an acequia association;
- d) One member from the Southern Planning Area;
- e) One member from the Central Water Planning Area;
- f) One member from the Northern Area;
- g) One member from the BDD Board;
- h) The remaining members should be chosen by the Commissioners.

Upon motion by Mr. Kirk and second by Mr. Rudnick the language proposed by Mr. Romero and other changes mentioned within the discussion were unanimously accepted.

Ms. Bean asked the members to review the materials that she will be emailing next week.

### **VIII. Discussion Items**

#### **A. Discussion of the Drought Management Plan**

Referring to Santa Fe County's Emergency Response Plan, it was noted that events that cause emergencies contains only one item that would relate to drought: failure of source of supply, while the other items could happen at any time. Although, the BDD does go offline without an incident of drought.

The state developed a drought plan as did the Jemez y Sangre Regional Water Plan. Santa Fe County developed a conjunctive use water plan.

The State relies on the Palmer Drought Severity Index which was identified as being a retrospective assessment.

When water cannot be pumped into the holding tanks, Eldorado will declare a drought.

The areas of the County, with the exception of Eldorado and those being served through Buckman, need to be included within the drought plan. Suggested language: There needs to be a

plan for managing water consumption, while in a drought, for those on the utility, those not on the utility, small utilities, individual private wells, etc.

Defining different triggers for conservation may be an appropriate definition for drought in itself.

The Chair recommended that each member take a topic to define/develop:

- Monitoring
- Response
- Mitigation actions
- Data – drought intensity categories
- Current conditions – weather data, snow pack, reservoir storage, etc. –
- Communications

Developing a broad definition of drought was agreed upon. The State Drought Plan is triggered as a result of multiple factors.

Enforcement issues require considering the County as a whole and need to include outreach and education.

Monitoring was supported.

The reliability of weather projections was questioned.

Mr. Rudnick offered to pursue the interface between the State (State Engineer) and the County in terms of monitoring domestic wells. Steve Mastovich was mentioned as the OSE contact.

Resource planning for the future was highlighted and the storage of domestic water that the Central Arizona Project has was mentioned.

Drought response ideas, i.e., drought watch, tier pricing, funding requests, communications and shortage sharing agreements were mentioned.

Regarding drought watch, Mr. Romero suggested the County develop drought watch signage similar to those used for fire levels. He mentioned the idea of a drought impacted community receiving water from another community via truckload.

Chair Follingstad emphasized the need to develop steps that trigger action in the event of an emergency or exceptional drought.

- Mr. Rudnick to develop drought monitoring/current conditions
- Mr. Romero to develop the watching response part
- Mr. Kirk offered to investigate whether Albuquerque/Bernalillo has a drought management plan and shortage sharing

Commissioner Hamilton said it would be useful to have a general assessment of the capacity for recharge.

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**X. Matters from County Staff**

Commissioner Hamilton said the names of the two individuals who have expressed an interest in serving on the committee will come forward to the BCC.

**XI. Adjournment**

Chair Follingstad declared this meeting adjourned at approximately 7:00 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  
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I Hereby Certify That This Instrument Was Filed for  
Record On The 14TH Day Of August, 2019 at 09:25:34 AM  
And Was Duly Recorded as Instrument # 1893851  
Of The Records Of Santa Fe County

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