



Agenda

**SANTA FE WATER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING
CITY HALL – 200 LINCOLN AVE.
CITY COUNCILOR'S CONFERENCE ROOM
MAY 14, 2019
4:00 PM**

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. ROLL CALL
3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
4. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA
5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE APRIL 9, 2019 MEETING

CONSENT AGENDA:

6. UPDATE ON CURRENT WATER SUPPLY STATUS (Andrew Erdmann, Water Conservation Specialist Senior, paerdmann@santafenm.gov, 955-4223)

ACTION ITEMS:

7. DRAFT APPROVAL OF ADOPTION OF 2015 UPC CODE (Christine Chavez, Water Conservation Manager, cychavez@santafenm.gov, 955-4219)

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

8. 2018 GPCD Discussion ((Christine Chavez, Water Conservation Manager, cychavez@santafenm.gov, 955-219)
9. DISCUSSION OF DROUGHT MESSAGING DURING HIGH DEMAND SEASON (Christine Chavez, Water Conservation Manager, cychavez@santafenm.gov, 955-219)
10. DISCUSSION OF CURRENT REBATE PROGRAM AND CONSIDERATION OF NEW WAYS TO DETERMINE THE VALUE OF THE REBATE BEING OFFERED (Christine Chavez, Water Conservation Manager, cychavez@santafenm.gov, 955-4219)
11. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR NEW WATER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEMBERS TO BE FORWARDED TO MAYOR FOR APPOINTMENT (Councilor Romero-Wirth)

UPDATES FROM SUBCOMMITTEE GROUPS:

12. UPCOMING SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS(Christine Chavez, Water Conservation Manager, cychavez@santafenm.gov, 955-219)

MATTERS FROM PUBLIC:

MATTERS FROM STAFF:

MATTERS FROM COMMITTEE:

NEXT MEETING – (Councilor's Conference Room): TUESDAY, JUNE 11, 2019

CAPTIONS: Due BY 3:00 pm, May 27, 2019

PACKET MATERIAL: DUE BY 3:00 pm, May 29, 2019

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.

RECEIVED AT THE CITY CLERK'S OFFICE
DATE: May 7, 2019
TIME: 10:07 AM

**SUMMARY OF ACTION
SANTA FE WATER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE
CITY HALL, COUNCILOR'S CONFERENCE ROOM
TUESDAY, MAY 14, 2019, 4:00 PM**

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**RECOMMENDATIONS FOR NEW
WATER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE
MEMBERS TO BE FORWARDED TO
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None.

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**SANTA FE WATER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE
CITY HALL, COUNCILOR'S CONFERENCE ROOM
TUESDAY, MAY 14, 2019, 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 Lisa Randall, Vice Chair, on Tuesday, May 14, 2019 at City Hall, in the City Councilor's Conference Room, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

2. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT

Lisa Randall, Vice Chair
Tim Michael
Doug Pushard
Stephen K. Wiman
Scott Bunton
Robert Coombe
Bill Roth
Stephen Schmelling
Vacancy

MEMBERS ABSENT

Councilor Carol Romero-Wirth, Excused
Ken Kirk, Excused

OTHERS PRESENT

Andy Otto, Santa Fe Watershed Association
Andrew Erdmann, City of Santa Fe, Water Conservation
Jerry Jacobi
Judith Polich
Alex Vaz
Robert Holt
Beth Kirby
Glenn Schiffbauer, Green Chamber of Commerce
Elizabeth Martin, Stenographer

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Erdmann stated that they would like to pull item 7 from the agenda.

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

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

4. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION A motion was made by Mr. Schmelling, seconded by Mr. Roth, to approve the consent agenda.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

**5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
APRIL 9, 2019**

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

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

CONSENT AGENDA

**6. UPDATE OF CURRENT WATER SUPPLY STATUS
Andrew Erdmann**

Passed on consent.

ACTION ITEMS

**7. DRAFT APPROVAL OF ADOPTION OF 2015 UPC CODE
Christine Chavez**

Pulled from the agenda.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

**8. 2019 GPCD DISCUSSION
Andrew Erdmann, Patricio Pacheco**

Mr. Erdmann said we have been working on this number for the year. The number is 95. We used the same methodology as in past years. Mr. Michael worked with us on the population site.

Mr. Erdmann reviewed the packet information.

Mr. Coombe asked is the pie chart pretty consistent with previous years. Since 5% is due to irrigation that appears largely in single families. Is commercial immune to drought.

Mr. Erdmann said we saw a big change in the irrigation number. There was a reduction in that and single family.

