



MINUTES

SANTA FE RIVER
COMMISSION
MAY 02, 2024
6:00 PM
VIRTUAL MEETING

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

2. **ROLL CALL**

Members Present:

Member Phil Bove
Chair Heidi Klingel
Santa Fe County Commissioner Anna Hansen
Voting Member Patrick Smyth
Voting Member Jacob Lyon

Members Excused:

Member Vanessa Springer
Member Emile Sawyer
Member Rachel Kullman
Member Andrew Black
Member Susan Coulter
Voting Member Daniel Spivak
Voting Member Andrew Erdmann
Voting Member Michael Gonzales

Others Attending:

Zoe Isaacson, River and Watershed Project Administrator
Cassandra Katsiaficas, Clerk

3. **ROLL CALL**

4. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

MOTION: Voting Member Lyon moved, seconded by Voting Member Smyth, to Approve the agenda as presented.

VOTE: The motion was approved on the following Roll Call vote:

For: Member Bove, Chair Klingel, Santa Fe County Commissioner Hansen, Voting Member Smyth, Voting Member Lyon



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Against: None

Abstain: None

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. Approval of the February 15th, 2024 Meeting Minutes.

MOTION: Voting Member Lyon moved, seconded by Voting Member Smyth, to Postpone approval of February 15th meeting minutes until next meeting (June 13th) due to technical issues with downloading from the PrimeGov public portal.

VOTE: The motion was approved on the following Roll Call vote:

For: Member Bove, Chair Klingel, Santa Fe County Commissioner Hansen, Voting Member Smyth, Voting Member Lyon

Against: None

Abstain: None

6. COMMUNICATIONS FROM OTHER AGENCIES/COMMITTEES

- a. Santa Fe Watershed Association Update (Amara May, Program Coordinator, Santa Fe Watershed Association amara@santafewatershed.org)

Amara May and Mori Hensley presented updates about the upcoming Love Your Watershed Day on Saturday, May 4, with interactive activities that will educate the community on the river, riparian health, stewardship and sustainability. Activities include music, yoga, arts and crafts and more. The LYWD Cleanup had 6-7 groups signed up so far – of steward team members and Public constituents.

They also presented on the successful launch of the Leading Edge Survey, a community project to track the leading edge of flow in the river channel, with hopes of getting the community more involved in

understanding the Living River. Info is on their website, and the survey is easy to use: you don't need an account, and can use a smartphone or browser. Participants would drop a point at the leading edge of the river, where there's a continuous ribbon of flow, helping track where the river is reaching.

7. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

- a. Approval of the 2024-25 Target Flow Hydrograph of 1,000 Acre Feet (Alan Hook, Water Resources Coordinator, City of Santa Fe Water Division, aghook@santafenm.gov, (505) 955-4205)

Alan Hook, Water Resources Coordinator, City of Santa Fe Water Division presented this year's Target Flow Hydrograph for approval by River Commissioners.

Heidi Klingel, Zoë Isaacson, and Alan Hook had a prior meeting to develop the 2024-2025 living river hydrograph based on on this years snow pack and snow melt projections. The draft hydrograph reduced peak flows and added extra volume to the mid-season base flow during hotter, drier months. This will help channel saturation and move more water further downstream.

This was presented to the River Commission, much discussion ensued including the information that the San Isidro River Blessing will be on May 19th, which created a need to shift the Hydrograph to accommodate the event. If the channel is wet, the minimum pulse flow required to reach to San Isidro is 6 CFS for about half a day. Also in this discussion, Alan Hook explained how water flow is logistically carried out throughout the city, and briefly described the construction project at Nichols Dam.

Commissioner Jacob Lyon asked about the snow pack this year and if that informs how we should approach this year versus last year. Alan Hook responded that this year the way the run off is hovering barely above the 50% median whereas last year there was a lot of water coming in all at once. This year we don't have the same volume of water, we are hovering above median inflow even though snow pack is about 100% of the 30yr median. 2024 is a good year for snow pack but not going to be like 2023.



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After much discussion, the River Commission concluded to shift the projected graph up one week with an additional pulse of 6-7CFS to meet the San Isidro Blessing event on May 18th & 19th, at the cost of 4cfs for a week July 1-July 7, making the early July pulse smaller.

From 1CFS, up to 7CFS for May 19, down to 3CFS until early June peak of 5CFS, back to 3cfs, and other pulse of 5CFS starting July 1, which drops off again to 3 CFS and holds through august, drops again until September 1.

