

SANTA FE WATER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING CITY HALL – 200 LINCOLN AVE.

CITY COUNCILORS' CONFERENCE ROOM

APRIL 10, 2018 4:00 PM TO 6:00 PM

- 1. CALL TO ORDER
- 2. ROLL CALL
- 3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
- 4. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA
- 5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE MARCH 13, 2018 MEETING

CONSENT AGENDA:

- 6. WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAM SCORECARD UPDATE FOR MARCH 2018 (Christine Chavez)
- 7. UPDATES TO IRRIGATIONS REBATES (Christine Chavez)
- 8. UPDATE ON CURRENT WATER SUPPLY STATUS (Christine Chavez)

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

- 9. 2016 AWWA WATER LOSS AUDIT (Amy Ewing, Christine Chavez, 30 minutes)
- 10. ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION WITH WATER DIVISION DIRECTOR (Rick Carpenter, Christine Chavez, 20 minutes)
- 11. COMMITTEE INTRODUCTIONS TO COUNCILOR ROMERO-WIRTH (Christine Chavez, 20 minutes)
- 12. SUSTAINABLE SANTA FE COMMISSION REPORT FEEDBACK (Christine Chavez, 20 minutes)
- 13. GROUP REPORTS FROM WATER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE WORKING GROUPS
 - A. GROUP 1 IRRIGATION SUBCOMMITTEE (Doug Pushard, Christine Chavez, 5 minutes)
 - B. GROUP 2 GENERAL EDUCATION PROGRAM/ GRANTS (no update)
 - C. GROUP 3 SCORECARD SUBCOMMITTEE (Stephen Wiman, Christine Chavez, 5 minutes)
 - D. GROUP 4 WATER CONSERVATION CODES / ORDINANCES / REGULATION (Doug Pushard, Christine Chavez, 5 minutes)

MATTERS FROM PUBLIC: (5 minutes)

MATTERS FROM STAFF: (5 minutes)

MATTERS FROM COMMITTEE: (5 minutes)

NEXT MEETING - (Councilor's Conference Room): TUESDAY, MAY 8, 2018

CAPTIONS: due by 3:00 pm, Monday, April 23, 2018

PACKET MATERIAL: due by 3:00 pm, Wednesday, April 25, 2018

ADJOURN.

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

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SANTA FE WATER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING CITY HALL, CITY COUNCILORS CONFERENCE ROOM 200 LINCOLN AVE. TUESDAY, APRIL 10, 2018, 4:00 PM

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Santa Fe Water Conservation Committee was called to order by Chair, Councilor Carol Romero Wirth, at 4:00 pm, on Tuesday, April 10, 2018, at City Hall, City Councilors Conference Room, 200 Lincoln Avenue, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

2. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT

Councilor Carol Romero Wirth, Chair

Lisa Randall

Tim Michael

Stephen K. Wiman

Doug Pushard

Scott Bunton

Ken Kirk

Bill Roth

Robert Coombe

Aaron Kauffman

MEMBERS ABSENT

Justin Lyon, Excused

OTHERS PRESENT

Glen Schiffbauer, Green Chamber of Commerce

Christine Chavez, City of Santa Fe, Water Conservation Manager

Caryn Grosse, Water Conservation Division

Rick Carpenter, Director, Water Department

Amy Ewing, Daniel B. Stephens and Associates, Inc..

Meg Hennessey, NMED, Surface Water Quality Bureau

Andy Otto, Watershed Association

Elizabeth Martin, Stenographer

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION

A motion was made by Mr. Roth, seconded by Mr. Bunton, to approve the agenda as presented.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

4. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION A motion was made by Mr. Pushard, seconded by Mr. Kirk, to approve the

consent agenda as presented.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES MARCH 13, 2018

Mr. Kauffman said he was not in attendance at the last meeting and is shown as present.

Mr. Michael said on page 2 his name is shown as Michaels. There is no "s" at the end of his name. Mr. Michael said on page 3 at the top of the page, it should say OSE and in the 4th paragraph is should say GPCD. Where it talks about digital sites, it should be Digital Sites, on page 4, in the middle of the page it should say BBER, on page 8 at the top of the page is says gong and should be going and on page 12 it should be the AWWA audit.

