



# Agenda

**Santa Fe River Commission Agenda**  
**Thursday, December 12, 2019 (Round House Room), 6 pm to 8**  
**pm City Offices at the Market Station Building at the Railyard**  
**500 Market Street, Suite 200, Santa Fe, NM**  
**505-955-6840**

- 1. ROLL CALL**
- 2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**
- 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM October 10, 2019**
- 4. COMMUNICATION FROM OTHER AGENCIES /COMMITTEES**
  - a. SF Watershed Report (Andy Otto, [andy@santafewatershed.org](mailto:andy@santafewatershed.org), 820-1696)
- 5. INFORMATION/DISCUSSION/ACTION:**
  - a. Nominations for Chairperson/Vice Chair (Zoe Isaacson, River Commission Chair, [zoe.isaacson@gmail.com](mailto:zoe.isaacson@gmail.com))
  - b. River Commission Goals Plan, Potential Projects, and Action Plan (Precipitation Monitoring, Scoop-the-Poop campaign, Water-Quality Sampling, etc.) (Zoe Isaacson, River Commission Chair, [zoe.isaacson@gmail.com](mailto:zoe.isaacson@gmail.com))
- 6. MATTERS FROM STAFF**
  - a. Upcoming January Commission Elections
- 7. CITIZENS' COMMUNICATION FROM THE FLOOR**
- 8. MATTERS FROM COMMISSIONERS**
- 9. ADJOURN**

Next Scheduled River Commission Meeting is scheduled for January 9, 2019  
Captions & Packet Material are due by 10 am on December 31, 2019

Persons with disabilities in need of accommodations,  
Contact the City Clerk's office at  
(505) 955-6521 five (5) working days prior to the meeting date.

<b>RECEIVED AT THE CITY CLERK'S OFFICE</b>	
<b>DATE:</b>	<b>December 4, 2019</b>
<b>TIME:</b>	<b>1:31 PM</b>

**Summary Index  
Santa Fe River Commission  
December 12, 2019 – 6:00 PM**

<b>ITEM</b>	<b>ACTION</b>	<b>PAGE(S)</b>
CALL TO ORDER	6:10 PM	1
ROLL CALL	Quorum present	1
APPROVAL OF AGENDA	Approved	1
APPROVAL OF MINUTES October 10, 2019	Approved	2
COMMUNICATION FROM OTHER AGENCIES/COMMITTEES		
a. SF Watershed Report	Informational	2-3
INFORMATION/DISCUSSION/ACTION:		
a. Nominations for Chairperson and Vice-Chair	Nominated	3-5
b. River Commission Goals, Potential Projects and Action Plan	Discussion	5-10
MATTERS FROM STAFF	None	10
CITIZEN'S COMMUNICATION FROM THE FLOOR	None	10
MATTERS FROM COMMISSIONERS	None	10
ADJOURN	8:00 P.M.	12

**MINUTES OF THE SANTA FE RIVER COMMISSION  
THURSDAY DECEMBER 12, 2019**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Zoe Isaacson, Chair of the SF River Commission, called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m. in the Conference Room of the Railyard Market Street Offices, 500 Market Street, Santa Fe, NM.

**1. ROLL CALL**

Roll Call indicated the presence of a quorum, as follows:

**Present:**

Zoe Isaacson, Chair  
Andrew Black  
Phillip Bove (left at 7:45)  
Susan Coulter  
Anna Hansen  
Heidi Klingel  
Rachel Kullman  
Vanessa Springer (Alternate)

**Excused:**

Emile Sawyer (Alternate)

**Staff and Others Present:**

Melissa McDonald, River & Watershed Director  
Andy Otto, Watershed Association  
Melissa Byers, Stenographer

\*NOTE: The original meeting packet is on file with City Staff. Any materials submitted at the meeting are marked as exhibits.

