



Agenda

DATE 5/2/18 TIME 12:05
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SANTA FE WATER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING
CITY HALL – 200 LINCOLN AVE.
CITY COUNCILORS' CONFERENCE ROOM
MAY 8, 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 APRIL 10, 2018 MEETING

CONSENT AGENDA:

6. WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAM SCORECARD UPDATE FOR APRIL 2018 (Christine Chavez)
7. UPDATE ON CURRENT WATER SUPPLY STATUS (Christine Chavez)
8. DISHWASHER REBATES & EXTENSION OF APPLICATION PERIOD (Christine Chavez)

ACTION ITEMS:

9. SUSTAINABLE SANTA FE COMMISSION FEEDBACK (Christine Chavez, RBA Subcommittee)
10. 2017 GALLONS PER CAPITA PER DAY (GPCD) FINAL REPORT (Christine Chavez, Tim Michael)
11. SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 5-YEAR RBA GOAL (Christine Chavez, RBA Subcommittee)

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

12. WATER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE DISCUSSION – PROJECTS FOR FY 18/19 (Christine Chavez)

MATTERS FROM PUBLIC: (5 minutes)

MATTERS FROM STAFF: (5 minutes)

MATTERS FROM COMMITTEE: (5 minutes)

NEXT MEETING – (Councilor's Conference Room): TUESDAY, JUNE 5, 2018

CAPTIONS: due by 3:00 pm, Monday, May 21, 2018

PACKET MATERIAL: due by 3:00 pm, Wednesday, May 23, 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.

**SUMMARY OF ACTION
SANTA FE WATER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE
CITY HALL, COUNCILORS CONFERENCE ROOM
200 LINCOLN AVE.
TUESDAY, MAY 8, 2018, 4:00 PM**

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**SANTA FE WATER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE
CITY HALL, COUNCILORS CONFERENCE ROOM
200 LINCOLN AVE.
TUESDAY, MAY 8, 2018, 4:00 PM**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Santa Fe Water Conservation Committee was called to order at 4:00 pm by Councilor Romero Wirth, Chair, on Tuesday, May 8, 2018, at City Hall, in the 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
Scott Bunton
Ken Kirk
Robert Coombe

MEMBERS ABSENT

Doug Pushard, Excused
Bill Roth, Excused
Aaron Kauffman, Excused
Justin Lyon, Excused

OTHERS PRESENT

Christine Chavez, City of Santa Fe, Water Conservation Manager
Caryn Grosse, Water Conservation Division
Rick Carpenter, Director, Water Department
Andrew Erdmann, Water Department
Andy Otto, Watershed Association
Elizabeth Martin, Stenographer

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION A motion was made by Mr. Kirk, 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. Bunton, seconded by Mr. Coombe, to approve the Consent Agenda.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

**5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
APRIL 10, 2018**

Mr. Michael said on page 3 it should say losses and on page 4 backflow is one word and it shows 2 times as 2 words.

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

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

**A. WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAM SCORECARD UPDATE FOR
APRIL, 2018**

B. UPDATE OF CURRENT WATER SUPPLY STATUS

**C. DISHWASHER REBATES AND EXTENSION OF APPLICATION
PERIOD**

7. ACTION ITEMS

A. SUSTAINABLE SANTA FE COMMISSION FEEDBACK

Ms. Chavez said we had talked about the Sustainable Santa Fe Commission meeting we attended. We had the subcommittee come together to discuss it. Everyone spent a lot of time giving feedback. Caryn compiled the comments and ways to move forward, the big ideas left out and the edits. Hopefully everyone has looked at that. We would like approval and will then submit this officially. The subcommittee was Mr. Coombe, Mr. Wiman, Mr. Bunton, Mr. Michael, Mr. Kirk and Mr. Pushard

Chair Romero Wirth said Doug sent an email to Christine and to her about the 2

things he specifically wants us to get back to the Commission this Friday.

Ms. Chavez said the Sustainability Task Force that the Mayor set up is the one meeting. That did go in.

Mr. Coombe asked has this been submitted yet.

Ms. Chavez said no, we need your approval tonight and any changes if necessary.

Mr. Coombe said the numbers were discussed under sources and are reflected in the edited text. It talks about supply water to which we have rights to acre feet per year under surface water that is coming down the Santa Fe River and out of the Rio Chama. Those add together to about 10,000 acre feet per year. Then it says the 2 ground wells are 15,000 acre feet. That is more than he every heard of before.