MOTION A motion was made by Mr. Bunton, seconded by Mr. Roth, to approve the minutes as amended

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

CONSENT AGENDA

Items 6 through 8 were approved on consent.

- 6. WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAM SCORECARD UPDATE FOR MARCH 2018
- 7. UPDATES TO IRRIGATIONS REBATES
- 8. UPDATE OF CURRENT WATER SUPPLY STATUS

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

9. 2016 AWWA WATER LOSS AUDIT

Ms. Ewing handed out her presentation which is attached herewith to these

minutes as Exhibit "1".

Ms. Chavez said we worked on this last year. Ms. Grosse compiled all the information for Ms. Ewing. We have worked with this company on quite a few projects. We will be starting on 2017 pretty quickly and are already gathering data.

Ms. Ewing reviewed her presentation.

The questions asked by the Committee during the presentation were as follows:

Mr. Coombe said there is more water billed than produced.

Ms. Ewing said it could be the lag time between reading the meter and billing. It is more likely that some of the meters were not accurate. There were also straight estimates being made at that time. There could be errors with production numbers or the reading numbers as well.

Mr. Kauffman asked when were the height of the meter changes made.

Ms. Chavez said it corresponds with the height of the chart. We did estimates for 2 to 3 months. We did see it in the GPCD as well. It used to take 3 to 4 month to adjust, now it is a couple of days.

Ms. Randall asked why were people allowed to opt out.

Mr. Pushard said it was about radio waves and big brother. We gave them the ability to opt out.

Mr. Bunton asked how many opted out.

Ms. Grosse said less than 200.

Mr. Pushard asked what is the national number for loses.

Ms. Ewing said there used to be an industry standard for unaccounted for water, but it was found that there is no way really to compare systems. No unaccounted for water is what is acceptable now. The point of these types of analysis is to try to find out where the water is going.

Ms. Hennessy asked which parks are you speaking of and why are they allowed to have un-metered water.

Ms. Ewing said it is not the City of Santa Fe she is talking about.

Mr. Coombe asked what does that mean to the certainty of the numbers.

- Ms. Ewing said there is pretty significant uncertainty with that number. It is useful to target some of the activities.
 - Mr. Roth asked regarding the 65% how does that compare to previous audits.
- Ms. Ewing said the audits done in 2014 and 2015 were not done in as much indepth as this one. That number was 58 in 2014 and 59 in 2015. The data is getting better and better. A lot of improvements have been made.

Chair Romero Wirth asked what are you talking about when you discuss back flow prevention.

- Ms. Ewing said she is speaking about the installation of a device that prevents back flow water from going back into the system. That can confuse the meter and can look like a leak. It is a good practice to have those devices. This is an old system. You have come challenges.
- Mr. Bunton asked is there a rough age after which construction has taken care of this problem.
- Ms. Ewing said she did not know. Older systems have a bit more issues. Albuquerque's Back Flow Prevention Program does annual inspections. The customer is charged a fee. Many of these systems pay for themselves.
 - Mr. Kirk asked does the County do a water audit as well.
 - Ms. Ewing said she did not know.
 - Ms. Chavez said it is a requirement for the Water Trust Program.
- Ms. Ewing said the drinking water bureau table they make is a few years behind so probably 2016 is available online. She will look and see.
- Ms. Hennesey said the Water Trust Board application process is open to May 16th. Is the City planing to apply for money for updates.
- Mr. Carpenter said we always try to send at least one in, sometimes 2 or 3. It is a great candidate for funding for us.
- Ms. Ewing said the Water Trust Board has not been favorable in the past toward these kinds of projects.
- Mr. Carpenter said we can make it sound like a capital improvements project then it is more of a candidate for funding.

Chair Romero Wirth asked your contract is until June 2019.

Ms. Ewing said yes.

Chair Romero Wirth asked so we will get 3 more audits from you.

