

**SANTA FE RIVER COMMISSION
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May 14, 2015**

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Call to Order and Roll Call	Chair Jerry Jacobi called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm. A quorum was declared at roll call.	Page 2
Approval of Agenda	Mr. Ellenberg moved to approve the agenda as presented, second by Ms. Romero-Pike, motion carried by unanimous voice vote.	Page 2
Approval of Minutes, April 9, 2015	Mr. Ellenberg moved to approve the minutes of April 9, 2015, second by Ms. Romero-Pike, motion carried by unanimous voice vote.	Page 2
Information/Discussion/Action Items	<i>Informational</i>	Page 2-7
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Living River Target Flows & Hydrograph Report b) Commission Outreach Update c) Mayor’s Task Force on Climate Change d) Vegetation Management Sub-Committee Update 	<p><i>Mr. Ellenberg moved to have the press release sent for review and approval at the city level and over the next week for commissioners to advise The Chair and staff liaison of their interest to submit their names for re-appointment to the River Commission. Letters and resumes are to be sent no later than May 28, 2015, second by Mr. Buchser, motion carried by unanimous voice vote.</i></p> <p><i>Mr. Ellenberg moved to have a sub-committee, second by Ms. Doremus, motion carried by unanimous voice vote.</i></p> <p>Nominate Dr. Jacobi to be on the sub-committee. Nominate Mr. Buchser to be on the sub-committee. Nominate Ms. Doremus to be on the sub-committee.</p> <p><i>Mr. Ellenberg moved to have the three nominees – Dr. Jacobi, Mr. Buchser and Ms. Doremus as the members on the sub-committee, second by Mr. Bove, motion carried by unanimous voice vote.</i> <i>Mr. Buchser moved to have the approved version of the River Corridor Vegetation Management Guidelines as amended be used by staff, second by Ms. Doremus, motion carried by unanimous voice vote.</i></p>	

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Matters from Staff Project Updates, Fishing Derby, Alameda Rain Gardens, River Fund	Informational	Page 7
Citizens Communication from the floor	None	Page 7
Adjournment	<i>There being no further business to come before the River Commission the Chair called for adjournment at 7:30 pm</i>	Page 7
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SANTA FE RIVER COMMISSION

Thursday, May 14, 2015

6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

500 Market Street, Santa Fe, NM

MINUTES

1. ROLL CALL

Mr. Jacobi, Chair convened the meeting of the Santa Fe River Commission at 6:05 pm, Market Station, Santa Fe, NM.

Present

Jerry Jacobi, Chair
Phil Bove
Dale Doremus
John R. Buchser
Melinda Romero-Pike
Richard Ellenberg

Others Present

Melissa McDonald, Santa Fe River Watershed Coordinator
Alan Hook, Water Resources Coordinator Assistant
Mr. Andy Otto, Santa Fe Watershed Association
Fran Lucero, Stenographer

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM APRIL 9, 2015

Mr. Ellenberg moved to approve the minutes of April 9, 2015, second by Ms. Romero-Pike, motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

4. INFORMATON/DISCUSSION/ACTION

a) Living River Target Flow & Hydrograph Report (Alan Hook, Melissa McDonald)

Ms. McDonald referred to Memo dated April 22 2015 to the Public Utilities Committee. Information is consistent with memo although the target flow went up to 60%. We will be able to meet the demands of the fishing derby in coordination with the spring and summer pulse flows. At the same time, we were able to sustain target flow levels and irrigation deliveries were met throughout the year.

Mr. Ellenberg said the date is fixed to the date ordinance. Mr. Hook said that there is a provision related to drought, it is pretty much fixed at 600 ac. ft. Again, this is a forecast, since the beginning of May we had the snowstorm and the small storms we are running above the average. It might dramatically drop off in June and July.

Mr. Hook provided the hydrograph for discussion. (Exhibit A) We have kept it below 95%; we don't want it to overflow at Nichols with no place to store it. The treatment plant has been balancing at about 4.5 million gallons so we have been flowing water through Acequia Madre to the living river. The percentage in the lower reservoir is at about 89%.

Mr. Bove asked if the levels were going to be changed for the fishing derby.

Staff hopes to coordinate the living river flows with the Fishing Derby River Festival. Specifically, in this target year 2015, the living river target flows will be 1.55 cfs or 1 MG/day from April 15th until the beginning of May. In the week before the derby, on May 11, target flows will increase to 6 cfs or approximately 4 MG/day for a week, if streamflow above McClure is available, to accommodate the derby and then decrease the following 4 weeks to 4 cfs, then 3 cfs, then 2 cfs and then 1 cfs, respectively by June 8th.

Mr. Hook said Mr. Puglisi will contact Mr. Bove if it is going to change. The sand bags are in. Game and Fish has said don't go above 7 cfs. Whatever changes tomorrow will probably hold until Monday and he will then reassess. We have problem with the storm water flows if it is a heavy storm.

Snowpack is measured at 30".

- b) Commission Outreach Update (Jerry Jacobi, John Buchser)
Included in the package is a draft of the Press Release regarding the River Commission openings and a cover letter to Mayor Gonzales. The Chair asked for comments.

