



# Agenda

**SANTA FE WATER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING  
CITY HALL – 200 LINCOLN AVE.  
CITY COUNCILOR'S CONFERENCE ROOM**

December 10, 2019

4pm – 6pm

**CALL TO ORDER**

1. ROLL CALL
2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
3. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA
4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE NOVEMBER 12, 2019 MEETING

**ITEMS ON CONSENT:**

5. WATER DIVISION UPDATE (Andrew Erdmann, Water Conservation Specialist Senior, [paerdmann@santafenm.gov](mailto:paerdmann@santafenm.gov), 955-4223)
6. WATER FIESTA WRAP-UP (Christine Chavez, Water Conservation Manager, [cychavez@santafenm.gov](mailto:cychavez@santafenm.gov), 955-4225)

**INFORMATIONAL ITEM:**

7. COMMITTEE CONVERSATION ON RECENT PRESENTATIONS FROM VARIOUS CITY DIRECTORS (Councilor Carol Romero-Wirth, Committee Chair, [cromero-wirth@santafenm.gov](mailto:cromero-wirth@santafenm.gov))
8. PRESENTATION BY LYNN KOMER, PK RELATIONS (Lynn Komer and Christine Chavez, Water Conservation Manager, [cychavez@santafenm.gov](mailto:cychavez@santafenm.gov), 955-4225)

**ACTION ITEMS:**

9. APPROVAL OF COMPLETED 2019 SCORECARD (Christine Chavez, Water Conservation Manager, [cychavez@santafenm.gov](mailto:cychavez@santafenm.gov), 955-4225)
10. APPROVAL OF 2020-2025 WATER CONSERVATION PLAN (Christine Chavez, Water Conservation Manager, [cychavez@santafenm.gov](mailto:cychavez@santafenm.gov), 955-4225)

**MATTERS FROM PUBLIC:**

**MATTERS FROM STAFF:**

**MATTERS FROM COMMITTEE:**

**NEXT MEETING – (Councilor's Conference Room):** TUESDAY, JANUARY 14, 2020

**CAPTIONS:** DUE BY 3:00 PM, DECEMBER 24, 2019

**PACKET MATERIAL:** DUE BY 3:00 PM, DECEMBER 30, 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:** December 3, 2019

**TIME:** 1:50 PM

**SUMMARY OF ACTION  
SANTA FE WATER CONSERVATION MEETING  
CITY HALL, CITY COUNCILOR'S CONFERENCE ROOM  
200 LINCOLN AVENUE  
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2019, 4:00 PM**

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**SANTA FE WATER CONSERVATION MEETING  
CITY HALL, CITY COUNCILOR'S CONFERENCE ROOM  
200 LINCOLN AVENUE  
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 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 Councilor Carol Romero-Wirth, Chair, on Tuesday, December 10, 2019 at City Hall, in the City Councilor's Conference Room, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

**2. ROLL CALL**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Councilor Carol Romero-Wirth, Chair  
Ken Kirk  
Stephen Schmelling  
Bob Coombe  
Maria DeAnda-Hay  
Jerry Jacobi  
Beth Kirby  
Three (3) Vacancies

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Scott Bunton, Excused

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Christine Chavez, Director, Water Conservation Division  
Andrew Erdmann, Water Conservation Division  
Andy Otto, Santa Fe Watershed Association  
Lynn Komer, PK Relations  
Mario Torres, Water Conservation Division  
Patricio Pacheco, Water Conservation Division  
Reese Baker  
Matt O'Rielly  
Elizabeth Martin, Stenographer

**3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**MOTION** A motion was made by Mr. Coombe, seconded by Ms. Kirby, 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. Kirk, seconded by Ms. Kirby, to approve the consent agenda.

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

**5.     APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION**     A motion was made by Ms. Kirby, seconded by Mr. Schmelling, to approve the minutes as presented.

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

**ITEMS ON CONSENT**

**6.     WATER DIVISION UPDATE**

Approved on consent.

**7.     WATER FIESTA WRAP-UP**

Approved on consent.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

**8.     COMMITTEE CONVERSATION ON RECENT PRESENTATIONS FROM VARIOUS CITY DIRECTORS**

Chair Romero-Wirth said we have had three Department Director presentations. The Water Division Director, the Land Use Director and the Public Works Director. She wanted to give some space to that if anyone had any thoughts they wanted to discuss.

