

MINUTES OF THE
SANTA FE COUNTY
WATER POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING

February 13, 2025

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
Emily Wolf
Amy Jordan
Laird Graeser
Peter Gowen
James Mike Henry [virtually]
John Kadlecek
Jeff Montoya [virtually]
Darrin Muenzberg [virtually]
Stephen Schmelling [virtually]

Member(s) Absent:

Commissioner Bustamante

County Staff Present:

Sara Smith, Manager's Office, Operations Manager
Hvtce Miller, Intergovernmental Outreach Coordinator
Cristella Valdez, Asst. County Attorney
Michael Carr, Public Works, Compliance Officer
Brett Clavio, Planning Manager
Leandro Cordova, Deputy Manager
Andrew Harnden, Senior Planner
Alexandra Ladd, Growth Management Director [virtually]
Travis Soderquist, Utilities Deputy Director
Brittney Montoya, Constituent Services Liaison
Paul Olafson, Community Development
Valerie Romero, GIS Planner
Brian Snyder, Public Works Director [virtually]

SFC CLERK RECORDED 03/18/2025

Others Present:

Bill Schneider, City of Santa Fe - Water Resource Manager
Steve Shultz, City of Santa Fe - Water Resource Coordinator
Karen Flores, Intera [virtually]
Joseph Tracy, Intera [virtually]
Lynda Price, Intera [virtually]
Joe Galemore, Intera [virtually]
Shelly Moeller [virtually]
Carl Dickens, Pipeline Coalition [virtually]

C. Approval of Agenda

There were no changes, and Mr. Gowen moved to approve the agenda. Mr. Graeser seconded and the agenda was unanimously approved.

D. Introduction of WPAC Guests

The guest introduced themselves.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes

A. January 9, 2025

Mr. Gowen moved to approve the January 9th meeting minutes as submitted. Mr. Kadlecek seconded and the motion passed without opposition.

3. Matters from Staff

A. Staff Proposal for Working Groups Form and Procedures and Discussion

Andrew Harnden, Senior Planner said that WPAC's 2025 workplan was approved by the BCC at its January 28th meeting. Staff has developed procedures for the working groups. Mr. Harnden outlined the procedures as recommended by staff as follows:

- Each working group should have a member-designated facilitator and a member designated to present progress to WPAC

Discussion included: A recommendation that each working group task have a designated leader. Do not have a designated presenter, and instead have the most relevant person for the task. In fact, the designated facilitator was named the designated presenter. Include an and/or.

Mr. Clavio said that the facilitator would not be the same person as the note taker at the working group meetings. It was agreed that the note taker could be determined at each meeting.

- Working Groups should meet as often as necessary, as determined by members

Agreed to with no comments.

- WPAC & Working Groups do not represent the County. Outreach with external partners/stakeholders should be led by staff liaisons. Staff liaisons representing the three Working Groups will be the contacts between WPAC and City of Santa Fe staff

This bullet point applies to other government agencies. The working group can contact non-profits, NGOs, etc. for information. Perhaps initial contact would be made by County staff. If the working groups are open to the public this bullet may not be applicable. Chair Stringer noted that working group meetings will not be published/noticed.

The idea of the working groups is that they are not subject to the Open Meetings Act. The size of a working group should be limited, not only to prevent a quorum, but also to ensure work can be accomplished.

A suggestion to specify state, local or federal government entities require first contact by staff. This would not include political subdivisions. "By invitation" was added.

- County staff can support the Working groups ~~once per month~~ as available at the discretion of staff. Staff logistical support can include reserving County meeting spaces, providing data, printing copies etc

The point of this is for the working group to consider in terms of managing expectations of staff.

Mr. Clavio said the bullet point is meant to convey that staff can meet once a month with a working group.

Chair Stringer recommended that any emails to staff from the working groups be sent to all three liaisons to ensure response.

Mr. Harnden said that there was flexibility in this, depending on staff's workload.

- Each Working Group's monthly report should be a standing item on the WPAC meeting agenda

Consensus on this point.

- Each Working Group will produce a quarterly progress summary for WPAC prior to the Committee's quarterly presentation to BCC

Consensus on this point.

