



# Agenda

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## Santa Fe River Commission

Thursday, December 13, 2018 (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 11, 2018
4. COMMUNICATION FROM OTHER AGENCIES /COMMITTEES
  - a. SF Watershed Report (Andy Otto, [andy@santafewatershed.org](mailto:andy@santafewatershed.org) )
5. INFORMATION/DISCUSSION/ACTION:
  - a. Informational Item: Santa Fe River Fund Quarterly Report (Melissa McDonald, [mamcdonald@santafenm.gov](mailto:mamcdonald@santafenm.gov), 955-6840)
  - b. Informational Item: River Commission Membership Process (Melissa McDonald, [mamcdonald@santafenm.gov](mailto:mamcdonald@santafenm.gov), 955-6840)
  - c. Discussion Item: Aligning Mayor's Goals/Objective with the Commission (John Buchser)
  - d. Discussion Item: City / County River Commission (Anna Hansen, 986-6200, [ahansen@santafecountynm.gov](mailto:ahansen@santafecountynm.gov) )
6. MATTERS FROM STAFF
  - a. Informational Item: MS4 Annual Report (Melissa McDonald, [mamcdonald@santafenm.gov](mailto:mamcdonald@santafenm.gov) , 955-6840)
  - b. Informational Item: Santa Fe Stormwater Management Strategic Plan Update (Melissa McDonald, [mamcdonald@santafenm.gov](mailto:mamcdonald@santafenm.gov) , 955-6840)
  - c. Action Item: Collection of City of Santa Fe Ethic Packets (Melissa McDonald, [mamcdonald@santafenm.gov](mailto:mamcdonald@santafenm.gov) , 955-6840)
7. CITIZENS' COMMUNICATION FROM THE FLOOR
8. MATTERS FROM COMMISSIONERS  
Next Meeting Agenda Items:
  - Alex Puglisi, PNM Santa Fe Generating Station (SF Well-1) , Investigation and Remediation ([aapuglisi@santafenm.gov](mailto:aapuglisi@santafenm.gov) , 955-4232)
9. ADJOURN

Next Scheduled River Commission Meeting is January 10, 2019  
Captions & Packet Material are due by 10 am on January 2, 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.*

RECEIVED AT THE CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

DATE: 12/05/2018

TIME: 8:43 AM

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**Santa Fe River Commission**  
**MINUTES**  
**Thursday, December 13, 2018**  
**6:00 pm to 8:00 pm**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Acting Chair, John Buchser, in the Roundhouse Meeting Room, Market Station Building at the Railyard, 500 Market Street, Santa Fe, NM, called the Santa Fe River Commission meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

**ROLL CALL**

**PRESENT:**

John Buchser, Acting Chair  
Dale Doremus  
F.M. Patorni  
Emile Sawyer  
Phil Bove

**NOT PRESENT:**

Jerry Jacobi, Excused  
Anna Hansen, Excused  
Luke Pierpont, Excused  
Zoe Isaacson, Chair, Excused

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Melissa McDonald, River and Watershed - Staff Liaison  
Alan Hook  
Raquel Thompson, Santa Fe Watershed Association  
Fran Lucero, Stenographer

**2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

*Ms. Doremus moved to approve the agenda as presented, second by Mr. Patorni, motion carried by unanimous voice vote.*

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM OCTOBER 11, 2018**

**Corrections:**

Page 2, line 1, remove as listed  
Page 2 under item 4, remove the sustainability plan, office at Resolution written  
Page 3 paragraph 5, SM4 Permit change to MS4, last paragraph scoop the poop campaign  
Page 4 paragraph 1 goals change to Commission, management change to Management Plan, advise change to advise, add walkability of the city, addresses change to address, that trail change to the trail  
Page 4 paragraph 2 add expenditure, paragraph 8 trail change to Trail  
Page 5 add for Fran Lucero  
Page 4 Ms. Doremus discussed the wells in years past 2000-2002

*Mr. Sawyer moved to approve the minutes of October 11, 2018 as amended, second by Mr. Patorni, motion carried by unanimous voice vote.*

**4. COMMUNICATIONS FROM OTHER AGENCIES/COMMITTEES**

**a. Santa Fe Watershed Report (Raquel Thompson)**

Updates are included in the packet. Watershed Benefit was a nice event and very well attended. We are looking for a couple of Stewart teams and adopting arroyos is going strong. In the colder months volunteers don't go out as much but Boys Scouts went out last month to provide their services.

