

MINUTES OF THE
SANTA FE COUNTY
WATER POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

August 17, 2017

Santa Fe, New Mexico

I. This meeting of the Santa Fe County Water Policy Advisory Committee (WPAC) was convened at approximately 5:05 p.m. by Jerry Schoepner, County Hydrologist, 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, Northern Planning [telephonically]
Steve Rudnick, District 5
Bryan Romero, District 1
Denise Fort, BDD Board
Jesse Roach, District 4
Shann Stringer, Soil & Water Conservation
Martha Trujillo, Acequia Association

Member(s) Absent:

[Five vacancies]

Staff Present:

Jerry Schoepner, Utilities Division, Hydrogeologist
Sandra Ely, Aamodt Projects Manager
John Dupuis, Utilities Division Director

Others Present:

Evelina Montoya

III. Approval of Agenda

Ms. Fort asked that item VIII. A. f, BCC items for the WPAC, be heard as the first discussion item.

Mr. Romero moved to approve the agenda as amended and Ms. Trujillo seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

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IV. Approval of Minutes: June 20, 2017

Ms. Follingstad noted that the minutes of the September meeting were not approved at the last meeting due to lack of a quorum. Mr. Schoepner stated the new members, not having been to the meeting, did not feel comfortable approving those minutes, so they will be filed without having been officially approved.

Mr. Rudnick moved to approve the June 20, 2017 meeting minutes and Mr. Stringer seconded. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

V. Introduction of Utilities Director

The members present introduced themselves, and Mr. Schoepner introduced the new Utilities Director, John Dupuis.

VI. Matters from the Public

None were presented.

VII. Action Items

A. Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Mr. Rudnick nominated Ms. Follingstad and Ms. Fort seconded. Ms. Follingstad was unanimously voted chair. She deferred to the vice chair to take over the duties of chair for the current meeting.

Ms. Follingstad nominated Mr. Rudnick to serve as vice chair. Ms. Fort seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

VII. B. Adopt a meeting Schedule for the Rest of the Year

Mr. Rudnick said the schedule was confusing and Mr. Schoepner explained that two more meetings would fill out the rest of the year: October 12th and December 14th.

Ms. Trujillo moved to adopt the meeting schedule and Mr. Roach seconded. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

VIII. Discussion Items

A. Items from the June 20, 2017 Meeting

f. BCC items for the WPAC

Ms. Fort said she was unsure what the new remit of the committee would be. Mr. Schoepner said the enabling resolution requires the committee to look at water quantity and

quality issues as a whole. At this point there are no specific matters that the BCC has requested input on. Mr. Rudnick said he understood they were to look at regionalization.

Ms. Fort said she wanted to make sure they were reviewing items the BCC was interested in. Mr. Schoeppner said the committee will have interaction with the Commission in December and at that point issues could be defined. Ms. Follingstad advocated interacting with the various Commissioners in order to clarify their purview. Mr. Rudnick said Commissioner Hamilton was aware of their mission but he wasn't sure about the other Commissioners. Ms. Trujillo said they could ask for a list of concerns. Ms. Follingstad suggested the committee members meet with their Commissioners individually on an informal basis, using a set of talking points as a springboard.

X. Matters from County staff
C. Update on Utility Master Plan

To accommodate Mr. Dupuis schedule, this agenda item was taken out of order. Mr. Dupuis stated HDR, an Albuquerque design firm, has been given a notice to proceed and is gathering data from staff on the master plan which they will then analyze. The plan will inform future capital improvement plans and budgets. The master plan will determine what infrastructure is necessary and settle on a model for analysis

Responding to questions, Mr. Dupuis said they will use the same model that the City uses to facilitate coordination and will look into sharing software. He said he would continue providing updates at future meetings.

Ms. Fort asked about current infrastructure plan. Mr. Dupuis said the plans are based on the Sustainable Growth Development Plan and Land Development Code that focus on SDA-1, with its zoning and land use.

Ms. Fort mentioned Cañoncito and Mr. Dupuis said that area is more under the category of a public service or community in need rather than being development-driven. He said costs could be recouped from subsequent developments along the line, since the line will be oversized for additional capacity. Mr. Dupuis said the utility master plan will develop 5-, 10-, and 20-year CIP lists with a ranking matrix.

Mr. Romero asked how this would affect utility rates. Mr. Dupuis said a rate study is included in the master plan.

[Mr. Dupuis left the meeting.]

III. A. a. GIS Map of Santa Fe River

Mr. Schoeppner displayed the map as requested at a previous meeting showing the ownership of land below the wastewater treatment plan.

Referring to the Sierra Club letter [*Exhibit 1*] Ms. Fort mentioned the City's application for a \$5 million grant to build a pipeline from the wastewater treatment plant to the Buckman Direct Diversion where it will be treated and dumped into the Rio Grande in exchange for return

flow credits. She noted there will be repercussions for the downstream entities. She suggested this committee might want to take a position on the issue.

Mr. Schoepner indicated Commissioner Hansen has concerns and the County declined to take a position following evaluation of the plan. For the City and the consultant, Carollo, the emphasis is on producing potable water.

Ms. Fort said she would prefer to see the water remain in the channel and would like to see the process slowed down. She expressed her opinion that the City should be responsive to the entire river.

