

MINUTES OF THE
SANTA FE COUNTY
WATER POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING

November 14, 2024

Santa Fe, New Mexico

1. A. This meeting of the Santa Fe County Water Policy Advisory Committee (WPAC) was called to order at approximately 4:00 p.m. by Chair Shann Stringer on the above-cited date in the Plaza Conference Room, 100 Catron Street Santa Fe, New Mexico. The meeting was conducted as a hybrid with people attending in person and on line.

B. A quorum was achieved with the following members present:

Members Present:

Shann Stringer, Chair
Amy Jordan
Peter Gowen
James Mike Henry [Webex]
John Kadlecsek [Webex – appears at 5]
Darrin Muenzberg
Stephen Schmelling
Commissioner Bustamante [non-voting member]

Member(s) Excused:

Jeff Montoya
Emily Wolf
Laird Graeser

County Staff Present:

Sara Smith, Manager's Office, Operations Manager
Cristella Valdez, Assistant Attorney
Hvtce Miller, Intergovernmental Outreach Coordinator
Michael Carr, Public Works, Compliance Officer [Webex]
Leandro Cordova, Deputy Manager
Jacqueline Beam, Sustainability Manager
Brett Clavio, Planning Manager
Alexandra Ladd, Growth Management Director
Andrew Harnden, Open Space Resources
Travis Soderquist, Utilities Deputy Director
Brittney Montoya, Constituent Services Liaison
Brickman House, Sustainability

Others Present:

Carl Dickens, Pipeline Coalition
Genell Ziciya, Interested citizen
Abe Franklin, Interested citizen
Jamie Gagan, Tesuque citizen

C. Approval of Agenda

Ms. Smith requested that item 6, Update on the WPAC report concerning Cañada de los Alamos, be heard at the top of the agenda.

There were no other changes, and Mr. Gowen moved to approve the agenda as amended. Mr. Muenzberg seconded and the agenda was unanimously approved.

D. Introduction of WPAC Guests

The guest introduced themselves.

6. Matters from Staff

A. Update on the WPAC Report Concerning the Application of Cañada de los Alamos Mutual Domestic Water Consumer and Mutual Sewage Works Association for Bulk Water Service from Santa Fe County

Utilities Deputy Director Soderquist said that staff will be presenting WPAC and staff's report to the BCC. Mr. Gowen offered to be present to answer any questions and provide a brief introduction. Staff will offer their opinions which include the cost of the project, and whether appropriate funding is available.

A discussion ensued whether a special meeting with staff was necessary. Mr. Gowen said that he would appreciate hearing staff's concerns regarding the project. However, he was not prepared to speak to the financial considerations. The financial analysis is a staff responsibility. Mr. Soderquist said that the staff report will need to be completed and submitted by November 26th. WPAC has completed their portion to move the Cañada request forward. Mr. Gowen said his presentation will be strictly limited to the unanimously approved report. He recalled that Mr. Graeser had some comments regarding financing of the project which were included as an appendix to the report.

Deputy Manager Cordova said that staff's recommendation with regard to Cañada becoming a bulk water distributor does not differ from that of WPAC. Staff's diligence includes financials and how the MOU will be structured. Until the numbers are figured out and the financial commitments are determined, negotiations for an MOU are not possible. Staff can support the recommendation to provide bulk water; however, how to get the water there and cost to benefit ratios need to be addressed. Deputy Cordova commended WPAC on their report and said that management will continue to work on this project, recognizing there are other projects in the queue. Noting his background as general counsel to a water authority in Colorado, Mr. Gowen offered to assist in any way.

[There were some audio difficulties with the Webex participants and the committee recessed for five minutes.]

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes

A. October 10, 2024

Mr. Gowen requested that the WPAC report on the Cañada de los Alamos application be attached to the minutes. Chair Stringer requested that “subcommittee” be replaced with “work group” throughout the minutes.

Mr. Gowen moved to approve the October 10th meeting minutes as corrected. Mr. Schmelling seconded and the motion passed without opposition.

3. Discussion Items

A. Discussion Concerning the WPAC’s 2025 Work Plan

Chair Stringer noted that he and Ms. Wolf discussed work groups and included Mr. Graeser’s suggestions. It was recommended to align the work groups with county departments.

The priorities from the previous meetings were reviewed to ensure they were included in a work group. Buckets were to be developed under each of the work group categories.

For productivity purposes, Mr. Harnden recommended limiting the number of work groups to three.

Overlaps and coordination with state entities was discussed, as well as how sustainability could fit into each work group. Planning and regional partnerships appear to overlap into all three groups.