Mr. Erdmann said 10,000 acre feet of water is right in the Buckman well. There is 3,500 in the City well.

Mr. Coombe the point of confusion is the number referred to from the Basin Study. The flows coming down those 2 sources of surface water will be reduced by 1/3. Somehow that relates to 9,000 acre feet.

Mr. Erdmann said when we look at surface water sources even if there is no water coming down we still have those rights. That number was made by the assumption of pumping. It reflects the number approved for pumping.

Mr. Coombe said so they are not necessarily related to one another. His point is if he is confused if this goes out to the public a whole bunch of people will be confused about the impact of drought. No where does it reference consumption.

Mr. Michael said you are saying here that there are some numbers in here that refer to paper water and to water rights when in fact what matters is available wet water.

Mr. Coombe said for the pubic there needs to be some notion of the total water available in any given year and how that is likely to change if in fact climate change causes the water to drop.

Mr. Carpenter said the way he prefers to think about it is what is the availability of peak demand every day. We plan for that. We also plan for the numbers you are referencing. We are planning for drought and how to get through this year. We are also planning on if climate change stays around and we have to deal with it in 5 years what is the sustainable yield and how do we keep the pumps working. That long term demand is something we plan for.

Mr. Coombe said he was only thinking about the 3rd item. He realizes that the immediate need is a problem.

Mr. Carpenter said we try to rest those wells as best as we can. The offsetting rights at Buckman are an issue as well.

Mr. Coombe said the point he was making is we need to make the case for conservation in the sense of how much water we likely have to have long term in the face of protracted drought caused by climate change. The numbers the way they are presented do not actually say that.

Mr. Carpenter said conservation is our cheapest and best hope at this point, but reclaiming water for reuse is the next thing on the horizon.

Mr. Wiman asked would it make sense to retool the surface water and ground water sections so that the paper rights are footnotes and the actual consumption and anticipated real water capacity is highlighted.

Chair Romero Wirth said it will be a document for the public. Maybe it needs to quote what Rick said about the 3 ways. Are people going to conserve this year. Even if we can meet our water demand they need to conserve. We can't see into the future, but likely we will be dealing with less as our new world.

Mr. Michael said regarding the paper water rights, he does not think the sustainable language deals with keeping the pumps running. They are most worried about the long term things. They are conflating paper water with real water. The footnote would be water rights.

Mr. Erdmann said there is one piece he wants to mention. The way surface water works and the way the ground water works is very different. Using surface water is like spending interest. If there is an opportunity to make do that it is a valuable one. Ground water is almost a finite resource. Conservation has an enhanced role when we use ground water. There is an opportunity for the sustainable plan to get a more nuanced look. There is a big footnote about how the offsets work. That is something that would make the sustainable plan better.

Mr. Coombe said along those lines we have 10,000 acre feet of surface water a year and consumption is 8,000. Maybe the case needs to be made about consumption versus surface water. It makes a clear point about why greater degrees of conservation are necessary.

Ms. Chavez said those are really good ideas that were not included. She and Andrew are involved in the rewrite of the document. We will work with them to get that in and we will recommend that conservation be elevated. We have been having biweekly meetings with Sustainability. That is why they wanted us to hold off on edits.

Mr. Erdmann said it will go fast and be done by July.

Chair Romero Wirth said there is no time to rewrite this and share a draft with the Committee to make sure we get it in and right. Maybe those people most concerned could look at it.

Ms. Chavez said she understands this is our shot.

Mr. Michael said he does not need to see it again. He knows it will be well handled by staff.

Mr. Coombe agreed.

Mr. Wiman asked why the rush. It could benefit from being rewritten from scratch by the Water Division. Their numbers were way off base. When he hears a deadline he thinks lets do it even if it is wrong.

Chair Romero Wirth said the hurry is on behalf of the plan. It has been in process for so long the Chair and others are ready to get it done. It should be right. That is why she wanted to loop back to the experts.

Ms. Chavez said their time ran out and they got an extension of the contract to complete this quickly. They are saying it is a living document and can be changed when it needs to be. The edits in our document are going in accurately. We will check on it. It will be up to she and Andrew.

Mr. Erdmann said they feel this is a work product of their committee reflecting our input, but it is their product. They have consulted with us and took what they were interested in.

