

Regular Meeting of the Santa Fe River Commission
February 12, 2026 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 Commissioner Jim Reister at 6:01 PM, on Thursday, February 12 , 2026, 2931 Rufina St, Santa Fe, NM 87507.

2. Roll Call

Roll Call was taken by Staff Liaison, Zoe Isaacson. Chair Bill Carey had an excused absence. All other Commissioners were present. Commissioner Klingel attended through Zoom. In attendance were City of Santa Fe Water Division Staff Alan Hook and Levi Newell, Public Works Staff, Daniel Alt and Claire Jordy, and members of the public.

3. Approval of Agenda

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

VOTE The motion on a roll call vote.

4. Approval of Minutes

- a. Approval of the December 11th, 2025 Meeting Minutes

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

VOTE The motion on a roll call vote.

5. Communications from Other Agencies/Committees

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

Mori Hensley from The Santa Fe Watershed Association announced its upcoming Love Your Watershed Day on May 2 and invited River Commission participation.

6. Informational Items

- a. Cerro Gordo Culvert Design and Flood Study Scope of Work (Zoe Isaacson, Staff Liaison, zisaacson@santafenm.gov)

Zoe Isaacson provided an update on the Cerro Gordo Culvert Design and Flood Study, noting the finalized scope of work has been sent to three on-call consultants (WSP, AECOM, and BHI) with proposals due February 20, funded through a FEMA grant.

7. Discussion and Action Items

- a. Two Mile Pond Year Two Monitoring Results and Conclusions (Steve Finch, PG, Principal Hydrogeologist- Geochemist, John Shomaker & Associates, Inc., sfinch@shomaker.com)

The primary presentation focused on the Two Mile Pond Year Two Monitoring Results. Data collected from 2024–2025 showed stable riparian conditions ranked Good to Excellent, continuous system flow averaging approximately 0.34 cfs, and significant vegetation change due to cattail encroachment. Climate variability, including drought and flooding conditions, influenced flows, and findings indicated roughly 50% of inflow may originate from Santa Fe River seepage upstream of the Old Stone Dam. Low dissolved oxygen levels within the pond complex were attributed to groundwater dominance and high organic matter. Reports will be posted on the River & Watershed website.

- b. Junior Ranger Booklet Update (Daniel Alt, Project Specialist, Dralt@santafenm.gov)

An update on the Junior Ranger Booklet project was provided, with Dan Alt stepping in to assist following staff transitions. The 14-page, full-color booklet will feature nine City parks and focus on engaging youth in learning about local ecosystems. Commissioners provided suggestions on wildlife highlights, park inclusion, and interpretive opportunities.

8. Matters from Staff

Staff updates included Water Division projections showing below-average snowpack (approximately 42% of typical yield), anticipated reduced flows for the upcoming water year, and continued Nichols Dam restoration work.

9. Matters from the Public

10. Matters from the Commission

- a. Subcommittee Breakout Session (Zoe Isaacson, Staff Liaison, zrisaacson@santafenm.gov)

Subcommittees reported progress on education and erosion control efforts.

- The Education Subcommittee is mapping trash can locations along the trail and completing an inventory and gap analysis of interpretive signs between Two Mile and San Isidro. Potential themes include the Living River concept, native plants, and cultural history. Preliminary grant research and cost estimates have been shared with staff.

- The Erosion Control Subcommittee is coordinating a workshop with Southwest Urban Hydrology, tentatively planned for late March, and is working with the Santa Fe Watershed Association to ensure trained volunteers assist with river

stewardship efforts.

- b. Open Discussion Regarding the Pursuit of Possible Grants For Interpretive Signs Along the River. (Zoe Isaacson, Staff Liaison, zisaacson@santafenm.gov)

The Commission discussed ongoing and future interpretive signage efforts along the Santa Fe River. Educational trash can wraps, funded through the Que Linda Grant, are expected to be installed by June 30 and will include messaging on dog waste, MS4, and native plant species (in English and Spanish). The Commission expressed interest in pursuing additional grants for permanent interpretive signage, with the City submitting applications and the Commission assisting with drafting. Examples of successful signage, such as those at the Santa Fe Canyon Preserve, were noted as potential models. Further collaboration with the County may follow installation of the initial signage elements.

11. Next Meeting:

The commission discussed the next regularly scheduled meeting that will be held on April 9th 2026.

12. Adjourn

Adjourn at 7:54 pm

Zoe Isaacson, Staff Liaison

Attested To By:

Bill Carey, Santa Fe River Commission Chair