Mr. Coombe said with the departure of the Land Use Director what is going to happen with the grand plan.

Chair Romero-Wirth said her guess is that it is not changing. They will put in an Interim Director. The ideas and plans Ms. Johnson headed were the direction the Mayor sought as well. A new Director may have slight tweaks, but we are still on track

with that. As to a timeline she doesn't know. She imagines that tomorrow night at Council we will hear more about that. We have not met in Council since that was announced.

Mr. Coombe said the vote on the pipeline is tomorrow in Council. What is likely to happen.

Chair Romero-Wirth said her water planning Resolution is up for final vote tomorrow night. Councilor Ives' amendment does includes moving forward with the pipeline design and application for the 28 permits required to do this. We are a long way from actually constructing a pipeline. There will be a lot more process around this and it will be part of our planning as well, to understand the design and options. It does not take anything off the table as far as aquifer recharge or potable reuse. It validates the staff and studies going on for a very long time. It says yes, we should take the next step to see where this goes. Through design and the permit process if something comes up we did not anticipate it will be discussed and vetted and there would be a possibility that we would not do this.

Mr. Coombe said he thinks some clarity with regard to the future of that project would be good for the sake of strategic planning for conservation.

Chair Romero-Wirth said she is hearing it won't be built before this 5 Year Plan is up. It could take 5 to 6 years. That is assuming there are no glitches. With a project of this size many things could happen.

Mr. Coombe said it impacts how much emphasis we put on indoor water conservation relative to outdoor conservation. It is a balance between the portfolio of things the Conservation Office does.

Councilor Romero-Wirth said the studies show we will have a water shortage by 2055. Conservation will have an important role in that. Conservation alone is not going to solve the problem. She will be speaking with Christine about having our Water Division Director come speak to us at our next meeting. As we go forward in planning there will be an opportunity to talk about what we need to be doing on the conservation front.

Mr. Coombe said if the project goes forward it moves the emphasis to outdoor big time.

Chair Romero-Wirth said she heard that as well. She met with them yesterday and Mr. Roach emphasized that again. She felt the Committee needs to hear from him about how he sees that.

Mr. Schmelling said it seems the City might do a little better job of explaining the impact on the Santa Fe River. That seems to be the area raising the most concern.

When Mr. Roach was here he barely mentioned the Santa Fe River.

Chair Romero-Wirth said we are committed to maintain the flow of the Santa Fe River. We will be talking about that. That is part of what she wants to help everyone understand. The focus of this project is to help us fully consume our San Juan/ Chama water. Right now 60% is being treated at the water facility and going on down. The idea is to fully consume it. There is so much to talk about and so much to give people the big picture review of this. There is a lot of misinformation. We are not diverting the Santa Fe River for our own purposes. This will benefit the Santa Fe River and the commitment to work on downstream issues and the watershed. Those conversations will continue to happen on the way down.

Mr. Jacobi said when we had the joint water meeting in February he spoke after Mr. Schneider spoke and he expressed his concern about the river. He is glad to hear Jesse is considering the Santa Fe River. To him that is critical.

Chair Romero-Wirth said it is critical to everyone. There is lots that can be done there. Absolutely there is a commitment to the river.

Mr. Kirk said the County is taking this issue up at our next meeting. The chatter is talking about passing a Resolution against it. He is 100% opposed to moving in that direction and will make that point. As far as he understands, the project's major goal is to ensure a larger more sustainable water source for the region than we have right now.

Chair Romero-Wirth said the City provides backup water for the County if there is an issue at BDD. We are tied at the hip. We know we will have a supply gap and climate change. We need to have a system that gives us options and makes us resilient. There are lots of different water interests. The County has a roll in it. There are lots of things that can be done for downstream users. El Dorado is in the process of getting money from the Legislature to go to surface water and stop the water wells. The State Pen is already using ground water and not wells. It has an effect. There is a lot to continue to talk about and a lot that can be done. The County needs to look at regulating the domestic wells.

Mr. Kirk said he has been talking to the City about their interest in providing irrigation water from their plant to our golf courses and at some point down the road in taking over our treatment plant and polishing the water.

