City of Santa Fe



# SANTA FE WATER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING CITY HALL – 200 LINCOLN AVE. CITY COUNCILORS' CONFERENCE ROOM

February 13, 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 JANUARY 9, 2018 MEETING

#### **CONSENT AGENDA:**

- 6. WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAM SCORECARED REVIEW FOR 2017 (Christine Chavez)
- 7. WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAM SCORECARD UPDATE FOR JANUARY 2018 (Christine Chavez)

#### **ACTION ITEMS:**

8. APPROVAL TO MAKE CHANGES TO POPULATION CALCULATIONS AS IT RELATES TO THE NEW MEXICO OFFICE OF THE STATE ENGINEER'S METHODOLOGY FOR THE GALLONS PER CAPITA PER DAY CALCULATION. (Tim Michael, Christine Chavez)

#### **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**

- 9. RESULTS BASED ACCOUNTABILITY DISCUSSION (Bob Coombe, Stephen Wiman, Tim Michael)(Christine Chavez)
- 10. MATTERS RELATED TO WATER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE (Christine Chavez)
- 11. GROUP REPORTS FROM WATER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE WORKING GROUPS
  - A. GROUP 1 Irrigation Subcommittee (Christine Chavez)
  - B. GROUP 2 General Education Program/ Grants (Aaron Kauffman)
  - C. GROUP 3 Scorecard Subcommittee (No Update)
  - D. GROUP 4 Water Conservation Codes / Ordinances / Regulation (No Update)

#### **MATTERS FROM PUBLIC:**

#### **MATTERS FROM STAFF:**

#### **MATTERS FROM COMMITTEE:**

UPDATE FROM TIM MICHAEL ON SUSTAINABLE SANTA FE MEETING

## NEXT MEETING - TUESDAY MARCH 13, 2018 (Councilor's Conference Room):

CAPTIONS: MONDAY FEBRUARY 26, 2018, 3:00 PM

PACKET MATERIAL: WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 28, 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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#### **DISCUSSION**

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#### SANTA FE WATER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE CITY HALL, CITY COUNCILORS CONFERENCE ROOM 200 LINCOLN AVENUE TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2018, 4:00 PM

#### 1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Santa Fe Water Conservation Committee was called to order by Councilor Peter Ives, Chair, at 4:00 pm on Tuesday, February 13, 2018 at City Hall in the City Councilors Conference Room, 200 Lincoln Avenue, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

#### 2. ROLL CALL

#### MEMBERS PRESENT

Councilor Peter Ives, Chair Lisa Randall, Co-Chair Aaron Kauffman Tim Michael Stephen K. Wiman Doug Pushard Scott Bunton Justin Lyon Ken Kirk Bill Roth Robert Coombe

#### **MEMBERS ABSENT**

#### **OTHERS PRESENT**

Christine Chavez, City of Santa Fe, Water Conservation Manager Andy Otto, Watershed Association Caryn Grosse, Water Conservation Patricio Pacheco, Water Conservation Elizabeth Martin, Stenographer

#### 3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

**MOTION** A motion was made by Mr. Wiman, seconded by Mr. Coombe, 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 Ms. Randall, seconded by Mr. Wiman, to approve

the consent agenda.

**VOTE** The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES JANUARY 9, 2018

MOTION A motion was made by Mr. Pushard, seconded by Ms. Randall, to approve

the minutes as presented.

**VOTE** The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

#### **CONSENT AGENDA**

6. WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAM SCORECARD REVIEW FOR 2017

7. WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAM SCORECARD UPDATE FOR JANUARY 2018

#### **ACTION ITEMS**

8. APPROVAL TO MAKE CHANGES TO POPULATION CALCULATIONS AS IT RELATES TO THE NEW MEXICO OFFICE OF THE STATE ENGINEER'S METHODOLOGY FOR THE GALLONS PER CAPITA PER DAY CALCULATION

Ms. Chavez said she wanted to give a huge thinks to Tim Michael for all his work on this issue. We were starting to go through the calculation and found that the population projection was inflated. By having a higher population number we have a lower GPD number. We met with Reed Liming, who reports the population each year. He is in agreement with us in terms of what we proposed to him as a way to fix the population numbers as to what is really happening in the City. It will be much more useful to us and more accurate.

