

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

**July 9, 2020**

**Santa Fe, New Mexico**

I. This Santa Fe County Water Policy Advisory Committee (WPAC) meeting was called to order by Chair Bryan Romero at approximately 5:00 p.m. on the above-cited date. In accordance with the Public Health Emergency Order issued by the State of New Mexico, this meeting was conducted via WebEx.

II. The following members were present:

**Members Present:**

Bryan Romero  
Ken Kirk  
Steve Rudnick  
Shann Stringer [late arrival]  
Mary Helen Follingstad [late arrival]

**Member(s) Excused:**

Emily Wolf

**County Staff Present:**

Anjali Bean, Utilities Department

**Others Present:**

Anna Hamilton, County Commissioner

Initially lacking a quorum, action items were postponed.

V. **Introductions** – Deemed unnecessary.

VI. **Matters from the Public** – None were present

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

VIII. **Old Business**

A. **Drought Management** – postponed awaiting subcommittee representation

SFC CLERK RECORDED 02/25/2021

**VIII. B. Follow-up discussion related to primacy authorization/primacy from United States Environment Protection Agency to administer the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program.**

Chair Romero reminded the committee that, at the last meeting, there was consensus to draft a letter related to policy which would be reviewed by the committee prior to forwarding to the BCC and/or State.

Ms. Bean said that she has developed a rough draft of a resolution which requires populating with points to be developed by the subcommittee. She expected to work with Commissioner Hamilton and her liaison. Chair Romero recommended a letter advocating the state seek primacy and the BCC would provide support data.

Commissioner Hamilton said that a resolution would be the first step in the County's support of primacy.

Following discussion, there was agreement that a primacy support letter detailing its benefits be developed first. Following the full committee's review, staff would use those points to populate the resolution. Most of the benefits can be pulled from the Idaho document.

Identifying objections to primacy should be explored. It was noted that only two states lack primacy. Commissioner Hamilton noted that she knows of no objections from the County Commission; however, providing thorough support-information was essential.

Mr. Rudnick said that he has contacted non-profits in an effort to build support but has received little response. Non-profits tend to have a hard line agenda with little capacity for expansion, i.e., Environment New Mexico is focused on overturning the "Dirty Water Rule" (Navigable Waters Protection Rule) and is unwilling to include supporting primacy.

Mr. Stringer reminded the Committee that primacy was one of the Governor's directives for which she budgeted \$150,000 for NM ED to start the process although, no progress has been seen. He felt that, with Santa Fe County supporting primacy, other entities would follow and thus push the state along. Commissioner Hamilton said one of the "whereas" points should cite this as one of the Governor's initiatives.

Speaking hopefully, Commissioner Hamilton said that, by January 21, 2021, the process to rebuild the EPA will begin.

Mr. Stringer said he'll have something to share early next week on the topic. Chair Romero recommended that he work with Members Rudnick and Kirk to develop bullet points to populate the "whereas" of a resolution, using the Idaho document as a guide.

### **III. Approval of Agenda**

Mr. Kirk moved to approve the agenda as published. Mr. Rudnick seconded and the motion passed by unanimous [4-0] voice vote. [Ms. Follingstad was not present.]

### **IV. Approval of Minutes: June 11, 2020**

Mr. Rudnick moved to approve as presented. Mr. Kirk seconded and the motion passed by unanimous [4-0] voice vote. [Ms. Follingstad was not present.]

### **VIII. A. Update from WPAC Subcommittee on Santa Fe County Drought Management Plan**

Mr. Stringer said there was no update on this item.

Mr. Rudnick referred to an article in the *Journal* regarding drought in the Rio Grande where an NM ED employee stated that the state has no drought planning.

Mr. Stringer said the state water plan contains growth projections, targets priority funding areas, and is not specifically directed to drought management.

Commissioner Hamilton mentioned that, in response to the low flow of the Rio Grande, Albuquerque will not be taking surface water withdrawals this summer. This will have an impact on BDD. Ms. Bean said that Albuquerque's action relates to the silvery minnow requirements.

Chair Romero requested a copy of the subcommittee's draft to direct next month's meeting discussion.

Mr. Stringer said that inviting Jesse Roach and John Dupuis, as water managers in the Rio Grande, to discuss established triggers/numeric values would be useful. Those details would enhance the plan. To expedite the draft, Chair Romero suggested that Mr. Stringer email staff and copy the subcommittee members for that information, and he offered his assistance.

### **VI. Matters from the Committee**

Ms. Bean said this meeting was noticed; however, she did not send commissioner-elect Hughes an invitation. She offered to ensure that this will happen in the future.

[Ms. Follingstad joins the meeting.]

### **X. Matters from County Staff**

#### **A. Update on Aamodt Regional Water System**

Ms. Bean said that construction is continuing. There is no news on federal funding, although the federal authorization passed through the Senate.

**B. Update on the City's 40-80 Year Planning Process with City of Santa Fe**

Ms. Bean said there have been a few meetings with the City regarding their planning process. The County is working with the City on a scoping document which is a high-level overview of what is expected over the next five years. The City has engaged facilitators for the public process. Once the scoping document is completed it will be shared with WPAC.

The \$100,000 for the planning process and was not included in the capital request for FY21; however, management is confident the funding can be found within Utilities' main budget. Commissioner Hamilton pointed out that there is no question the County is in support of the planning process; however, it was not appropriate within the capital request.

**C. Update on Next Joint Committee Meeting with WPAC and WCC**

Commissioner Hamilton said there are some sensitive issues regarding funding constraints, furloughs, etc. around the BDD, and those may need to be addressed prior to developing a joint meeting.

Mr. Kirk informed the Committee that the City's Water Conservation Committee has not met as a committee for a few months, although subcommittees have.

**D. Status of Member Vacancies**

Ms. Bean said that she and Chair Romero reached out to Commissioner Garcia who informed them that JJ Gonzales was interested in serving. She said she followed up with Mr. Gonzales and sent him the necessary information on the committee. Mr. Gonzales currently serves on the County's Planning Commission and has experience with acequias.

Ms. Bean said she would review the membership composition.

**XI. Adjournment**

Having completed the agenda, Chair Romero declared this meeting adjourned at approximately 6:00 p.m.

COUNTY OF SANTA FE ) WATER POLICY ADVISORY  
STATE OF NEW MEXICO ) ss PAGES: 4

Approved by:

I Hereby Certify That This Instrument Was Filed for  
Record On The 25TH Day Of February, 2021 at 02:44:42 PM  
And Was Duly Recorded as Instrument # 1944710  
Of The Records Of Santa Fe County

*Estrada* Witness My Hand And Seal Of Office  
Katharine E. Clerk  
Deputy *Montano* County Clerk, Santa Fe,

Respectfully submitted by:

Karen Farrell, Wordswork



*Bryan Romero*  
Bryan Romero, Chair