



Agenda

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

DATE 10/1/14 TIME 10:11a
BY Brian Drypaler
APPROVED BY [Signature]

SANTA FE RIVER COMMISSION
Thursday, October 9, 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 SEPTEMBER 11, 2014
4. INFORMATION/DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS
 - a) Discussion, Action: Concerning next steps for the development of a management plan for the Santa Fe River Rural Protection Zone (the wetlands on the Santa Fe River below the City of Santa Fe Waste Water Treatment Plant)
 - b) Discussion, Action: Concerning next steps for the development of a vegetation management plan for the Santa Fe River.
 - c) Discussion, Action: Concerning next steps for the development of a program to promote the Voluntary River Conservation Fund (the River Fund), to encourage citizens' financial contributions into the fund.
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 is reflected in roll call.	Page 2
Approval of Agenda	Request to move #5, Matters from the Commissioner to #4a. <i>Ms. Melinda Romero-Pike moved to approve the agenda as amended, second by Mr. Bove, motion carried by unanimous voice vote.</i>	Page 2
Approval of Minutes, September 11, 2014	<i>Mr. Ellenberg moved to approve the minutes as presented, second by Ms. Doremus, motion carried by unanimous voice vote.</i>	Page 2
Information/Discussion/Action Items <u>Information/Discussion/Action:</u> a. Matters from the Commissioner. b. Discussion/Action: Concerning next steps for the development of a management plan for the Santa Fe River Rural Protection Zone (the wetlands on the Santa Fe River below the City of Santa Fe Waste Water Treatment Plant) c. Discussion/Action: Concerning next steps for the development of a vegetation management plan for the Santa Fe River. d. Discussion/Action: Concerning next steps for the development of a program to promote the Voluntary River Conservation Fund (the River Fund), to encourage citizen's financial contributions into the fund.	<i>b. Ms. Doremus moved to have staff come to the November meeting with the Reclaimed Water Resource Reallocation Plan for review and any associated data that is available on this topic and an overview on the Management Airport Plan or their survey that affects the wildlife assessment for the wetlands, second by Mr. Buchser, motion carries by unanimous voice vote.</i> <i>Mr. Ellenberg moved to approve the appointment of Mr. Buchser, Mr. Bove, and Ms. Doremus work as the sub-committee working with Mr. Smith on the tree removal and contractor licensure and knowledge and next steps, second by Ms. Romero-Pike, motion carried by unanimous voice vote.</i>	Page 2-7
Matters from Commissioners, Matters from Sub-committees	None	Page 7
Matters from Staff	Approval of 2015 Meeting schedule to be on agenda for November.	Page 7

Citizens Communication from the floor	None	Page 7
Adjournment	There being no further business to come before the Santa Fe River Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 7:10 pm.	Page 7
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SANTA FE RIVER COMMISSION

Thursday, October 9, 2014

6:00 p.m. – 7:10 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-Pjke
Dale Doremus ✓
John R. Buchser ✗
Richard Ellenberg ✓

Excused

Others Present

Brian Drypolcher, Staff Liaison
Andrew Erdman, City of Santa Fe Water Division
Mr. Andy Otto, Santa Fe Watershed Association
Mr. David Harrington
Fran Lucero, Stenographer

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Request to move #5, Matters from the Commissioner to #4a.

Ms. Melinda Romero-Pike moved to approve the agenda as amended, second by Mr. Bove, motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 11, 2014

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

4. INFORMATION/DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

- a. Matters from the Commissioner:
Mr. Jacobi expressed his thanks to Mr. Drypolcher, Mr. Puglisi, Mr. Archuleta who had been a student of his, Mr. Hook and the Engineer for the recent tour arrangements. Thank you.

The Chair introduced Mr. David Harrington from the Santa Fe Community Collaborative who is interested in serving on the River Commission. Mr. Harrington will make contact with the Mayor's office to request consideration for appointment to the River Commission.

The Chair expressed his thanks to Brian Drypolcher for his service to the River Commission for the last 5-years. Thank you and best wishes in future endeavors.

Mr. Bove said that he has been working with the city on some legal matters related to the Acequia Madre. Mr. Bove has proposed and believes that the city is in agreement with him is to coordinate the releases to the Acequia Madre in association with the river water. If they go to that method it would be much easier for the city and it would also give Acequia Madre to make diversion of their water. Mr. Bove asked the commissioners if they had any concerns regarding this request. Acequia Madre would be taking water on Monday's; it wouldn't take all the water because the water would be added in since it would be taken in a big lump instead of spread over a month's time. Details on the drop in the river on the day that they take water have not been worked out.

