



Agenda

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SANTA FE RIVER COMMISSION
Tuesday, April 17, 2012, 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.
The Inn of the Governors, in The Governor's Room
101 West Alameda Street, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501
505.955.6840

NOTE TEMPORARY CHANGE FOR MEETING LOCATION THIS MONTH.

1. ROLL CALL
2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM March 20, 2012
4. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS
 - a. Discussion: Regarding presentation by Santa Fe County staff regarding County work along the Santa Fe River (Meghan Bayer, Santa Fe County)
 - b. Discussion: Regarding presentation by City staff regarding status of the Santa Fe River Fund (Claudia Borchert)
 - c. Discussion: Regarding update by Commissioner Richard Ellenberg regarding meetings on environmental flow and permits
5. MATTERS FROM COMMISSIONERS, MATTERS FROM SUB-COMMITTEES
6. MATTERS FROM STAFF
 - a. Updates:
 - Camino Alire to Frenchy's Park River Trail and River Renewal Celebration
 - SF River watershed yield forecast and Target Flows for 2012 – 2013
7. CITIZENS COMMUNICATION FROM THE FLOOR

ADJOURN

Persons with disabilities in need of accommodation, contact the City Clerk's office at 955-6520, five (5) working days prior to meeting date.

**Index Summary of Minutes
Santa Fe River Commission
April 17, 2012**

INDEX	ACTION TAKEN	PAGE(S)
Cover Sheet		1
Call to Order	Mr. Jacobi called the meeting to order at 5:15 pm	2
Roll Call	A quorum was declared by roll call.	2
Approval of Agenda	No Staff of Commission Changes	2
Approval of Minutes March 20, 2012 Summary – Meghan is from the County Public Works not Safety Department Page 4 – change 55 to 25 Page 8 – Meghan is from the County Public Works not Safety Department	Motion to approve the Minutes of March 20, 2012 as amended by Mr. Ellenberg, seconded by Mr. Buchser, passed by unanimous voice vote	2
Discussion/Action Items a. Regarding presentation by Santa Fe County staff regarding County work along the Santa Fe River	Meghan Bayer, Santa Fe County	2-4
b. Regarding presentation by City Staff regarding status of the Santa Fe River Fund	Claudia Borchert, City of Santa Fe	4
c. Regarding update by Commissioner Richard Ellenberg regarding meetings on environmental flow and permits	Commissioner Ellenberg	4-5
Matters from the Commission	Informational	5
Matters from Staff Camino Alire to Frenchy's Park River Trail and River Renewal Celebration Santa Fe River Watershed Yield Forecast and Target Flows for 2012-2013	Brian Drypolcher Alan Hook	5 5-6
Citizens Communications from the Floor	Informational	6

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Adjournment Adjourned at 6:25 p.m.	Motion by Mr. Ellengerg, seconded by Mr. Buchser, passed by unanimous voice vote	6

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April 17, 2012 – 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm
The Inn of the Governors
101 West Alameda Street, Santa Fe, NM

1. ROLL CALL declared a quorum.

Present

Jerry Jacobi
Phillip J. Bove
John R. Buchser
Melinda Romero-Pike
Dale Doremus
Richard Ellenberg
Samuel Gerberding

Absent

Jim Cutropia (arrived near the end of the meeting)

Others Present

Brian Drypolcher
Francois Marie Patorni
Alan Hook
Claudia Borchert
Meghan Bayer

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Mr. Ellenberg to approve agenda as presented, seconded by Ms. Romero-Pike.
Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM MARCH 20, 2012

Page 4 – top paragraph change “approximately 55” to read “approximately 25”
Meghan is from county public works, not safety department in both the summary on page 8
under matters from commissioners.

Mr. Ellenberg moved to approve as amended, seconded by Mr. Buchser, motion passed by
unanimous voice vote.

4. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

- a. Discussion: Regarding presentation by Santa Fe County staff regarding County work
along the Santa Fe River (Meghan Bayer, Santa Fe County)

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Mr. Jacobi requests Ms. Bayer give an update on the County's efforts along the Santa Fe River.

Ms. Bayer: (distributes a map) Explains that she was hired to work on the Santa Fe River and hopes to have better communication with the City. The hope is that in the future they can identify ways to partner, share resources and work collaboratively. The county's work picks up at the edge of French's Field. The County is working on river restoration from that point to the Waste Water Treatment Plant (with the exception of the traditional Agua Fria Village). These are all future annexation areas and we need to work together on implementation and long-term management. They are currently focusing on the restoration between San Isidro Crossing and Paja del Ora (which is one mile of trail). They hope to start construction of Phase II in the fall. The western end of the map includes Camino Rael Park (.7 miles of trail on state land office property).

They are working on final design from Frenchy's to Siler Road. This is the next priority in terms of construction as funding and budget become available. Conceptual design is being worked on for many of the areas. They have issued an RFP and are currently negotiating for the conceptual design piece.

The City was fortunate in that it owned the river bed. That is not the case in the county and they are working on proper acquisition. There are some issues with property parcel lines. Between Siler and San Isidro there are 28 property owners with several properties crossing the river. We worry about cutting off access. Moving forward the County is hoping to do the trail and restoration in conjunction.

Mr. Borchert: Questions the final design plan and whether the trail will follow the north side along the entire river or if it will cross over.

Ms. Bayer: In terms of alignment of the trail, it is our best guess at this point that going west from Frenchy's the trail will be on the north side. It will cross to the other side at South Meadows. From Constellation to Waste Water we have not though through what side of the river the trail will be on. A pedestrian bridge is at the Camino Rael Park crossing.