- Ms. Ewing said we will do 2017 and 2018. We are not able to do 2019 because our contract will expire before the data is available. Staff will be ready and able to do what she has done by then. The analysis will continue.
- Mr. Coombe asked why is it that the 5.7% corresponds to only 1.8% of the cost of operations.
- Ms. Ewing said those calculations are done by spread sheet model. We have to take into account the financial data calculated on customer retail cost and total production costs. Also power and chemical costs. They are considered to be part of the cost of the production of the water.
 - Mr. Coombe said something is not working. It is a small point.
 - Ms. Ewing said we can provide the formulas to you in writing.
- Mr. Michael said he has the same issue. It seems like 3 times more than the income from water is a lot to run the Water Utility. He can't square the numbers.
- Mr. Carpenter said our budget is \$35 million. The tier 2 water rates get us where we want to be.
- Mr. Roth asked as a percentage of income how much do the higher rates contribute.
- Mr. Carpenter said he did not have that with him, but would get it to Mr. Roth. It is not a small percentage.
- Mr. Roth said commercial water conservation is a big driver of this. It will be an interesting political situation. The better we do the higher rates have to be.
- Ms. Chavez said she will make sure the Committee gets the link to the final report.

Chair Romero Wirth thanked Ms. Ewing.

10. ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION WITH WATER DIVISION DIRECTOR

- Mr. Carpenter said thank you for having me. The idea that he and Ms. Chavez had was to have an open discussion. He will do the best he can. He can come back if we don't get everything covered.
- Mr. Wiman said in view of everything we know how would you advise us in developing GPCD production in the future.
- Mr. Carpenter said he is concerned with the San Juan/Chama water with regard to climate change and infrastructure. It is one of our best water sources and may not be as dependable as we thought. The City of Santa Fe does a great job of calculating our GPCD. His biggest push would be the long term trend. He trusts that more. The best way is good data and having the methodology as consistent as possible. We need to be efficient with the San Juan/Chama water. It is looking good for near term, but is not going to be as reliable as we thought it would be. The annual operations plan meeting is Thursday. He can report back on that.
- Mr. Pushard said thank you for coming and for this format. Albuquerque presented to us last month regarding their 100 year plan. Do you think we should look at doing something like that. Do a longer term plan and include capital outlay.
- Mr. Carpenter said yes. John Stomp is big on long term planning. We are delinquent on getting our 40 year plan going back to the OSE. People there are big on demographics and data. He meets with John once a month. He wants to look out 40, 50 to 100 years to see what we need to do to ensure our water future. The other thing is we are breaking down our 40 year plan into 5 year increments. We will plan for that and get it funded for 5 years and have a longer term vision out there.
- Ms. Hennessy asked the City's long term Water Supply Plan, is it your office that did that.
- Mr. Carpenter said with a consulting firm, but water resources and the conservation group staffed it. It is being updated right now.
- Mr. Coombe said we are in the midst of thinking about a 5 year plan for water conservation. One thing we face is clarity of objectives even for that short of a period of time. Albuquerque has a number. We don't. Is the objective to save as much water as we can. Be as efficient as we can. The conservation plan is something the City needs. Clarity in its objectives is necessary given climate models. We were talking about an objective that would be in an era of protracted drought and a time that the population will not increase significantly. Is a GPCD constant over that time a good objective. Hold consumption costs and build elements to increase efficiency. Is it possible for the City to confirm a firm objective.
- Mr. Carpenter said he is comfortable with an objective, but not a firm objective. There are to many variables. We have to continually assess that. There are 5 to 10

variables that effect what would be our objective. That is updated every year.