- Working Group meetings should be open to other stakeholders and subject-matter experts (SMEs), including public, private, and non-profit stakeholders and ~~Small and Medium Enterprises~~ as appropriate, by invitation, while aiming to maintain small meeting size to ensure discussion is targeted

Invitation to a working group meeting can be extended by a working group member as well as staff.

SME was replaced with Subject Matter Expert and the small-, and medium- enterprise was deleted.

Working Group operations could also include:

- Staff support for developing activities, such as research, data collection and analysis, field visits, review of Best-Management-Practices (BMPs) and suitable technologies, public engagement, etc. and will depend on available staff time and resources;
- Working Groups establishment of channels to facilitate communications and electronic storage options, ~~such as~~, for example Teams, Slack, Google Drive, or similar

Also, staff will incorporate additional WPAC input and develop a one-page guidance document for Working Groups' operation and create an action item on the WPAC March 13 meeting agenda.

Mr. Clavio informed the Committee that WPAC will have its own website with all accompanying documentation. Working groups will maintain a shared drive, not a County resource, for research items.

As an aside, Mr. Gowen noted that the resolution reorganizing WPAC cites that the committee will review and comment on formal plans and policies developed by staff. He requested a listing of formal plans and policies that may be in preparation and when they would be presented to WPAC. Procedures for those deliberations by WPAC should be created and he offered to assist in that.

Mr. Harnden said that staff will incorporate the WPAC comments and present the revised one-page document for action at the March 13th meeting.

Mr. Gowen moved to approve the staff proposed procedures for the working groups as amended. Mr. Schmelling seconded and the motion passed without opposition.

4. Discussion Items

A. Brief Presentation and Discussion Concerning the Water 2100 Initiative and City of Santa Fe STEWaRDS Tool – Water Department's System Tool for Evaluating Water Resources Design and Strategies Model

Steve Shultz, City of Santa Fe Water Resources Coordinator, provided his background as a hydrogeologist. Mr. Shultz shared slides from a December 2024 public meeting around this model. The City and County finalized an MOU yesterday to jointly move forward with this planning effort.

Mr. Gowen requested that staff forward the MOU to the WPAC members.

The model is referred to as STEWARD and the intent of the tool is to help the City and County in being good stewards of the resource. The goals of Santa Fe Water 2100 are about providing a safe, reliable and resilient water supply in an uncertain future. The other goal is to integrate community values with science-based water resources planning.

The tool is designed to look across many future conditions and evaluate the effectiveness in adaptation strategies in meeting the goals in whatever the future might bring in providing a safe and resilient water supply.

Water 2100 is an 80-year water plan which basically looks at water demand and supply and evaluating what can be done to ensure a safe, resilient and reliable supply in the future. The Bureau of Reclamation is a collaborator and the STEWARD model has been developed with BOR through the WaterSMART Program. BOR is doing the climate/hydrology projections while the City and County are paying for the model. This is being accomplished in conjunction with BOR's Rio Grande Basin Study.

Mr. Shultz said that the modeling takes input on demand projections and supply projections and adaptation strategies are put into the model to determine how they perform. The County will develop its own demand and supply projections for modeling to create one integrated model. The single model will look at regional demand, individual City supply sources to meet City demand, individual County supply sources to meet County demand and there is an opportunity to look at collaborative strategies to work together.

Mr. Shultz said the City has been working on this for a time, and he was unsure when the County's assumptions and data would be integrated into the model. Mr. Soderquist said the County needs to meet with the City to determine what exactly is needed for the model, and a timeline has not been established for that component.

Chair Stringer referred to a recent article in the *New Mexican* where Commissioner Greene addresses the City and County working together more efficiently and effectively.

Mr. Kadlec asked how or if mutual domestics play into the modeling. Mr. Soderquist said that the County has contracted with a consultant to determine future demands and mutual domestics will be incorporated.

The City has key questions for the model which include a liability issue, is there enough water to meet demand; sustainably, how many generations into the future would the supply last; how much water is in the river both upper Santa Fe River through town and the lower Santa Fe River below the wastewater plant.

Mr. Shultz reviewed a diagram of the input into the model, water rights, infrastructure and operational assumptions. What comes out of the model is a monthly time set out to the year 2100, and looks at each month and picks supplies to meet the demand, or not meet the demand, if the demand exceeds the supply available. The model tracks water availability and removes water used. The City's demand projections were shown referring to the gpcd/gallons per capita per

day/gallons per person. He noted that through conservation, the City's demand has gone down. The County demands may look different with the pipelines to Eldorado and Cañoncito.