**2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**MOTION:** Commissioner Coulter moved to approve the agenda as presented. Commissioner Black seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM OCTOBER 10, 2019**

**MOTION:** Commissioner Coulter moved to approve the minutes of October 10, 2019. Commissioner Klingel seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

**4. COMMUNICATION FROM OTHER AGENCIES /COMMITTEES:**

a. SF Watershed Report (Andy Otto)

Mr. Otto handed out the monthly report, attached as Exhibit "1". He reviewed the report including data for July through November.

Commissioner Hansen said the Sierra Club did thinning up to the Defouri Bridge. She is very concerned about that bridge and the area close to it. Recently a man fell in the river there and died. That is a major concern. She asked who at the City is responsible for the Defouri Bridge. The man who died lived right in that area.

Ms. McDonald said the City is looking at putting permanent fencing up there and possibly a railing. She could bring this to the attention of Risk Management if you would like her to.

Commissioner Hansen said yes, please do that.

Commissioner Black asked what the cost is to adopt a portion of the river.

Mr. Otto said about \$1,000 a year.

Commissioner Klingel asked if the Sierra Club is just cutting back and thinning.

Mr. Otto said yes and weed management. There were no pesticides or power equipment used.

Ms. McDonald said the City has a maintenance agreement with organizations who are working on the river. We are very careful with volunteers. We do not allow the use of any power equipment and we follow the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) rules and regulations.

Commissioner Hansen said the City has a protected pest management plan regarding the use of pesticides on weed removal.

Chair Isaacson said she remembers that two or three years ago the Commission touched on updating the IPM protocol.

Ms. McDonald said at that time there were issues the City was concerned about. We could look at that again. We would need to talk to Victor Lucero who is the IPM Manager for the City.

Chair Isaacson said she thought they talked about working on an update to the protocol to make sure people don't bypass the regulations and rules.

Ms. McDonald said we will need to work with Mr. Lucero on that if we are interested.

Commissioner Klingel asked if there had been an inventory of the trees along the river.

Ms. McDonald said the Municipal Tree Board has been doing an inventory, but she is not sure it is of trees along the river.

Mr. Otto said it is an inventory of trees in the City Parks. They are working now on an RGIS type program where people can sign in to see the inventory, including the trees by species in each park that has been completed and the condition of the trees.

Ms. McDonald said the Commission could invite the Municipal Tree Board Chair to our meeting or a couple of you could go to their meeting.

**5. INFORMATION/DISCUSSION/ACTION:**

**a. Nominations for Chairperson/Vice Chair (Zoe Isaacson, River Commission Chair)**

Chair Isaacson asked if the election is always in December.

Ms. McDonald said it is usually in December or January.

Commissioner Hansen said she thought it was in January.

Chair Isaacson said as a Body we need to come up with a nomination for Chair and/or Vice Chair. She would be willing to stay on as Chair, alongside a Co-Chair. She talked to Rachel and she voiced an interest.

Ms. McDonald said this happens every year. She suggested having a co-chair.

Commissioner Hansen said she did not want the Commission dominated by one person. A Co-Chair/Vice Chair is appropriate.

Commissioner Kullman asked how it has worked in the past.

Ms. McDonald said to think of it as a one-year term, so nobody feels overwhelmed. It has worked with a Vice Chair before.

Chair Isaacson said it gives everyone an opportunity to see their projects get started.

Commissioner Kullman asked about the time commitment. In addition to prepping for meetings.

Chair Isaacson said it varies month to month. If something is happening it takes a little more time. It can be as much work as you want it to be.

Ms. McDonald said anyone on a Board or Commission should be willing to do at least five hours a month.

Commissioner Kullman asked if it would make sense to formalize the process of having Co-Chairs.

Ms. McDonald said that would take a change in the Ordinance. The Chair is the spokesperson for the Commission and sets the agenda.

Chair Isaacson said the Chair is the voice of the Commission.

Ms. McDonald said we have a Vice-Chair now. It is Phil Bove. She is calling it a Co-Chair. It is a good pattern to get into, so we always have somebody. If it is easier to have a Chair and Vice-Chair, let's do that.

Commissioner Coulter said she would consider it only if Zoe would still be Chair.

Commissioner Kullman said she was interested. She is also interested in engaging in a project and working together on things. She doesn't need to be in leadership. Will there be subcommittees.

