SANTA FE RIVER COMMISSION
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November 12, 2015

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Santa Fe River Commission
Thursday, November 12, 2015 (Round House Room)
6:00 pm to 8:10 pm

City Offices at the Market Station Building at the Railyard
500 Market Street, Suite 200, Santa Fe, NM

MINUTES

1. ROLL CALL

Mr. Jacobi, Chair convened the meeting of the Santa Fe River Commission at 6:00 pm, Market Station, Santa Fe, NM. Roll call reflects a quorum.

Present
Jerry Jacobi, Chair
Phil Bové, Vice Chair
John R. Buchser
Emile Frederick Sawyer
Zoe Isaacson
Anna Christine Hansen, Alternate
Francois-Marie Patorni, Alternate

Not Present
Dale Doremus, Excused
Luke Pierpont

Others Present
Melissa McDonald, Santa Fe River Watershed Coordinator
John Alejandro, Sustainable Santa Fe Commission
Andrew Erdmann, Water Division
Mr. Andy Otto, Santa Fe Watershed Association
Alan Hook, Water Division
Fran Lucero, Stenographer

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Buchser moved to approve the agenda as presented, second by Ms. Hansen, motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 10, 2015

Corrections:
Page 2: Mr. Jacobi taught in Wisconsin and New Mexico (spelling of Wisconsin)
Page 4 – Item C: Mr. Jacobi would like to work on the Wetlands Subcommittee and get it passed through the Council.

Page 2, 3rd to last sentence under Mr. Sawyer Comments: ….~~and~~ endangered species – should be on endangered species.

Mr. John ~~Buscher~~ (Buchser) (throughout the minutes).

Mr. Buchser moved to approve minutes of September 10, 2015 as amended, second by Ms. Hansen, motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

4. Communications from other Agencies/Committees

- Sustainable Santa Fe Commission (John Alejandro)
  Mr. Alejandro provided specifics from the Sustainability Benchmarks Report for 2015 and extracted from the Executive Summary the following information. The role and responsibilities of the Sustainable Santa Fe Commission is to advise the Governing Body of the City of Santa Fe on the programs, policies and projects that will help to improve the City's environment, ensure the long-term sustainability of the city, and to protect the health and wellbeing of its people. In 2008, the Commission crafter the *Sustainable Santa Fe Plan* which served as the basis for identifying, developing and implementing a variety of sustainability programs. It has once again been tasked by the Governing Body to work with the city staff to develop a *25-year Sustainable Santa Fe Plan* with the overall goal of the city achieving carbon neutrality by 2040.

  The report is designed to identify and establish a set of statistical benchmarks in a variety of sustainability measurements that will be key in achieving the goal of carbon neutrality and will better inform the development of the *25-year Sustainable Plan* and annual performance. Mr. Alejandro noted that the baseline data in the report are presented for the very first time, while others may have been tracked and compiled over the years. Given such inconsistency of measurement between indicators, it may be advantageous to utilize the baseline year established for each indicator reflected in this report, rather than attempting to establish a common year for all indicators.

  Mr. Alejandro works closely with the Water Conservation Division, they looked at statistics from the MPO and this provided information to set environmental metrics for the city. There are a lot of things that will be measured within the next few months for this plan. Mr. Alejandro noted that the report contains 30 measurements in the areas of Energy, Water, Land Management, Transportation, Waste and Recycling Management, and Jobs, Education and Training Programs. Each section establishes a current performance baseline for each indicator within the area of sustainability assessed, and provides a detailed examination of each.

  The goal is to create a unique set of policies and financial resources on how to finance these project and deliver recommendations to the Governing Body to make the decision on what they want to pursue on action plans. Many of the items discussed above will need Mayor and Council approval and the River Commission members' expertise will be very helpful. We will be inviting experts in the areas discussed for participation in these groups.

  The newly established Sustainable Commission has 9 commissioners.

Mr. Jacobi asked if there is a reason why the River Commission has no representation on the Sustainable Santa Fe Commission.

Mr. Alejandro said there was a call to the public with a set of requirements and those who answered the request were evaluated and the Mayor made the selection.

Ms. Hansen asked; how do you see the citizens of Santa Fe participating?

Mr. Alejandro said we are already using renewables and we continue to pursue, how the community at large can use more renewables and be able to afford these changes. The Sustainable Commission will work on the "how we" address all the deliverables.

Mr. Alejandro said he has reviewed plans from throughout the United States with cities of comparable size. We will have to develop our plan and define what is good for our city.

Ms. Hansen asked; we have a very unique Acequia system will be it be revived and integrated?