- Mr. Coombe said we don't have that now.
- Mr. Carpenter said if we want to call it 85 we better be able to defend it.
- Mr. Michael said we are working to craft a plan for the next 5 years for the Water Conservation Office. If the City does or does not have a numerical objective we are struggling with can we, as a Committee, say for their plan lets find a number. We were thinking of 90. Even if the population changes it is not under the purview of the Conservation Office. They can only control some things. Is a number like 90 reasonable.
- Mr. Carpenter said he thinks 90 is reasonable. You might want to think about, now that we established 90, how much of that is residential and how much is commercial and how does that fold back into the rebate programs. You should have a number to start the discussion. That is only healthy. He would support that.
- Mr. Otto said regarding managing ground water, how involved is the Department with that and how involved do we need to be.
- Mr. Carpenter said we are as involved as we have determined is effective for us to be. There are some problems. You need to involve a great many stakeholders. It is complicated. There are a lot of models out there. Some DOT agrees with each other on and some not. The permit has not been issued yet, but we have used parts of 2 maybe 3 ground water models to come up with the permit. He strongly disagrees with that. We need to come up with something everyone agrees with. That is hard to do. We have tried to do that, but no one wants to fund that. We are doing a Field Optimization Study, but if there is no plan and we have a lot of growth we want to do some ASR. If we spend a lot of money on that and have no plan to manage it, he can't justify spending funds on something like that without the cooperation of the region.
- Mr. Carpenter said we are very interested in ground water management and a plan with buy in from the major stake holders.
- Ms. Hennessy said recently she has been in touch with the City about helping to create a watershed based plan. Meeting EPA requirements for 2019 funding is what her division and she specialize in. We are in the very early stages.
- Ms. Hennessy said she is working with stormwater run off projects to restore the aquifer which can be funded under EPA. We are reaching out. If aquifer storage is important we can hopefully have funding within a year to address that.
 - Mr. Carpenter said water quality is a huge part of the equation.

- Mr. Bunton said in order to have a functioning ground water plan don't you have to know how much is taken out by private wells and the ability to control that.
 - Mr. Carpenter said yes, but most domestic wells are not metered.
 - Mr. Bunton asked isn't that a first step that has to be taken.
- Mr. Carpenter said yes, but that is very difficult. It is very political. People consider their wells as part of their property.
- Mr. Bunton said you can spend \$10 million on a plan, but if you don't control what is being taken out of the aquifer you are spending that money for nothing.
- Mr. Carpenter said yes, but limitations are something people resist. It is a very political battle. State laws would have to be changed.
- Mr. Roth said when you build in the County you have to have a meter on your well. Why are the people in the City special and don't need meters.
- Mr. Carpenter said if the City Council wants to take that on and pass Ordinances and give Direction to the Water Director what authority would be necessary, we can look into. We can do anything we want to, but it is the political will and the funding.
 - Mr. Bunton asked what is the history on that.
 - Mr. Carpenter said we have very different user profiles.
- Mr. Carpenter said the County has more opportunity for growth and development than the City does.
- Mr. Bunton asked so the assumption is that the problem won't get much bigger than it is now in the City.
- Mr. Carpenter said we are largely built out, but there are opportunities for development around the edge of the City. It is not the same as the County. It depends on what kind of developments are done. We look at things differently.
- Mr. Wiman asked do we have the geotechnical data to see how much wells are drawing down on the aquifer.
- Mr. Carpenter said there are places where we could do ASR and it would work. We do a model, but don't have control over what development is done. We don't know how many private wells there are. We have been looking at it for a long time now. We would have to get that data to do a real plan.

- Ms. Hennessy asked is there any potential to do a voluntary reporting system.
- Mr. Carpenter said it is possible. We probably would not get much participation.
- Mr. Michael asked can the City buy from someone their private well right.
- Mr. Carpenter said no. The right is tied to the land.
- Mr. Kauffman said given the current snow pack and run off projections do you have a sense of what you will use from the City wells.
- Mr. Carpenter said we have an analysis done. He would say that we will pump City and Buckman wells more than we have. MRCD said they will run out of water that they call for in May or June. Albuquerque says if they are not going to call for their water we will not as well. Carriage changes are so big. If no one is going to call for water we will just turn on our wells. We have a couple of wells at Buckman that have gone artesian. It is actually time to start running these wells to keep them healthy. This is the year to do it. That is what our plan says. 1,500 acre feet from Nichols and McClure. It may be more or it may be less. We have a weekly meeting with all the resource staff to determine that. On an annual basis we are going to pump the wells more than we have.
 - Mr. Pushard said typically wells are about 10%. We are talking 20%.
- Mr. Carpenter said 15%, 20% or 25%. If things go south BDD will not be available from mid to late July to September, but will be the rest of the year. We will get what we are going to get from the reservoirs.
 - Mr. Carpenter said before the BDD the well percentage was a lot higher.
 - Mr. Kirk asked what about an emergency limit on the use of water.
- Mr. Carpenter said we can meet the demand. Things have changed. We have 4 very reliable sources of water. The question is we are in a drought do we want to heighten awareness through water restrictions. That is a policy decision not a water supply decision.
 - Mr. Bunton asked how long can you meet the demand.
- Mr. Carpenter said it depends on how bad it gets or if we get a monsoon. Years, decades. We have more flexibility and options than we used to have.
- Mr. Coombe said that is not motivating conservation. If there is no urgency then how do you establish a goal.
 - Mr. Carpenter said we are not saying there is no urgency. He thinks we are on

