City of Santa Fe

Agenda

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE
DATE 11/6/14 TIME 10:09a
RECEIVED BY Brian Drypolcher
APPROVED BY

SANTA FE RIVER COMMISSION
Thursday, November 13, 2014,
6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Conference Room (Caboose Room),
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 9, 2014
4. INFORMATION/DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS
   a) Information and Discussion: Reclaimed Wastewater Resource Plan, overview of the plan and considerations for Santa Fe River flows (Andrew Erdman)
   b) Information, Discussion, Action: Update from the River Commission sub-committee for the development of a vegetation management plan for the Santa Fe River corridor
   c) Discussion, Action: Review and approval of the schedule for the meetings of the River Commission for 2015
5. MATTERS FROM COMMISSIONERS, MATTERS FROM SUB-COMMITTEES
6. MATTERS FROM STAFF
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.

SANTA FE RIVER COMMISSION
Thursday, November 13, 2014
6:00 p.m. –6:40 p.m.
Caboose Room
500 Market Street, Santa Fe, NM

MINUTES

1. **ROLL CALL**

Mr. Jerry Jacobi, Chair convened the meeting of the Santa Fe River Commission at 6:00 pm, Market Station, Caboose Room. A quorum was present at time of roll call.

Present
Jerry Jacobi, Chair
Phil Bove
Dale Doremus
Richard Ellenberg

Excused
Melinda Romero-Pike
John R. Buchser

Others Present

Brian Drypolcher, Staff Liaison
Andrew Erdman, City of Santa Fe Water Division
Mr. Andy Otto, Santa Fe Watershed Association
Anna Serrano for Fran Lucero, Stenographer

2. Approval of Agenda

Mr. Ellenberg moved to approve the agenda as presented and second by Mr. Bové, motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM OCTOBER 9, 2014

Mr. Ellenberg moved to approve the minutes of October 9, 2014 as presented, second by Ms. Doremus, motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

4. INFORMATION/DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

a) Information and Discussion: Reclaimed Wastewater Resource Plan, overview of the plan and considerations for Santa Fe River flows (Andrew Erdman)

(Exhibit A – Memo dated November 12, 2014 to SFRC from Mr. Andrew Erdman, RE: Reclaimed Wastewater Resource Plan – Summary)

The Reclaimed Water Resource Plan (RWRP) was created in 2013 in order to assess the City's current and projected Reclaimed Water needs through the 2020's. The reclaimed water is all the water that is coming out of the treatment plant on Siler Road. Basically the plan comes up with a set of criteria and themes that we would like to be scored and evaluate 16 different options. It stays pretty non-committal in terms of this analysis; it comes up with next steps to be taken to pursue any of the 16 options. In Exhibit A-2 an analysis of the 16 options is detailed. One relevant area of interest to the River Commission and most interesting part of the plan is that it is very clear that the city's legal opinion is that no water is owed to downstream irrigators. However, it also has a section of the plan which talks about the importance of stewardship of the Santa Fe River, particularly the Rural Protection Zone (the section of the river on city property below the WWTP), and collaboration and coordination with downstream agricultural communities and other stakeholders as a priority. There is discussion that instead of increasing the flows that there is a desire to put an actual number to this; there are a lot of numbers out there but it doesn't commit to anything. The largest piece to evaluate is the 16 – leaving closing stream which they leave about 70% of the 5600 estimated acre feet per year that come out of that plant. It evaluates it on the assumption that 70% of that will be left in the stream. From an irrigator perspective that sounds great except the time when there is the greatest demand on the reclaimed water is the same time the irrigators would also like to have that demand on the water in the stream. Because the water currently used for things like watering Marty Sanchez Golf Course, watering the soccer fields, etc., those things all require water at the same time the irrigators would like to see water in the stream. There is this tension based on the fact that the city says it doesn't owe any water downstream and yet wants to be a good neighbor and be a good steward of this resource and trying to create a balance. A feasibility study will be conducted to evaluate this; the city has secured a grant for $130,000 from the bureau of reclamation to pursue a feasibility study for how to use the reclaimed water coming out of the plant. The money has been awarded; the RFP has not been released. Prior to the Reclaimed Waste Water Resource Plan there was prior plan called the TEMP which was to look at the treated effluent management plan congruent to the Reclaimed Waste Water Resource Plan? The outcome of this, of which there are two; the first is that there is the basin study project which was recently completed and they are working on the report which will come out before the end of this calendar year. In the next year or two, depending on when the RFP goes out the completion of the feasibility study which will put some harder information behind this.