There is also discussion regarding the archeological sites along the river. The area surrounding San Isidro has been so disturbed that we were cleared by the Historic Preservation Division to move forward. We are staying clear of those areas at Camino Rael. Our strategy is to avoid the major archeological areas.

Mr. Doremus: Inquires on anticipated construction dates for the stretch between Frenchy's and Siler.

Ms. Bayer: It is dependent on funding. In the CIP plan the county has a bonding cycle in FY13 so it may go to bond in the fall of 2012. We are hopeful that we will have construction funding through that process.

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Discussion regarding the material to be used and whether it will be paved. The plan is to eventually have a paved trail. El Camino is asphalt. At that section they installed three materials as a test to see how they hold up. They will stay away from cement trails in future development but no final decisions have been made about the surface. We are hoping that the hard packed surface being used at the rail trail will be a good model for the river trail. The total length of the project is 8 miles.

- b. Discussion: Regarding presentation by City staff regarding status of the Santa Fe River Fund (Claudia Borchert)

Mr. Jacobi: Comments on the low number of individuals contributing to the river fund.

Ms. Borchert: Distributes and discusses an April 17, 2012 memo regarding the voluntary river conservation fund. States that there is \$207,000 in the fund as of February. Some of the issues we have encountered are that there is not water readily available for sale upstream.

Discussion on the high price of water and whether this is the right way to try to put water into the river. There are other considerations such as what types of approvals would be needed, how much the transfer would cost (routine transfer vs. non-routine transfer). There is the possibility of running an advertisement for a couple of months to see if there are any water rights for sale. We would advertise for water upstream from the downtown area. Some water rights are taken directly from the river but most are from acequias so we would have to get acequia permission.

The water we purchase would have to be on the river. We have not determined how we would handle it if, for example, someone in La Cienega had water rights they wanted to sell.

Mr. Doremus: Questions whether it would be possible to transfer Rio Grande water rights?

Ms. Borchert: Unsure whether Rio Grande water rights can be transferred.

Reviews all bulleted items in the memo. Discussion regarding whether the money can be used for other purposes than the original intent.

Mr. Jacobi: Comments that the money was collected to increase the quantity of water but believes it could be used to improve the infrastructure for better delivery.

- c. Discussion: Regarding update by Commissioner Richard Ellenberg regarding meetings on environmental flow and permits.

Mr. Ellenberg: I have met with Denise Fort and Marcos. My target was how to get passed the restrictions. We discussed making a test case to apply to the State Engineer for environmental flow rights. One use may be to set up a test case or reserve rights to cover in stream flow. We would request a transfer up the Rio Grande for the purpose of

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environmental flow to do the test case. We might look at using this fund to acquire rights and apply for the transfer. I believe there is a decent chance of success.

Discussion regarding Rio Grande water vs. Santa Fe River and also the possibility of using water from Acequia Madre.

Mr. Bove: Points out that Acequia Madre uses all of its water rights. They changed the way delivery was done but they use all their water.

Mr. Ellenberg: Marcos was going to have a memo to the City Attorney last week but I have not heard the status of that. It will then go to the Mayor.

Discussion held regarding how individuals can donate to the water fund through direct pay and/or on-line bill pay.

Mr. Buchser: Questions whether the bypass flows might be put at risk by exercising purchase rights to put in the river.

Mr. Ellenberg: The bypass theory is separate from in stream flow. It would be in addition to the City's rights.

Mr. Bove: You need to watch inflow versus outflow.

Discussion regarding the potential to purchase 10 acre feet of water in Espanola and allow it to flow down the Rio Grande and then potentially release 10 acre feet of City's stored water and release it.

5. MATTERS FROM COMMISSIONERS, MATTERS FROM SUB-COMMITTEES

Ms. Romero-Pike: Requests water in the river to reach the San Isidro Crossing for the May 15th blessing.

Mr. Drypolcher: Explains that there will not be water released during that period of time. They are juggling to match outflow to inflow. They have moved up the first release in the season and they may be looking at moving up the second pulse. They are trying to forecast out what water might be available for the fishing derby on June 2.

6. MATTERS FROM STAFF

a. Update

- Camino Alire to Frenchy's Park River Trail and River Renewal Celebration
The celebration is scheduled for April 28th from 9:30 – 11:30. There will be a press release and an advertisement for the paper along with a flyer which will be distributed.

- Santa Fe River watershed yield forecast and Target Flows for 2012 – 2013

Mr. Hook provides a handout regarding the water shed forecast. The graph shows

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snow gauge at the high elevation, inches and dates. The lower graph shows last year's snow water equivalent. March was so warm that we are melting off very rapidly and we are losing some water yield due to sublimation. The second worksheet estimates what our storage will be and our capacity going into June. Storage capacity is a matter of the inflow and is the supplemental source for meeting our demands. It shows 65% and that is generous because we are melting out so early. Right now our storage is at 50%.

Releases will take place on Memorial weekend, the fishing derby, and following the fishing derby.

Discussion held regarding the various release dates and amounts. The timing of the fishing derby, sufficient inflows, and early runoff.

7. CITIZENS COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE FLOOR

Discussion regarding citizens excited about seeing water in the river. Possibility of changing flow bank to have more water available later.

Unable to do so because it would be a deal of City storing water. We are under real constraints. We could not have more water entering into the river below the dams than is coming in.

There being no further business, Mr. Ellenberg moved to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Buchser, passed by unanimous voice vote.

ADJOURNED at 6:25 p.m.

APPROVED BY:

Jerry Jacobi, Chair


Fran Lucero, Stenographer