Chair Isaacson said none have been formed yet, but she would like to see this Body have them. That will be our next discussion.

Ms. McDonald said they are called working groups.

Chair Isaacson said her hope is to have smaller working groups based on what we have for projects. If anyone is interested in being Vice-Chair down the line, she highly encourages you to take on a working group leader role.

Chair Isaacson said she thinks we will keep it like it is with a Chair and Vice-Chair with Rachel as Vice-Chair is how she sees it.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Hansen moved to nominate Commissioner Isaacson as Chair of the River Commission. Commissioner Klingel seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Hansen moved to nominate Commissioner Kullman as Vice-Chair of the River Commission. Commissioner Coulter seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

Commissioner Coulter asked about setting up working groups.

Chair Isaacson said it is a good process to gage where interests lie. At the next meeting, she would like to see a little synopsis of what a project could be, see people address that and see what everyone thinks.

Commissioner Klingel asked that they come to the next meeting with an outreach plan.

Chair Isaacson said she feels it is important to get the community involved in what our projects need to be.

Ms. McDonald reminded the Commission that the Mayor wanted this Body to be involved in outreach to the community including education on the pipeline project. The Sustainability Plan is about bringing other bodies together. Any overlap would be helpful.

**b. River Commission Goals Plan, Potential Projects, and Action Plan (Precipitation Monitoring, Scoop-the- Poop campaign, Water-Quality Sampling, etc.) (Zoe Isaacson)**

Chair Isaacson said we can bring some discussion forward now and maybe do a loose ranking.

Commissioner Bove said his direction is to get the Living River going. It will take a bit of thinking to plan long range.

Commissioner Coulter asked if the River Commission has any outreach to the Santa Fe Public Schools.

Ms. McDonald said the River Commission could work with the Watershed Association and they can do outreach for us. They do education with the public schools on river issues.

Commissioner Hansen said the County is not in the purview of this River Commission. If we wanted to think about being a real bridge, there is the Santa Fe River Water Collective. They would like to be involved. They are concerned about the whole river. Nobody is happy about what happened previously. She stated, "Who would have thought it would be easier to work with the Tribes than it is to work with the City."

Commissioner Black said he had two interests; cross jurisdictional collaboration and downstream communities. Also, on how to advise the Governing Body.

Commissioner Hansen said she is not for or against the pipeline, she is just making statements

Commissioner Klingel said she has a burning desire to create a festival around the River and would love to involve school kids. The Fishing Derby happens with school kids, which is cool. It could be over a weekend and have several sites along the river where there are activities going on. It could bring energy to the river. Is there money for that?

Ms. McDonald said there was a River Day linked with the Fishing Derby. Some people don't like the Fishing Derby.

Commissioner Coulter said the River Blessing and the Fishing Derby are usually the first week of June.

Commissioner Hansen said it feels like we are trying to co-opt something with this.

Commissioner Bove said there used to be a procession from Christo Rey. The River Commission could make sure there is a way to get the water down there and do it in a respectful way.

Commissioner Hansen said it is the San Isidro and there is a mass before then.

Commissioner Klingel said part of the challenge with a June time frame is that a lot of the school kids are on summer vacation.

Ms. McDonald said we can link it to schools through our contract with the Watershed Association.

Commissioner Hansen said if you want water in the river, the City tries to make sure there is water for the blessing and events. We talked about May.

Chair Isaacson said it sounds like an awesome event, but May is only five months away for this year. Maybe we should talk about a River Festival for 2021.

Commissioner Klingel said to get the ball rolling, if we could land on a date, maybe this year we could piggyback with the Fishing Derby. It would bring the community around the river. Maybe try something for 2020 and work with the Watershed Association to get information to the schools.

Commissioner Hansen said she is an artist. Having a sculpture along the river is a beautiful idea.

Ms. McDonald said we can work with the Art's Commission for that.



Commissioner Hansen said the County is organizing different ideas for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Earth Day. We want to plant trees and promote cleaning up the earth and taking care of the earth. Even if a sculpture was temporary and the Arts Commission got involved that would be fantastic.

