

MINUTES OF THE
SANTA FE COUNTY
WATER POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

July 12, 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, Chair, 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, Chair
Ken Kirk, District 2
Bryan Romero, District 1
JC Helms (BDD Alternate)
Shann Stringer, Soil & Water Conservation

Member(s) Excused:

Steve Rudnick, District 5
Denise Fort, BDD Board

Staff Present:

John Dupuis, Utilities Director

Chair Follingstad announced that the resolution changing the definition of quorum to majority of appointed members was passed by the BCC. She said Martha Trujillo has resigned.

III. Approval of Agenda

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

IV. Approval of Minutes: March 8, 2018, April 12, 2018, May 10, 2018 and June 14, 2018

The June 14, 2018 minutes were not included in the packet and would be acted upon at the next meeting.

SFC CLERK RECORDED 07/16/2019

Mr. Kirk moved to approve the minutes of March 8th, April 12th and May 10th 2018 as presented. His motion was seconded by Mr. Helms and passed without opposition.

V. Introduction of WPAC members, staff and guests - Deemed unnecessary

VI. Matter from the Public - None were offered

VII. Action Items - None were listed

VIII. Discussion Items

At the last meeting the committee decided to develop two subcommittees to work on drought management and regionalization. The regionalization group – Chair Follingstad, Mr. Helms and Mr. Rudnick – were unable to meet in the interim. However, the drought management group comprised of Mr. Romero, Mr. Kirk, and Mr. Stringer did meet and are prepared to report.

Chair Follingstad lamented the difficulties in keeping this committee vital and with the recent resignation of Ms. Trujillo it was imperative a representative from the acequias be appointed. Mr. Dupuis offered to contact Steve Mastovich at the OSE. Chair Follingstad recommended the person be familiar with Aamodt, Pojoaque Basin Regional Water System (PBRWS) and acequias.

Mr. Dupuis mentioned that the County requires capping a well when hooking up to the utility and the PBRWS water master does not. He said a modification to the SLDC and approval by the BCC will be necessary to be in compliance with the water master.

At this point it appears no one from the southern part of the County will be appointed even through there are serious water issues in the south.

A. Drought Management

- 1. Approve framework for discussion of drought management trigger options**
- 2. Review options for drought triggers: City of Santa Fe, Eldorado Area Water Utility, etc.**
- 3. Develop recommendations for the BCC**
- 4. Present recommendations to BCC – Date TBD**

Mr. Romero offered the two main points developed from the drought management working group:

- Drought management will be based on Santa Fe County utility water customers. Eldorado will be managed through its own utility
- Meet with staff to ensure mechanisms for drought management are supportable – whether through resolution, ordinance, informational outreach, etc.

Other discussion points included:

- Continue to work/coordinate with the City
- Participate in City's review of Chapter 25

Mr. Dupuis said the effect that the County can have in the enforcement of drought management should be considered – the legality of drought management for non-utility residents is limited. Awareness of drought in the County is important and the initiation of an awareness communication would be very useful. He said issuing a state of drought notice will generate a strong response from the community and drought declaration needs to be developed in coordination with the City to ensure consistency in the message. Conservation compliance has different forms. Depending upon what is the desired result – reducing river water use/utility, replenishing the aquifer – the consistency with the trigger will drive the message.

Chair Follingstad recalled a study conducted during her tenure at the County regarding backup wells and infrastructure. It is important to keep the development of a backup system on the table.

Mr. Kirk recommended that staff review the ISC's draft five-year plan update.

Rosemary Romero was mentioned as an excellent facilitator in working on water issues.

Revision of the drought management resolution may be the first step which requires determining notice and educational components outlining regulations.

Mr. Dupuis said the County's conservation ordinance has teeth and a violation can result in a \$50 fine.

Mr. Helms expressed concerns that have been raised in his neighborhood that drought regulations could result in the loss of significant trees while golf courses continue to be watered.

