



Agenda

DATE 9/13/14 TIME 12:03
BY Brian Drypolcher
BY [Signature]

SANTA FE RIVER COMMISSION
Thursday, September 11, 2014
6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Conference Room (Caboose Room),
City Offices at the Market Station Building at the Railyard
500 Market Street, Suite 200, Santa Fe, NM
505.955.6840

1. ROLL CALL
2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM August 14, 2014
4. INFORMATION/DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS
 - a) Information, Discussion, Action: Regarding Michael Smith's volunteer activities in the Santa Fe River Corridor, thinning vegetation and removing noxious weeds (especially non-native, invasive trees); requesting input and approval from the Santa Fe River Commission. (Brian Drypolcher and Michael Smith)
 - b) Information: River flows and reservoir management (Alex Puglisi)
 - c) Discussion: Water accounting and the possibility of Acequia del Llano agreeing to have some of its water used for the Santa Fe River. (Commissioner Richard Ellenberg)
 - d) Information, Discussion: Regarding development of a management plan for the Santa Fe River Rural Protection Zone (Santa Fe River wetlands below the city's waste water treatment plant); including discussion of the activities of the Santa Fe River Traditional Communities Collaborative. (Jerry Jacobi)
 - e) Information: Updates regarding current activities including reallocation of capital project funds from Santa Fe River Trail crossing at Alameda Street and St. Francis Drive; Alameda Rain Gardens and other storm water projects; other projects. (Brian Drypolcher)
5. MATTERS FROM COMMISSIONERS, MATTERS FROM SUB-COMMITTEES
6. MATTERS FROM STAFF
7. CITIZENS' COMMUNICATION FROM THE FLOOR

ADJOURN

Persons with disabilities in need of accommodation, contact the City Clerk's office at 955-6520, five (5) working days prior to meeting date.

**SANTA FE RIVER COMMISSION
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Call to Order and Roll Call	Chair Jacobi called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm. A quorum was reflected in roll call.	Page 2
Approval of Agenda	<i>Ms. Doremus moved to approve the agenda as presented, second by Ms. Romero-Pike, motion carried by unanimous voice vote.</i>	Page 2
Approval of Minutes, August 14, 2014	<i>Mr. Ellenberg moved to approve the minutes of August 14, 2014 as presented, second by Mr. Romero Pike, motion carried by unanimous voice vote.</i>	Page 2
Information/Discussion/Action Items <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Information/Discussion/Action: Regarding Michael Smith's volunteer activities in the Santa Fe River Corridor, thinning vegetation noxious weeds (especially non-native, invasive trees); requesting input and approval from the Santa Fe River Commission. (Brian Drypolcher and Michael Smith) b. Information: River flows and reservoir management (Alex Puglisi) c. Discussion: Water accounting and the possibility of Acequia del Llano agreeing to have some of its water used for the Santa Fe River. (Commissioner Richard Ellenberg) d. Information: Regarding development of a management plan for the Santa Fe River Rural Protection Zone (Santa Fe River wetlands below the city's 	<p><i>Mr. Ellenberg moved to create an ad-hoc committee to discuss the creation of a proposal for removal of endangered species to be consistent with the current ordinance, Mr. Buchser second the motion, motion carried by unanimous voice vote.</i></p> <p><i>Mr. Ellenberg moved to commend Michael Smith for his initiative and work on the river and that he should be allowed to continue this work, second by Ms. Romero-Pike, motion carried by unanimous voice vote</i></p>	Page 3-8

