



Agenda

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WATER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING

CITY HALL - 200 LINCOLN AVE.

CITY COUNCILORS' CONFERENCE ROOM

TUESDAY, APRIL 12, 2011

4:00 PM TO 6:00 PM

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. ROLL CALL
3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES DECEMBER 14, 2010 WATER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING (January 11, and February 8, meeting cancelled, March 8, no quorum)
5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES MARCH 8, 2011 WATER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

6. Request for approval of Ordinance No. 2011-_____. Amending rule no. 10 of exhibit A of Chapter 25 SFCC 1987 regarding responsibility for water service equipment. (Brian Snyder) (Councilor Bushee and Councilor Calvert)

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

7. Summary and recommendations of analysis and critique of the Water Conservation portion of the Sustainable Santa Fe Plan. (D.H. Strongheart)
8. Review of updated Web site and Santa Fe's Water Budget Calculator. (Daniel Ransom)

MATTERS FROM STAFF:

MATTERS FROM THE COMMITTEE:

ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA – TUESDAY, MAY 10, 2011:

ADJOURN.

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

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Tuesday, April 12, 2011

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**MINUTES OF THE
CITY OF SANTA FE
WATER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE
Tuesday, April 12, 2011
4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.**

1. CALL TO ORDER.

A meeting of the Water Conservation Committee was called to order by Vice Chair Melissa McDonald, Vice-Chair, at approximately 4:00 p.m., on April 12, 2011, in the City Council Conference Room, City Hall, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

2. ROLL CALL

Roll call indicated the presence of a quorum as follows:

MEMBERS PRESENT

Councilor Christopher Calvert, Chair
Melissa McDonald, Vice-Chair
Mitch Davenport
Lisa Knouse
Giselle Piburn
Doug Pushard
Karyn Schmitt
D.H. Strongheart
Stephen K. Wiman

MEMBERS EXCUSED

Reese Baker
Grace Perez

OTHERS ATTENDING

Dan Ransom, Water Division
Laurie Trevizo, Water Division
Melissa Byers, City Attorney's Office
Melessia Helberg, Stenographer

There was a quorum of the membership in attendance.

Mr. Ransom asked everyone to introduce themselves

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: Doug Pushard moved, seconded by Stephen Wiman, to approve the Agenda as published.

VOTE: The motion was approved unanimously on a voice vote.

4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: DECEMBER 14, 2010, WATER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING (January 11 and February 8 meeting canceled, March 8 no quorum)

MOTION: Mitch Davenport moved, seconded by Doug Pushard, to approve the minutes of the meeting of the Water Conservation Committee on December 14, 2010, as presented.

VOTE: The motion was approved unanimously on a voice vote.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES MARCH 8, 2011 WATER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING.

MOTION: Doug Pushard moved, seconded by Lisa Knouse, to approve the minutes of the meeting of the Water Conservation Committee on March 8, 2011, as presented.

VOTE: The motion was approved unanimously on a voice vote.

Vice-Chair McDonald said since Chair Calvert hasn't arrived, she would like to start with Informational Items at this time.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

7. SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATION OF ANALYSIS AND CRITIQUE OF THE WATER CONSERVATION PORTION OF THE SUSTAINABLE SANTA FE PLAN. (D.H. STRONGHEART)

Mr. Strongheart said the report is the result of a class he took at the Community College, working with Richard Jennings, learning about how water conservation happens in Santa Fe. Mr. Strongheart said the report was a required academic exercise. He said at the last meeting Councilor Calvert said, "It helps to bring forward ideas or a framework or a list to start discussions. If you're relying on City staff to do all these things, get in line and maybe some day it will happen." He understands this and some of the points in the report addresses this. He said 4 young students did this report and wanted to share it with this Committee.

Mr. Strongheart reviewed the report which is in the Committee packet. Please see this document for specifics of this presentation. Mr. Strongheart said he is very interested in what has been, and will be, done regarding their recommendations, as well as any misconceptions the Committee sees in the report.