Ms. Chavez said we should be responsible for the background. She is hoping Shirlene will make sure we can get the background correct.

Chair Romero Wirth agreed.

Chair Romero Wirth said she hopes if you need other eyes you can have folks look at it soon. It does not need to come back in front of this Committee as a whole. Maybe have a couple of people look it over one more time if possible.

Ms. Chavez thanked the subcommittee for their work.

Chair Romero Wirth said triple ditto.

MOTION A motion was made by Mr. Michael, seconded by Ms. Randall, to accept as amended what our feedback is and that it will be sent to the

Commission with the comment changes.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

B. 2017 GALLONS PER CAPITA PER DAY (GPCD) FINAL REPORT

Ms. Chavez thanked Tim for all his work on this. This number is so important. We wanted to make the change that would best represent our system. She feels comfortable with this. It is so much closer to what is actually happening here. The report is in the packet. This has gone through the Public Works Committee and has gone to the State Engineer. We documented the process. It is getting bound right now. We attached the spread sheet as well. It is more correct than in the past.

Mr. Michael said the point is to get it squared away and move forward using this.

Chair Romero Wirth said the GPCD is all water including residential. Sometimes for the lay person it is easy to think it is residential per capita. She thinks we should point that out wherever we can when talking about this so people get used to hearing what this actually is.

Mr. Bunton said it is really just a statistic.

Chair Romero Wirth said she thinks we will be hearing about it a lot more with this drought. That is something she picked up at the Water Summit.

Mr. Coombe said like the residential rate it is burdened by the other uses of water. Like overhead. One of the things he wondered is in terms of that burden he wonders how Santa Fe compares to other cities. Are we unusually high.

Ms. Grosse said it is worth noting when we go to an event where we are interacting with other cities they say that their rates are single family residential use. In New Mexico we are closer to being apples to apples.

Mr. Michael said we have the Albuquerque data and could do that. We could compare and it would be easy to get.

Ms. Chavez said now that we have a solid calculation we can be more confident in that. She is really glad the Chair brought that up. At the Summit we talked a lot about GPCD. We really were not the lowest in the southwest. Some cities are lower. A couple of talking points for the Committee on GPCD are we want to make sure we communicate this year that this is not an increase in consumption. It was just about the same. The reason the number went up a bit was because it was divided by fewer people. Another point is we are not the lowest in the SW. Third is it is not just single

family residential. It is the total system that we are talking about. It is important for us to communicate that when we communicate that number.

Chair Romero Wirth said as we are in a drought that she believes prolonged, people are going to get more conversant in this and will focus more on the situation so we need to be cognizant of how we are sharing this information. The reason it is divided by less people is that we zeroed in to the real population number, not because people are leaving.

Ms. Chavez said yes. We were better in dialing in to the population number. They were using 5 year estimated numbers. We made the adjustment. Rick has made the point several times to stick with the methodology. She agrees, but is happy we got the real number.

Mr. Wiman asked what is the role of annexation in the number that we had fewer people.

Ms. Chavez said last year we used the annexation number.

Mr. Michael said 2013 was annexation and that has past. What we are using now for population is the population estimate program. In 2014 they made that correction in the program. That number has been right for 3 years now. It is not the result of annexation.

MOTION A motion was made by Mr. Coombe, seconded by Mr. Bunton, to approve the final report.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

C. SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 5 YEAR RBA GOAL

Ms. Chavez said incorporating results based accountability was difficult. We decided we should reduce our 5 year RBA goal to 85. That will be our main target for our plan. A lot of work was done to accomplish this.

Mr. Wiman said he thought we had to have a reduced number if we were talking about the new normal and conservation. We have to work harder here. We have to decide where we put our time. This puts a challenge out for us. He is happy with that number. Christine was going to report to us how the water production compares to last year. Have you seen any numbers on that.

Ms. Chavez said in January it was higher than January last year. People were irrigating early. She did not pull the data.

Mr. Erdmann said he is putting together a detailed version of his report for Council. He just started working on that this afternoon. The numbers are pretty high. He has not crunched the numbers yet. He would be happy to share that information with this Committee.

Chair Romero Wirth asked would you characterize that 85 number as an aggressive target. How challenging is that.

Mr. Bunton said the answer will vary depending on how serious the drought is. It could be a very aggressive number. If we see a monsoon season we love, maybe not.

