

Regular Meeting of the Santa Fe River Commission
August 14, 2025 at 6:00 PM
City of Santa Fe Transit Center, Room #117
2931 Rufina St., Santa Fe
MINUTES

1. Call to Order

The Regular Meeting of the Santa Fe River Commission was called to order by chair Bill Carey at 6:02 PM, on Thursday, August 14, 2025, 2931 Rufina St, Santa Fe, NM 87507.

2. Roll Call

Roll Call was taken by Staff Liaison, Zoe Isaacson. All Commissioners were present, except for Jacob Lyon. In attendance were City of Santa Fe Water Division Staff Alan Hook and William Schneider, Public Works Staff, Daniel Alt and Claire Jordy, and members of the public.

3. Approval of Agenda

MOTION A motion was made by Klingel, seconded by Hutchinson, to Approve.

VOTE The motion Passed on a roll call vote.

4. Approval of Minutes

a. Approval of the July 12, 2025, Meeting Minutes

Approval of the previous meeting's minutes was postponed due to an agenda error and will be addressed at the next meeting on October 9, 2025.

5. Communications from Other Agencies/Committees

a. Santa Fe Watershed Association Adopt Programs Update (Mori Hensley, Executive Director Santa Fe Watershed Association, Mori@santafewatershed.org)

Mori Hensley was unable to attend the meeting. Amara May and Jaclynn Behringer from the Santa Fe Watershed Association (SFWA) reported significant growth in its Adopt Program, with 135 reaches maintained by 1,815 volunteers, resulting in 2,400 service hours and 337 bags of trash removed.

A cleanup hosted by the River Commission yielded 17 bags of trash and seven piles of green waste, with ongoing challenges related to invasive Siberian elm management.

SFWA also announced the upcoming Confluence Santa Fe event in September.

In addition, the Association and City Park Rangers presented their new Junior Ranger Booklet initiative, funded by the Que Linda grant, which will provide interactive environmental education for children ages 5-12 through booklets, badges, and school presentations.

6. Informational Items

- a. Return Flow Pipeline Project William Schneider (Water Resource Conservation Manager, whschneider@santafenm.gov)

William Schneider from Public Utilities, provided an update on the Return Flow Pipeline Project, which aims to strengthen Santa Fe's water supply by fully utilizing San Juan Chama water and securing return flow credits. The project design is 75% complete, permits have been secured, and environmental assessments are underway, with a public comment period anticipated in fall 2025.

Schneider highlighted the benefits of the project, including the creation of a fifth water supply source, reduced groundwater pumping, and a drought reserve in local aquifers. Discussion focused on the feasibility of alternatives such as direct potable reuse, risks from emerging contaminants like PFAS, and projected impacts on Santa Fe River flows, which may see reductions but are not expected to dry completely.

7. Discussion and Action Items

MOTION A motion was made by Klingel, seconded by Jackson, to amend the agenda and swap items 9 and 8 in the order of discussion.

VOTE The motion Passed on a roll call vote.

8. Matters from Staff

- a. Two Mile Pond Resolution Update Zoe Isaacson (Staff Liaison zrisaacson@santafenm.gov)

Staff liaison Zoe Isaacson updated the Commission on the draft Two Mile Pond Resolution currently moving through City Council. She clarified that references to a "free-flowing river" are not meant to preclude the possibility of maintaining a pond, but rather to ensure all options remain open. The City's priorities include recognizing cultural significance, maintaining safe flood conveyance, and engaging the community in determining the best long-term outcome. The River Commission will have opportunities to provide input through committee and Council review.

- b. 2025 River Talks Schedule (Claire Jordy, River and Watershed Project Manager csjordy@santafenm.gov)

River and Watershed Project Manager Claire Jordy presented the 2025 River Talks schedule, noting several events are planned, with more details forthcoming.

9. Matters from the Public

- a. Two Mile Pond White Paper (Tom [Willmoth Canyon Road Neighborhood Association, tom@bwjlawgroup.com](mailto:tom@bwjlawgroup.com))

Community member Tom Willmoth, representing the Canyon Road Neighborhood, presented a white paper in support of retaining Two Mile Pond as a community and ecological asset. He cited benefits such as wildlife habitat, flood mitigation, and

alignment with resiliency goals, while also acknowledging current challenges including shrinking pond size, mosquito breeding, and outdated flood studies. Willmoth proposed that the resolution include language requiring evaluation of a sustainable two-acre pond option. Additional comments raised questions about flood modeling, dam removal, and the cultural significance of the site, highlighting the need for further study before decisions are finalized.

10. Matters from the Commission

- a. Subcommittee Break-Out Session (Bill Carey, SF River Commission Chair, billcarey.tellus@gmail.com)

Due to time constraints, the planned subcommittee breakout session was not conducted. Commissioners expressed continued interest in being engaged with the Two Mile Pond discussions as they progress.

11. Next Meeting:

October 9th, 2025

12. Adjourn

Adjourn at 8:11 pm

Zoe Isaacson, Staff Liaison

Attested To By:

Bill Carey, Santa Fe River Commission Chair