Mr. Michael said the spread sheets are in the packet. He reviewed them. What happened last year was because of the way the population was calculated was based on the number of connections. The population it calculated was too high. We knew it was not right. Reed Liming picked up on that as well. Our plan was to fix that. Our conservation with Reed was about what number to use. Instead of using the previous method we are using the PEPANNRES method, a population estimating program.

(Census estimates). 90.77 gallons a day was the number that came forward. We are proposing that is what we use for this year and not to fix last year. We want to go forward.

Chair Ives said one of the big objectives of the OSE was to make sure everyone is using the same process. Do we not help them by rightsizing numbers.

- Mr. Michael said on a statewide basis the difference is insignificant. We help ourselves to more accurately reflect the population. We used the tables the State Engineers Office uses on their spread sheet. We are making better use of the same dataset.
- Ms. Chavez said we had a discussion with the Office of the State Engineer and they mentioned that several other cities have made adjustments to their population numbers as well. If we continue to report with that high population number the information will not be as accurate.
- Mr. Michael said in his conservation with Julie Valdez she said all she does is collect the numbers.
- Mr. Pushard said he agrees with Tim on this. He actually called them to see if they do anything with the data and they don't. He understands the issue of adjustments. The alternative would be us not using their number, but have out own number. That causes issues. He does think it will help us. In 2021 the full adjustment to population will be done. As long as we document it and have a conservation with the State Engineer it should be fine.
- Mr. Coombe said he agrees. He thinks they will be comparing our number more and more with other cities or States. Tim what do you think the accuracy of that number is.
- Mr. Michael said if the population estimates program is correct, he thinks it is in the ballpark.
  - Mr. Coombe said it behooves us to select one method and go with it.
  - Mr. Michael said if we choose this method it will be relatively easy to keep at it.

Chair Ives said and there are still those 700 to 800 wells out there that complicate things as well.

**MOTION** A motion was made by Mr. Pushard, seconded by Mr. Coombe, to approve the method proposed.

#### **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

## 9. RESULTS BASED ACCOUNTABILITY DISCUSSION

Ms. Chavez said we been hearing about this from Councilor Ives. She has gone to some training. The City is moving towards this new tracking method. Everyone is having to switch over to it. 3 questions are asked. How much, how well and is anyone better off. Is anyone better off is the hardest one for us to answer. We brought the subcommittee together to work on this. The city Manger gave her copies of the book for the subcommittee and the packet in your meeting packet today. We started there. We thought we would bring this discussion to the Committee and open it up to the group. The subcommittee is she, Mr. Coombe, Mr. Wiman, Mr. Michael and Caryn.

Mr. Wiman said this got his attention and his thoughts going in different directions. The discussion begged the question of if we are better off by just listing things and what are we really doing to encourage a decrease in water consumption. It made him think we are expending a lot of energy for the water to go to the water bank. More water is being used while you are trying to reduce the use elsewhere. He would like to see a projection out in the future of what we need to do to meet the deficit we see in the reports. What can we do to project out into the future. We have had conversations every year of how much would we be reducing consumption each year. He would like to see us doing more forward thinking rather than the path from the past. He has been through this in the corporate world and it was not successful. He is not saying it is the wrong thing to do. It is a useful tool in some respects. It causes us to question if we are doing the right work. We tend to go off in multiple directions. What can we do to maximize the results. Can we look at big picture items like climate change.