The Committee commented, made suggestions and asked questions as follows:

Section 2.10 Advance an official proclamation to be signed by the Mayor and members of the City Council, which declares the sustainable management of freshwater resources as one of the highest priorities for Santa Fe's long-term future

- Mr. Ransom said there are efforts to preserve the River and the Watershed. The Buckman Direct Diversion is coming on line which will help us to become more sustainable.

Section 2.09 Focus on participatory approaches to water conservation

- Mr. Pushard asked if he has specific ideas, noting this basically involve having a meeting in a high-profile place.

Mr. Strongheart said this ties into Section 2.7 to bring things more into the public sphere to help with the cultural identity of Santa Fe, such as a Water Week. He said he thinks a volunteer water conservation corps would be a good idea where citizens can do certain tasks and volunteer to do those for 12 hours a week. He doesn't know if there are barriers in doing this.
- Mr. Ransom said the barriers would be overseeing such a project, although he would welcome volunteers. He agrees that we should have a Water Week noting we held a Water Fair last year which was very successful and he would like to continue doing that.
- Vice-Chair McDonald said the idea of forming volunteer corps is an interesting idea to pursue, focusing on water conservation, and not just drainage, but earth care as well. She said funding would be needed to oversee such a program properly.
- Mr. Davenport said he went to a couple of Habitat for Humanity projects, which are wonderful and completely staffed by volunteers. However, he said from the view of private sector construction it was chaos. He said there was a paid person who oversaw the project, but it was a full time job to keep them organized and focused. He said a volunteer program is hugely management-intensive. He does like the idea of a volunteer corps, but is concerned about the management, and issues of safety, and keeping the group working and focused.
- Mr. Ransom said currently he is working with the schools on the Water Fiesta. He is working to get the kids involved in some of the presentations, and it works well because teachers are overseeing their volunteers and the students. He said a volunteer corps would work well in these kinds of projects.
- Mr. Pushard said one way to do this is to partner with another organization, such as EarthWorks, which has volunteers, actually does projects and give them projects their volunteers can do. .

- Ms. McDonald suggested we could research grants. It would be good to go to the organization with grant funds, and get them to continue looking for grants. She said there are grants available. She said if there isn't money on the front end, organizations such as EarthWorks, YouthWorks, etc., have a lot of work and don't have the time to do additional things..
- Mr. Pushard said these organizations would be more receptive if we could bring publicity to their efforts. He said they already have funds and volunteers, but need publicity.
- Mr. Pushard said we could choose an event and see if we can get it to happen.
- Vice-Chair McDonald said there needs to be a management person to coordinate volunteers, noting we first have to develop what a water conservation volunteer corps would look like.
- Mr. Pushard said that would be work in itself. He is thinking we should pick one event and see if we can make it happen.
- Ms. Knouse said in working with volunteers you have to have really defined tasks and something to do for the volunteers – people need a specific commitment.
- Ms. Trevizo said the program at the Community College in which Mr. Strongheart is involved, might be the place to develop it. She said students must do an internship/professional project as a part of receiving their certificate, so there is an incentive built in. She said they need something to do. She said the County identified a series of interns to come in and do some water conservation, water energy, and those kinds of things for the County. She said it is only necessary to give the intern a defined task.
- Vice-Chair McDonald agrees that we need to have some things defined and something in writing, with ideas fleshed out so we can go to the appropriate organization and be sure it is a good fit. She said we really need to think about what we're trying to do and who would be a good fit, and then approach them.
- Mr. Wiman said it sounds as if you're talking about hands on projects as opposed to educational projects.
- Mr. Strongheart said he is talking generally about a participatory approach, and after that recognition is in place and the energy is in place, then appropriate projects can be identified.
- Vice-Chair McDonald said it would be good to have volunteers who are well versed on what the City and County are going to do. She said many times volunteers are willing to go to events and man the tables, or in the Water Conservation Office, to give out literature.
- Mr. Strongheart said the Calavera Coalition does free workshops for river restoration and they seem to get a lot of people to attend.

