

**SANTA FE COUNTY
WATER POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2025
240 GRANT AVENUE, PLAZA CONFERENCE ROOM, 4:00 PM
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO**

1. OPENING BUSINESS

A. CALL TO ORDER

A meeting of the Water Policy Advisory Committee was called to order by Shann Stringer, Chair, at 4:00 PM, on Thursday, December 11, 2025, in the Plaza Conference Room, 240 Grant Avenue, Santa Fe, NM.

B. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT

Shann Stringer, Chair
James Mike Henry
Peter Gowen
Stephen Schmelling
Amy Jordan
Laird Graeser
John Kadlecek

MEMBERS ABSENT

Darrin Muenzberg
Jeff Montoya

OTHERS PRESENT

Andrew Harnden, Santa Fe County Planning
Michael Carr, Public Works Environmental Compliance Officer
Angela Bordegarey, North Central Economic Development
Nina Rosenberg, Santa Fe County
Herbert Foster, Land Use Planner, Santa Fe County
Jacqueline Beam, Sustainability, Santa Fe County
Carl Dickens, Community Member
Elizabeth Martin, Stenographer, virtually

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION A motion was made by Mr. Gowen, seconded by Mr. Kadlecek, to approve the agenda as presented.

VOTE The motion passed on a voice vote.

2. MATTERS FROM THE PUBLIC

None.

3. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

A. REQUEST APPROVAL OF THE OCTOBER 9, 2025 WATER POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

B. REQUEST APPROVAL OF THE NOVEMBER 13, 2025 WATER POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Both sets of minutes were postponed to the January meeting.

C. INTRODUCTIONS

Nina Rosenberg, County Staff; Angela Bordegaray, North Central Economic Development District (NCNMEDD); and Carl Dickens, community resident were introduced.

4. MATTERS FROM STAFF

None.

5. PRESENTATIONS

A. PRESENTATION ON COUNTY WATER USE REPORTS AND OPTIONS FOR UPDATING SANTA FE COUNTY 2024 DATA

Mr. Graeser stated that this report is the accumulation of six to eight months of research.

Mr. Graeser gave a PowerPoint presentation of the County Water Use reports, saying the data is lagging, but is useful data. Getting a handle on aquifer sourced irrigation water is important because it is the largest percent of water use.

Mr. Graeser reviewed the presentation including data reporting and the collection process, saying if we can get a handle on the main uses of water, we would be in a

good place to update on an annual basis. He gave an overview of sum of the County's and the City of Santa Fe's water use numbers.

There was discussion about the possibility of separating the irrigation number between acequia irrigation and other irrigation, and on the subjects of reserves, funding for the Water Data Act and the possibility of making comments on the published proposed rule.

Mr. Kadlecek said it is too late to make public comments on the Water Security Planning Act. It is before the Interstate Stream Commission at this time to vote. There is an effort in the Agriculture Advisory Committee to work on a map to build strategies for conservation and the County's Plan.

There was discussion regarding what is included in the public water supply, what is supposed to be included in each regional plan and water safety.

Mr. Graeser said he wanted to share with the Committee what data is available.

Mr. Harnden suggested Mr. Graeser's water use reports be revisited at future meetings.

6. ACTION ITEMS

A. APPROVAL OF WPAC 2026 WORKPLAN FOR PRESENTATION JAN 27TH FOR BCC APPROVAL

Mr. Harnden said a few WPAC members and staff had worked on a draft 2026 workplan that was presented at the November meeting. Mr. Harnden shared his screen with the draft plan.

Mr. Harnden said staff only received comments back for Outreach Working Group tasks.

Ms. Beam asked that the wording be changed to GSI and Maintenance Guide and to put that under the Outreach Working Group.

Mr. Gowen said the Soil Health Program was added to the draft workplan. He asked if the committee would be able to work on it next year.

The consensus of the Committee was yes, and the task would be continued to the next year.

Mr. Gowen asked if the Committee thinks this group should be collecting data or

if it is a staff or consultant task.

The consensus of the Committee was that they can share information if they chose to do so at meetings. If we need information, we can report that and can continue to explore data and trends. Leave it in the plan.

MOTION A motion was made by Mr. Gowen, seconded by Mr. Graeser, to approve the workplan as amended.

VOTE The motion passed on a roll call vote as follows:

Ms. Wolf, yes; Mr. Henry, yes; Mr. Gowen, yes; Mr. Schmelling, yes; Ms. Jordan, yes; Mr. Graeser, yes; Mr. Kadlecek, yes; Chair Stringer, yes.

7. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. PREPARATION OF WPAC 2025 PROGRESS REPORT AS REQUIRED BY RESOLUTION 2024-038 FOR COMMITTEE APPROVAL AT WPAC JANUARY 8TH REGULAR MEETING AND FOR PRESENTATION JANUARY 27TH FOR BCC APPROVAL

Mr. Gowen said the progress report draft is in the meeting packet. There have been no comments on this. If you have any changes, additions or suggestions, please get them to Andrew or me prior to the January meeting.

Mr. Kadlecek said there is an adjustment needed in the Soil and Water District report in the second item.

Mr. Gowen asked that he send that to him and he will make that adjustment.

Mr. Harnden said the County will also be working on this for the January meeting.

B. NEXT GENERATION WATER SUMMIT (NGWS) 2026

Ms. Beam said we have not met. We have established a list of speakers that was sent out in October. We will be meeting after the holidays.

8. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. RECAP OF 'SANTA FE COUNTY WATER: TODAY AND TOMORROW' OCTOBER 27TH 9:00 AM TO 2:00 PM BCC SPECIAL MEETING RECONVENED NOVEMBER 17TH 9:00 AM START

Mr. Harnden reviewed the November 17th meeting and the feedback from the BCC.

9. MATTERS FROM THE COMMITTEE

Mr. Graeser said he was informed that the Eldorado Area Water and Sewer Association (EAWSD) Director would like to be a voting member of WPAC.

Members discussed the steps for a community member to apply to join a County committee and stated that appointment is by the County Commission. Members discussed whether members should be required to attend a minimum number of meetings each year.

Mr. Harnden mentioned a Galisteo community member also expressed interest in applying to join WPAC, and asked Carl Dickens if he would also apply to become a member.

Chair Stringer asked the Committee to vote on and select a new Chair at the January 8th 2026 meeting.

10. NEXT WPAC MEETING: JANUARY 8, 2026

11. CONCLUDING BUSINESS

A. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION A motion was made by Mr. Gowen, seconded by Mr. Graeser, to adjourn the meeting.

VOTE The motion passed on a voice vote.

There being no further business before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 5:23 pm.

Peter Gowen

Shann Stringer, Chair
PETER GOWEN
[Signature]

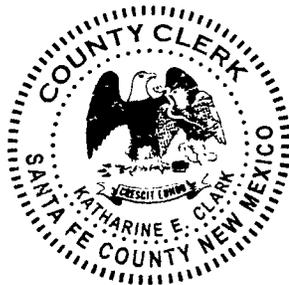
Elizabeth Martin, Stenographer

COUNTY OF SANTA FE) WATER POLICY ADVISORY
STATE OF NEW MEXICO) ss PAGES: 7

Hereby Certify That This Instrument Was Filed for Record On The 4TH Day Of March, 2026 at 09:45:36 AM and Was Duly Recorded as Instrument # 2078343 of The Records Of Santa Fe County

Witness My Hand And Seal Of Office
Katharine E. Clark
Deputy _____ County Clerk, Santa Fe, NM

SFC CLERK RECORDED 03/04/2026



December 11, 2025

**Water Policy Advisory Committee
2026 Work Plan**

Stormwater Management Working Group

1. Review and comment on the County staff and consultants' effort on: 1) revisions and additions to the Sustainable Land Development Code related to water conservation, harvesting and reuse, stormwater management, and code requirements for new developments; 2) Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI) Facility Master Plan; 3) GSI Installation and Maintenance Guide; 4) Subdivision review; and 5) Arroyo Stormwater Management component for the Stormwater Management Plan (SWMP).
2. Explore and recommend projects and policies for promoting wastewater reuse in new and existing residential and commercial developments including updates to County's Sustainable Land Development Code (SLDC) and Sustainable Growth Management Plan (SGMP) to include incentives and/or requirements for wastewater reuse.
3. Review information included in the Hazard Mitigation Plan on flood control structures that are owned by the Santa Fe-Pojoaque Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD).

Drinking & Wastewater Management Working Group

1. Review and Process applications for utility service by existing water and wastewater service providers pursuant to Resolution 2015-121 and as it may be amended.
2. Review and comment on staff and consultant efforts on:
 - a. LC/LC PER/Water Planning Study & Rapid Watershed Assessment
 - b. County PFAS study
 - c. Santa Fe 2100 Water Plan
 - d. Wastewater treatment plant return flow credits
 - e. Aquifer Storage Recovery at the Quill Plant
 - f. Domestic Wells Monitoring Program
 - g. Return flow credits

Comment on reports once available.

Outreach Working Group

1. Identify options for potential collaboration/partnerships regarding stormwater and wastewater management with the City of Santa Fe and other organizations such as the Santa Fe Watershed Association (SFWA), and with stakeholders and collaborative watershed planning groups in other County watersheds.
2. Explore opportunities for greater cooperation between NM Environment Department, Office of State Engineer (OSE) and County staff, to coordinate reporting requirements and databases for septic tanks and domestic wells.

SFC CLERK RECORDED 03/04/2026

3. Explore options for supporting Community Water Systems for strengthening resiliency in infrastructure, people, and water supply. Support staff, NMED Drinking Water Bureau (DWB), Rural Community Assistance Corporation (RCAC), North Central New Mexico Economic Development District (NCNMEDD), and Rural Water Association (RWA) capacity building and training activities for Mutual Domestic Community Water Associations (MDCWAs) including systems regional collaboration for pooling and sharing resources. Propose engagement activities with MDCWA umbrella organizations as a contact point for staff efforts for promoting well monitoring and water conservation and reuse.
4. Explore and recommend strategies with USDA NRCS to increase agricultural producers' and residents' awareness of Soil Health Program. Work with Soil Health New Mexico.
5. Create a suite of strategies for increasing outreach to any county water-related program (domestic well reporting, for example, to address the question: how do residents find out about a program? (website, newsletter, property tax stuffers (biannual?), informational packets with new home purchases partnering with realtors. E-communication sign-up. Items for fun – water bottles, flow reduction products, videos, press releases, social media)
6. Continue exploring trends in water data and consider ways of updating these data elements and conveying relevant data to the residents of the county.
7. Explore and recommend processes for additional community engagement regarding County water-related projects.

SFC CLERK RECORDED 03/01/2025