Councilor Ives said in this context, as we look at reducing supplies and expanding population, he calls it a resiliency factor. How much reserve we would like to have in our system to overcome a specific situation. What if we used the Stella Modeling System in terms of assessing water and arbitrarily reduce the supply side 1,000 acre feet. Reduce it to the minimum amount and come up with how we need to react to ensure that we as a City can survive. That would be fascinating. It would be a good exercise.

Mr. Coombe said he thinks we need to clarify our goals in general. We can fit what we do into this format, but before we do that we need to ask ourselves what are we doing and why are we doing it. How much water do we save, for who and how is it being used. You can look at it in terms of population growth, drought and climate change. We can quantify how much water is saved through rebates and how much growth that results in. The other side of it is looking hard at the future. What number do

we need to have to respond to climate change and reduction in flow. Where do we need to be. We have years of data and know what the trend is. The real question is where are we going, what are we doing and why. What is the consumption number we need to do and how do we manage it. The closest thing we have is the Santa Fe Basin Study. It is a 2015 study that has projections based on various climate scenarios and estimates for population growth. They project with 4 dry years a deficits of 9,000 acre feet. GPCD. You can take a middle ground, central approach which is still a large number. It is possible we can say using the climate models available that this is what we project in the future that the trend in our GPCD needs to be. Also how much growth can be afforded. It is possible to quantify that through these models. We need to be up front about it. What is water conservation really about. Where are the greatest points of leverage. We get a lot more mileage out of commercial rebates than residential rebates. If you saw the article in the New York Times about Capetown South Africa which will run out of water in April you see how bad it can get. They are down to a GPCD of 13 right now. This happened over a period of 3 years. We can do this approach, but we have to be honest in our objectives.

Mr. Roth said for him we have an opportunity to redevelop large areas of the City and we have run out of a lot of low hanging fruit for the current environment. We could use this as a lever to go in and look at how we use water in these new projects. One idea was that all landscaping in these developments use only potable water to water the landscaping. The consensus in the City is that we want growth. It has to be done under guidelines. It will take some political will.

Mr. Michael said he agrees. Well said. That is where we need to go. He agrees with Bob that with the Results Based Accountability guidelines can easily fit what we are doing now. What he wants to say is we have 1 1/2 hours left in this meeting. There is no other place to confront these hard questions other than here. We can hope our new Mayor will look at these kind of things. It has to come from here. He would like to leave here today with some kind of commitment and plan to confront the hard questions. Has the City agreed to the idea that growth is necessary. We don't really know. Have we agreed to that as a City. If we have lets proceed from there. If not we need to move on to something else.

Chair Ives said certainly this is the place to take up those issues. Given the capacity and interest of this group to dig into these types of issues he can think of no better place in the City to pursue those questions. Results Based Accountability is an effort within the City to better understand if our expenditures were making sense and what impact we have been having. We have seen the City Council in the last 2 years become much more engaged in the budget process. We will have to sit down with leadership within the City and start to have those discussions. It is prudent, wise and necessary to do this. It begs the question of what do we need to be looking at now in terms of our code.

- Ms. Chavez said when she first got here she was new, but did know that the program had done so much work. Having the scorecard was a great management tool for her. This Results Based Accountability is very timely. It does not look at the checkmark to see if you met the goal. The bigger questions are the ones that came up today. She would like us to take a step back and really figure out what was said today. It is a great opportunity for us to work together. It will take time and we need a plan to approach it. Maybe break out into groups. If this Committee could help us brainstorm some of those ideas today that would be helpful.
- Mr. Bunton asked what is the worst case scenario on water supply that we can come up with. He came up with 3 questions. Once we have those numbers available what combination of population and GPCD will get the City to meet that worst case scenario. You have to control population if you are going to control that problem. How do you do that. You can influence that, but it is not an easy thing to do politically. The third question is what conservation actions can reasonably be projected to accomplish that combination. Education and volunteer incentive actions are not enough. Compulsory actions is left such as controls on businesses like car washes. These are politically difficult choices to make. If we can make them early enough it may keep us from having to make such dire changes.
- Mr. Coombe said the data regarding the worst case scenario is available. The future is about climate models. It behooves us as a City to use the best climate models.