- Vice-Chair McDonald asked if we want to put this on the next agenda.
- Mr. Davenport asked if we are reviewing this report – what are we doing here..
- Mr. Strongheart said he is just presenting his report.
- Mr. Davenport said then the idea is to see if there are any ideas which we could incorporate into a plan which would lead us to volunteer participatory programs.
- Mr. Strongheart said first and foremost it is a critique of the Sustainable Santa Fe Plan.

Section 2.08 Explore innovative financial mechanisms that can help to pay for ambitious future water conservation measures.

- Mr. Davenport said there currently is a brouhaha over the proposed property tax increase, and he can imagine the “storm this would brew up.”
- Mr. Ransom said the first thing to do would be to change “tax” to “fee.”
- Mr. Davenport said in a sense you are penalizing the retail source and raising their prices.
- Vice-Chair McDonald said the bigger barrier would be that the nurseries already feel they've taken a big hit, and are already struggling, noting they don't feel supported by the City at all.
- Mr. Pushard asked the reason the nurseries don't feel supported.
- Ms. Schmitt gave a brief history of the City's relationship with nurseries and landscapers, which began during the previous drought, and the feeling they were targeted by the restrictions which were very damaging to them.
- Vice-Chair McDonald said the water rates were an issue, including the difference between City and County rates. She would like to make them a part of what we're doing, and believes they would be willing to be involved. She said there has been a lot of change in nursery markets and a lot of education about low water plants.
- Mr. Davenport suggested using this “army of volunteers” to go into the community and get people to contribute. He said taxing people for this program, especially in this format, is bad policy.
- Mr. Strongheart said he believes a place has to learn to live within its means, and he believes in climate change science. He said one of the consistent things in the modeling is that in the Southwest we will be receiving even less water. He said, from a long term perspective, he doesn't believe it's too unreasonable to tell citizens there are certain things we can't plan because of water.

- Mr. Davenport agreed, saying he thought the idea was to collect money.
- Mr. Strongheart said, for example, the proposal to fund energy projects is to tax gasoline, and hopefully, over the long run will transfer into a new paradigm.
- Mr. Davenport said then this isn't about raising money, it is kind of a veiled policy, and believes we should be more transparent.
- Ms. Schmitt said she read in the newspaper today that there is \$155,000 in the River Fund, from contributions of people through their water bill which the City has matched. Apparently, the City is running into legal difficulties in how to use their funds. She said there is support for a fee of some kind which would go for watershed support and maintenance. She said all of these kinds of things should be transparent. She said the bottom line is some people can pay more than others to help in water conservation.

Chair Calvert arrived at the meeting

Section 2.07 Focus public outreach and education efforts on public sphere initiatives, and examine ways that water conservation can be infused into the cultural identity and cultural heritage of Santa Fe and its citizens.

No Committee comment.

Section 2.06 Emphasize water conservation leadership in business, industrial and municipal operations, with particular emphasis on the latter. Report municipal water consumption as a separate sector in future Annual Water Reports.

No Committee comment.

Section 2.05 Increase collaboration and information sharing between the Santa Fe Water Conservation Committee (SFWCC), the Santa Fe Water Conservation Office (SFWCO) and the Sustainable Santa Fe Commission (SSFC) and elect a member of the SFWCC to attend the meetings of the SSFC.

- Mr. Strongheart said this recommendation is based on their conversations with Doug Pushard and Dan Ransom.

Section 2.04 Increase multi-stakeholder collaboration between the water conservation efforts at the municipal level and experts at the state, federal and international level, including national and international NGOs (Non-Governmental Organizations)

See comments under Section 2.03

Section 2.03 Help to create a global network among cities that are vulnerable to climate change in many of the same ways as Santa Fe, as a basis to share best practices, effective innovations and lessons learned.