the precipice of having a big drought again. There is a lot to still think about. We need to maintain our level of heightened awareness no matter what. In 2002, when he first came, the population was 30% less than it is now. In 2018 we are using about 8,100 to 8.200 more acre feet.

- Mr. Coombe said that will be driving the Committee and what we do in 5 years. Are the issues going to be about resiliency and efficiency of the system to hold at 90 GPCD. Can that inform not only the sorts of measures to put together, but also a package of things that keeps us at that point.
- Mr. Carpenter said yes. If we are going to plan we have to plug numbers. Our long range plan assumes 90 GPCD. We have to stay aware no matter how good or bad a year is.
- Mr. Coombe said we need that sort of clarity to inform the matter in which we motivate people to conservation.
 - Mr. Roth asked what percentage of population growth are you looking at.
 - Mr. Carpenter said not very big. Just under 1% a year.
- Mr. Otto asked does water flowing in the Santa Fe River help in conservation issues or hurt them.
- Mr. Carpenter said to heighten awareness, sure. Do you want a living river through town by conserving water, sure. Do people wonder why we want to conserve when there is a river running through. That is a split decision.

Chair Romero Wirth said thank you for coming.

11. COMMITTEE INTRODUCTIONS TO COUNCILOR ROMERO WIRTH

The Committee members introduced themselves and their backgrounds to Chair Romero Wirth.

Chair Romero Wirth said she was happy to be Chair of this Committee and is excited to work with all of the members

12. SUSTAINABLE SANTA FE COMMISSION REPORT FEEDBACK

Ms. Chavez said we all have to give Mr. Pushard a big hand because he wrangled the Sustainability Commission at their last meeting. He voiced his own personal opinions. It was well received in the end. They did give us a draft of the plan.

She told them we would form a subcommittee to review the plan and make recommendations.

- Mr. Pushard said he wants to make sure everyone got the whole Sustainability Plan.
 - Ms. Chavez said she would forward to the group.
- Mr. Pushard said that is important. They not looking for edits. They are looking for big things they have missed. First go through the plan and see what is missing and what linkages are missing. Our 5 year plan for example. Compile the big things of what is missing and then prioritize that list. 2 things that we need to think about when looking at it is that it is an ongoing plan. How do we create the linkage in the ongoing method. Sharing plans, getting feedback. Create a process. Most concerning to him is a large discussion on structure. How do we put together a sustainable organization. That is of concern to him. He doesn't know where that pony goes. We have to think about that and how does water conservation fit. He is an advocate of changing the name of this Committee. It is too limiting. What is the structure of a City Sustainability Plan. We need to think about that.

Chair Romero Wirth said the Mayor is talking about bringing the Sustainability Plan into the Mayor's office as well.

Mr. Pushard said he would like to get feed back from all members and then have a subcommittee look at that and create linkage. They would like to get something within 30 days.

Chair Romero Wirth said they are on a pretty fast track. We need to find out their time table.