Chair Ives said we have wonderful potential partner in Descartes Lab. It would be fun to engage them. There might be some opportunity there.

- Mr. Coombe said if that is possible it would enable us to make more informed decisions. We need to do this in as informed a manner as possible.
- Mr. Michael said thanks guys. You are getting there. Christine is in a pinch here. She has a program to run. She is on board with all of this, but she has to take the Results Based Accountability and put it in place.
- Mr. Otto said the main thing we shouldn't forget is the environment. We can base it strictly on population, but it also involves infiltration and the Living River. Keep that right in there with our criteria for how this is going to be determined. It will come to that point at some future time. We also want to say how much water we want in the river and the watersheds.
  - Mr. Roth asked do you have numbers that you can give us that we can factor in.
  - Mr. Otto said the Living River Ordinance was aggressive in that way.
  - Mr. Roth asked is there a baseline.

Mr. Otto said yes. People are first and that is something environmentalists have had to accept, but factoring in the environment is crucial.

Chair Ives said agreed. There is no alternative but to tackle that along with everything else in our code to define Santa Fe's future.

Mr. Coombe said we can go forward with Results Based Accountability. We can easily fit it in. A culture of stewardship, that is a worthwhile thing to do for which we can establish specific objectives and plans.

Chair Ives left the meeting.

Co-Chair Randall took over.

Ms. Chavez said she what she found fascinating in our conservation in the subcommittee was that the Committee was unaware that all of the water saved goes into the water bank. Another thing is that water conservation is embedded in utilities and their job is to sell water, even though this division has the most staff and resources. The other is being that people can buy water out of the water bank that may be a way for them to make up for the water they did not sell. It is contradictory. There are so many connections. What we do here also is to connect to those divisions as well. This is not the biggest thing on the City's radar as well. It is a great opportunity, but it will be interesting how those connections are made through this process.

Mr. Roth said this does give us opportunities to propose things. Shouldn't all these people on a regular basis be slitting at this table and having a roundtable on this stuff. It is all the same water. That would be an awesome project. We get the department heads together and present this.

Mr. Coombe said we can also ask the question about shrinking water use and how much will the rates be.

Mr. Roth said when we are talking about what we want to do that seems to be something that should happen.

Mr. Pushard said he thinks the water bank is an interesting and unique phenomena that we don't appreciate. The Committee does need to understand. We are a net zero City and have been ever since that Ordinance began. It does have some value built into it. One side is do we want to save water to let us grow. The other is about saving water. What do we want to use the water for would be a very worthwhile conversation. He would like to see us allocate some time in a structured way to have a focused discussion. The one issue he fears the least is the quality. We have more water than we need for the next 4 decades. If we just captured all the stormwater we would not even need the watershed. We have far more water rights than we have ever used. Having the modeling gives us an educated background where we could look at

things to prioritize. The models might surprise us. Approaching the existing home stock and doing something with that, since they are 78% of water use, would be effective. We could say if you come in to pull a permit to do anything you have to meet code. We don't to that today. The one thing not on the table is we live in a water basin. It is the wells in the County that worry him. When we are having this conservation we need to have County people here as well. The County is drilling more wells and using more water. We should start with what do we want to do and the 3 questions Scott posed. We need to dedicate time.