Chair Randall said for Santa Fe Public Schools we have very few irrigation meters. It is all coming out of our domestic.

Mr. Roth asked Federal and State buildings, are they in this pie chart.

Mr. Erdmann said if they are properly classified they are in the commercial sector.

Mr. Pacheco said he monitors a lot of those meters on a weekly basis. Those State buildings are on a commercial meter. On irrigation meters, not all homes are on irrigation meters. We see a lot more commercial meters with fire and irrigation meters. Homes only have one meter.

Mr. Pushard asked why is there no 2017 data on the spread sheet.

Mr. Erdmann said the reporting system does not work if you put too many lines of data on it for OSC spread sheet.

Mr. Pacheco said we were working with the Office of the State Engineer to update their version.

Mr. Michael asked what was the total demand in acre feet.

Mr. Erdmann said it is not done in acre feet. 9,500 is the estimate. It went up. Population numbers went down slightly.

Mr. Michael said we still have problems with the population numbers. The number we decided to use was from the population estimates program and that drifts through the year.

Mr. Schmelling asked where does that number come from.

Mr. Erdmann said it is the from the estimates data, annual estimates. The Office of the State Engineer recommends census data.

Mr. Michael said it comes from the American Fact Finder site. There are two ways to get the information and they don't always agree.

Mr. Pushard said irrigation is the explanation. Irrigation started in April, but in a big way.

Mr. Coombe said he thinks the 5% increase informs us what is going to happen if the drought deepens. Is commercial immune to that.

Mr. Pushard said we have been in a drought for quite a few years. This is the first time it has impacted our GPCD numbers.

Mr. Schmelling asked can we get an update at the next meeting on how April of this year compares to last April.

Mr. Erdmann said we will put that on the agenda.

Mr. Roth asked can we get monthly updates on that.

Mr. Pushard said it would give us an idea of what will happen next year.

Mr. Roth said maybe we can include participation in that month as well for last year and this year.

Mr. Erdmann said he is happy to do comparisons monthly. We have talked a lot about including rainfall number, but collection sites for that are in three places and the numbers between the three locations vary greatly.

Mr. Roth said when we are looking at single family irrigation we can tell probably a certain area of the City.

Mr. Coombe said it would be interesting to see the split from tier 1 to tier 2 and if that has changed.

9. DISCUSSION OF DROUGHT MESSAGING DURING HIGH DEMAND SEASON

Mr. Erdmann said we don't find ourselves in a drought right now. Our reservoirs are full and running over. We are looking at messaging differently from previous years. The urgency goes away.

Mr. Roth said the message is great right now, but historically this does not last. We need to remind people we still live in the desert. We have been in a drought pattern and will probably return to that.

Ms. Polich said from climate change we will have repeated droughts. The message should not change.

Mr. Bunton said he wants to preface this to say, notwithstanding, even though the circumstances are a little different now that is temporary.

Mr. Pushard said that is something we also want to look at. We need to try to look at it from a regional perspective. We are still not flush.

Mr. Schmelling said four months of rainfall at the beginning of the year does not mean record rainfall throughout the year.

Mr. Roth said these are weather patterns. That is something you need to reiterate with people.

Mr. Wiman said write an article for the newspaper to explain levels in the reservoirs and the limits imposed by the Rio Grande Compact. Also what about the Water Bank. These are things the public needs to know more about.

Mr. Roth said he agrees with Doug about a regional approach. We need twenty years of this kind of weather to refill our reservoirs. In terms of the Colorado we are in the middle of a long term drought.

Mr. Erdmann said it sounds like he is hearing that the Committee wants to try to maintain the urgency and maybe step it up. Also have a regional approach. Article 7 was lifted earlier this week. We will go back in, but we are over the line right now. We are at 80% full in McClure and 100% and spilling over in the lower reservoir. The City has a trigger that causes us to be in drought restrictions. It is written in the Ordinances. It is well intentioned. It was written before we had Buckman on line and achieved the conservation we have now. Maybe we need to look at how that trigger gets hit.

Mr. Wiman said with the compliancy in the community it is important to keep the message up. People are not as fearful. There is a certain confidence now. Attendance at meetings for the 5 Year Plan was low. We should not let up on the message to conserve.

Chair Randail asked what does it take to change the trigger.

Mr. Erdmann said an Ordinance revision. Committees are the appropriate place to start that process.

Mr. Pushard said the Ordinance change would be a significant one as it is a good portion of Chapter 25. For the trigger we have to fall below 18 million gallons and right now we are using 12. It is never going to happen unless there is a catastrophic fire in the watershed and the Rio Grande.