<p>waste water treatment plant); including discussion of the activities of the Santa Fe River Traditional Communities Collaborative (Jerry Jacobi)</p> <p>e. <u>Information</u>: Updates regarding current activities including reallocation of capital project funds from Santa Fe River Trail crossing at Alameda Street and St. Francis Drive, Alameda Rain Gardens and other storm water projects. (Brian Drypolcher)</p>		
Matters from Commissioners, Matters from Sub-committees	None	Page 8
Matters from Staff	None	Page 8
Citizens Communication from the floor	None	Page 8
Adjournment	There being no further business to come before the Santa Fe River Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 8:05 pm.	Page 8
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SANTA FE RIVER COMMISSION
Thursday, September 11, 2014
6:00 p.m. – 8:10 p.m.
Round House Room
500 Market Street, Santa Fe, NM

MINUTES

1. ROLL CALL

Mr. Jerry Jacobi, Chair convened the meeting of the Santa Fe River Commission at 6:00 pm, Market Station, Caboose Room. A quorum was present at time of roll call.

Present

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

Excused

Others Present

Brian Drypolcher, Staff Liaison
Michael Smith, Volunteer for Friends of the Santa Fe River
Bob Wood, City Water Division
Alex Puglisi, Environmental Specialist for the City of Santa Fe
Mr. Robert Findling, Nature Conservancy
Mr. Andy Otto, Santa Fe Watershed Association
Fran Lucero, Stenographer

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Ms. Doremus, moved to approve the agenda as presented, second by Ms. Romero-Pike, motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – AUGUST 14, 2014

Mr. Ellenberg moved to approve the minutes of August 14, 2014 as presented, second by Ms. Romero-Pike, motion carried by unanimous

4. INFORMATION/DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

- a) **Information/Discussion/Action: Regarding Michael Smith's volunteer activities in the Santa Fe River Corridor, thinning vegetation noxious weeds (especially non-native, invasive trees); requesting input and approval from the Santa Fe River Commission. (Brian Drypolcher and Michael Smith)**

Brian provided a background recap. Some weeks ago city staff met with Michael Smith at the River, east of Old Santa Fe Trail and Delgado St. and Mr. Andy Otto from the Santa Fe Watershed. The discussion evolved around the clean up work that Michael Smith has been doing in that area. Most recently he has placed a request for assistance and support from the City of Santa Fe to continue his work. The Santa Fe Watershed is great in gathering people to help river clean up. Mr. Smith has been working by himself and is characterized as a gardener in this segment, cleaning up growth, etc., and finds it to be very motivating. Brian detailed the species that are in this area as well as the invasive species. Once the Mayor gave Michael his to continue the cleanup; positive and negative comments were conveyed by the public. The Editorial in the Santa Fe New Mexican and some community responses back to the Mayor's office were all positive regarding the volunteer work Michael was doing. Michael is back working in the corridor. Brian discussed the notes from a recent meeting held to discuss the concerns and recommendations. Brian is asking for approval from the Santa Fe River Commission for Michael to continue his work. **(Exhibit A)**

Michael Smith: Mr. Smith was on the River Commission for a few years and at one point was the President of the Santa Fe Watershed Association. During that time he established the Adopt a River Program. In years past he volunteered his time, together with Bob Wood, City of Santa Fe staff to do the work on the river from Alameda Street to Delgado Street. Almost a year went by and Mr. Smith continued his volunteer work in the river bank. In a year time when the Siberian Elm trees were removed, it gave back to the river wonderful beautiful space. The block was cleaned and additional approval was given to continue until a complaint was received from an individual. Mr. Smith has formed a non-profit - Friends of the Santa Fe River to hire people to help with the clean up. The only trees that were taken out were the trees that were dead. Mr. Smith met with the Mayor and approval was given to continue and the Mayor supported the volunteer clean up work. Mr. Smith said they want to continue to clean up the river. He is a professional gardener and wants to make a difference in the city of Santa Fe and to have the river cleaned up. Michael has done the hauling of the debris to the green waste. In the future, the Fire Department might be able to help out. At this time they have not been cutting the trees. A chemical has been used

to treat the stumps and would like to be used for the Siberian Elm and Russian Olive.

Michael talked about the birth of the Siberian Elm; history in Santa Fe is that in 1930 they were actually being given to families. The Siberian Elms have multiplied in an unmanageable way and they need to be removed.