Mr. Coombe said we talked about within the GPCD, since the residential number averages 57 and in off peak more like 47 or 48, it is not likely we will see a reduction in that. The commercial sector is where the opportunity is. Any number is likely plus or minus 2 at least. Taking that into account and the fact of the total consumption goal means finding 500 acre feet in conservation. It is hard to know if that is aggressive. He doesn't know what might be possible with commercial yet. We don't have sub meters in a lot of these things. You can think about where is the greatest leverage and that is the commercial sector but one of the first things you need to be able to do is to measure it. He thinks it is a perfectly ok goal.

Mr. Erdmann said another thing that is complicated in bringing down demand is we have a City goal to stimulate growth and in 5 years we could have another hospital on line to use water or another apartment complex. As we are moving forward we are also allocating water. When we bring in these big things it changes our mix.

Mr. Michael said 85 gallons per capita a day is a population goal to use the accountability language. This is almost all outside of the scope of Christine's work or the 5 year plan. We have to remember she has hooked her star to a 5 year plan with a goal of which she is not in control. What she is in control of is the scorecard. We need to keep that in mind. This committee is not the Water Conservation Office. We have a larger purview than that.

Ms. Chavez said by approving our 5 year goal we will start to look at developing public input sessions to take that goal and look for ways to achieve that with the public. The next step is gathering public input. This takes this off the Committee for awhile.

Chair Romero Wirth said make sure we are clear with the public about what we are talking about.

Ms. Chavez said we will continue to update the Committee.

MOTION A motion was made by Mr. Wiman, seconded by Ms. Randall, to approve the 5 year goal.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

8. INFORMATION ITEMS

**A. WATER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE DISCUSSION - PROJECTS
FOR FY 18/19**

Ms. Chavez said she wanted to have an open discussion with the Committee. She spoke to the Councilor about this as well. She has been thinking a lot about the Committee and her work with you when she was first hired 2 ½ years ago. Reflecting back at that time it seemed to her there was a huge disconnect between the office and the Committee and the way we supported each other. You really helped to bridge the activities with the office. Our office has made gigantic strides in the last 2 ½ years. We added 2 huge programs. Education is gigantic, measurable and comprehensive. Another one was the development of the scorecard which is measurable. Now she can't tell you how helpful that has been in guiding the activities of the office. We have our very first Committee pilot project finished. Staff completed over 35 restaurant audits. We are looking at our next sector which is schools. We have accomplished so much. We are leading tours out in the watershed. Staff is well trained. Everyone has moved up in certifications. We are fully staffed. She can't tell you how much of that comes back to the work this Committee has done. She could not be more grateful for the partnership and all the work you have done.

Ms. Chavez said she pulled the Resolution that created this Committee. She has steered you off that path a bit. She brought you into the details of the office, but she has not given you an opportunity to work on the bigger issues. We have a new Mayor and Councilors. Involving you in day to day stuff is not supporting you in working on the bigger picture items. Those are the things she should let you work on. She is not supporting you to use that talent to work on bigger things. The office is set. She will continue to inform you and bring these things to you. She will keep you heavily involved, but wants to support the Committee in working on those bigger things.

Ms. Chavez said to start she will give you guys a survey to gather feedback from you. Please respond in a active way. Thank you for getting us in such a wonderful place. We have the ability to move forward. She wants to take you out of the day to day activities and work on the bigger things. There is so much talent here. She is offering for you to do what you are charged with. We will provide the support for you. She needs your feedback on that.

Mr. Wiman said he has 2 projects to work on. We need to be free here as citizens of the community about elephants in the room. One is the issue of the Water Bank. We are asking people to save water so people can develop using the Water Bank. What are the water related limits to growth. How do we sell water conservation when people see the buildings going up. How are we issuing all these permits when we

talk about the studies. We closing our eyes to what the future looks like. We need to limit growth. Maybe someone from Land Use should come speak to us. When are we going to say enough is enough. We need to live within our water budget or find more supply. Does the public really know about that Water Bank. Water conservation is the right thing to do, but if you know the regulations here and the limits of storage in the reservoir we use it or lose it. He would like to put together a white paper on how we live within our water budget. We need to cooperate with the County. Where are we going. Your office has been amazing, but there are there limits. When will we say we are water limited. He is not afraid to talk about it. He would like to hear what other people think about that.

