

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

**June 20, 2017**

**Santa Fe, New Mexico**

I. This meeting of the Santa Fe County Water Policy Advisory Committee (WPAC) was convened at approximately 5:15 p.m. by Jerry Schoeppner, County Hydrologist, on the above-cited date at the Santa Fe County Public Works Building Conference Room, 424 NM 599, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

II. The following members were present:

**Members Present:**

Mary Helen Follingstad, Northern Planning  
Steve Rudnick, District 5  
Bryan Romero, District 1  
Denise Fort, BDD Board  
Jesse Roach, District 4  
Shann Stringer, Soil & Water Conservation

**Member(s) Absent:**

Martha Trujillo, Acequia Association  
[Five vacancies]

**Staff Present:**

Jerry Schoeppner, Utilities Division, Hydrogeologist

III. **Approval of Agenda**

IV. **Approval of Minutes: September 8, 2016**

Lacking a quorum, no action was taken on these items.

V. **Introduction of WPAC Members**

Those present introduced themselves.

VI. **Action Items**

A. **Election of Chair and Vice Chair**

Lacking a quorum, no was taken on this item.

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**B. Adopt a meeting schedule for the remainder of the year**

Lacking a quorum, no action could be taken.

It was mentioned that in the past the agendas had been extremely dense with presentations and discussion items.

Mr. Schoeppner recalled that the Aamodt discussions were very complicated and once a workplan is adopted, they could avoid over-packed agendas. County Aamodt Project Manager Ely will probably present an update on Aamodt and discuss whether there are any remaining issues for WPAC to weigh in on.

Mr. Schoeppner said that the Utilities Director has approved additional advertising to fill the vacancies. Ms. Fort questioned whether filling the vacancies was helpful in attaining a quorum.

An item identified on the work plan would benefit from being on the agenda for two meetings rather than one in order to focus on that item.

The 599 meeting venue was noted as problematic and there was agreement to meet at the Projects, Facilities, and Open Space Conference Room, 901 W. Alameda, Suite 20C in the Casa Solano Shopping Center.

**VII Discussion Items**

**A. What's next for WPAC?**

**1. Review of current workplan and status of each item**

**Task 1: Review Cañada Ancha Floodwater Retention Structure**

It was the WPAC's recollection that additional information was requested and, until that data is provided the task would be shelved. Mr. Schoeppner said he understood this was an OSE-regulated dam.

In response to the notion of sending a letter to the OSE regarding the issue, Mr. Stringer said that the OSE is aware of the issue. The flood retention structure feeds into the Santa Cruz River. SWCD is developing an emergency action plan, and hopefully some funds will be freed up to address the problem. The structure is in Rio Arriba County but the protection is for Santa Fe.

It was requested that staff ascertain whether the BCC was aware of the issue, whether a resolution was coming forthcoming, and if a letter supporting the SWCD's request might be beneficial.

Provide input to and review the County's water policies and work products on the County-owned portion of the Pojoaque Basin water system, including system design.

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Aamodt was removed from the task. Mr. Schoeppner said that within the next month+ it will be known whether Aamodt will move forward. There are funding, easement, water transfer and other outstanding issues. Ms. Ely will address these items at the next meeting as part of her Aamodt presentation.

Tasks 2: Review preliminary and final applications for retail and wholesale water and/or wastewater service, pursuant to Resolution 2015-121, a resolution adopting procedures governing acquisition, integration and provision of technical assistance to community water and wastewater systems

Mr. Schoeppner said that the County has three systems: Cañoncito, Chupadero, and Hyde Park Estates. The County has inherited these systems as a County utility, and all three are liabilities. The previous public works director and staff developed evaluation criteria which will be reviewed before providing a recommendation to the BCC. The three systems were accepted before the criteria were developed. Chupadero lacks water quantity and the County has located a location for another well which may be helpful. Hyde Park Estates has distribution and infrastructure issues. The utility got an initial \$9 million estimate to run a line from the edge of the County system to Cañoncito – the line would service 140 residences. Another alternative for Cañoncito would be finding other wells to augment the system. There are discussions with Eldorado’s water system (EAWSD) that could make the pipeline to Cañoncito viable.