Michael committed to have the river cleaned and he has met with Andy Otto from the Santa Fe Watershed to continue the maintenance of keeping it clipped and cleaned when the volunteer crew goes out to help.

The Chair asked if there is a plan from the city to replace the elms. Michael said that in places where the elms are now they should not come back. In some areas where the elms are being taken out there should be new native plants in the area.

Mr. Bove asked Brian to check with the City of Albuquerque on the ordinance to not allow Siberian Elms. Mr. Wood said that they want to prohibit planting of Siberian Elms.

Mr. Otto, Santa Fe Watershed Association

Training has been done with Dr. Savage. Mr. Otto would like to see a plan as the Watershed does not have an insurance policy for the equipment used during the cleanup should someone get hurt. If there is a plan they will train the stewards on how to do the clean-up.

Mr. Buchser discussed historical information on a phosphate that had been used in the past when pulling the trees. The concern is to assure that anyone working in the removal of these trees and using any chemicals to assure they understood the effects if it gets on them. Mr. Buchser would like to create a strategy on what can be removed and what phosphate could be used to remove these trees. Coming up with a policy for certification is one step that could be taken, simple guidelines for tree removal to address safety concerns.

Robert Wood noted that herbicide treatments must be done in accordance with state law. If it is not registered for use with the state, it is illegal. Any/all herbicides must be registered. Nitrogen is a concern if used, there is already a nitrate problem in the Santa Fe River.

Mr. Ellenberg asked if the Santa Fe River Commission came up with a policy, would it be recognized as a city policy?

Brian said no, it would need to be taken to the governing body by the city department.

Mr. Ellenberg moved to create an ad-hoc committee to discuss the creation of a proposal for removal of endangered species to be consistent with the current ordinance, Mr. Buchser second the motion, motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Ellenberg moved to commend Michael Smith for his initiative and work on the river and that he should be allowed to continue this work, second by Ms. Romero-Pike, motion carried by unanimous voice vote

Mr. Buchser commented that he would be willing to discuss revisions to this agreement and he is very pleased that the Mayor has turned to staff for review on this topic of discussion.

b) Information: River flows and reservoir management (Alex Puglisi)

2014 Planned Hydrograph: 300 af Target Allocation, anticipated watershed yield = < 30% avg. inflows. Chart explained the river flows (Exhibit C)

Mr. Puglisi said that the city has made the decision to provide water to the Acequias. Mr. Puglisi said they are trying to refill Nichols when possible. They have gone from a free standing tower in the middle of the lake to one on the end side where it is easily accessible. The operators won't have to enter the tower to make changes or diversions from the plant. Presently they are dealing with some algae concerns. There are about 50 million gallons at McClure that need to be drained. was the anticipated date for completion, but complications have not allowed that. Mr. Puglisi provided a detailed explanation on what has been done and the danger of using a scuba diver to go down to open the valve, etc. Plan B is probably to go with pumps; the contractor feels that they can accomplish releasing about 4 million gallons per punctured hole. Mr. Puglisi said if they go to Plan B it could cost up to \$200,000 for this process and they would also need to deal with the water release. Whatever comes in to Nichols if too much, will be released to the river. Mr. Puglisi said they do not want to get Nichols higher than 75%. The final release from McClure will be way more than the final release from Nichols.

Mr. Puglisi extended an invitation to the Santa Fe River Commission members to visit McClure as it is the only time you will see it empty. The members would also like to see the valves that have put in at Nichols.