Ms. McDonald distributed a map that a Volunteer at the Watershed has been putting together. If you go to the Watershed website under Restoration and River Gardens there are images and work sheets done for each of the gardens, Ms. McDonald is working on calculating the locations and GPS, providing photos and Watershed Association is hosting not only city rain gardens but county and whatever else they do. Ms. McDonald would like to talk to Mr. Otto about people self-reporting on property that they develop their own rain gardens and they could put them up on the map, a lot of communities are doing this. It would be good if the Watershed could house this as they can work with all entities of government as well as individuals directly. It is in the beginning stages, thank you to the Watershed for getting this volunteer and starting this process. It is great to give people examples of where to go. Attachment is a Rain Garden Infiltration numbers.

Ms. Doremus asked how did you get these numbers?

Ms. McDonald said we are taking capacity and applying co-efficient and developing it out. Some of these numbers incorporate precipitation days and some do not. We take the drainage area which is the street from storm drain to storm drain, calculate how much water falls there and how much flows to a rain garden. We design the rain garden to be at whatever capacity and most of these are at 100% capacity. The interesting difference in the calculations is that some of the old companies didn't do precipitation days and I asked the contractors to do precipitation days. They design it for peak flow, what is more informative is number of precipitation days and how much you expect to infiltrate. That is a little bit more complex. For this purpose it is the volume capacity numbers. Ms. McDonald has shared photos with the Watershed and there are more rain gardens out there than the city and county do and when we do self-reporting we will gather more information which will be helpful when we apply for grants.

John Buchser: Would a \_\_\_\_\_ that is comprised of river cobble or stones qualify as a rain garden because I know that impermeable surfaces like a drive way that is paved is all going to run off. If there are buildings all around it, it is all going down the street and to the river or the sewer system which goes in to the river, whereas the river cobbles or little stones that soak in is about 10% as much water or time. I would think there are a fair number of the public that actually have what might qualify as a rain garden of the sort, but they have a gravel driveway.

Ms. McDonald: I think that when we talk about rain gardens I think that because they are very focused on the defined raingardens, I kind of entered a few things

called bio cells which are smaller rain gardens, but I don't think they are going to that level. I believe as we evolve and we get to the stormwater synopsis, one of the things we talk about is developing an impervious surface data base which really looks at what are impervious surfaces and a by-product of that is going to be the impermeable and alternative ways of looking at these. Eventually we need to wrap our heads around the hard surfaces and what are softer surfaces. I don't think this is accomplishing that, maybe in the future but I think that the city might go in that direction in to educating them more. In fact the plan talks about doing educational outreach efforts in the community with homeowner associations and we can talk about this when we get to goals. It is a wonderful teaching technique. The Stormwater Management Strategic Plan talks about education and alternatives.

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

**a. Informational Item: Santa Fe River Fund Quarterly Report (Melissa McDonald)**

There are not a lot of changes; we haven't expended any money recently there is a balance of \$159,000, we have paid out all of our rain gardens, we are looking at utilizing the fee with grants so we can get money out of the money we have by applying for Hazard Mitigation funding through the state and using this money as a match. We will meet with the state to discuss if raingardens would qualify in the corridor. Also discussed is partnering to do the design. There will be a meeting in January with the Hazard Mitigation group and more information to follow in February 2019. We are also looking at a couple EPA grants where we could again partner up, we could have the money go further so we are using the money for some design and then we are doing the construction with funds that are matching.

One of the goals could be to promote the River Fund more, which would help. If we get grants that would help get the visibility up again they could see where there money is going and that it is used effectively.

This fund is currently being audited on the financial side, we will have a good assessment that it is working better or now when that audit is over.