Ms. McDonald commented that she can get the duties of the River Commission on the website for reference.

The Chair said that all Santa Fe River Commissioners positions terms have lapsed and Mr. Buchser is the only one who has expressed interest to remain on the River Commission. Ms. McDonald said that it would be recommended that the present River Commission members send a letter of interest and resume continuing on the River Commission to the Mayor. It was recommended that this be done before the other resumes of interest are sent to the Mayor. The Chair agreed with this recommendation and urged the commission members to send him their letters of intent and resume by May 28, 2015.

Mr. Ellenberg moved to have the press release sent for review and approval at the city level and over the next week for commissioners to advise The Chair and staff liaison of their interest to submit their names for re-appointment to the River Commission. Letters and resumes are to be sent no later than May 28, 2015, second by Mr. Buchser, motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Jacobi expressed his thanks to Mr. Buchser for creating the skill set list, thank you.

Ms. Doremus said that at last meeting they talked about the creation of skill sets and defining the mission for this commission moving forward. Now that the skill sets are created, what is the time line to have the mission and sub-committee created for review of the applicants? The question is to be ready when the determination is made on what candidate applications should be reviewed and referred to the Mayor.

Mr. Buchser said that we might want to discuss how to rank those resume's in a sub-committee and the recommendations are then brought back to the full commission for approval.

Ms. Doremus said before we interview people we should have full knowledge of our mission and compare the skill sets.

The Chair said that once it is determined who from the Commission wants to stay on the River Commission, we can then discuss the composite or selection of candidates.

Mr. Ellenberg moved to have a sub-committee, second by Ms. Doremus, motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Nominate Dr. Jacobi to be on the sub-committee.

Nominate Mr. Buchser to be on the sub-committee.

Nominate Ms. Doremus to be on the sub-committee.

Mr. Ellenberg moved to have the three nominees – Dr. Jacobi, Mr. Buchser and Ms. Doremus as the members on the sub-committee, second by Mr. Bove, motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Ms. McDonald added that if members wanted to step down as a regular member they could remain as an alternate member.

c) Mayor's Climate Taskforce, Watershed Update (Andy Otto)

Ms. McDonald and Mr. Otto are on the sub-committee of the Mayor's Climate Taskforce. Mr. Otto reported on the recommendations as follows:

Climate Change will likely result in Santa Fe receiving more of its annual precipitation in the form of rain, rather than snow, and in the form of fewer, more intense precipitation events. This Action Group is focusing on how the City can continue to adapt to these changes by capturing as much of this rain as possible for use within the watershed and by limiting the damage to City and private infrastructure from heavy precipitation events.

In summary the task force recommends that the City of Santa Fe: 1. Update its assessment of the City's arroyos and develop a prioritization for restoration that considers, a) increasing aquifer recharge, and b) avoid potential damage to infrastructure. 2. Begin modernizing the City's construction codes to promote water infiltration and protect public and private infrastructure. – Develop restoration plan and priorities: \$200,000 (Q1-2016)
a) Complete a geological study of Santa Fe to identify areas where green infrastructure can maximize water infiltration/aquifer recharge. b) Direct City staff to study how "arroyo associations" might be developed to promote collaborative work in areas where both public and private property is impacted, and how they might be able to use special improvement districts to fund restoration in their areas. c) Support city staff in its current efforts to fund this work (e.g., application for YCC. Funding: FEMA grant proposal) and help coordinate those efforts so priority areas are addressed. 3. Fund and implement restoration beginning with the priority reaches utilizing Public/Private partnerships where applicable.

Mr. Otto mentioned potential funding strategies, i.e., Use the city's existing Storm water Surcharge to leverage federal dollars for arroyo restoration, Apply for Youth Conservation Corps Funding, Create a revolving fund to support restoration efforts on private property. Because the primary initial expense of updating the codes is city staff time, we do not have a specific recommendation for dedicated funding at this point.

Action Items & Timeline – to develop an Ordinance to require green infrastructure improvements during new construction and significant remodeling, repair, and maintenance projects within the Watershed, timeline is unknown at this time.

Additional recommendation is to direct city staff to make recommendations of neighborhoods that might be designated as rain garden districts, timeline unknown at this time.

Ms. McDonald said that they also added rainwater districts and poor street drainage, amongst a few others. There are five sub-committee members that will be sending this on to the full committee for review.

References above are Preliminary and from the May 11, 2015 Watershed Health Climate Adaptation Recommendations for the Mayor's Climate Action Task Force.

Melinda: What kind of wastewater would that be?

Mr. Otto: That wastewater goes to the plant.

Mr. Ellenberg: What about the city's water supply issues, as we lose snow we lose water to the reservoirs.

Mr. Otto: That is the purpose for these arroyos.

Mr. Ellenberg: I didn't hear you talk about the arroyos, you talked about the aquifers. How do we capture the water to get it back in to the wells.