- Ms. Chavez said we do have the 5 year Water Conservation Plan we will be working on and can identify all the connections and ways to make what we want happen there. It can be in the Plan and we can try to figure out a way to make the Results Based Accountability fit. It is very timely. We are in the midst of developing a long term plan for the department. We need to determine what our 5 year goals are.
- Mr. Pushard said for the next meeting we can pick one of Scott's questions and spend 20 minutes or so on it.
- Mr. Wiman said he suggests we do this internally first then get other departments involved. He had some comments about the Annual Water Report. It is a perfect example to him that one department under the Water Division does not really understand and consistently portrays information that is wrong. He likes the idea of getting going with the subcommittee first, but maybe some day a retreat or a forum with a facilitator to talk about the big picture goals could be done.
- Mr. Roth said we can present 5 questions to these department heads. Growth is not going to stop. The construction industry is a huge contributor to this economy. We should have hard targets.
- Mr. Randall asked do we want to formulate a question for discussion at the next meeting.
  - Mr. Bunton said the trade off of population and GPCD.
- Mr. Michael said population is of interest to him. As Doug said the City population and the County population are important. We need to get an idea. His tendancy is to use the County population. It is not just population. It is the difference between the population growing or the whole County looks like Las Companas or the whole County looks like downtown Santa Fe. What is it going to look like in terms of population. That is the kind of question he would like to see.
- Mr. Roth said he would base it on the current City and County zoning. Look at what is in place right now and base our discussion on that. Make suggestions.
  - Mr. Bunton said we could do multiple scenarios. Dense and less dense

scenarios. Select scenarios and come up with answers for each scenario. The Council can then decide.

Ms. Randall said perhaps the topic for the next meeting is bring some suggested questions.

Ms. Chavez said this can develop into an important piece of work. She is concerned about the time it will take us to do that. She likes the idea of breaking into the subcommittee to help focus the conversation a bit more. We need to have action items on the agenda.

Mr. Kirk said it is important to work with the County. In Albuquerque they have a 100 year plan on the books that they have been working on for years. It would be interesting to hear about that from someone in Albuquerque. It might provide us some direction.

Ms. Chavez said she will look into that.

Mr. Pushard said it is on the City website. If we are going to have them come in it would be good for us to all have read the plan before they come in.

Ms. Randall said we need to defer to Christine's urgency, timeline and input. Do we have confirmation of the subcommittee members. If not let Christine know.

Mr. Kirk said he would like to work on this as well.

Ms. Chavez said we will meet as subcommittee and bring back focused pieces to the Committee and look at her deadline. Everyone gets siloed in the plans and then they get shelved. We can write the plan and do a better job and take a different approach. She will collect the data asked for and bring it to the subcommittee. This will be on the agenda again. If anyone else wants to join email her. It is a great opportunity for us to do something great as a group. Thank you.

Mr. Roth said it would be good to identify all the City Committees that address water.

Ms. Chavez said she will work on this with the subcommittee and do as much as we can within the time frame.

# 10. MATTERS RELATED TO WATER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

Ms. Randall left the meeting.

Mr. Michael took over.

Ms. Chavez said as you remember we established term limits for the Committee 2 years ago. The terms are staggered. She missed a deadline. According to the list Bill, Doug, Stephen, Tim and Lisa's terms expired in July 2017. She needs a letter from all of you stating that you are interested in serving another term or not. Please email those to her asap. We have Aaron, Justin and Bob whose first terms end in July 2018. She needs to gauge interest in serving a second term.

Mr. Long said he and his wife are moving back east to be closer to family. We are moving right after the conference. It has been an absolute pleasure serving with all of you.

Ms. Chavez said we may have a lengthy exit meeting. Still would like his input on a lot of things. Thank you so much for being on Committee. Best of luck to you and family.

Ms. Chavez said again, if your term is coming up share with her if you want to serve a second term or not so she can advertise for openings and can plan. If you can think of anyone who would be a good replacement for Justin before we put it out let her know.

Mr. Long said we are sending people to Cape Town to work on their water issues. They just did not plan at all. In terms of what comes out of this, he will report back.

Ms. Chavez said that would be a great discussion.