Commissioner Black said there are a lot of environmental groups that would like to participate. The brewery is an interesting idea. He sits on the Mayor's group for young adults. There is a lack of things to do and opportunities to do things.

Commissioner Kullman asked about access to funds.

Ms. McDonald said the Commission has no funds.

Chair Isaacson said the River Talk series was successful and she would like to do another series.

Commissioner Kullman asked if it was costly.

Ms. McDonald said we used some of our advertising budget. It was successful and was tailored towards education. She would need to know how many talks the Commission would like to do.

Chair Isaacson asked everyone to go back and think about their ideas for the River Talk series and any other projects they would like to engage and to send them to her before the next meeting.

Commissioner Kullman said there are some things she has heard brought up in other meetings. One is the River Corridor Plan update.

Ms. McDonald said it hasn't been updated since 1995. It is why the River Trail got built. It sets the quality and character of the river. All the river projects are based on that plan. She thinks it is important to keep that plan updated and keep it in front of the Governing Body. We don't need to re-write the entire plan. We should update it or create a supplemental document. She encourages the Commission to look at that. She will send the current plan to the Commissioners to look at.

Commissioner Kullman asked how that would work if we don't have any funds.

Ms. McDonald said we could not hire a consultant so we would have to work on it as a Commission and get it approved.

Ms. McDonald said there is a grant that the Watershed Association is working on. If they get it, it could be used for projects with other Departments and the River Commission would be part of that. That is a bigger thing.

Ms. McDonald asked if updating it or supplementing it of interest to the Commission.

Commissioner Bove said it is a good guide-book.

Ms. McDonald said with the pipeline we are going to have a MEPA assessment around that site. In terms of invasive species there are some projects we have worked on. It might be nice to work with Parks or the Municipal Tree Board on white papers on those issues. Linking that to an update of the plan would be a good way to get those issues in front of the Governing Body. You have to create opportunities sometimes to get information and issues to the Governing Body. There are areas we need help with such as wildlife issues. For example, what is our position on beavers in the river.

Commissioner Black asked that Ms. McDonald circulate the document around to the Commissioners. It would be amazing to have a wildlife section included in the plan.

Ms. McDonald said if the Watershed Association gets this grant, the River Commission will be asked to participate.

Commissioner Kullman asked about SF River Adjudication. That is the other issue she has heard brought up in previous meetings.

Commissioner Hansen said that is with the State Engineer's Office.

Commissioner Kullman asked how the Commission could collaborate with that effort.

Ms. McDonald said this Body is an advisory Body. We can ask Alan about that. Also, John Shumaker volunteered to do a meeting on seepage and she thinks that would be a very helpful item as well. They are willing to organize that.

Ms. McDonald said she wants to remind this Body that we do have a pot of money we have access to. It is called Santa River Fund which is the Living River Fund. For every dollar a person signs up for, the City gives a dollar, so it is a match. That money is not directly in your control, but it is through her section. It is about \$140,000 and has restrictions on what it is spent on. It is supposed to be spent on increasing water flows and environmental quality type projects. We have done a couple of projects through her section. In order to spend that money, she has to do procurement through her section and through the City process. If you have a concept, we could take that through Council for approval. If you wanted to do a rain garden, we would put out an RFP to get someone to do that for us. Maybe a pilot project on invasive species removal to increase water flow. It is easier to contract for those funds with a nonprofit.

Ms. McDonald said the Stormwater fee increase passed unanimously at Council so that is going to expand her budget a little more. The rain gardens can be a disaster if you don't have a good manager for the project. Fortunately, we have the Watershed Association who is managing the maintenance of the ones we have.

Chair Isaacson said she still does not understand why we can't use that money for other things.

Ms. McDonald said she will send the Ordinance out to the members. It is by Ordinance that funding is allowed.

Commissioner Coulter asked about the water flow under the Siler Road bridge. Where the water flows out.

Ms. McDonald said it is now ours, but we have not signed the paperwork yet.