- Ms. Chavez said we could probably only meet a couple of times.
- Mr. Bunton said that is a good idea. Separate into 2 subcommittees. Plan and relationship and process.
 - Mr. Pushard said that is the way to have the most value.
- Mr. Michael asked is he right or wrong that the 5 year plan is a programmatic plan for this office and the Sustainability plan is a significantly different beast. As you work through this that is important to realize.
- Ms. Chavez said that is a good point. They are 2 different plans. Maybe coordinate information in 2 groups.
 - Mr. Pushard said given what he thinks is important, and with the short time table

that we have, is can we have the 5 year scorecard team for the next 30 days. That is the team who is best capable of handling that process issue. Trying to force a 5 year plan in, we may not do each other justice. Let's put the 5 year plan on hold for now.

Ms. Chavez said she will talk to the Chair about that.

Mr. Pushard said this Friday you are all invited to a meeting here in this room from 10:00 am to Noon where Rice University representatives are coming in to work on carbon related issues of Sustainability Plan. They are going to present to the Commission on Friday. If anyone is interested let him know so he can let them know. They are having a question period of the Sustainability Commission from 12:45 pm to 1:30 pm the same day here in this room.

13. GROUP REPORTS FROM WATER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE WORKING GROUPS

A. IRRIGATION SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. Pushard said his report is in the meeting packet.

Ms. Chavez said the irrigation rebate has pushed out. Printed materials are coming at the end of the month. We need to talk a bit more about that as a group. It is all on our website.

Mr. Pushard said it will be presented on April 29th at the Convention Center.

B. GENERAL EDUCATION PROGRAM/GRANTS

None

C. SCORECARD SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. Wiman said with the guidance given from Mr. Carpenter we need to talk about and agree what to do going forward. We need to increase the frequency of meetings if you are up against your deadline.

Ms. Chavez said we do need to meet more frequently. We will have to bring this information back for the next meeting.

D. WATER CONSERVATION CODES/ORDINANCES/REGULATION

Mr. Pushard said the Alliance of Water published the State Water Scorecard. We got a C. It was a scale of 80 to zero and we were 16.

Mr. Bunton asked how did Albuquerque do.

Mr. Pushard said it is as a state ranking. He would like to put this on the agenda for next month. He would like to put the questions on the next agenda. What would be a State level effort we would like to push forward. We have the ability to at least put forward a Resolution asking the State to investigate moving up forward on the water conservation issues. An example would be metering. It is a discussion he would like to have at next months meeting.

Mr. Bunton said we have 2 Resolutions we have been working on regarding aligning the City to the County regarding fees for violations. One gives the Department the ability to align when the County changes. The other version allows for an expedited process by the Council.

Ms. Chavez said thank you for being so thorough. We will be bringing this back to go before the Committee.

Mr. Bunton said our new Chair may have an opinion.

Chair Romero Wirth asked we are aligning to them and we are ok with that. What was behind that.

Ms. Chavez said their standard is much higher than ours and in line with Albuquerque. She will show the Chair both versions and have a discussion with her.

14. MATTERS FROM THE PUBLIC

Mr. Otto said on April 29th at 6:30 pm the movie Shadow of Drought will be shown at CCA. It deals with the southern California drought and how they dealt with that.

15. MATTERS FROM STAFF

Ms. Chavez said this month is very busy for staff. The one thing she wants to tell the Committee about is the Mayor has decided to participate in the water challenge. Santa Fe ranked number 1 before. Everyone please get on the site and sign up.

Ms. Randall requested that she reach out to the Superintendent and ask for that information to be shared.

Ms. Chavez said that is a good idea.

Chair Romero Wirth asked how does it work.

Ms. Chavez said you go on line take a small pledge. You can get prizes.

16. MATTERS FROM THE COMMITTEE

Mr. Pushard said the Water Summit is coming up. We are looking for 2 or 3 volunteers to be room facilitators.

Mr. Kauffman said his term is finishing up in June. It has been a pleasure being on the Committee. Thank you for this opportunity.

17. NEXT MEETING TUESDAY, MAY 8, 2018

18. ADJOURN

There being no further business before the Committee the meeting adjourned at 6:15 pm.

Councilor Romero Wirth, Chair

Elizabeth Martin, Stenographer