Mr. Bunton said we could distribute to the Committee the portion of Chapter 25 that determines how the trigger is calculated and put that on our July or August meeting

agenda to consider that.

Mr. Erdmann said will do. We will come prepared to speak to that and have materials for everyone.

10. DISCUSSION OF CURRENT REBATE PROGRAM AND CONSIDERATION OF NEW WAYS TO DETERMINE THE VALUE OF THE REBATE BEING OFFERED

Mr. Erdmann said this is something Tim brought up to us.

Mr. Michael said in the packet is an approach to this. The bottom line is if rebates are based and calculated the way they currently are calculated the amount of the rebate is insufficient to interest anyone. He reviewed his calculations in the packet.

Mr. Michael said basing the value of water on the price of a water right, to him that makes no sense. He disagrees with that. The more important message is we need to get the rebates to be large enough to interest people in installing the technologies we want them to install.

Chair Randall said on Llano Street at the new Milagro Middle School we installed a 40,000 gallon tank catching 90,000 square feet of roof top storm water. The cost was about \$200,000 for labor and the tank. We get a \$10,000 credit on our bill. It would take us years to realize the monetary valuation of that. It is nice to get the \$10,000, but we would never have done it based on the City rebate program. It was a zero part of our decision. The District has a policy around conservation and we sold GO bonds to the public that included water conservation so we are doing what we told our voting public we would do.

Mr. Michael said there is a proposal in the packet on how to calculate rebates. The idea he has is to not base it on water saved. Base it on the price of equipment and installation. A large enough amount to be of interest.

Mr. Roth said rebates per se don't make much of a dent in the actual water we are saving. That is a hard truth. The rebates right now are the culture of conservation, but not driving conservation in much of a way. Do we want them to. We set an objective of getting to a GPCD of 85. This is a drop in the bucket.

Mr. Schmelling said he is not sure rebates should pay for the entire cost. Does the rebate help pay the difference in cost between efficient washing machines and a less efficient washing machine as an incentive to buy the more efficient machine.

Mr. Pushard said as an example of them working, in 2010 we overpaid and the State matched our fund and we ran out of money in five months. There were massive

amounts of water saved. It can be done. We don't do installation costs on any of our rebates. Rebating the difference for the most efficient, that might be a different approach looking at the delta of cost. Pushing people to the extreme we want them to go to.

Mr. Bunton said there could be other basis for efficient rebates. The one that Doug just described would be the most efficient. Then there is a reasonable probability for water savings. Another way to look at it is social value. Take water out of the equation and declare the value of the water socially worth the investment outside of water value. Be mindful of the two different approaches and how they are different.

Mr. Roth said we have industries build around rebates and tax credits. The electric car industry is a good example. Part of what happens is subsidize it until it becomes the market normal and then you don't have to subsidize them anymore. The demand is generated from the social realm to make it a normal item. The more people who start putting these things in the cheaper they will get. We have to do both approaches. A two prong sales approach.

Mr. Michael said even though we can't do it successfully based on water savings, that is part of what is driving the culture of conservation. If the City makes commitments to seriously encourage people to put in the most efficient appliances we could continue to drive that number. Rebates are useful in that sense.

Ms. Polich asked in terms of City building codes are there some rebate incentives built in for new construction that need to be looked at.

Mr. Erdmann said there are both carrot and stick incentives in that. Right now we do a pretty good job making sure new construction is done efficiently. The rebate program is not the main tool in doing that. We have an older town and that is where the rebate program is more important.

Mr. Pacheco said he does process a lot of the rebates coming in. Taking about values we are seeing the \$150.00 rain barrels only getting a \$12 dollar rebate. We are trying to get across to the customers the value of saving water rather than the value of the purchase. A few years ago we ran out of money for rebates, this year we only have used a quarter of that fund.

Mr. Erdmann said we have pot of money or virtual money that is Plan B and with new construction if you do the right thing you can save on permit costs. That is something going forward. When Land Use gives permit applications there should be something in there about mitigating the impact fees.

Mr. Pushard said thanks Tim for bringing this to the table. He would like to figure out where we go from here. He agrees with you and have agreed for years. If we bring it up lets figure out what type of solutions we can look at. He would like to propose that by the next meeting he will work with Tim to look at what other cities do for this and

bring back a couple of alternatives at the next meeting.

Mr. Michael said the ICI subcommittee is what got him thinking about this. Perhaps take it back to that.

