



# Agenda

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BY Brian Drypolder  
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## SANTA FE RIVER COMMISSION

Tuesday, January 18, 2011, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

City Councilors' Conference Room, City Hall

200 Lincoln Ave.

Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504

505-955-6509

1. ROLL CALL
2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM December 7, 2010
4. DISCUSSION ITEMS
  - a. Report and discussion regarding two meetings of the public engagement process (first meeting of the core working group and first community meeting) for the development of the Ordinance and Administrative Procedures for the 1000 acre feet per year, Santa Fe River Target Flow program. (Jerry Jacobi and Jim Cutropia)
5. MATTERS FROM COMMISSIONERS, MATTERS FROM SUB-COMMITTEES
6. MATTERS FROM STAFF
  - a. Update regarding construction of the Santa Fe River Trail and River Channel Improvements, Phase 3, Camino Alire to Camino Carlos Rael
7. CITIZENS COMMUNICATION FROM THE FLOOR

ADJOURN

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|  | Cover Sheet  | Page 1   |
| I. Roll Call   | Roll Constitutes a quorum, 1 excused absence.  | Page 2   |
| II. Approval of Agenda   | Mr. Gerberding moved to approve the agenda as presented, second by Mr. Buchser, motion carried by unanimous voice vote.                | Page 2   |
| III. Approval of Minutes – December 7, 2010  | Mr. Gerberding moved to approve the December 7, 2010 minutes as presented, second by Mr. Bove, motion carried by unanimous voice vote. | Page 2   |
| IV. Discussion Items<br>a. Report and discussion regarding two meetings of the public engagement process (first meeting of the core working group and first community meeting) for the development of the Ordinance and Administrative Procedures for the 1000 acre feet per year, Santa Fe River Target Flow program. (Jerry Jacobi and Jim Cutropia) | Informational:<br>Exhibit A offered by the Chair for follow up meeting of the working group.   | Page 2-6 |
| V. Matters from the Commission   | Comments were included in the re-cap of the working group meeting.   | 6        |
| VI. Matters from Staff<br><br>a. Update regarding construction of the Santa Fe River Trail and River Channel Improvements, Phase 3, Camino Alire to Camino Carlos Real   | Informational  | 6-7      |

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| VII. Citizens communication from the floor. | Informational   | 7-8 |
| VIII. Adjournment and Signature Page        | There being no further business to come before the River Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm | 8   |

**Santa Fe River Commission  
MINUTES  
January 18, 2011**

- I. Roll Call - The meeting was called to order by Chair Jacobi at 6:00 pm at the City Council Meeting Room, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Roll Call constituted a quorum.

**Present:**

Jerry Jacobi, Chair  
Phil Bove  
John Buchser  
Samuel Gerberding  
Dale Doremus  
Melinda Romero-Pike  
Jim Cutropia

**Excused:**

Richard Ellenberg

**Staff Present:**

Brian Drypolcher

**Others Present**

Fran Lucero, Stenographer  
Felicity Broennen, Santa Fe Watershed Association  
Francois-Marie Patroni, Santa Fe Watershed Association

- II. Agenda

***Mr. Gerberding moved to approve the agenda as presented, second by Mr. Buchser, motion carried by unanimous voice vote.***

- III. Approval of Minutes – December 7, 2010

***Mr. Gerberding moved to approve the December 7, 2010 minutes as presented, second by Mr. Bove, motion carried by unanimous voice vote.***

- IV. Discussion Items

- A. Report and discussion regarding two meetings of the public engagement process (first meeting of the core working group and first community meeting) for the development of the Ordinance and Administrative Procedures for the 1000 acre feet per year, Santa Fe River Target Flow program. (Jerry Jacobi and Jim Cutropia)

The Chair reported that Commissioners Jim Cutropia, Richard Ellenberg and he were selected to serve on the working group. He said that there were about 7 core group members in attendance at the working group meeting and approximately 85 people in the audience for the public meeting. Brian Drypolcher and Claudia Borchert gave a very good presentation utilizing much of the information that has been presented to the commission in the past. The meeting was led by the contracted moderator, Toby Herzlich. A follow-up meeting will be conducted on Friday and Saturday to go over the outcome summary from the public engagement process. Youth Allies of Earth Care were in attendance and other young population groups. This came up as it was noted that there were not many young people in attendance. It was mentioned that possibly getting the word out to the schools on the next meeting would be helpful. Mr. Gerberding suggested extending an invitation to the Boy Scout troops in Santa Fe.

Mr. Jacobi stated that there were misconceptions about the 1000 acre feet and what it really was. It works out to be 1.4 cubic feet per second (CFS). Someone in the audience said it is about the size of a basketball which picked my curiosity. It really isn't; a basketball is about 40% of a cubic foot. If you had a river that was 3 feet wide and about 6 inches deep and it was flowing at a rate of one second that is about 1.4 or 1.5 cfs. If you took a 10 gallon aquarium and poured it into the river and did that every second that is what you would have, so think of it that way. A 1,000 acre feet is about 326,000 gallons and if you lift it out over a year that is about 2.75 acre feet per day which is 1.7 cfs. Claudia said another way to visualize it is the amount of water that fills two Olympic swimming pools. Mr. Jacobi said, look at an athletic field; and an athletic field is a little larger than an acre. It is a football field stacked with 1000 feet of water.