Mr. Ellenberg asked what percentage of the wastewater goes downstream.

Mr. Erdman said that during the irrigation season it is about 60%.

Mr. Ellenberg asked how the RFP would direct the people to deal with the down water stream.

Mr. Erdman stated that it is the hope the feasibility study will put a value on the water that is going down. Everyone wants to be a good neighbor but it isn't clear if they want to be $10 million dollars or a new neighbor, $20 million; it looks different when you have a number associated with what that really means. This will be something that is determined by the decision makers in the city at the policy maker level. We would like to give them a tool to show the value of the water left in the river.

There was a question directed regarding the return of real credits. Mr. Erdman stated that to the return real credits is one of the options evaluated in the plan and feasibility study. The return flow credits that are described in the Reclaimed Wastewater Resource Plan are for the La Cienega area so because of pumping the Buckman Well field, the OSE will show the gradual impacts that reduce the amount of flow in the river in that portion. There are impacts on the Rio Grande but there are also impacts on the Santa Fe River, La Cienega Creek and _____ Creek. It is the belief of the hydrologist who is working for the city that in fact the water that is being returned from the wastewater treatment plant is in fact recharging the ground water to some extent and that will help La Cienega Creek and not just the Santa Fe River. Mr. Erdman said they are looking at doing a model to pursue that and if they were able to get that model and convince the OSE that the outcome of that model was worthwhile they could than use that water to meet the offset requirements. The feasibility study is going to one of the options of getting return flow credits by piping the water and dropping it in the Rio Grande.

Ms. Doremus asked if that water is fully consumptive and get a full return credit for that water. Mr. Erdman agreed and stated that it is about 60% of the water that gets diverted and returns to the wastewater treatment plant.

b) Information, Discussion, Action: Update from the River Commission sub-committee for the development of a vegetation management plan for the Santa Fe River corridor

Sub-committee was unable to meet; a future meeting will be set.

Mr. Otto reported that the Watershed Association is working on a grant to help devise a vegetation management plan for the river corridor. Mr. Otto and Mr. Drypolcher have been in discussion to do some matching with the River Commission to work with the Forestry Division on this plan. Mr. Otto will continue to work with the Forestry Division on possible funding to help with writing the plan.

Mr. Bove and Ms. Doremus suggested having a joint meeting.

c) Discussion, Action: Review and approval of the schedule for the meetings of the River Commission for 2015

Next meeting is scheduled for December 11, 2014.

2015 Calendar was provided to the River Commission members.

Mr. Ellenberg moved to approve meeting on the 2nd Thursday of the month for 2015, second by Ms. Doremus, motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

5. MATTERS FROM COMMISSIONERS, MATTERS FROM SUB-COMMITTEES
The Chair asked if there was any information on Mr. Drypolcher replacement. Mr. Drypolcher said that HR is working to get a replacement and to have them work with Mr. Drypolcher before he leaves.

6. MATTERS FROM STAFF
None

7. ADJOURN

Mr. Ellenberg moved to adjourn at 6:40 pm, second by Ms. Doremus, motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Signature Page:

Jerry Jacobi, Chair

Fran Lucero, Stenographer

City of Santa Fe, New Mexico

memo

Date: November 12, 2014

To: Santa Fe River Commission

From: Andrew Erdmann, Water Resources Coordinator

Re: Reclaimed Wastewater Resource Plan - Summary

Plan Details:

The Reclaimed Water Resource Plan (RWRP) was created in 2013 in order to assess the City's current and projected Reclaimed Water (RW) needs through the 2020's. For this purpose, RW is considered to be the effluent water generated by the waste water treatment plant (WWTP) on Airport Road and the available quantity is estimated at 1,825mg/yr (5,600 af/yr). The RWRP identifies pros and cons for each option and suggests next steps to be taken for each. See Attachment A for detailed breakdown of each evaluated option. The full text of the report is available online at: http://www.santafenm.gov/using_reclaimed_wastewater.

One of the complex issues apparent in the report is tension between the City's desire to restore and preserve the Santa Fe River and the competing desire to focus water development on surface water in order to improve system sustainability. Part of the complexity of this issue comes from the increased demand season on both the river and on the RW which occurs in the summer months.