- Mr. Strongheart asked if there are existing collaborations with other municipalities.
- Vice-Chair McDonald said this is an interesting idea, noting there are similar situations in Austin and Tucson, and Mr. Pushard has been good to share information he is gathering for a report with this Committee, noting other members have brought things. However, there are no such formal relationships.
- Mr. Ransom said Las Cruces just started one recently.
- Mr. Pushard said Austin and Tucson have collaborations.
- Mr. Wiman asked about other water challenged cities in the Southwest.
- The committee suggested Phoenix and southern California, Boulder.
- Mr. Strongheart said international cities might have some good ideas for collaboration.
- Mr. Wiman said the sister cities aren't thinking about climate change, but about growth, and it's hard to get "your arms around them." He said people aren't thinking about the long term, and are talking about surviving in the short term. He doesn't know how to bridge that gap. He likes the ideas of having sister cities to do that – talk about conservation.
- Mr. Pushard said we could take one of our Committee meetings and try to do a webinar with other cities and sharing ideas about what and does not work. He said it would be easy to do one and see if there is interest in doing something like this.
- Vice-Chair McDonald said we could ask other places to present what they are doing, and we could present what we're going – outline what we're doing and ask for feedback.

Section 2.02 Prepare a plan providing an in-depth examination of the probable and potential impacts of climate change in New Mexico. Include a clear guide for policy makers regarding how these considerations can inform the development of laws, ordinances and regulations.

No Committee comment

Section 2.01 Work to include the long-term projections of global climate change – such as those presented by the International Panel on Climate Change – in the strategies for long-range water resource management in Santa Fe.

- Mr. Strongheart said at the last meeting, Councilor Calvert presented a Resolution to adjust the Long Range Water Plan to include this.

Wrap-up Discussion

- Mr. Strongheart said there are a lot of realities they didn't know when doing the report, noting this is an academic abstract, and it is good to learn about these and to discuss them.
 - Mr. Pushard said Mr. Strongheart talked about climate change and less water to the Southwest. He asked if Richard Jennings include anything about it in his classes. He said our problem will be much different than what we have now, we will have warmer weather and more rain, more flood.
 - Mr. Strongheart said most climate change models predict a change in the quality and quantity of precipitation. He said Mr. Jennings didn't deal with this issue very much.
 - Mr. Pushard said what happens in Santa Fe will be different from what happens in the rest of the Southwest.
 - Mr. Strongheart said the models for the Southwest predict a 20% reduction in quantity of water and more rain, less snow. Less storms, but storms of more severity.
 - Mr. Pushard pointed out that the Southwest is a big area, and he has gone to presentations on Northern New Mexico and Southern Colorado. The models aren't predicting less precipitation, but are predicting more severe storms. He said Mr. Strongheart's assumption is that there will be less water. He agrees with him about the Southwest, but not this area.
- Mr. Strongheart said a lot has been done on observation, and they haven't been able to get resolution pictures. He said Mr. Pushard may be speaking about models for a specific area.
- Mr. Pushard said Aspen paid for this subset study of this region, with data to be cut specifically for us, and it comes down into northern New Mexico. He said he agrees with Mr. Strongheart that that would be the prediction for Albuquerque.
 - Mr. Davenport asked, now that we have reviewed the report, if there is some action the Committee needs to take today, or is this just a review.
 - Mr. Ransom said this is an informational item, but if it gives you ideas you want to pursue you can do that.