Ms. Doremus said that she thought his description of how many inches that would be in a river bed is probably the best visual of any of those.

Mr. Gerberding said that this is a very good visual and helpful when he explains this concept to others.

Mr. Jacobi said look an acre foot is 43,560 square feet, roughly 208 feet by 208 feet but think of a football field, 326,000 gallons, a cubic foot of water is 7 ½ gallons, a cubic foot of water weighs 62.4 lbs.

Claudia presented three scenarios which were all very good and Brian talked about how to accomplish any of the three scenarios and the City Attorney talked about the legality aspects of the process. We will now take our discussion to the core working group.

Brian said that there were two opportunities presented for group participation; one being the first exercise done on the big sheet process with some identified questions. [Mr. Drypolcher will send the commission members a written recap of what was discussed at the meeting.] It was asked what the preferences were on any of the three scenarios and it seemed like they swayed toward the third scenario where the flows go downstream.

Ms. Doremus said that she did not feel this was a consensus. She felt like some of the initial response from the group had some hybrids going. And then there was a vocal middle group and I felt like that was consensus yet not all of the tables had been heard from yet. I felt like there was this push towards what Toby called "equity". "Oh we're hearing equity; I'm not sure what equity means?" I guess the interpretation of that was to let the flows go downstream as far as possible which was the third scenario. She was concerned about that because there was only a level of understanding that could be communicated to that group because of the size of it and because of what had to be accomplished that evening which was a lot. So in terms of digging in, what does it really mean, what are the trade offs, and that is the nature of these types of public meetings. She felt that the public did not have sufficient information to make decisions on the three scenarios. She was in hope that the same attendees would attend the next meeting in order to have up-to-date information. Mr. Jacobi said that a dedicated amount of time will be spent on this recap over the weekend.

Comments: Mr. Jacobi presented Exhibit A summarizing 4 years of observations (2007-2010). Mr. Jacobi said that he will propose to the core group his observations which he has been watching since 2007.

(Content of Exhibit A – Gerald Jacobi)

1. Depending on the moisture period (wet/dry) before release, with a Nichols Reservoir release of 7-10 cfs of water in the spring, flow has reached the WWTP effluent channel in about two weeks. The distance covered is approximately 12 miles. The release accounted for about 200-300 AF of water. After this time, the flow started to recede upstream, but continued if reservoir releases were ramped up or runoff from precipitation entered the channel.
2. Two cfs release in the summer, with Acequia withdrawals, transpiration, evaporation, and infiltration, resulted in less than desirable flows through town to St. Francis Drive (less than 1 cfs). There were sections of standing water and interrupted surface flow in parts of this season.
3. The most we can expect with 1000 AF is a periodically wet channel through two (to St. Francis Drive) during the late spring and summer months with occasional surges (from monsoons) through west Santa Fe to San Ysidro. (The topography changes

- abruptly below St. Francis Drive where infiltration is higher).
4. To at least move aquatic organisms (fish and other vertebrate food) downstream through Santa Fe from the mostly wet portion (approximately 2.5 miles) below Nichols Reservoir and E. Alameda (Acequia Madre head gate), the spring release should follow the normal spring hydrograph (i.e., follow the initial snow melt with a 10+ cfs surge) to flush out material that has accumulated in the downtown section and to wet the dry river bed from St. Francis Dr., through Agua Fria to the WWTP.
  5. We must be careful to call this a living river if it doesn't flow year round through the section we wet only seasonally. Just providing flow in the river to water riparian vegetation "does not a living river make".

Mr. Drypolcher said that this process is asking the core working group to sort through the scenarios. He stated, "in a sense I heard you provide a narrative for one of these things we have been calling a scenario." He told the commissioners that if they had a scenario they would like to share with the core working group it was encouraged they send it by e-mail to Mr. Drypolcher to present at the weekend meeting.

Ms. Romero-Pike said she wanted to add as a scenario having water in the river in the winter. She would like to see the work group review when it would be most advantageous to release water.

Ms. Doremus asked; "what is the understanding of what is going to come out of this integrated meeting and what is the vision for the second core meeting?"

Mr. Drypolcher said that the core working group is working towards a report for the city council to incorporate comments from the stakeholders meeting and the public meeting.

Mr. Bove commented on Mr. Jacobi's comments. "I have been observing the Santa Fe River for over 45 years. There are occasionally fish in the river; there are some trout ponding areas between 1400 and 1600 Canyon Road. They come out of the reservoir when it spills and they may not have a good life moving around since the water is so low. Right now at Acequia Madre there is probably about 1/3 cfs. There is wildlife, beavers, skunks, and some that have not lived because they have not had enough protection by water. Depth and width at 1.44 cfs would be 650 gallons per minute, depth at the gauge would be 4" deep."

Ms. Doremus said that one comment she heard regarding how to augment the flows was to perhaps use some managed storm water flow.