Ms. Fort said the County may want to develop a policy on ground water before drilling additional wells. Mr. Schoeppner said the 2016 adopted Sustainable Land Development Code (SLDC) encourages development in the SDA 1 where the County provides utility services, thus avoiding groundwater dependency. When developments are presented, the County is required to evaluate them in terms of a long-term water supply. The County is to look at bigger regional water issues which need to be considered.

Mr. Rudnick said the EAWSD would have a hard time accepting the County’s water-related offer, since they don’t need water.

Mr. Schoeppner said that the County Utility has had a contractor working on the inventory of their customer base, water service agreements and water rights. They are determining obligations – historic and current – versus water rights. Once completed, the WPAC will be evaluating that inventory and making recommendations based on that information.

Task 3: Review of the SLDC - completed

Task 4: Provide input to and review the County’s water and wastewater master plans and provide recommendations regarding the master plans and how they address regional water planning needs and issues

Mr. Schoeppner said the consultant is expected to deliver a draft of the master plan within the next few weeks. The WPAC will review that draft.

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The Quill wastewater facility which has very poor effluent is currently being evaluated for a facility redesign which is anticipated to be completed fall 2017. Effluent is a valuable resource. The County has a long-term lease with the state to operate Quill.

Task 5: Review water allocation status in Santa Fe County and develop/review draft water allocation policies

Residential water use is going down in both the City and County which is credited to conservation awareness. The County has a sustainability office headed by Claudia Borchert.

Use of the County's bulk potable water, available off of SR14, came up and Mr. Schoeppner said that, at this point, contractors do use the water for dust reduction. Once the Quill plant is improved that effluent can be used for non-potable purposes.

Possible additions to the work plan: Ms. Fort suggested the protection of the Santa Fe River and its riparian health. Acknowledging that it was political, she mentioned the idea of putting BDD water into the river and perhaps developing a living river ordinance.

Mr. Schoeppner said Santa Fe County is a participant with the City's Source Water Protection Work Group.

Future discussion items:

- Provide GIS maps of Santa Fe River to Cochiti
- Review the MS4 federal permit which requires protection of Santa Fe River
- Keep "regionalization" on the agenda
- Email other suggestions to Jerry Schoeppner
- Review City-related water master plan
- Review County plan for Quill's effluent use
- Provide a spreadsheet on water service agreements
- Determine whether there is anything the new County Commissioners want WPAC to work on

## **IX. Matters from the Committee**

Hold the next meeting on W. Alameda; however, if it has to be held on 599, include a staff contact phone number for directions.

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

### **A. Status of member vacancies on WPAC**

- An updated WPAC member list will be emailed.
- The committee currently lacks appointees from Districts 2, 3, 4 and 5
- Consider whether the enabling resolution should be amended to reduce the number of committee members

**B. Update on WPAC Subcommittees**

Mr. Schoepner offered the following:

- The SLDC Subcommittee reviewed the code and developed recommendations – many were incorporated. At the SLDC six-month review more recommendations were accepted; however, there are still outstanding issues, i.e., the need for a hydrologic appendix that determines water availability, address unclear language regarding distance from development to existing wastewater or water line.
- The Allocation Subcommittee – the water surface commitments versus water rights inventory
- Development Subcommittee – this group staffed by Ms. Ely looked at how development applications could be better streamlined

Recognizing that additional members would not be appointed until late July at the earliest, those present agreed to meet August 17<sup>th</sup> at the W. Alameda location.

**XI. Adjournment**

Having completed the agenda and with no further business to come before this Committee, this meeting adjourned at approximately 6:40 p.m.

Approved by:

*Mary Helen Follungstad*

Respectfully submitted by:

Karen Farrell, Wordswork

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 STATE OF NEW MEXICO ) ss PAGES: 5

I Hereby Certify That This Instrument Was Filed for  
 Record On The 23RD Day Of May, 2019 at 10:05:58 AM  
 And Was Duly Recorded as Instrument # 1886958  
 Of The Records Of Santa Fe County

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