The committee worked on the different ideas and agreed upon the following three work groups:

Drinking & Wastewater Management

- Drinking water
- Aquifer storage recharge and recovery (ASR)
- Develop framework for process
- JPA/overlap
- Staff: Utilities, Soderquist; Compliance, Carr and Planning, Harnden
- Members: Jordan, Gowen, Muenzberg, Schmelling, Kadlecek

Stormwater Management

- Nature-based climate solution
- Aquifer recharge
- JPA/overlap
- Staff: Utilities, Compliance, Carr; Sustainability, Beam and Planning, Harnden
- Members: Muenzberg, Dickens, Stringer, Gowen

Outreach

- Develop educational materials
- Support state's Primacy efforts
- Support NMED and OSE
- Staff: Utilities, Sustainability, House; Utilities, Soderquist and Planning, Harnden
- Members: Kadlecek, Jordan, Henry

[See Exhibit 1 for entire listing of work group tasks]

The goal of the work groups is to inform and engage with the entire committee and not create silos.

ACTION: Mr. Muenzberg moved to accept the work groups as listed above and Mr. Gowen seconded. The motion passed without opposition.

The work groups do not require posting of meeting notification, minutes, agendas etc. Mr. Gowen commented that notes would be useful for distribution.

Ms. Valdez cautioned about a rolling quorum with a member serving on two work groups and the potential of cross-pollinating information.

The risk as noted by Ms. Valdez was discussed, and Mr. Muenzberg opined that the likelihood was remote. There was agreement that cross pollination of ideas would occur at the formal WPAC meetings.

Work group chairs/leaders were tasked to provide a report at each WPAC meeting. In terms of chairs, the work groups can determine that.

It was noted that absent WPAC members Graeser, Wolf and Montoya were not yet assigned to a group.

Mr. Soderquist requested the integration of WPAC's identified priorities into the work groups. He mentioned the development of a framework for potential customers to efficiently navigate the process of connecting to the County utility system, or the County take over a specific system. He anticipated more entities coming forward with requests regarding systems. Chair Stringer agreed that it should be addressed, and an amendment to the resolution is required.

Mr. Gowen said he was interested in the Tesuque Watershed Association 501(c)(3) request which has been listed with Outreach, and requested participating in that conversation. He said he has researched and prepared materials regarding 501(c)(3). Mr. Muenzberg said that WPAC should not be involved in a community-driven 501(c)(3). Chair Stringer noted that it was on the priority list when Bishop's Lodge discharge permit was being reviewed. He suggested holding it on the agenda for periodic updates. Ms. Beam pointed out that it would fall under outreach as an educational process. Instead, the Outreach work group will develop an information packet for watersheds to form their own 501(c)(3).

Commissioner Bustamante mentioned that the Town of Edgewood is interested in buying King Ranch water rights in Stanley. The question of at what level should the County and WPAC participate in that endeavor was broached.

The work groups can review priorities and rankings and, if necessary, modify them at the December meeting in anticipation of the BCC presentation.

The notion of information silos was discussed and the importance of collaboration.

5. Matters from the Public

Ms. Gagan said that the matter with Bishop's Lodge is not solved and over. The EPA permit was tabled in terms of surface water issues. But the NMED groundwater permit is still in play, and they are still reviewing the 200+ comments they received. There will be a hearing. Protect Tesuque is concerned that the permit is not sufficient to protect the water.

Chair Stringer said that there is information from several other states on ways of assessing the impacts of discharge, and he offered to forward that to Mr. Soderquist to forward on.

7. Matters from the Committee

Regarding the sampling of PFAS, Chair Stringer said that currently there is no lab capacity for additional sampling.

Commissioner Bustamante mentioned what appears to be a marketing effort for water testing.

The committee contact information is available to initiate work group meetings. Mr. Gowen offered to initiate Water and Wastewater. Mr. Kadlecsek said he would initiate Outreach

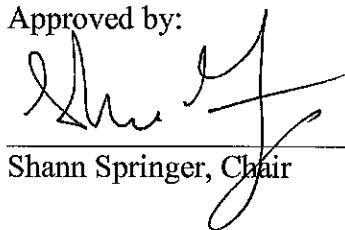
8. Next WPAC Meeting: December 12, 2024

Agenda idea: How to measure performance based success.
Review of priorities

9. Adjournment

Following a motion by Mr. Gowen and second by Mr. Muenzberg, this meeting adjourned at approximately 6:00 p.m.

Approved by:



Shann Springer, Chair

Respectfully submitted by:

Karen Farrell, Wordswork