Mr. Bove stated that management of the river especially below St. Francis Drive is critical of how that water flows. Some of the things that have been done on the

river bottom have not helped the flow of water for long distances because the structures are generally kind of level. Instead of having a swale in them they have let the water concentrate just enough so it doesn't help the flow of water for long distances because the sand will get wet. He noted that in the 16 years of driving Los Alamos that when crossing State Road 4 you cross the Tesuque River that one of those ditch associations takes a tractor into that very wide river bottom and they cut a channel about 18" wide and they get their water. Some of that could be applied in a more general fashion for west of St. Francis Drive because it has such a wide river bottom and get the water concentrated and get it further.

**V. Matters from Commissioners, Matters from Sub-committee**

The Chair asked Mr. Drypolcher to check in to the status of the management plan for the airport?

**VI. Matters from Staff**

**a. Update regarding construction of the Santa Fe River Trail and River Channel Improvements, Phase 3, Camino Alire to Camino Carlos Real**

Mr. Drypolcher reported that the bid documents have been out for about 10 days. Bids are due on February 7<sup>th</sup> and a pre-bid meeting was held today and it was heavily attended. It would be hopeful to have a decision from the Council in March and get a notice to proceed once that decision is made and have them working by April, 2011. This project, more importantly includes new grade control structures from Camino Carlos Rey to Frenchy's that will stabilize the grade. There will be a stair step series at the Ricardo Gauge. There will be quite a bit of bank fill protection, bank stabilization, induced meanders and a planting plan. He said they are trying to get the channels at a lower flow and a little more directed. There are a lot of places that are bank to bank or there are constraints on the river where they back up to private property and property that use to be protected. There are some good possibilities to encourage the river to meander some more.

There is also some added funding to do some additional planting. This is part of the contractor's obligation to go and plant after these features are constructed. This is about one mile and a third stretch of river. Continued planting will take place by utilizing the added funding and the contractor's portion.

The Mayor's Institute on City Design will be in Santa Fe in February. This is a good time to get some good international design perspectives for the River. The Mayor would like for them to focus on a 3-4 mile stretch of the downtown area. They do about two or three sessions like this a year and the Mayor attended the session in Denver and got really excited about this opportunity. Mr. Drypolcher said that it is a short window of opportunity to



work with this group. The meeting will be held on February 9, 2011 for approximately 2 hours to work with this knowledgeable group. Meeting will be held at the Inn of the Governors and the commissioners are all invited to attend. An RSVP to Mr. Drypolcher was requested.

Ms. Romero-Pike asked if in this river trail plan if Camino Carlos Real would be opened up. There are very disastrous areas of the river bank. The answer was no, there are no plans to open the crossroads for Camino Carlos Real right now.

## **VII. Citizens Communication from the Floor**

### **Santa Fe Watershed – Felicity Broennen**

Stated that she attended the State Water Dialogue Group regarding the regional water plans and there was one section where the OSE is trying to incorporate all the regional water plans that have been developed into one state water plan. She said that one of the things is that at the watershed they have a county and city plan as well as others. She asked for the commissioners input as to their perspective of trying to incorporate these plans. “Do you have an opinion on how they affect the river and the watershed and if there would be some importance in bringing them together?” Ms. Romero-Pike directed the comment to Ms. Doremus, “that is where the equity would come in.”

Mr. Bove said if he recalled correctly, the Jemez Plan is about 10 years old and wondered if the plans in question need to be updated before they are integrated. Ms. Broennan stated that they are talking about updating the plans.

Ms. Doremus asked if the concept was for the regional plans to take into account the county and city plan and become one plan.

Felicity said that many of the water plans may be on the OSE website. The Interstate Stream Commission funded some of these and it is in statue. John Buchser said that the groups worked together very well but they were very much looking at their own needs. Mr. Bucsher said that it was his impression that some would say, “we are going to need much more water”, for example Taos Region said, “there is no way we are going to send any of our water outside our regions. So there is this disconnect when you are trying to connect these independently. In a way it was easier to create a regional plan because we care about what is coming off of Los Alamos and we care about what is coming down the river through Espanola. When you get to the point of the ISC, how do you resolve that, does it depend on your personal background as an Engineer or Biologist or because you think that there is a disconnect on what is happening to agriculture. There are a lot of personal reflections that make it real easy to say this is my goal to meet industrial and municipal demands because that is where the state’s economy is going to become lively. Does that mean it is coming out of agriculture and how

do you balance that. The fact that some of this dialogue is good keeps the bigger questions alive.

Ms. Doremus asked about the comment from a previous meeting about going to the legislature on in-stream flows and beneficial uses. Mr. Drypolcher said that he did not think this was going to happen, he has not heard on any movement on this front for this legislation. Mr. Buchser concurred with Mr. Drypolcher.

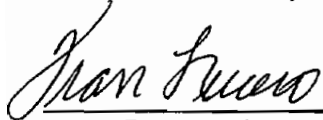
#### **VIII. Adjourn**

*There being no further business to come before the commission the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm.*

*Signature Page:*

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*Mr. Gerald Jacobi, Chair*

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Fran Lucero", written over a horizontal line.

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*Fran Lucero, Stenographer*