**b. Informational Item: Santa Fe River Commission Terms**

All of the terms are up in February. We had discussed that one recommendation was that we would evaluate the goals and mission and present to the Mayor's office as to what we thought would be appropriate in terms of membership and also realigning our goals and mission. Ms. McDonald stated that what she would like to do; she distributed a job description that is being requested for all committee members. At this point staff will submit a job description and number of seats that we are looking for. The Mayor's office would like this document by next week. Instead of us reviewing, the job descriptions will be reviewed by the Mayor and City Manager, and they will make the decision on appointments. Ms. McDonald stated that the description has to be very concise. Everyone who is interested in staying on the River Commission should reapply. Ms. McDonald is writing a memo to the Mayor to explain that they have always wanted staggered appointments which didn't happen.

Mr. Buchser: Would there be any value in asking individuals if they want to be an alternate or primary member. If we are going to stagger terms, recalling there are 4-year terms maybe we suggest that they be 2 year terms and 4 year terms.

Ms. McDonald stated that they are 3 year terms and does not think that the staggering has to go through Council because they are appointed by the Mayor on length of term. Ms. McDonald can suggest the terms. She clarified that if those on the committee want to be an Alternate they should express that. They are calling for a letter of interest and this is where you can express what length of term you would like.

Mr. Buchser said if they are 3-year terms, we could suggest that he give three 1-year terms, three 2-year terms and three 3-year terms.

Mr. Patorni asked if members could serve on several commissions. He said he sees that there is the Land Use Commission and Land Use and Watershed is almost the same thing and should be together ideally. It would be nice to have the collaboration between Land Use and Watershed and he feels that the Land Use and River Commission should be combined.

Ms. McDonald does not know what the outcome of this idea but she knows that there is conversation regarding blending of commissions, we don't know at this time. Ms. McDonald referred to her handout where she makes mention of this committee wanting representation from Santa Fe County. The committee members talked about their residential significance, i.e., City and or County residency, can they serve on the River Commission? The Mayor has announced there will be news at the beginning of the New Year on different committees.

**c. Discussion Item: Aligning Mayor's Goals/Objective with the Commission (John Buchser) - Handout: Commission Goals**

(The Chair had previously sent out a letter recapping the Mayor's goals.)

Mr. Buchser talked about a meeting with Mayor and the Sierra Club regarding the water use study and the preferred alternative being piping water down to Buckman and getting water out of the San Juan Chama. He had two things that were important, 1) he said he would read both what was sent to the former Mayor Gonzales and he would read what the Sierra Club had sent as well. He said that we had picked city goals to meet future goals out of the pie and got this that the city has multiple sources and how do we meet future needs. If you could say I want to have whatever while I am here as Mayor, what would that be? If you have a vision of where you want to be by 2050, Mayor can help us work with that. What would be an impact of sending a quantity of water, over time you will have a lowered water table and it gets complicated. Mayor did not commit, he acknowledges the work that the Water Division has to do and we had an opportunity to look at short term and longer term. If we align in where we are headed in the longer term with things that he thinks can be done he can help us reach those goals. What happens on the river also affects everything else, urban planning and county planning. Zoe brought up some good points, if we want to continue as an entity we don't want to be poking at the water division saying they should do things different or that different but we need to be showing the rain gardens as a good example, something that is actually conceived.

The flow ordinance is something that has been accomplished. That thought of being more engaged in the community rather than coming here and commenting on things, I think that is what we shared.

Ms. McDonald said Zoe got very specific. She is recommending that we pick or set up a series of 4 educational workshops next summer or the fall, she had specific deadlines, February for one to get speakers. She volunteered to organize some of those speakers. Ms. McDonald said she was very specific on questions that she had. Her position was that the Mayor came and said we need you to education and train the community about scarcity, about ecological ramifications of this so that they understand when we are in drought cycles and why we are doing things. The Mayor did give us a clear message that he needs help educating this community. What I heard, the Mayor sees this committee as an arm of the city like educating people on very specific types of things. Zoe is interested in putting together 4 workshops, we have organizations existing like the Watershed Association or Friends of Santa Fe River to help coordinate and implement these workshops. This is the Chairs vision to see us be much more educationally oriented and accomplish some connections and awareness in the community. The Stormwater Management Plan also talks about educating the community.