Chair Romero-Wirth said she also heard your pond could be very important as well. The complexity of this is impressive.

Mr. Coombe said reliance and flexibility are appropriate words. The cost of the project relative to what it cost to build BDD for the level of flexibility you get is a very positive thing.

Chair Romero-Wirth said it cost \$250 million to build BDD. That is one of the points she wants to make tomorrow night. We spent \$250 million in the City and County and are consuming 40% of our allocation of San Juan/Chama water. We have an obligation to better use that water.

**9. PRESENTATION BY LYNN KOMER, PK RELATIONS**

Ms. Komer reviewed a presentation for the Committee.

The presentation is herewith attached to these minutes as Exhibit "1".

Mr. Schmelling asked do you have any idea how many people look at your website.

Ms. Komer said yes, and how long they spend on a page and what pages they look at.

Mr. Schmelling said the concern is they have to go look at the website. How do you deal with that.

Ms. Komer said that is where digital comes to play. You want to direct people looking up searches to our website.

Chair Romero-Wirth asked how do you know if the person actually watching is the one you want to have watching it.

Ms. Komer said they have a whole thing where they dig down into demographics including their interests. You can target.

Chair Romero-Wirth said beyond demographics what else do we look for to know we are hitting the target audience.

Ms. Komer said what are the interests and lifestyles of a certain group.

Mr. Jacobi said you said mentioned doing outreach with the Airport screens.

Ms. Komer said she is involved with the Fly Santa Fe Campaign not the Tourism use of the screens for advertising.

Chair Romero-Wirth said thank you for coming and chatting with us.

**ACTION ITEMS**



The Committee members introduced themselves to the two potential appointees, Mr. O'Rielly and Mr. Baker. They also introduced themselves to the Committee.

Ms. Chavez said Peggy Wright was unable to attend this meeting. She will be a great addition as well.

#### **10. APPROVAL OF COMPLETED 2019 SCORECARD**

Ms. Chavez gave the background of the scorecard and reviewed the presentation in the packet.

Chair Romero-Wirth said she has had conversations with Commissioner Hamilton on another joint meeting. They are not in a position to have a joint meeting around drought management planning in February.

Ms. Chavez said we put the scorecard on our website and track what we do. We want to be transparent to the public. The public will have a chance to provide input on the things they would like to see us do and what we are doing well on or not. We want your stamp of approval.

Mr. Reese asked was there seriously only four rebates for cisterns for the whole year.

Mr. Erdmann said it was for a three month period.

Ms. Chavez said we hope you will help us with that strategically.

**MOTION** A motion was made by Mr. Schmelling, seconded by Mr. Coombe, to approve the 2019 scorecard.

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

#### **11. APPROVAL OF 2020-2025 WATER CONSERVATION PLAN**

Chair Romero-Wirth said a lot of work has gone into this.

Ms. Chavez gave the background of the plan.

Ms. Chavez said we did this all ourselves with no consultants. We got a lot of feedback from public. The plan aligns with what the public wants and what other departments are doing and want to do. We got permission to write an addendum to the existing 5 Year Water Plan. We omitted the fluff and the document is 22 pages. The addendum is in the packet. The raw public input is included as well in addition to what is

in your packet.

Ms Chavez continued, for tonight we would like to get suggestions from the Committee. We will work on any issues internally after that and will come back to the Committee in January for a final look. Then we will make a presentation of the plan, as an informational item, to the new Council. It will be on our website and will be launched there. She is proud of it and is super grateful to Andrew for all his hard work on the plan.

Chair Romero-Wirth asked are there any questions, comments, concerns or edits.

Mr. Otto asked is not having it actually approved by City Council okay.

Ms. Chavez said it is not required to be approved by Council. We would take it through the process. We have a lot of buy in from Councilors in the process. We don't feel like this has to go through that process. We want it to be informational for people to know and it will be a living document for change if needed.

Mr. Erdmann said also this is part of the permit compliance process with the State Engineer. It is our guiding document and for permit compliance.

Chair Romero-Wirth said from a budgeting perspective it may be worth having Council formally approve it if you need money to do anything.

Ms. Chavez said she uses the scorecard to allocate resources for the budget.