Santa Fe is a nation leader in water conservation. Chair Stringer noted that "looking at Australia, we have a long way to go."

Mr. Shultz said the BOR's work includes a team at UMass Amherst and the City has hired David Gutzler at UNM to work on climate projections.

Mr. Muenzberg asked the City representatives about the City's statutory definition of artificial water and then he went on to ask whether the City included effluent from the Paseo Real plant as artificial water and city property. He said this has to do with City's obligations to priority users downstream in the lower Santa Fe River. Mr. Shultz said he water planning expert and he suggested deferring the question to the City lawyer.

Mr. Muenzberg asked about the status of the return-flow credit pipeline. Bill Schneider, City of Santa Fe Water Resource Manager, said that the status of the joint City-County pipeline project is going through the NEPA process and the assessment is anticipated to be available for public comment late summer/early fall 2025. Relative to return-flow credits to the Santa Fe River, there have been meetings with the State Engineer, and it is an active conversation. The City is pursuing it and looking to get a permit for the pipeline in the event credits on the Santa Fe River are not permitted.

The model does supply priorities and uses the supplies until demand is met and Mr. Shultz said the model was "robust" tracking groundwater and water going downstream.

The model has 104 different climate futures and includes different water sources. The model has several different vulnerabilities. Mr. Schneider commented that the current baseline of the tool does build in the City's obligation as a backup supply to the County under the Water Resource Agreement.

County wise, Plan 2100 is based on the utility system infrastructure, not private wells. Although, mutual domestics that could be joining the County's utility will be included.

Mr. Graeser mentioned that the OSE was working on updating their regional plans and asked whether Plan 2100 integrated with those plans. Mr. Schneider said the City is in communication with the OSE. Mr. Graeser noted that a bill was introduced to provide NM Tech with \$17 million to provide more groundwater mapping.

Chair Stringer noted that WPAC has been advocating for the BCC to establish a cooperative agreement with the City on the 2100 Plan. It's very important that the County is part of this plan. He encouraged the participants to contact their commission representatives to ensure that this process moves forward together.

Mr. Soderquist noted that he is serving as the County staff liaison for this project.

Ms. Wolf said that the ISC has published discussion draft rules and guidelines. They lay out the proposed framework for regional water planning, including new regional water boundaries, governance, structures and strategies for bringing public welfare considerations into water administration. It was noted that the community meetings were very extensive. She offered to forward the document to members.

B. Brief Presentation and Discussion Concerning the Status of the County's Contracted PFAS Study

Karen Flores, Intera, reviewed the PFAS investigation and their approach to well selection. She introduced the Intera team participating virtually.

Displaying a map, Ms. Flores identified the Santa Fe River watershed and the tributaries – ephemeral reach, gaining reach from ground water, neutral reach. The investigation is considered dynamic, data driven and the study will be strategic in efforts to support future decision making. She identified the project area, and noted John Shomaker & Associates was a partner in this project. Three components were identified for the modeling efforts: lower Santa Fe River, La Cienega system and the Tesuque Ridge. A review of existing data was used in the study as well as a comprehensive contamination characterization.

Criteria and questions for well selection included; will the well location advance understanding of the extent of PFAS impacts, will PFAS data from a given well address risk to multi household wells, will PFAS data from a given well inform feasibility evaluation of mitigation measured and is the property owner willing to have the well sampled?

Ms. Flores noted that the modeling results are from the sampling data only, and does not represent a defined plume or boundary for PFAS contamination.

There were some connectivity issues and Joseph Tracy, Intera geologist, discussed that, at this point, the information was very preliminary and based on existing data and does not present data from the current well sampling.

In response to Mr. Muenzberg's question, Mr. Tracy said that they were not aware of any litigation at this point regarding the PFAS.

Mr. Tracy identified the next step as developing an access agreement, in conjunction with the County, to be sent to specific well owners in the study area. Intera anticipated approximately 40 wells for the initial sampling spread throughout the sample location. Once the data has been evaluated, there may be identified gaps to be filled with an additional 10 or 15 sample wells. They'll also sample spring discharges to ascertain PFAS in the surface water. A component of the contract is to look at specific sources, hopefully determine where the PFAS contamination is coming from, and recommend mitigation measures. Intera's study is intended to be completed by early fall 2025.