Mr. Patorni suggested: When we talk about community, we might need to segment it by type of stakeholder; I remember a few years ago the Watershed Association did a workshop for religious leaders to promote in their congregations. Another group, business people might focus training differently. Policy and decision makers are at all levels and they need to know what water is all about.

Ms. Doremus said this is a very good approach. I remember a parallel effort on water issues coming out of NM Tech, do you remember the decision making conferences they had? They were excellent, they ran out of funding. We could bring all these different decision makers from the industry; definitely from the Legislature, NM Oil and Gas, NM Mining Association. They throw you in a bus together and they have you sit with someone you don't even know. They came out with a publication afterwards. In this case, doing tours of the Watershed with city and county leaders, business leaders and legislators, getting them all together. Approach this by making an effort with different groups of people, teachers, business, etc., and having forum in those categories and reach a broader group of people.

Ms. McDonald reiterated that the Mayor wants us to extend out to the broader community not just the politicians that need to be very clear. She would also see a focus on arroyos; we are trying to figure out how we assist homeowners associations to get things worked out. There are very basic things that the homeowners associations don't understand.

Alan Hook: We don't have control over the living river wants it by-passes once it's gone it is not in control of city staff. The Santa Fe Watershed has three personalities, it is one river but it is different in one part, the geology, storm flows, it is very different below Nichols all the way down below the Wastewater Treatment Plant, the treated effluent flows, the county ground water users, the Cienega's, the hydrology and the geo-hydrology coming from the ElDorado Basin is very different to the Cochiti. That is a great subject just in itself and people don't get that until you walk it or see it. The other is to circle around the Arroyo Chamiso and see the major arroyo



drainage that major impact on the city and county and how that was impacted during this monsoon event.

Ms. McDonald stated that over the next 5 years we are going to see a lot more emphasis on the Arroyos and figuring out how we meet the standards. FM has said numerous times, it is more than a river it is a Watershed that's the river and looking at the mission and when creating documents talk the Watershed. We always focus on just the river and we might want to look at our vision to see how we are going to grow our vision out from the river and starting to address this other entity that is going to become huge. We need to deal with these arroyo systems.

Ms McDonald integrated at this time the following:

She feels that the Chair might be looking for a sense from the group, are you resonating with this idea of pushing the educational component, do you like the idea of picking 4 times through the summer and the early fall to do this, and will this group commit to sending her information about speakers in a timely way. Ms. McDonald stated that the Chair would like to have announcements ready by April and the target for May.

Ms. Doremus stated that some of the ideas brought up within the committee are not quite in the framework that Ms. McDonald has described. That framework is assuming, as the framework just described is talking about a public meeting vs. some of the other ideas like focusing on categories, folks in the community and doing outreach on information that they may be interested in. It is a little more complex but maybe this is the start of a new process and once we get good at it we start targeting specifics. Ms. Doremus asked Ms. McDonald to take this information back to the Chair.

Mr. Patorni said that instead of targeting stakeholder groups they could target issues. The Mayor said he wanted to integrate the city and the county.

Mr. Sawyer said that in line with what the Mayor's priorities are and what our priorities are, having us be more present in the community is the most critical thing. We have talked about promoting the river fund for years and we should focus on that first, possibly pieces in different publications to promote and explain the river fund. Let people know it is there and what it can be used for.

Ms. Doremus said that it is a topic that needs to be discussed and then tag it on to the meetings or forums where we do a plug for the river fund.

Ms. McDonald said that she will communicate the update to the Chair and she would also be able to review the minutes and encouraged the committee members to communicate with her.

Mr. Hook: There might be plans to show where those that pass away donate their money to the river fund. Mr. Hook also feels that the bus tour concept is a very good way to get people engaged.

Ms. McDonald stated that this is a great suggestion to link to – stakeholder groups, wherever I can assist say with transportation I need time to figure it out.

Ms. Doremus offered to send the thoughts to Zoe and encouraged all members to send Zoe their thoughts.