- Chair Calvert this was at a certain level, and if you want to take it a step further and develop actions steps it can be pursued further. He said these are suggestions at a high level, and if the Committee has ideas, we would need to develop more specific action as follow up.
- Vice-Chair McDonald said she would like the Committee to revisit the idea of getting the Community College to develop a class on irrigation with regional focus. She said she liked a lot of what was in the Landscape Irrigation Design Standards, but she would like to make it more regional. She said there is a lot which can be developed in terms of educating people, which could tie into the volunteer corps idea.
- Mr. Ransom said he is working on the class, and will report back when there is more progress.
- Mr. Davenport asked if it would be feasible to train kids as volunteers on simple water irrigation – how to read a meter, how to water a specific plant, and have them to go into the neighborhoods, knock on doors and ask people if they would like advice on how to conserve water.
- Vice-Chair McDonald said that “opens a whole can of worms in terms of the City’s liability.” She doesn’t like her kid going door to door.
- Chair Calvert said there are systems, such as on energy conservation, neighborhood groups, which form around a group with expertise, at the most fundamental level, which also is a training. He said they work on a person’s house, and then move to the next and the next, and you get more people trained. He said something like that might work, if you could find the low hanging fruit that anybody could do, but doesn’t know if that would be translatable.
- Mr. Davenport said high school kids are building houses with Habitat for Humanity, with supervision, so they can do things if they have supervision. He said Habitat somehow assumes the liability.
- Vice-Chair McDonald said that’s different because it’s a non-profit, and the reason these entities are perfect for this kind of program. She believes there is an opportunity to combine some of these things and do some important work in educating the community, getting energy around it and get some grant funds to help jump-start this, and the non-profit can then “run with it.”
- Chair Calvert said currently, money is tight, and if you get things accomplished with volunteers, “people helping people,” that is particularly attractive right now, but there won’t be funds to start these programs. He said, “As much as people can take it on themselves, and you could have it sustainable by volunteers, and it doesn’t even have to be a non-profit. Some of these energy ones start with neighborhoods, and get the people together with someone who has expertise, and they pull the group together, train them on what to do, and you just move from house to house and so does the work force.”

Chair Calvert said we can put this on a future agenda for discussion about 30 minutes.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

6. REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF ORDINANCE NO. 2011- _____. AMENDING RULE NO. 10 OF EXHIBIT A OF CHAPTER 25 SFCC 1987, REGARDING RESPONSIBILITY FOR WATER SERVICE EQUIPMENT (COUNCILOR BUSHEE AND COUNCILOR CALVERT). (BRIAN SNYDER)

Ms. Schmitt said this appears to be a fairly decent compromise to some of the things we discussed last meeting. She said we discussed that we would include irrigators or contractors, and asked if that was "shot down" in Committee.

Mr. Pushard would like on line 6, page 2, to include "customer or customer's representative, or plumber licensed to do work in the City." That way it would be a representative of the customer.

Chair Calvert asked if contractor is a better word than plumber.

Mr. Pushard said yes, because plumber is very specific.

Chair Calvert said it won't make a lot of difference in the implementation because you are letting the customer or the customer's "whatever" have access to the water meter. He said you can you can choose whatever terminology you would like.

Ms. Schmitt said the way it's phrased if the customer or the customer plumber isn't there, they don't fall under the definition.

Chair Calvert said customer leaves it fairly wide open.

Vice-Chair McDonald asked if the Committee likes contractor or licensed professional or licensed with the City.

Chair Calvert said "licensed to work in the City" is already included.

Vice-Chair McDonald suggested we say customer or customer's contractor.

Mr. Davenport said if you use contractor, then you're talking about everything.

Vice-Chair McDonald suggested plumber, contractor or designee.

Chair Calvert said you have to clarify with punctuation what "licensed to work in the City" refers to.

Mr. Davenport said we seem to be comfortable with the idea that someone who is not licensed can do that work, and suggested "the customer or the customer's representative," and leave "licensed" out.

Mr. Pushard said he is okay with "licensed," because they're paying the City. He said the comma needs to be eliminated after plumber.

Chair Calvert said we need a comma after customer, and remove the comma after plumber.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT: The Committee proposed to amend beginning on line 5, page 2, as follows: "... the customer or the customer's representative plumber, licensed to work in the City..."

PROPOSED AMENDMENT: Chair Calvert would like to amend the Ordinance to provide for a one-year review of the Ordinance, so we can see how this is working.

Mr. Pushard asked how that works, is it automatically put on the calendar for review in a year, and Chair Calvert said yes, they are trying to make sure this happens, that is the intent.