Mr. Alejandro commented that the discussion and creation of the Sustainable Committee is at its inception and could not provide an answer to Ms. Hansen at this time.

Santa Fe County Commissioner Holian serves on this Sustainable Santa Fe Commission which will help to incorporate the county into this plan as well.

One topic of discussion is supply chain management. The goal is to buy local and grow local. Conversations will include transportation, how to supply locally, etc., the discussions are complex but the good news is that it is being looked at. 25 years is not a long time, we will look at what can be done in increments. The effort is being put in to what can be accomplished.

Mr. Jacobi asked about how the Renewable Energy Plan, the Mayor's Climate Action Task Force and the Watershed Program, how will they fit in to the Sustainable Santa Fe Commission. The Mayor's Climate Action Task Force has been sunset and many of those members are now on the Sustainable Santa Fe Commission. The Commission is now reconstructed which allows Mr. Alejandro to work across the board with city divisions and the collaboration is stronger.

Thank you to Mr. Alejandro for his informative presentation and the River Commission looks forward to participating and future updates.

- Report on Santa Fe Basin Study (Andrew Erdmann, Water Resources Coordinator)

  Mr. Erdman said that the Santa Fe Basin Study is a Bureau of Reclamation project based on climate change and population growth. Mr. Erdman provided historical information on the basin study and the four sources. The Mission Statement includes:
  - Department of Interior – Protecting America's Outdoors and Powering our Future. The US Department of the Interior protects America's natural resources and heritage, honors our cultures and tribal communities, and supplies the energy to power our future.
  - Bureau of Reclamation – The mission of the Bureau of Reclamation is to manage, develop and protect water and related resources in an environmentally and economically sound manner in the interest of the American public.
  - City of Santa Fe Water Division – Our mission is to provide a reliable, safe and sustainable water supply to meet the needs of our customers and our community.
  - Santa Fe County Utilities - The mission of Santa Fe County Utilities is to provide fully sustainable, reliable water services, in compliance with applicable regulatory requirements and industry standards, for a full spectrum of use by all residents of Santa Fe County.

Note: The Adaptations to Projected Changes in Water Supply and Demand, Santa Fe Basin Study, (365 pages) is available for review in the City of Santa Fe Water Division office.

This Basin Study was performed under the U.S. Department of the Interior's WaterSMART (Sustain and Manage America's Resources for Tomorrow) Basin Study Program. WaterSMART allows all bureaus of the Department to collaboratively work with States, Tribes, local governments, and non-governmental organizations to pursue a sustainable water supply for the Nation, and integrate water and energy policies to support the sustainable use of all natural resources.

The plan identifies that we will have a shortage of water if we get the full 30% reduction and we then look at how we want to address the shortages. We picked a range of alternatives and created portfolios to address this. Clearly the way to make it is with a blended strategy.

The Adaption Strategies are; Direct/Indirect Reclaimed Water Reuse, Water Conservation, Direct Injection for Aquifer Storage and Recovery, Infiltration for Aquifer Storage and Recovery in the Santa Fe River and Additional Surface Water Rights

Next step is to look at what we will do with reclaimed water. Some goes back in to the river and we also use water for the parks.

Ms. Hansen asked if recommendations are being made to the governing body. I really believe in reclaimed water and I believe in development; that is one of the first things that need's to happen. Another thing would be instituting lower water budgets.

Mr. Patorni referenced Table 1.1 Strategies and asked if they have been incorporated in to the study.

Mr. Erdmann said that part of the way storm water is structured in the city – important next step is to look at.

Mr. Jacobi said the reality is that population growth is very important.

Mr. Hook said that it is at about ½% in population growth. Heron is used to store water in the San Juan Chama.

Mr. Erdman said that the county growth is at a higher rate.

Mr. Sawyer asked about the return flow credit and noted that he is interested in the flexibility.

Mr. Erdmann said we do not have any return flow credits at the city.

Ms. Hansen asked how much growth has the county had?

Mr. Erdmann will send a link with that information for the River Commission members.

5. INFORMATON/DISCUSSION/ACTION:

a) Sub-Committee Priorities & Assignment (Jerry Jacobi)
Mr. Jacobi addressed the combination of topics from a previous document. Also discussed was the protocol to not create a quorum in a sub-committee meeting.