Ms. McDonald said that the Stormwater Management Strategic Plan does talk about creating an external group. We are moving forward with an implementation plan and could work nicely with this body.

**d. Discussion Item: City/County River Commission (Anna Hansen, not present)**

Mr. Buchser stated that we might see something in the next couple of months.

Ms. McDonald distributed upcoming projects and will put out a bid for a repair past Ricardo Bridge before you get to Don Jose Loop; we are doing some repair there and starting that process. In the interim between when this was being planned and the storm happened the Engineering Company prepared a report about some of the damages on the Ricardo Bridge stretch. Know that this one report is going to start in the New Year; we are very close to putting out the bid. Other repairs are also going to happen in that stretch.

Ms. McDonald: Santa Fe River Flood Damage Assessment Report, Ricardo Road Pedestrian Bridge to Calle Don Jose, William J. Miller Engineers, Inc. The other company that is looking at the design is the original designer, Site Southwest. This is from Ricardo Bridge to Frenchy's.

Ms. Doremus: You have heard the numbers for the damage below Frenchy's

Ms. McDonald: They are re-doing it for \$480,000; there is a contingency in there.

Scott Kaseman wants to come to the River Commission meeting in January or February to provide an update. They want to plant in February or March. They talked about any information on living river flows would be appreciated. They are very keen in coordinating that with us and Alan and I work on that and we don't start until April because we don't have the data. It would be good to have him come and keep us informed.

Alan Hook stated information from an informative presentation where they said there was 80% change of El Nino. What is exciting to me is the potential all the way through March of precipitation because of El Nino, we all know meteorologist like to say things and then they differ.

Ms. McDonald stated that with all of these things it would be weather dependent. If we get a lot of moisture this winter which we want it may difficult to complete all of this construction.

John Buchser: Where is the money coming for the city portion?

Ms. McDonald: This is coming from storm water fee, it is not approved yet, we have to go out to bid and the contract needs to be approved by city council. This is information to let the committee know it will be moving through.

## **6. MATTERS FROM STAFF**

### **a. Informational Item: MS4 Annual Report (distributed)**

Ms. McDonald: Required that everyone is aware of the MS4 permit. It will be a different report in the future; this is a simple report on line for the EPA. The MS4 is the municipal separate stormwater sewer system. We are getting a new Watershed permit eventually. It will be a new permit that looks at all of our stormwater from where it falls in the watershed opposed to map type system, it is really watershed based. This is the intermediate step for committee members to review. As we engage more in this effort I certainly think that the River Commission could expand out to help us reach a larger group of people. We are hitting, water vs. map type system, this is the intermediate step. As we engage, River Commission can help to get the word out. Compiled by David Pike and Michelle and they reach out to other city entities and they formulate many of the questions.

Steve Schultz, Resident of Santa Fe. He is in the water business and is a resident of Santa Fe and is interested in finding what these committees do.

Ms. McDonald stated that all of the paperwork is on the website.

Mr. Patorni recommended viewing the website on sharing information on what everyone was doing about water.

### **b. Informational Item: DRAFT - Santa Fe Stormwater Management Strategic Plan Update**

Ms. McDonald talked about the packet she provided to the commission members, last page which is the short term implementation. I know you have been involved in the discussions of the storm water plan and in the last 6 months I have included information on the agenda and the last 2 months we have had the actual document. I encourage you to look at the document. Last sheet is what we are proposing and moving forward, doesn't have a packet ready to present as she is waiting for information from various consultants. In September the River Watershed and Trails presented to the City Council a summary of the plan. This is the slide that talks about the short term recommendations that we will be tackling in this implementation. The Public Works Committee asked us to go back and put together a proposal and move it forward for implementation. The three areas we are looking at are:

Funding, Asset Management and Organization

These are all in the strategic plan on the website. The first thing on the document you will see a checklist and she referred to a list of areas that we need to improve our program on. This is a short-term list. I encourage you to look at this as it will go to the council in the future. It falls in the three categories as mentioned above.