Mr. Ellenberg said that he believes the ordinance says that water can be supplied to the Acequia in addition to river water. The only time he would see it as a difficulty is if it was during a surge.

Mr. Bove said that he is talking about 300 gallons a minute and does not see it as a problem.

- b. Discussion, Action: Concerning next steps for the development of a management plan for the Santa Fe River Rural Protection Zone (the wetlands on the Santa Fe River below the City of Santa Fe Waste Water Treatment Plant)

The Chair said that the revised plan was submitted in 2010 and it didn't reach its point of completion. The Airport Management Hazard Assessment Plan has been submitted for review by the River Commission. (*The River Commission members were provided a disk which includes a summary and 140 page report.*) Chair Jacobi referred to the comments in the summary regarding wildlife.

Ms. Romero-Pike asked if there were specific animals they are indicating when discussing wildlife.

The Chair said that there are many concerns listed such as permits to control wildlife, coming up with techniques to get rid of wildlife. The Chair asked for recommendations from the commission members to revisit the rural protection zone. In December of 2012 the city came up with guidelines for considerations for managing the effluent and that was something that the River Commission had really talked about. Now the folks downstream are interested in some of that water.

Ms. Romero-Pike asked what specifically are they interested in for wildlife.

Chair Jacobi said it is about anything; the concern is that there are many animals, and the beaver dam construction that will impound more water and attract more birds. It is a very important corridor for wildlife and with the increasing activity now at the airport there are concerns.

Mr. Drypolcher said that the FAA has asked that the wildlife hazard assessment be reviewed due to its size and past incidents at the Santa Fe Airport. The Airport hired a group of consultants to do a Wildlife Hazard Assessment and that is the report distributed on the disk. There is the Assessment and the Wildlife Hazard Plan and the city has a draft of one of the Airports Wildlife Hazard Plans, but it is not known if there is a plan that has been worked on since that draft was created.

Mr. Harrington: The Wildlife Assessment Plan that the SF Airport came up with was kicked back by the FAA. The collaborative meeting was held today and as far as the Game and Fish is concerned a permit would be needed to remove the beavers. In reference to the downstream water users, they have been involved with trying to do something with the rural protection zone ever since it has been created. Our Water rights going in to La Bajada go back to 1827 which is prior to any water rights that the City of Santa Fe has. Mr. Harrington said that they have very strong water rights at La Bajada.

The Chair asked what the flow at Calle Debra was.

Mr. Harrington said that when the sewer treatment plant was at Siler Road, it was running at Calle Debra. When they moved the treatment plant to where it is today it was updated and for the most part it puts out water that is within the guidelines of the EPA. Occasionally it does malfunction and it puts out raw sewage.

The Chair said that in looking at the report, BLM is planning to do some work on the river and it could be more of a hazard to the wildlife?

Mr. Harrington said that it has been brought up if the sand hill cranes discover the wetlands we could have a big problem.

Mr. Ellenberg said that there is a lot of planning efforts going in different directions and who has jurisdiction to make decisions. Mr. Ellenberg would like to receive hard data in order to discuss how this would be rectified.

Mr. Harrington said that there are various owners including the city, BLM, Santa Fe County and the Girls School. The farmers actually had to stop planting because the river went dry.

Ms. Romero-Pike asked who makes the decision for the agencies and various owners as stated by Mr. Harrington.

Mr. Drypolcher said that in terms of who determines, there is a resolution on the books, the resolution directs the River Commission to create a management plan. There is a charter for this group to do that. Based on the process that the Santa Fe Airport needs to follow, they should be involved.

Mr. Otto said that there are different grant applications to do different studies. They all have different objectives.

Mr. Andrew Erdman, City Water Division: The city also applied for a grant to evaluate the water coming out of the wastewater treatment plant in terms of the feasibility study for the potential of using that water for other purposes to make sure that the city was getting the optimal value out of that water. There is a resolution and there is a lot of talk between the City and the Mayor to continue to have water available in the river but there is also a lot of water going down the river. There is an EPA grant that the City has applied for in the amount of \$150,000 to do a feasibility study to evaluate other alternatives for re-using that water as drinking water or for water irrigation.

Mr. Ellenberg asked if there are legal opinions on the water at La Bajada.

Mr. Erdman: There are multiple legal opinions. There is a range; basically the city doesn't get return flow credits for that water because it doesn't reach the Rio Grande. From the State Engineers perspective that water is entirely consumed within the city and the city is responsible to come up with the full amount of water right that comprises that. Of the water that is returned from the treatment plant, it is mixed, some of it comes from the upper watershed, some comes from the San Juan Chama diversion project, some of it comes from the wells at the Buckman well field. Once you get in to that level of detail there starts to be a lot of opinions of which is that water is obligated for downstream.