Mr. Graeser asked what kinds of remediation might be recommended and what entity would pay for them. Mr. Tracy said that there are some mitigation measures available for well users on the

front end and regionally, it will depend on the identification of the source of contamination. He noted that the City was also a partner in the contract.

Mr. Muenzberg asked whether Department of Defense was involved. Mr. Tracy said DOD was proposing to install some sample wells. Joe Galemore, Intera, said the investigation proposed by DOD is several wells and groundwater that they have identified on site/airport as having the largest concentrations of PFAS. The groundwater wells have resulted in clean sampling efforts. The work proposed by DOD is limited to their property. Intera will try and fill in those gaps and sample supply and domestic wells that are close to that potential source.

Mr. Olafson noted that the County has an income-based home rehabilitation program for residents to test and treat their wells. The information is posted on the County's PFAS website. At this point, there is no determination of who is paying for what beyond this program.

Mr. Tracy clarified that the samplings are from the County or Shomaker & Associates. At this point, there are no samples from this contract. He confirmed that concentrations were already showing up and that they would be doing fingerprinting techniques.

Mr. Soderquist announced that he would be serving as staff liaison on this project. At this point, the Intera presentation is not on the website and he would see whether it could be posted.

5. **Miscellaneous Action Items** – None were presented.

6. **Matters from the Public** - None was presented.

7. **Matters from the Committee**

Mr. Graeser said that he is developing fiscal impact reports for six water bills. He proposed providing an update on these bills at the March WPAC. The list of water projects for the Water Trust Fund should be available for the March meeting. This is Mr. Graeser's 34th year as a revenue analyst for the state.

Mr. Clavio identified Mr. Harnden as the staff person finalizing the meeting agendas. Any agenda items should be sent to Mr. Harnden who will forward that to the Chair and Vice Chair. The meetings are noticed at least three days in advance of the meeting.

Mr. Gowen requested that the 501(c) (3) association information be placed on the agenda for consideration. He also provided and read "Disclosure of Potential Conflict of Interest" for the record [*Exhibit 1*] outlining his involvement within the Santa Fe Watershed Association, where he serves as an officer of the Board of Directors and has fiduciary responsibilities.

Chair Stringer recommended developing a resolution formalizing the concept of the County partnering with the Santa Fe Watershed Association. Mr. Gowen said he would recuse himself from that discussion. Mr. Graeser suggested an amendment to the WPAC enabling resolution to include a member from the Watershed Association.

8. Next WPAC Meeting: March 13, 2025

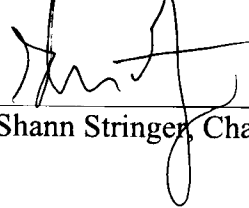
Agenda idea:

- Updates – from the working groups
- Update from Mr. Graeser of water bills
- Present finalized working group procedures for information
- Review - 501 c 3 form
- Action – develop a recommendation to the BCC in support of Santa Fe County partnering with the Santa Fe Watershed Association
- Consider expanding WPAC’s membership to include a representative from the Santa Fe Watershed Association

9. Adjournment

Following a motion by Mr. Muenzberg and second by Mr. Gowen, this meeting adjourned at approximately 6:05 p.m.

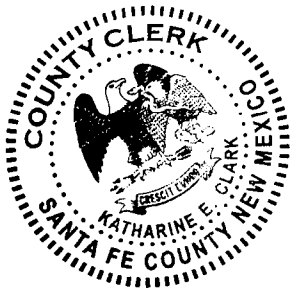
Approved by:



Shann Stringer, Chair

Respectfully submitted by:

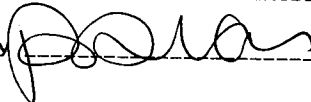

 Karen Farrell, Wordswork



COUNTY OF SANTA FE) WATER POLICY ADVISORY
 STATE OF NEW MEXICO) ss PAGES: 10

I Hereby Certify That This Instrument Was Filed for
 record On The 18TH Day Of March, 2025 at 09:11:36 AM
 and Was Duly Recorded as Instrument # 2054801
 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 03/18/2025

DRAFT

SUBJECT TO APPROVAL