Chair Romero-Wirth asked is there a downside to having Council approve it. If you don't do it we may be in the position we were recently in where we did not approve the Parks Master Plan and it had to come before us two years after it was written. The value was not at a very high level. Is Shannon okay with it.

Ms. Chavez said we were going to take it through all committees. It is driven by public input. We can talk more about that.

Chair Romero-Wirth said we will talk more about it.

Mr. Coombe said regarding the commercial GPCD, when he first saw the chart it showed it going down more rapidly than previously and he doesn't know why. He wonders about the numbers. It is a point of confusion. Is the dominator there the population of the City.

Mr. Erdmann said yes.

Mr. Coombe said that is the problem. The commercial part in particular. The

residential single family is a hard number and it sits at 60. The absolute usage drives that number up to 95. That tells you there is lot of opportunity in that area. The chart on page 8 suggests otherwise.

Mr. Erdmann said maybe we could do another breakdown of that.

Mr. Coombe said for the sake of public consumption of this there could be a lot of confusion. Adding something else would be good.

Mr. Schmelling said he agrees with Bob's comments. The overall number or average for the City makes a lot of sense. One of the biggest uncertainties is the population figure. You did the best you could do with what is here. The new census may help a bit. The scorecard is done well and is an excellent part of the plan. Does this still need to go to your bosses.

Ms. Chavez said it is going for their review now. She is happy everyone is taking an interest in it. We will bring back a pretty final copy to you in January. If you see anything else let her know.

Mr. Schmelling said this is titled Water Conservation and Drought Management Plan.

Mr. Erdmann said the addendum and Plan are titled the same way.

Chair Romero-Wirth said on page 58, at the bottom of the page, it says leading by example. The second item under that says reduce City owned golf course use.

Ms. Chavez said that is an example of repeating public input.

Chair Romero-Wirth said it is under the column for outdoor water use and could be taken as we want to reduce our watering of City owned golf courses or we don't want people to use the golf courses. Which do you want.

Mr. Erdmann said we populated that with what people actually said. It should say reduce golf course water use by 30% to 50%.

Chair Romero-Wirth said that is a very different thing. If there are other things like that now is the time to let us know.

Mr. Erdmann said send them to him.

Mr. Reese said he is excited and impressed.

Chair Romero-Wirth said she wanted to add her congratulations to committee members who participated and to staff and Christine for her leadership and how you

conducted the public outreach. Congratulations all the way around.

Ms. Chavez said thank you.

**MOTION** A motion was made by Mr. Schmelling, seconded by Mr. Kirk, to approve the plan with pending comments and possible changes.

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

## **12. MATTERS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Mr. Otto said we are having our Winter Watershed Benefit on Thursday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, at the Hotel Santa Fe from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm. Andrew will be giving a presentation on the City Water Bank. There will be a silent auction and raffle. Everyone is invited. You can buy tickets online.

## **13. MATTERS FROM STAFF**

Ms. Chavez said Happy Holidays to everyone. She is excited for our new members to start. Thank you so much for always supporting her and their work. It is a pleasure to work with all of you.

## **14. MATTERS FROM THE COMMITTEE**

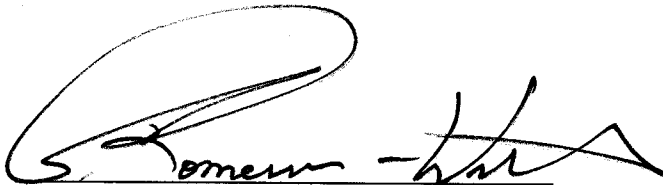
Ms. Kirby said she went to the Water Fiesta. It was a vibrant event. Some of the presenters were amazing. There was a lot of great energy. Congratulations on that.

Chair Romero-Wirth said Happy Holidays to you all. She is excited for the Committee to be up to full strength. We will have the Water Division Director come talk to us and will talk about conservation ideas going forward. We will talk about reforming our subcommittees and what topics you want to work on and policy development to bring some things forward.

## **15. NEXT MEETING JANUARY 14, 2020**

## **16. ADJOURN**

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Romero-Wirth", with a large, stylized loop at the beginning.

Councilor Carol Romero-Wirth, Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Elizabeth Martin", with a large, stylized loop at the beginning.

Elizabeth Martin, Stenographer