Take Away Message:

- The RWRP is the most recent report generated in the City's effort to determine how to best optimize the water being released from the WWWTP.
- The report reaffirms the City's legal opinion that this water belongs to the City and not to downstream users. The plan also identifies Stewardship of the Santa Fe River as a theme and suggests that the provision of adequate flows to the Santa Fe River, particularly the Rural Protection Zone (the section of the river on city property below the WWTP), and collaboration and coordination with downstream agricultural communities and other stakeholders as a priority.
- The next step in this process is the inclusion of the WWTP releases in the City's WaterMAPS model, which is designed to evaluate the City's water supply in the face of climate change in terms of wet water availability, permitting requirements, and projected growth in demand. The final report resulting from this project will be completed by the end of 2014.
- Another step being taken by the City is to conduct a Feasibility Study, for which a grant has already been awarded by the Bureau of Reclamation, which will begin in 2015 and

Exhibit A-1

which will evaluate the specific costs and benefits associated with many alternative uses for WWTP effluent including Return Flow Credits, directing the water back into the drinking water supply and Aquifer Storage and Recovery.

Attachment A

Option Name	Description	Annual Use (mg/yr)	Max Mo. Use (mg/mo)	Max Daily Use (mg/d)
US Forest Service Livestock Water	Due to the lowering of the water table in the Caja del Rio area, the City provides RW to fill a USFS stock tank to provide for cattle and wildlife and to keep cattle away from the Santa Fe River corridor.	2	0.4	0.01
NM Game & Fish	This project is a small pond and native vegetation area used as part of an on-site wildlife education project at the Game & Fish facility.	2	0.2	0.001
South West Activity Node (SWAN) park	This park is under construction and will feature a large grass irrigated area for recreation which will be watered with RW.	19	3.6	0.18
On-Demand Sales	Water sold directly from the WWTP to fill trucks and used for construction, dust abatement, and similar purposes.	31	4.4	0.14
Buckman Well Field Permit Compliance	The OSE permit under which the City operates the Buckman Well Field requires offsets in the form or wet water or retired water rights in order to mitigate the impacts of groundwater pumping in the La Cienega area. The City is seeking approval from the OSE to use RW to meet this demand.	33	2.7	0.09
Santa Fe Equestrian Center	This facility has, in the past, relied on RW to water its polo grounds. At present the facility is watered via leased water from Santa Fe County's Hagerman well, but there is potential for this to become a demand on RW water in the future.	41	12.4	0.4

Exhibit A-2

Option Name	Description	Annual Use (mg/yr)	Max Mo. Use (mg/mo)	Max Daily Use (mg/d)
Santa Fe Downs	RW at the Downs of Santa Fe is used both for irrigating the race track (92%) and for irrigating trees and other landscaping.	44	7.8	0.26
South West Area Parks	The pipeline which brings water to the site of SWAN park has excess capacity and there is a possibility of using that line to water additional City properties such as Capital High School, Southside Library, Cesar Chavez elementary school, and Ortiz Middle School.	48	9.8	0.33
Municipal Recreation Complex (MRC)	RW is used at the MRC to irrigate playing fields for baseball, soccer, football, rugby, and other recreational play.	54	10.9	0.36
Santa Fe Country Club Golf Course	The Santa Fe Country Club Golf Course has been irrigating with RW since the 1950's. RW is pumped into storage ponds during the day, and used for irrigation at night.	130	25.1	0.7
Marty Sanchez Golf Course	The Marty Sanchez Links de Santa Fe Golf Course is watered exclusively with RW.	168	26.9	0.87
Upstream Santa Fe River	This proposed project involves pumping water from the WWTP upstream to a point in the Santa Fe River (not determined, but perhaps near Frenchy's field) where it would be released to create another living river project.	177	14.7	0.48

Option Name	Description	Annual Use (mg/yr)	Max Mo. Use (mg/mo)	Max Daily Use (mg/d)
Downstream Santa Fe River	The Santa Fe River downstream of the WWTP currently receives about 70% of the RW produced, which constitutes nearly all of the flow in that reach of the river. Water leaving the WWTP flows through the Rural Protection Zone (a City designated piece of land along the river corridor within the airport property) and then through land owned by Santa Fe County, the BLM, and private landowners in La Cieneguilla, El Canon Ranch, Tres Rios Ranch, the Cochiti Pueblo, and the Village of La Bajada en route to the confluence with the Rio Grande. The irrigators of approximately 100 acres of land in this area have requested that the City release "sufficient reclaimed water to the downstream users." The City Attorney's official opinion is that the City currently has no legal obligation to deliver RW to water right holders downstream.	600	93	3
Future Water Supply	RW may be utilized to augment the city's existing water supplies either through Direct Reuse, Indirect Reuse, injection of RW into the aquifer, or piping RW to the Rio Grande in exchange for the ability to divert a like amount of water from that source via the BDD facility.	717		