Mr. Michael said he and Steve met with Andrew yesterday and talked about that. This is really not within the scope of the Water Conservation Office, but we do think it is within the things as a Committee that we need to talk about. We could make the argument that we don't even have to have a Water Conservation Committee for the City. There are a lot of visions for Santa Fe regarding education, health and security, but he thinks these are all related to the physical vision of Santa Fe. Do we want water flowing down the river. Do we need this many parks. Do we want tall buildings. These are the kind of things this Committee can at least think about.

Mr. Bunton said at an earlier session we talked about looking to the future and trying to speculate knowledgeably about the worst case scenarios in terms of water supply and what mix of voluntary and mandated would be the most acceptable to the residents. He would be fascinated if we could spend some time looking at some models and come up with a plan to educate the Governing Body about what might be necessary if the scenario came to be that has been talked about.

Chair Romero Wirth said at the Water Summit we participated in a discussion around what if we had to reduce by 50% GPCD. It was an interesting exercise to hear technical people speak about the kinds of things that could or could not happen and impediments to getting things to happen.

Mr. Wiman said he dropped out of that charette when he read Doug's description about development. He did not want to be there. It is going to get tough.

Mr. Coombe asked what would be most helpful to the City. There will be a limit to how much growth can happen. The City approves things project by project using the Water Bank.

Chair Romero Wirth said the Mayor is thinking about a broader strategy and that we need to be planning in a different way.

Mr. Coombe said if that is the case, that should be informed by the availability of water and energy. The more we know about what is out there in the future in terms of sources of supply and consumption the more that could be applied to planning for the

City. We need to make it clear for the residents what we have to do to get there. He supports Stephen's point in this regard. To the extent that water consumption and supply can be incorporated into strategic thinking they ought to be.

Mr. Michael asked do you know anymore about that planning in a different way.

Chair Romero Wirth said she encourages us to give it some time. The 8 working groups the Mayor has going will help state the vision and plan going forward. We will hear more about that once the working groups meet and put forward what they recommend. This is just bubbling up as part of a transition process that has not had time to bake completely. We will all be hearing more about how we will move forward as a City.

Mr. Michael said we are all unelected. We don't speak for the citizens, but presumably the Mayor will reach some kind of consensus about what we want the big picture things to be.

Chair Romero Wirth said she thinks there will be opportunities for that as the transition groups bring forward recommendations. We will have the back and forth as part of the recommendations and which ones we should be acting upon.

Mr. Michael said Christine proposed something to us and we jumped into this. Are we as a group going to encourage ourselves to focus on big picture items.

Chair Romero Wirth said this is a conversation we do not have to complete today. We are missing members. Take this away from this meeting and let it percolate and we will put it on agenda for next time. See what we come up with. Then make a conscious decision about what the Committee should be focusing on. We will get consensus around which items to focus on. We probably have more ideas than we have capacity to do all at once.

Mr. Kirk said Steve raised some extremely important issues, but they are also extremely complicated. The thought of the City doing something on its own without relation to the County is a non starter. The City and the County working in absence of the State is a non starter. We are really talking about a situation effecting the Southwest. There are examples of major metropolitan cities using less water. They have grown and survived and found a way to accept a lot of things.

Chair Romero Wirth said you have to read John Fleck's book *Water Is For Fighting Over*. It is very informative. It gives the big picture of that we are going to have less water.

Mr. Otto said he is counting on you guys. He has always gotten from this Committee a bit of elevation in the discussion and the notion of raising that another

notch is what is needed. Get at it.

Mr. Bunton said the encouraging piece in particular is the piece that the office is in pretty stable condition now. To the extent that is true there will be more time and cognitive energy to invest in this kind of activity.

Ms. Chavez said she is so excited. This is great. We have the talent and the passion and investment of the Committee members to move things forward. There is the opportunity there to start something new together. She thinks the survey will help. We will compile everything and bring it back to the next meeting. Staff can support getting you the information you need and bringing people you need to the meeting and drafting documents. Any other things you want to add to the agenda for discussion are encouraged. Maybe not in the format we have in the past. Now we will have a general one hour discussion of the issue we are working on and other information. She may still solicit some of you on specific things within the office. She is excited to support the next stage of the Committee. She wants to express her gratitude to all of you for helping us grow.

Chair Romero Wirth said we are going to have a couple of vacancies. If you know of folks she encourage you to think about that and we will have a process to share with you. We do need to focus on filling those vacancies pretty soon.