# 11. GROUP REPORTS FROM WATER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE WORKING GROUPS

#### A. IRRIGATION SUBCOMMITTEE

Ms. Chavez said we have a subcommittee meeting next Wednesday at 8:00 am. We have our whole outdoor irrigation package to review. We are doing the magnet program. Mario and Patricio are going to go out and place the magnets at dealers on appliances that meet the criteria. We will need to have a discussion on rebates as well. Join us if you are interested.

## B. GENERAL EDUCATION PROGRAM/GRANTS

Mr. Kauffman said we are finalizing the rubric to assess the Passport Program. This is to assess the students progress and changes the kids made in terms of the questions they answered. We have determined that we need to come up with different questions. Some are a bit complicated for 4<sup>th</sup> graders. The grants subcommittee meeting is this Thursday to talk about upcoming funding opportunities. The meeting will

be at 9:30 am.

Ms. Chavez said Aaron has been very helpful in these projects. This is a good opportunity to think about how we phrase the questions for next year. Now we have some grant opportunities as well. If you are iinterested join us.

Chair Michael said it would be nice if they could answer the questions on the computer.

## C. SCORECARD SUBCOMMITTEE

This was previously discussed.

## D. WATER CONSERVATION CODES/ORDINANCES

- Mr. Pushard said his hand out is in the packet. If you have any questions please send him an email.
  - Mr. Wiman asked for an update of the restaurant program.
- Ms. Chavez said we have 13 restaurants signed up so far. We are working on the timing with the consultant. There is a big social media campaign associated with the audits. We have learned amazing things from the audits so far. We did get a copy of the first report. Staff has done 3 or 4 audits so far. It is going well. We are keeping a spreadsheet on the type of equipment we are seeing. Caryn is working on rebate ideas. The biggest problem is they don't know how much water they are using in their own shop because they are part of a hotel or shopping center. We are looking at metering.
- Mr. Roth he is in the design and planning stage of building a restaurant. It would be great if he had some guidelines for the owner to use at the building stage for water conservation.
- Ms. Grosse said you could start with best practices for restaurants. We could help you with a couple of other things.
  - Ms. Chavez said there are restaurants that are doing great things.
- Mr. Roth said that would be great. Anything will help. This is Homewise. It could be a perfect model.
- Mr. Michael asked will the commercial rebate program will be presented at the Water Summit.
  - Ms. Chavez said we will have to see. She doesn't think we will be prepared to

give a presentation at the Summit but hopefully it will be mentioned as part of the work being done in Santa Fe.

Ms. Chavez said we got 2 Resolutions approved before the Council. Our programs are getting a lot of questions and discussion and exposure.

#### 12. MATTERS FROM THE PUBLIC

Mr. Otto said we submitted questions to Mayoral and Council candidates. We will have those answers out to everyone on our website and eblast. It is very interesting.

#### 13. MATTERS FROM STAFF

Ms. Chavez said she will send out schedules for the Sustainability Committee and the River Commission.

#### 14. MATTERS FROM COMMITTEE

# A. UPDATE FROM TIM MICHAEL ON SUSTAINABLE SANTA FE MEETING

Mr. Michael said he attended this meeting. They are still proposing to have their report out by May 30<sup>th</sup> to City Council. He is looking forward to seeing it.

Mr. Kirk said he did not attend the last County meeting so they had quorum issues. He will be at the next meeting and will report back.

Mr. Pushard said the Summit is quickly approaching. If anyone wants a copy of the agenda he has them with him. Please sign up soon. We will be sending out press releases. Senator Tom Udall will be our keynote speaker on Tuesday.

Mr. Michael asked are there any kind of special slots for students or interns.

Mr. Pushard said yes. They need to register as a student. When they come they have to show a student ID. A password will be available for registration for you all. Use the one at the bottom of the page.

Ms. Chavez said she can help them register as well.

# 15. NEXT MEETING TUESDAY, MARCH 13, 2018

#### 16. ADJOURN

There being no further business before the Committee the meeting adjourned at  $6:03\ pm$ .

Councilor Peter Ives, Chair

Elizabeth Martin, Stenographer