Mr. Otto: As stated above there is a recommendation to conduct a geological study of Santa Fe to identify areas where green infrastructure can maximize water infiltration/aquifer recharge. Arroyos are below the reservoirs.

Mr. Ellenberg: How are you going to make use of the rainfall to get it in to the water supply, this I one that we do not know how to solve. Maybe we should look at how to get it back in to a treatment plan.

Mr. Otto: None of our storm water is treated.

Mr. Hook: It is not going to get in to the city wells. We haven't gotten in to that study yet. We need to look at our treated effluent first.

Ms. Romero-Pike: Once we had natural springs where the aquifer and water was very high, would that still be a good location to recharge.

Mr. Otto: I don't know the answer, it is very broad, the specifics are not determined and we have to start with the study.

The Chair said it would be interesting to take an arroyo and use it as a feature arroyo and do something with head water capture. So many need help.

Mr. Bove: We need to think of two aquifers. We have talked in the past about infiltration wells. I have to agree with Allan and take the money out, it would be great to get water in to natural conservancy.

d) Vegetative Management Subcommittee Update (Exhibit B) (John Buchser)

Mr. Buchser: Settled on a living document that staff could use whether working with city park groups, other public groups, etc. Once we get past picking up trash from the river, vegetation is important. This was an attempt to come up with a set of guidelines that would assist staff to work with volunteer groups. Goal, Permission, Safety, Placement of Trimmed Material, Dead & Down Vegetative Material, Tree Trimming, Tree Removal, Power Tool Use, Community Notification, Visual and Aural Impact, Definitions. My thought was we didn't need a comprehensive list of everything.

River Commission members met a second time to review this document and Exhibit B is the revised recommendation. Ms. McDonald asked if we could list and provide a picture of a few of the trees, maybe the common trees. When doing education or having work done on the trees it would be good to have a visual so they know the different trees. That would make it easier than listing them. Mr. Buchser was in agreement.

The Chair asked Mr. Otto if the Watershed has a tree guide. Mr. Otto said they do have pages depicting pictures, not very extensive but available to be shared. There is no Elm in the Watershed area.

Ms. McDonald said that in working with Youth Works she saw the need to provide them with pictures. Mr. Otto said that the Municipal Tree Committee is having an educational workshop this weekend. Mr. Woods is the staff person for this committee.

Mr. Hook said that in creating the guidelines he hasn't seen or heard anything about those who might want to plant, we only address what we don't want them to do.

Ms. McDonald asked if historically we have had groups that want to do planting and the answer was yes.

Mr. Buchser said it would be most helpful if we used it as a guideline for staff. If we did it as an ordinance it would go in to next year to get it approved. It might make more sense to use it for the duration of the summer and fall as an administrative document for staff and receive feedback when reviewed at the end of the season.

Ms. McDonald had invited Mr. Richard Thompson from the Parks Department here tonight but he was unable to attend. This could be a great guide but Parks operates by the (Integrated Pest Management) IPM standards. This guideline would need to go through the governing body, we may want to package this in a broader vision and it will take talks with Parks and IPM. Presently the IMP position is vacant, once a new person is hired dialog can take place.

Mr. Buchser moved to have the approved version of the River Corridor Vegetation Management Guidelines as amended be used by staff, second by Ms. Doremus, motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Thank you to John and the Committee for their work in preparing this document.

5. MATTERS FROM COMMISSIONERS

The Chair asked for consensus from the River Commission to present Mr. Drypolcher with a Muchas Gracias from the City. The members supported that idea. The Chair will prepare the wording and coordinate with Ms. McDonald and arrange for it to be presented to Mr. Drypolcher.

6. MATTERS FROM SUBCOMMITTEES

Reported above.

7. MATTERS FROM STAFF -- Alameda Rain Gardens, River Fund

A flyer was provided to the River Commission members with information on the Kids' Fishing Derby – Saturday, May 16th from 7 am – 12 noon. This event is for children under the age of 11. 500 fish will be stocked in the Santa Fe River. This event is supported by our non-profit partners, Santa Fe Watershed Association and Youth Works, a non-profit organization providing youth development programs, including job training to high-risk youth. Thank you to the Game and Fish for stocking the river with fish and to Mr. Hook who has been helping a lot.

Ms. McDonald said that she participated in a great field trip with the Corps and 68 Tribal Engineers.

The contractors are doing a great job at the Alameda Rain Gardens.
No discussion on River Fund.

Mr. Hook requested to meet with Ms. McDonald to discuss river repairs, some are above Delgado. The control structures are still there but the flows work around the matting. More detail to be provided.

8. CITIZEN'S COMMUNICATION FROM THE FLOOR - NONE

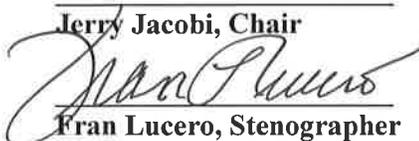
9. ADJOURN

Move to adjourn 7:30 pm

Next Scheduled for the River Commission is June 11, 2015 - Packet Material due by June 1, 2015

Signature Page:

Jerry Jacobi, Chair



Fran Lucero, Stenographer