9. MATTERS FROM THE PUBLIC

Mr. Otto said June 16th is the Clean and Green Clean Up on the river and habitat improvement. Everyone is invited.

10. MATTERS FROM STAFF

Ms. Chavez said our outdoor rebate program has drawn a huge response. It is going really well. We are working on a piggyback rebate with PNM and a rebate on dishwashers as well with PNM. An extended application period from 90 days to 6 months will align with that rebate.

Chair Romero Wirth asked for dishwashers what is the energy efficiency.

Ms. Grosse said the water is 3 ½ gallons per cycle or less as compared to 6 ½ gallons a few years ago.

Chair Romero Wirth asked and the washers.

Mr. Grosse said 25 gallons or less for top loaders and for front loaders 15 or less. That is for the energy star rating.

11. MATTERS FROM THE COMMITTEE

Mr. Kirk said Las Companas invited the City, County and the community to talk about sustainability. Caryn represented us. We learned a lot. Caryn filled them in on what we doing.

Mr. Wiman said for those of you who were around in 2013 we had a working committee that published a report of private wells in the City. No one knows how many there are. Any private well in Santa Fe is subject to water conservation regulations. As we get closer to increased water rates possibilities it seems easier to deal with private wells now rather than later. We have a better chance of doing something. Does the City have an appetite to take on all the private wells in the City. There is a lot of value of having a well on your property. It won't be an easy task. The City should take a stand on if they want to do this or not. In his opinion we have to make everyone feel we are all in this together. We can discuss if we want the City to get involved in monitoring wells. Put a meter on them and they present their production levels annually. We would not take away anybody's water rights. Would you all entertain a discussion to find out more about this. We are all pumping the same aquifer here and the City is pumping wells. We need to address the issue and he would like to hear if others are interested. Tim will work with him on this. Andrew signed up. Mr. Bunton is a yes. He does not see how you can't deal with this.

Mr. Coombe asked is there any discussion in the County of this.

Mr. Kirk said the County has more control over wells than the City.

Mr. Erdmann said the primary regulator is the State Engineers Office. It is an evolution of the idea that you can let your horse drink water as you go across the State. Domestic wells have environmental regulations for septic tanks. It is a fundamental right for people to get a well. That is how it is thought of. The County and the City have legally the same type of rights available to them through the State Engineers Office. Whatever tools are available to the County are available to us.

Mr. Coombe asked is there any evidence that wells are having an impact on the level of the aquifer.

Mr. Erdmann said when the City is not pumping wells the water is coming back up. If it would come up faster if there were no wells is unknown. We don't have a sample that does not have the impact of pumping ground water.

Mr. Coombe said Rick has made a comment about how the aquifer appears to be pretty robust.

Mr. Erdmann said one of the really hard things is we have been letting people use

ground water since we knew it was there. There is no data.

Mr. Bunton said we also have to think of recharge.

Mr. Erdmann said when we issue permits we are saying what was used for recharge. It is more valuable for people to have a well. Getting out in front of it is an opportunity to take advantage of.

Mr. Michael said he thinks we are proposing for the agenda next time to bring to this Committee a piece of paper with some of these things written down on it. The scope and implications of trying to get a handle on these private wells in the City.

Chair Romero Wirth said the survey will capture this too.

Mr. Michael said this is large in scope and has implications.

Mr. Bunton said it is a possible new subcommittee.

Chair Romero Wirth said at our next meeting we will talk about issues and then how we prioritize what we are interested in and the work plan.

Mr. Michael said we also talked about the Water Bank withdrawal. He thinks that is something else we should soon be talking about.

Ms. Randall said she looks forward to a free flowing conversation with each other.

12. NEXT MEETING

Chair Romero Wirth said the next meeting is June 5th. She would like to see if we could adjust the time for just that meeting to 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm. She has Finance Committee that night at 5:00 pm.

Ms. Chavez said she can accommodate that change. We have plenty of time to give notice to the public.


MOTION A motion was made by Mr. Bunton, seconded by Mr. Wiman, to move the next meeting time to 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm.


VOTE The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Chair Romero Wirth asked that the notice be sent out soon.

13. ADJOURN

There being no further business before the Committee the meeting adjourned at 5:55 pm.



Councilor Carol Romero Wirth, Chair

Elizabeth Martin, Stenographer