Commissioner Coulter said when they did the stretch from Frenchy's to Siler, we were watching that. Almost all of Cerrillos Road drains there; it is filthy. They had talked about catching debris in some way. That has not happened.

Ms. McDonald said that is one of her section's projects. It is a CIP project. We do not have funds for that yet. She will bring projects they are working on through the River Commission. We are working on funding mechanisms. John Romero and Sarah Anderson are also working on projects that deal with water and trails. As a Body you can ask staff to come and talk to you about their projects.

Chair Isaacson asked if we want to reach out to another City Department about what the is process.

Ms. McDonald said you go through her and she will ask them to attend a meeting.

Projects and Ideas Discussed were:

- Partner with Watershed Association to do outreach in public schools
- Build partnerships with SF River Water Collective – for their input, education opportunities – and other downstream groups
- Festival around the river-education, community building; awareness of groups involved w/river
- 2<sup>nd</sup> River Talks Series
- Precipitation Monitoring/Citizen Science
- Update SF River Corridor Plan
- Invasive Species mapping

Chair Isaacson asked that members refine their ideas and send them to Ms. McDonald before the next meeting so we can rank them and come up with our top three and set up work groups to work on those issues.

**6. MATTERS FROM STAFF**

**a. Upcoming January Commission Elections**

Election of the Chair and Vice-Chair will occur at the January meeting.

**7. CITIZENS' COMMUNICATION FROM THE FLOOR**

None.

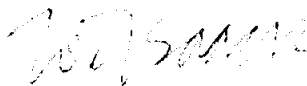
**8. MATTERS FROM COMMISSIONERS**

None.

**9. ADJOURN**

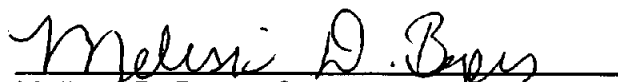
Chair Isaacson closed the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Approved by:

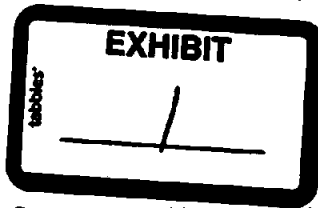


Zoey Isaacson, Chair

Submitted by:



Melissa D. Byers, Stenographer  
Byers Organizational Support Services



**TASK 4. ORGANIZE AND SUPPORT TRASH REMOVAL AND VEGETATION MANAGEMENT**

Reach Report for November 2019 totals for the fifth month of FY 2019-2020 are as follows:

	Reaches/visits	Volunteers	Trash Bags Collected	Volunteer Hours
<b>July-October</b>				
River	34	221	440	375
Arroyos	9	44	125	93
<b>Totals</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>255</b>	<b>555</b>	<b>468</b>
<b>November</b>				
River	7	83	35	118
Arroyos	3	18	39	26.5
<b>Totals</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>144.5</b>
<b>Totals Combined</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>356</b>	<b>629</b>	<b>612.5</b>

The value of the volunteers' in-kind contributions in City river reaches and arroyos to date in **FY 19/20 (fifth month)** is approximately \$15,575.88 (612.5 hours @ \$25.43; see [www.independentsector.org/volunteer\\_time](http://www.independentsector.org/volunteer_time)).

**TASK 5. POST SIGNS FROM ARMIJO PARK TO FRENCHY'S FIELD**

- ✓ Keely Jackson-Kennemore, Morika Hensley and Andy Otto regularly check signs for wear and tear.
- ✓ Seven new sign posts were installed along adopted arroyo reaches and three signs were re-hung.
- ✓ City staff continues to help with post and sign installation for the arroyo reaches.
  - SFWA will be requesting meeting with City staff to determine proper sign installation for new sponsor reaches.

**TASK 6. PROVIDE TRAINING AND EDUCATION FOR VOLUNTEERS REGARDING RIVER & ARROYO RESTORATION**

- ✓ During cleanups that Keely attends, she speaks to the volunteers about water conservation and water challenges in the Southwest.
- ✓ We are training volunteers on tabling at events to promote the Adopt-an-Arroyo Program.