Mr. Bove said that is one of the first things that needs to get resolved, the city does lease some of its water and that would need to be known. We need to know how much water is needed for those wetlands. If there is a certain amount that needs to go down the La Bajada or not, it isn't known. Is the River Commission the one that needs to figure out the water rights?

The Chair said no. The River Commission will work on the responsibility of the management plan for the Santa Fe River Rural Protection Zone.

The Chair said that they need to revisit the Reclaimed Water Resource Reallocation Plan.

Mr. Erdman said that there is a version that was adopted about a year ago. There are a number of customers and each one has an allocation of how much water they are entitled to. If there is a new customer coming in they are given a certain amount.

Ms. Doremus said that the Commission should base the decision on data. Is there anyone left in the city that could provide updates on the reclaimed water and work to date? Is there a definition of what water needs to go downstream? The River Commission needs to have city staff bring more information for review.

Mr. Erdman said there may be more documents for the downstream waters.

Ms. Doremus moved to have staff come to the November meeting with the Reclaimed Water Resource Reallocation Plan for review and any associated data that is available on this topic and an overview on the Management Airport Plan or their survey that affects the wildlife assessment for the wetlands, second by Mr. Buchser, motion carries by unanimous voice vote.

- c. Discussion, Action: Concerning next steps for the development of a vegetation management plan for the Santa Fe River.

The Chair said that this is in regards to Michael Smith's request. The Mayor had directed Mr. Smith to proceed. The Chair asked if he has continued and Mr. Drypolcher said yes. The Chair said that there are agreement guidelines until a Vegetation Management Plan for the Santa Fe River can be created. There was also a discussion about not removing 4" trees.

Mr. Drypolcher said Mr. Smith wants to go after larger trees. Mr. Drypolcher said that the direction was to let Mr. Smith go forward yet Mr. Smith will need to provide the city with the contractor license for the tree removal and a certificate of insurance for removing the trees.

Mr. Ellenberg said that his recollection was to appoint a sub-committee to work on this. Discussion was to take place on herbicide, what trees could be cut and what size, city's rules on contractors and insurance.

The Chair named the volunteers, Mr. Buchser, Mr. Bove, and Ms. Doremus as the sub-committee to work with Mr. Smith. Mr. Andy Otto from the Santa Fe Watershed Association would like to participate if feasible.

Mr. Ellenberg moved to approve the appointment of Mr. Buchser, Mr. Bove, and Ms. Doremus work as the sub-committee working with Mr. Smith on the tree removal and contractor licensure and knowledge and next steps, second by Ms. Romero-Pike, motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

- d. Discussion, Action: Concerning next steps for the development of a program to promote the Voluntary River Conservation Fund (the River Fund), to encourage citizens' financial contributions into the fund.

Mr. Drypolcher reported that there is approximately \$130,000 available, no ground has been broken. The City Council has approved the Alameda Rain Gardens and additional funding is being sought out. The work can be done within the pipeline that the city is working on. This would be a topic of discussion that the Santa Fe River Commission should be looked at moving forward. There is no direction at this time to move forward on the Alameda Rain Gardens.

Mr. Ellenberg said that he has received an offer for drafting of a piece (brochure) for the water fund to be included in billings. Mr. Ellenberg will work on the wording to promote interest in the fund.

Mr. Drypolcher said that the mailings that have gone out so far, the Santa Fe Watershed Association has been a major supporter in getting the information mailed out in the water bills. Rate payer bill inserts, free media in the press, advertisements in the newspaper,

utilizing the city website and news releases and other venues are available to get the word out and continuing to promote.

Mr. Drypolcher expressed his appreciation for Mr. Ellenberg taking the initiative to move this forward. He would like to see someone on the River Commission take this project on to assure that it moves forward and doesn't lose momentum. Mr. Drypolcher can continue to work with the internal venues to get the word out during his tenure. Mr. Ellenberg will communicate with Mr. Otto to discuss any obstacles that they could be faced with.

The Chair asked if during Mr. Drypolcher tenure would there be any bids submitted for the Alameda Gardens? Mr. Drypolcher said that at this time there are no RFPs being developed.

5. MATTERS FROM STAFF

The November meeting of the River Commission will require approval of the annual meeting schedule.

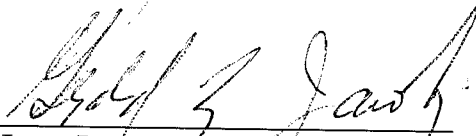
6. CITIZENS' COMMUNICATION FROM THE FLOOR

None


8. ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Santa Fe River Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 7:10 pm.

Signature Page:



Jerry Jacobi, Chair



Fran Lucero, Stenographer