Sub-Committees:

1) Watershed Revitalization
   - ✓ Francois-Marie Patorni
   - ✓ Zoe Isaacson
   - ✓ Emile Frederick Sawyer
2) Promoting a Living River
   - ✓ Phil Bové
   - ✓ John Buchser
   - ✓ Jerry Jacobi
3) Species Resiliency
   - ✓ Zoe Isaacson
   - ✓ Dale Doremus
   - ✓ Emile Frederick Sawyer

4) Outdoor Economy (Watershed Economy)
   - ✓ Francois-Marie Patorni
   - ✓ Anna Hansen
   - ✓ Luke Pierpont

Ms. McDonald noted that members can express what committee they would like to be on. We can also go outside of the River Commission membership to bring in other interested individuals. A sub-committee and its members need to be approved by the Chair. No outside member from the River Commission can speak on behalf of the River Commission. Ms. McDonald offered the meeting space at the City Railyard offices with advance notice. Also noted, the Mayor is very excited about bringing the River Commission expertise in to the Sustainable Santa Fe Commission.

The Chair recommended the issuance of a press release to invite community members to participate in the above four committees.

Ms. Hansen stated that the Mayor was happy about the idea of Art along the river.

Ms. McDonald explained the Open Meeting Act regarding a quorum. She will follow up by inviting someone from Legal to come to a future meeting and discuss the Open Meeting Act. Ms. McDonald also discussed the meaning of a rolling quorum. It is important to communicate through the staff liaison for electronic communications.

The Chair concurred with all names listed as members for the sub-committees as listed above.

b) Alameda Rain Gardens/SF River Fund (Melissa McDonald)

Mr. Andy Otto, Santa Fe Watershed Association – We have been awarded a grant to produce 6 rain gardens around the watershed in public places. (Exhibit A) – Grant is $25,000. We have been working with the schools to identify sites as they are public grounds. Rain gardens are also called bio-retention basins. Mr. Otto said that the budget is small and most of their work is done with volunteers. Discussion is to request partnering with the city on this one park.

Ms. McDonald noted that the Alameda Rain Gardens was put in an ordinance and receives funding from the city. This will be a project where we will use our money. We would like to accelerate and do more projects as described in Exhibit A. The River Commission is an advisory group in matters of this caliber regarding rain gardens. Ms. McDonald said we call them rain gardens but they are retention gardens.

Mr. Patorni asked what the sizes of the rain gardens are. Ms. McDonald and Mr. Otto said that the size varies. Mr. Otto said that they are effective for retention of storm water and aquifer recharge to keep the area wet.

One has 50,000 gallons for its' site; this one is larger than others that we will do. Goal is to finish by June 30, 2016. More information to follow at future meetings.

6. **MATTERS FROM COMMISSIONERS**

Mr. Jacobi announced that his resignation as Chair from the River Commission. He has been in the lead role for many years and would like to remain as a member and allow someone else to Chair. Mr. Bové has served as Vice Chair for 8 years.

Nominations:
Mr. John Buchser is interested in filling the position as Chair. This item should be placed on the Agenda for next meeting in order to vote on the new Chair. The Chair can vote by proxy and the alternate will vote on his behalf as he will not be present at the December, 2015 meeting.

Ms. McDonald expressed her sincerest of thanks to Mr. Jacobi, he has been an asset and supported her since she took over this position as staff liaison to the River Commission.

Ms. Hansen also expressed her appreciation to Mr. Jacobi.

7. **MATTERS FROM SUBCOMMITTEES**

No report.

8. **MATTERS FROM STAFF**

a. **Project Updates**

A new project, to repair a crossing at the river is coming up very soon. Arroyo work is also moving forward.

b. **West Santa Fe River Corridor Plan Update**

A working group has been formed; very committed to their goals and they meet every week. They are looking at zoning in the area and they are bringing in various staff members to talk about the existing conditions of the river. They want to build from what they have and move forward. Additional city staff will continue to attend these meetings to discuss the river. It is basically going from Frenchy's Park to Siler.

Ms. Hansen said she was part of the leadership that got this plan to come to fruition.

c. **Open Meetings Act (Melissa McDonald)**

Ms. McDonald included information on the Open Meetings Act in the packet for the River Commission members to review. The Commission members would like to invite Legal to come and present at a future meeting and to focus in on the creation of a quorum and how the Alternates role is counted in a quorum or sub-committee setting.

d. **Meeting Schedule – 2016**

Meeting dates are reflected in table, River Commission will meet every second Thursday of the month.

January 14, 2016	February 11, 2016	March 10, 2016	April 14, 2016
May 12, 2016	June 9, 2016	July 14, 2016	August 11, 2016
September 8, 2016	October 13, 2016	November 10, 2016	December 8, 2016

Next Scheduled Meeting is December 10, 2015

9. CITIZENS' COMMUNICATION FROM THE FLOOR
None

10. ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the River Commission Mr. Buchser moved to adjourn at 8:10 pm, second by Mr. Sawyer, motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Signature Page:

Jerry Jacobi, Chair

Fran Lucero, Stenographer