We are calling it Funding, Asset Management, Team Building. The key thing you need to understand is that we have a lot more responsibilities with this new permit, we also have some major storm damages that need to be repaired. We have gotten behind on somethings so part of this implementation strategy is

going to look at how, why and where we might raise funds and part of that is probably going to be through increased stormwater fee. People will get more interested in watershed when they know we are going to increase stormwater fees. Melissa explained and pointed out from the handout where the program is funded. We are looking at the stormwater fee, the living river fund, general fund and debt financing. We are also looking at doing some bonding and we would bond against the stormwater fee. It would not go out to the voters; we are going to use the fee to leverage it for more money. That is the good news, we are not asking people for money up front and it has to go to Council. Also are looking at expanding grants, looking at the Hazard Mitigation money, talking to the Water Division on the water revolving fund and the EPA, we will need to use everything in the funding mix. There had been some conversation about turning stormwater in to a utility that is a further out goal.

The other thing important to note in this implementation is asset management. Watershed is documenting the rain gardens and Ms. McDonald referred to the map in the packet on all of the assets that they need to collect. There is a lot of data; new permit will require us to be much more compliant with asset management. All the red is what we are going to be doing and why we are looking at the funding mixtures. We don't have enough money in our stormwater fee to do this type of asset management. We are working with the IT division of the city and NGIS to make sure that we have that accessible. All of this information is on our division website. The model we created is very interesting and all the maps have been sent to the River Commission members, you can start to see where our problem areas are from these maps. At the Council request, we were asked to bring this model up to date with the storm events as this was completed before the storms happened.

One of the things that came out of this plan and I think is going to help us well, and will help us with our MS4 is that we have a very decentralized system of stormwater and that actually is what you want. We need to come up with a thread that is going to link all of this together. We have stormwater located in a lot of places in the city and that is good, one of the big pushes is how are we coordinating amongst each other and communicating to the community. We do have a lot of storm water impacts and measures.

Ms. McDonald will provide more information under different presentations in the future.

In the document there is a CIP list that is being developed from the model. A link has been sent to the commissioners, is under Section E Stakeholder.

**c. Action Item: Collection of City of Santa Fe Ethics Packets**

Ms. McDonald asked the Commissioners to turn in Ethics Packets for the City Clerk.

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

**None**

## 8. MATTERS FROM COMMISSIONERS

Dale Doremus: There is a lot going on with Waters of the US nationally it is likely to impact the river. At some point in the spring we could invite Shellie Lemon from the Water Surface Quality Bureau to come talk to us about what is going on, what are the thoughts on how it will impact the Santa Fe River, it is a big deal.

Ms. McDonald will follow up on this great suggestion.

It was suggested that the committee members read the rule and prepare their comments, there are 60 days. Ms. McDonald will send out information on this immediate issue. Is anyone interested in writing a letter to encourage people to do this? A letter to the Editor from the River Commission was suggested asking the citizenry to read and comment. Ms. McDonald will check on the process. Ms. Doremus asked her fellow commissioners to comment individually. If we are using the River Commission we should go through the process, read the rule and comment which is not putting the city in any position. Mr. Buchser said someone could write a draft for the Mayor to review and approve. Alan Hook suggested if the River Commission moves this up to the Mayor he would welcome the opportunity to supply any information needed. If this body wants to write something and bring it to the next meeting, send it to either Mr. Buchser or the Chair. Mr. Buchser said he would like to bring it to the Mayor and Council since they can comment publicly. Ms. McDonald said a short fact sheet to the Mayor and Council would be helpful. Start date was Tuesday of this week: December 11<sup>th</sup> and 60 days to follow.

Next month:

Lee Schutter graduate student that is looking at the living river to see if it is replicable in other places. He has talked to Ms. McDonald and Mr. Hook, he will be here at the January 10<sup>th</sup> meeting, he would like to interview, Zoe and JB agreed that he could address the commission, he will be here for 4 days and extended conversation could take place.

Alex Puglisi


Scott Kaseman – February


Make suggestions on allocating time.

## 9. ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the River Commission the River Commission meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.

## SIGNATURE PAGE:

  
John Buchser, Acting Chair  
Zoe Imeson

  
Fran Lucero, Stenographer