Mr. Davenport asked, regarding 3(a) on page 2, if this means he can go out and turn off his water service any time he likes, and Chair Calvert said yes.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT: The Committee proposed to amend line 13 on page 2, as follows: "Prior to shutting off water service at the meter, ~~the customer or the customer's plumber shall contact the City's Water Division~~ the City Water Division shall be contacted."

Ms. Schmitt asked what happens if there is no water shutoff available on customer's property, and it is the interior shut off valve that is leaking or there is a leak between the shut-off valve and the meter. She said if there is a functional shut off you won't be going to the meter.

Vice-Chair McDonald said she doesn't believe this will be an issue, and would like to keep this simple and not make it more complex.

Vice-Chair McDonald said the intent to make everywhere "in the document simplified except for the first time when we say 'customer's representative,' and we're just going to delete it in all the other paragraphs.

[Too many people talking at the same time here to transcribe]

Chair Calvert said education will need to be done in terms of 3(a), because, for example, if the home is new, there are alternatives to shutting off water at the meter – turn off the shut-off valve at the water heater. He said this is the reason for the paragraph and the reason to request education of the customer.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT: Mr. Pushard proposed further amendment to page 2, line 12, as follows: "Prior to shutting off water service at the meter, ~~the customer or the customer's plumber shall contact the City's Water Division~~ the City Water Division shall be contacted After turning the water service back on, ~~the customer or the customer's plumber shall again contact the City's water division~~ the City Water Division shall be contacted again."

Chair Calvert said his concern is how we will enforce this Ordinance, noting people already are getting in the meter can, and what will make them call the City after they have done that.

Mr. Pushard agrees, but this acknowledges the current situation.

Chair Calvert said there could be consequences, but only if they notify the City.

Chair Calvert asked Mr. Ortega if the new meter-reading system was more hearty than this one, and withstand "unsophisticated monkeying-around" better than the current meter, and Mr. Ortega said he thinks so.

Mr. Ransom said it is, because it is incorporated into the register itself instead of being on top of the meter. Mr. Ransom said there will be pilot project to test these meters.

Chair Calvert said Mr. Ortega said City Legal is involved in enforcing the contract with the current meters, and replacing those.

Responding to Ms. Schmitt, Chair Calvert said it will now go to the Finance Committee and the City Council.

MOTION: Karyn Schmitt moved, seconded by Michelle Piburn, to approve this ordinance, as amended, with the amendments proposed by this Committee.

VOTE: The motion was approved unanimously on a voice vote.

**8. REVIEW OF UPDATED WEB SITE AND SANTA FE'S WATER BUDGET CALCULATOR.
(DANIEL RANSOM)**

Mr. Ransom would like feedback on the website to see if it makes sense, noting it still is in the trial phase. His intent was to make it user-friendly and very simple to use.

Mr. Ransom walked the Committee through the website, via power point, noting the changes, and asking members to send him any information which needs to be at the website which isn't included.

Vice-Chair McDonald said the OSE just launched a great plant list, an interactive data base, and would like that link to be prominently shown.

Mr. Ransom reviewed the Landscape/Indoor Water Budget Calculator at the website via power point, noting this to help people get an idea of their water use.

Vice-Chair McDonald suggested Committee members send their suggestions via email to Mr. Ransom.

9. MATTERS FROM STAFF

There were no matters from staff.

10. MATTERS FROM THE COMMITTEE

There were no matters from the Committee

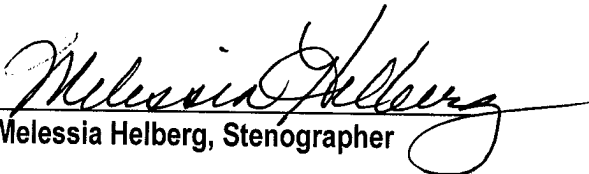
11. ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA – TUESDAY, MAY 10, 2011:

Discussion of a water conservation volunteer corps.

12. ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Committee, and the Committee, having completed its agenda, adjourned the meeting at approximately 6:00 p.m.

Christopher Calvert, Chair



Melessia Helberg, Stenographer