It was noted that if the River Commission constitutes a quorum for this field trip, it would need to be a public notice through the City Clerks office. Brian will provide the members with some dates and take a tally of who can attend.

c) Discussion: Water accounting and the possibility of Acequia del Llano agreeing to have some of its water used for the Santa Fe River. (Commissioner Richard Ellenberg)

Mr. Ellenberg has been working on getting water to the Acequia el Llano for decades. He talked about what could be done such as stopping use of the water before October. If it is released earlier it becomes a water accounting concern. Mr. Ellenberg will continue to work with the city attorney related to the water accounting concern and bring back information.

d) Information: Regarding development of a management plan for the Santa Fe River Rural Protection Zone (Santa Fe River wetlands below the city's waste water treatment plant); including discussion of the activities of the Santa Fe River Traditional Communities Collaborative (Jerry Jacobi)

A meeting was held on the 27th with the Mayor, including Rick Carpenter of the City, Felicity Broenan who was the Director of the Santa Fe Water shed Association. The folks downstream are concerned.

A letter was written to the Mayor that never made it to the governing body. The Chair would like this concern to be resurfaced and taken to the Mayor regarding the life on the river. Game and Fish has also been involved to remove the beavers. The Mayor has also directed that work be done to relocate the beavers. Chair Jacobi said that the River Commission should recall the management plan and get it back to the Mayor with the recommendations.

Mr. Otto referred to the Airport Master Plan and stated that the FAA asked for it to be re-written. The airport manager also addressed the concerns for the beavers. The downstream water rights are a big concern as they feel the beaver dams are holding back their water. There is a collaborative that has been meeting on a monthly basis with the city, county and other concerned citizens to discuss the master plan of the river.

Mr. Jacobi said they would wait for that report to come back and be reviewed as it has been approximately 4 years since this plan was addressed. This is for discussion purposes as the Mayor has already

approved removal of the beavers. Past recommendation was to deal with the beaver removal as the occasion occurred.

Mr. Drypolcher clarified that the Wild Life Hazard Assessment has been completed and will be sent to the commission members. The mitigation plan is distinct from the assessment plan and the FAA has said that it was not enough of a plan. The assessment plan is work in progress and it was recommended to re-circulate the hazard assessment plan. The plan was never adopted by the city.

Do the beaver ponds change the flow of the river flow? Vegetation is going to need the water. Claudia Borchert had worked on a management plan for the effluent where the commission looked at the flows and said there should be a minimum flow daily, how does that fit in to the effluent in reference to the golf course? Mayor has approved removal of beavers.

e) Information: Updates regarding current activities including reallocation of capital project funds from Santa Fe River Trail crossing at Alameda Street and St. Francis Drive, Alameda Rain Gardens and other storm water projects. (Brian Drypolcher)

1. As last discussed by the Santa Fe River Commission the decision was to fund reallocations from St. Francis and Alameda - \$1.9 million. The going forward process has been BTAC making their recommendations, it needing to come back to the River Commission, back to BTAC with the listed recommendations and it will now go to Finance Committee, Public Works and then on to City Council. The day before BTAC the city received a letter from NMDOT with a funding offer in the amount of \$3.8 million dollars to do the Acequia crossing and said that a match needed to be available for \$556,000. The new list includes the \$556,000 for the Acequia crossing. Similarly, the county can get \$1.3 million dollars for a trail to go from 599 to the River Trail - Buckman by Diablo Canyon. The railroad crossings will be done with federal money. There is a section of the Acequia Trail from Rufina to San Felipe Road that the River Commission thought was important at \$660,000 and it wasn't important enough to beat the \$556,000. What is left for San Felipe / Rufina is approximately \$113,000.

Alameda Rain Gardens – Santa Fe Watershed Association has submitted a proposal to NMED to get the first rain garden; project on hold.

SF River Fund Balance: There is \$172,000, old money and \$107,000 new money. It was recommended that consideration be discussed to do another marketing blitz in the water bills.

5. MATTERS FROM STAFF

Covered above.


6. CITIZENS' COMMUNICATION FROM THE FLOOR

None


8. ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Santa Fe River Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 8:10pm.

Signature Page:



Jerry Jacobi, Chair



Fran Lucero, Stenographer