Mr. Schoepner said the committee's role in this will depend on what the BCC decides. The City could be asked to give a presentation. He noted that today was the deadline for submission of the grant application. However, it is possible that input may be accepted by the Bureau of Reclamation.

Mr. Roach said the City considers that their water to do with what they please.

Ms. Follingstad said given the concerns of the downstream irrigators the committee should weigh in.

Ms. Fort suggested giving direction to staff to advise the County Manager of the concerns. Mr. Schoepner said that has been done.

VIII. A. b. MS4 Permit Update

Mr. Schoepner provided a power point explaining the history of the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems Permit, starting in 1899 with attempts to keep garbage out of waterways. He reviewed the various highlights of legislation involving clean water and NPDES permits. New Mexico is predominantly under Phase 2 of the Act under EPA, which encourages partnerships. A cost-sharing agreement is pending among the City, County and DOT.

Mr. Rudnick suggested getting the schools involved. Mr. Romero said the sampling has to be done right after a storm which is a challenge.

VIII. A. c. Regionalization

Mr. Schoepner said this is an ongoing issue and will be a continuing agenda item.

Mr. Roach said the City just passed a resolution rejecting the concept of regionalization. Ms. Fort stated the Council adopted a resolution based on a report from staff without public input. Mr. Rudnick recommended getting background information on this resolution.

VIII. A. d. Water Master Plan

This was covered by the update on the Utilities Master Plan.

VIII. A. e. Water Service Agreement/Water Rights Update

Mr. Schoeppner indicated Glorieta GeoScience has been helping reconcile supply and demand on water service agreements/water delivery agreements generated over the years. He distributed spreadsheets [*Exhibit 2*] showing how many are still viable and how many can be taken off the books. These show capacity versus obligations.

VIII. B. Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Authority's Donation of \$1 Million for Source Water Protection

Mr. Schoeppner referred to a newspaper article describing how Albuquerque is working to protect San Juan-Chama watersheds from fire damage, etc. Ms. Fort said the money was given to a consortium. Mr. Stringer said it is called the Greater Rio Grande Watershed Alliance. He asked if there was a plan. Mr. Roach said work would be done on the headwaters of the Blanco, Navajo and Little Navajo – San Juan/Chama tributaries.

VIII. C. Discussion of Future Work Efforts

Covered in previous discussion

IX. Matters from the Committee

Mr. Roach recommended further study on the City's negative resolution on regionalization. Mr. Schoeppner said he would find a copy of the resolution and the staff report and circulate them before the next meeting. Mr. Rudnick suggested Councilor Ives be invited to a future meeting after they have analyzed the resolution more closely.

X. Matters from County Staff

A. Status of Member Vacancies on WPAC

Mr. Schoeppner said there have been a "couple bites" but no official letters of interest. Public Works Director Kelley will contact the Commissioners about appointing people from their districts. Ms. Follingstad said there used to be three members from the southern part of the county and their participation offered an interesting counterpoint.

X. B. Summary of City of Santa Fe's Reclaimed Wastewater Feasibility Study

Covered in previous discussion.

X. D. Power Point Presentation on Aamodt

Sandra Ely, Aamodt Project Director, gave a history of the Aamodt lawsuit starting in 1966, and listed the reasons why the County supports the settlement, including there will be 4,000 new acre-feet of water into the basin. She described adjustments made to the original

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settlement through the watermaster rules, including more options for well owners. The overall goal is to provide a safe and reliable supply for basin residents.

Ms. Ely gave a timeline of what has to occur before the settlement is complete. The final decree was signed recently and all the surface, groundwater, pueblo and non-pueblo water rights have been adjudicated. The State Engineer issued a permit for 1,700 acre-feet from the Top of the World water rights. She showed the contemplated regional water system transmission and distribution pipelines as well as pump stations. The cost is anticipated to be \$160 million and the County's obligation toward that is \$7.4 million, although no funds have get been put toward construction. A joint powers agreement has gone to DFA and is expected to be signed shortly.

Future milestones include: signature of the Secretary of the Interior affirming certain things have taken place, the State issuing their schedule of payments, and the final decree issued. The watermaster rules will administer the settlement in the basin. Additionally, the County has to sign a funding agreement and that is contingent upon settling easement issues. The EIS will be finalized January 2018 with a record of decision. Design by CDM Smith should be complete by this summer and construction is to begin August 2018 with completion scheduled for 2024. If not completed by that deadline the settlement fails and adjudication will have to begin again.

Details remain to be finalized on the connection fee fund of \$4 million and the impairment fund of \$500,000. An operating agreement is pending.

Ms. Ely reviewed the 11 points that the WPAC presented to the BCC. She offered to provide the results of the recent well testing at the next meeting.

Ms. Trujillo voiced her concerns regarding potential "hiccups" that could occur if things don't go as planned. She noted it is a very emotional issue for residents and has caused divisions within the community. Fewer the 200 people have signed up thus far.

XI. Adjournment

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

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Approved by:



Mary Helen Follingstad
Mary Helen Follingstad, Chair

Respectfully submitted by:

Debbie Doyle, 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 23RD Day Of May, 2019 at 10:05:59 AM
And Was Duly Recorded as Instrument # 1886959
Of The Records Of Santa Fe County

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