* After this meeting concluded, it was relayed to the Commission that the San Isidro Blessing is now scheduled for May 12th. The Commission approved via an email vote the Amended 2024-2025 Living River Target Flow Hydrograph to accommodate the Blessing on May 12, 2024 with a short duration pulse of 7 cfs.

MOTION: Santa Fe County Commissioner Hansen moved, seconded by Voting Member Lyon, to Approve the 2024-2025 Living River Target Flow Hydrograph as amended.

VOTE: The motion was approved on the following Roll Call vote:

For: Member Bove, Chair Klingel, Santa Fe County Commissioner Hansen, Voting Member Smyth, Voting Member Lyon

Against: None

Abstain: None

- b. Subcommittee Updates (Heidi Klingel, River Commission Chair, heidiklingel@hotmail.com)

River Commission Chair Heidi Klingel presented from the Two Mile Pond subcommittee: the committee has been in a holding pattern waiting for more information, and is excited to hear the first results of ecological studies and hydrological studies.

It is always considered a formal inquiry to approach the OSE with



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questions, which forces the city on a path that it may not be ready to be on at this time. Our City Council needs to be prepared before initiating that conversation with the state engineer.

Zoë Isaacson shared that the City is actively monitoring the Two Mile Pond Complex hopes to make the first set of data public shortly.

The studies are active and once draft is finalized we will post it to the public. The City is also looking into how to make the public interface better, so it's synthesized and easy for the public to understand.

Zoë Isaacson also shared about the City recently submitting notice of intent for a FEMA grant for \$7.8 million that would study Cerro Gordo crossing taking into account the hydrology of the area upstream between Nichols and Cerro Gordo Rd.

River Commissioner Pat Smythe presented an update on the GIS mapping project: Demonstrated the GIS website at this stage, landmarks where the reaches reach. Data from SFWA leading edge survey will be incorporated into the model for realtime updates on the location of water in the river.

- c. Love Your Watershed Day Planning (Heidi Klingel, River Commission Chair, heidiklingel@hotmail.com)

River Commission Chair Heidi Klingel shared that the River Commission will be tabling at LYWD with flyers of the hydrograph and a QR code to the leading edge survey to help track the flow. Also a geology poster about where the living river may reach and info on the history of the Living River ordinance and River Commission.

8. MATTERS FROM STAFF

- a. River Commission Appointments Update (Zoe Isaacson, River and Watershed Manager, zrisaacson@santafenm.gov, (505) 955-6853

Zoë Isaacson presented that the River Commission had 34 people apply to become commissioners. They have been winnowing those folks down



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to make list of suggestions for Mayor and are trying to have everyone appointed next week at Governing Body meeting on May 8th, where 5 members are being appointed. Phil Bove will be stepping down. No applicant was disqualified for being in County versus City. Mayor looked at all the applicants.

- b. On-going and Up-Coming Projects (Zoe Isaacson, River and Watershed Manager, zrisaacson@santafenm.gov, (505) 955-6853)

Zoë Isaacson briefly presented some updates including:

Thinning projects are happening on the river with Seeds of Wisdom, removing any elm that has direct canopy conflict with native species, focusing on native stronghold biodiverse areas, and only removing invasives. Large areas have now been mulched from a dead cottonwood.

At Ashbaugh Park, thinning is completed and habitat trees have signs on them; these trees have houses and other features installed to promote use by Northern Flicker and Western Bluebird species.

Also at Ashbaugh Park – the City was awarded \$600k to overhaul the lower part of the park with the Office of Emergency Management, including a massive public outreach campaign, taking stormflows from the channel into the park, and a large scale infiltration gallery. As part of this grant, the City will be managing a large public outreach campaign at 30/60/90% design to ensure community input is received. The package is making its way through governing body, once it is approved they will be soliciting public comment.

Construction of rain gardens on Valley drive will be starting. This project will retrofit 4 bump-outs in the road into rain gardens.

9. MATTERS FROM THE PUBLIC

Dr. Jerry Jacobi inquired about what happened to Fishing Derby – the last one was in 2019. Discussion ensued about the various challenges of the event, including using a lot of water all at once, the diminishment of water resource in recent years, and that Santa Fe Watershed Associations' Love Your Watershed Day as an alternative river



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festival that brings community to enjoy and learn about the riparian habitat of the river and arroyos, without the use of water. As well as inadequacies of funding and staffing.

10. **MATTERS FROM THE COMMISSION**

11. **NEXT MEETING: May 04 2024**

12. **ADJOURN**

Persons with disabilities in need of accommodations, contact the City Clerk's office at 955-6521, five (5) working days prior to meeting date.

Meeting adjourned at 8:04 PM



Liaison



Chair