Mr. Pushard said that is a good recommendation to take it back to the ICI subcommittee. He does not want this to drop. We are both members of that subcommittee.

Chair Randall said non-Committee members can take part in subcommittee work as well.

Mr. Roth asked what is rebate budget.

Mr. Pacheco said \$300,000.

Mr. Roth said the point is we need vastly more leverage for that kind of program. There are a lot of things we could do with \$300,000 that might save more water.

Mr. Vaz said he is working on social action to change behaviors in the City. He explained an idea he had regarding the cycle of water savings and stimulating the local economy.

11. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR NEW WATER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEMBERS TO BE FORWARDED TO MAYOR FOR APPOINTMENT

Mr. Bunton said the subcommittee met with several candidates and has interesting conversations with a number of them. They and Councilor Romero-Wirth came to the conclusion that they are not yet finished with interviews. We need to complete those within the next couple of weeks and come back to the Committee in June with names.

Mr. Pushard said Councilor Romero-Wirth wished she could be here for this conversation. She would like the members whose terms are expiring to stay on the Committee. There is discussion going on regarding alternating terms and term limits. We will talk about that in Matters from the Committee.

Mr. Pushard said we have good candidates, they are just not through the process yet.

Chair Randall said thank you for doing that.

Mr. Pushard said the Councilor is concerned about this issue and engaged.

UPDATES FROM SUBCOMMITTEE GROUPS

12. UPCOMING SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS

Mr. Erdmann said there is a desire from Christine to schedule more subcommittee meetings. Can we set some dates today.

The following meetings were set:

- ICI, May 28th, 9:00 am to 11:00 am. This meeting will focus on rebates.
- Built Environment, May 23rd, 10:00 am to noon
- Five Year Plan, May 24th, 9:00 am to 11:00 am

Mr. Michael said we were to have a draft 5 Year Plan in May. What is the plan now.

Mr. Erdman said he is working on the draft. We slowed down the timeline for the plan. We have a lot of public input. The plan now is to have the draft after the Next Generation Water Summit.

Mr. Schmelling said he is willing to help sort through the public comments.

Mr. Erdmann said the next Joint Water Meeting will be on the 30th at Fogelson Library at the Midtown Campus from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm.

13. MATTERS FROM THE PUBLIC

Mr. Jacobi asked on the rebate program when we install something should we be calling the City to get the rebate.

Mr. Erdmann said when you don't apply for the rebate you are saving the City money, but costing yourself money. You are saving water. You could apply for the rebate and we could quantify that amount of water and put it in the Water Bank. There is a six month deadline from installation to application for the rebate.

Chair Randall said we purchased and installed the cistern, but did not create an actual water account for months so the six months was extended for us until we started using water.

Mr. Otto said this Saturday, the 18th, is our Wild and Scenic Film Festival at The Screen. We will be showing movies dealing with waters of the southwest. The details are on our website and you can buy tickets there as well. on our website.

Mr. Vaz said he would like to share his whole presentation with the Committee. Is that possible.

Mr. Erdmann said he will bring that request to the Chair and Christine.

14. MATTERS FROM STAFF

None.

15. MATTERS FROM THE COMMITTEE

Mr. Pushard said we implemented a term limit proposal four years ago. Two terms of two years. Now people are falling off the Committee. Five of them. That is detrimental to the forward progress of this Committee. The Councilor wants us to discuss changing the Ordinance. She is open to pushing through an Ordinance changing this. Scott suggested that the terms be three years. The Councilor wants opinions of options to help us solve this problem. He will take the ideas to the Councilor for consideration. The following ideas/comments were discussed:

- What are the actual term expiration dates from the Clerks office.
- Option of getting re-appointed to the Committee.
- Change Ordinance to three year terms.
- Remove the term limits in the Ordinance.
- Mr. Wiman stated that he is not going to stay on the Committee.
- Mr. Michael stated that is his plan as well. He will stay until his replacement starts but he is not going to stay on the Committee.
- New appointees having similar skill sets as the person they are replacing to bring to the table.
- What can and can't be done at this time, if anything, to stop the members whose terms have expired from leaving the Committee.
- Members are allowed to continue on the Committee until their replacements are named.
- Mr. Bunton asked Tim and Stephen if they had a chance to stay on the Committee would they. Both said no, they want to retire from the Committee.

**16. NEXT MEETING
JUNE 11, 2019**

17. ADJOURN

There being no further business before the Committee the meeting adjourned at 5:50 pm.



Lisa Randall, Chair



Elizabeth Martin, Stenographer