Mr. Dupuis said the BCC recently held a two weekend facilitated study session to develop a strategic plan with identified milestones and tasks. One of the top priorities is backup water supply. Recommendations from this body should be congruent with the strategic plan. The strategic plan established the following:

2.2.1 Develop additional backup water supply

Actions:

- Compile official documents addressing backup water supply including current plans, previous studies, ordinances, contracts, etc. – completed by 2nd Quarter 2019
- County Manager and BCC meet with Mayor and City Council to review current state of backup water supply to collective utilities and options to expand – completed by July 2020
- Build internal team of Santa Fe County experts to create and analyze list of options for additional backup water supply
- Meet with regional partners to discuss options for additional backup water supply – City, mutual domestics, BDD, PBRWS, Eldorado, large well water users
- Determine and locate resources needed

- Create an Action Plan
- Secure water supply with water rights, infrastructure and wet water with regional partners.

Performance measure: the acre-feet of backup water supply available per year, when BDD is inoperable, the target is 100 percent of annual deliveries available in backup water supply if BDD is inoperable for one year. To be completed by end of FY2022 in four years.

Chair Follingstad requested that the strategic plan tasks and potential backup supply list be forwarded to the members.

Mr. Dupuis said declaring drought is not on the BCC radar. Staff focus is on finding supply. Albuquerque/Bernalillo decided to keep their San Juan-Chama water in the river and asked the County, Española, Las Campanas and Los Alamos to do the same. The request was informal and discussed with the major operators of each entity. In June the native (non-San Juan-Chama) flows were very low and those native rights that go through BDD belong to the County and were used before San Juan-Chama. The current diversion is all San Juan-Chama.

A discussion about the process to make the decision to keep the San Juan-Chama water in the river ensued. Mr. Dupuis said it is an annual decision made via a “call for water.” The decision is made at the direction/advice by the water management staff.

It was suggested that the drought management working group meet with County staff.

B. Regionalization

Chair Follingstad said it was Mr. Rusnick’s opinion that meetings with the City were necessary. She suggested the working group meet with County staff, determine how to follow up with the City and that the appropriate staff be identified.

There was consensus to:

- Develop a list of benefits including boundaries to regionalization before meeting City staff
- Review former WPAC Chair Nylander’s whitepaper on regionalization

A concern regarding ownership of a regional water system was raised. Mr. Dupuis described a water authority that had complete independence. Mr. Kirk said he has numerous examples of independent authorities around the country that set their own rates and managed their own finances. He recognized that politically it’s a hard sell to put everything under one umbrella. The City and County need to develop a strong collaborative relationship in terms of what they can do.

IX. Matters from the Committee

None were presented.

X. Matters from County Staff

A. Update on Pojoaque Basin Regional Water System

None was offered.

B. Update on Community Systems

Mr. Dupuis said at this point there is nothing new to report on the Eldorado and Cañoncito systems' interface. The funding for the project was \$1.460 million awarded from the Water Trust Board, a County contribution and a long-term low-interest loan from DFA. The construction drawings are complete and an RFP is being developed for construction.

C. Status of Member Vacancies

Staff was reminded to check on whether Dyan Oldenburg, who attended the June meeting, was interested in serving on WPAC.

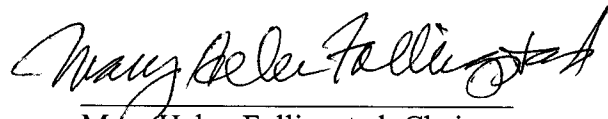
D. County Water/Wastewater Master Plan Rate Study update

Mr. Dupuis said the master plan rate study was presented to the BCC and the rates were approved.

XI. Adjournment

Having completed the agenda and with no further business to come before this Committee, this meeting adjourned at approximately 6:55 p.m.

Approved by:


Mary Helen Follingstad, Chair

Respectfully submitted by:

Karen Farrell, Wordswork



COUNTY OF SANTA FE)
STATE OF NEW MEXICO) ss
I Hereby Certify That This Instrument Was Filed for
Record On The 16TH Day Of July, 2019 at 01:34:53 PM
And Was Duly Recorded as Instrument # 1891356
Of The Records Of Santa Fe County

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

