



MINUTES

SANTA FE RIVER
COMMISSION
OCTOBER 10, 2024
6:00 PM
VIRTUAL MEETING

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

2. **ROLL CALL**

Members Present:

Chair Heidi Klingel
Santa Fe County Commissioner Anna Hansen
Voting Member Patrick Smyth
Member Bill Carey
Member Eric Montoya
Member Lauren Price
Member Jim Riesterer
Member William Hutchinson

Members Excused:

Voting Member Jacob Lyon

Others Attending:

None

3. **ROLL CALL**

4. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

MOTION: Santa Fe County Commissioner Hansen moved, seconded by Member Hutchinson, to Approve the Agenda as Presented.

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

For: Chair Klingel, Santa Fe County Commissioner Hansen, Voting Member Smyth, Member Carey, Member Montoya, Member Price, Member Riesterer, Member Hutchinson

Against: None

Abstain: None



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5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. Approval of the August 8th, 2024 Meeting Minutes

MOTION: Santa Fe County Commissioner Hansen moved, seconded by Member Hutchinson, to Motion to Table this Vote Until December 12th Meeting until the August 8th, 2024 Minutes Can be Amended as Presented Due to an Error in the Transcription.

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

For: Chair Klingel, Santa Fe County Commissioner Hansen, Voting Member Smyth, Member Carey, Member Montoya, Member Price, Member Riesterer, Member Hutchinson

Against: None

Abstain: None

6. COMMUNICATIONS FROM OTHER AGENCIES/COMMITTEES

- a. Santa Fe Watershed Association Update (Amara May, Director of Stewardship and Outreach, amara@santafewatershed.org)

Mori Hensley, Executive Director of the Santa Fe Watershed Association, gave a debrief on the successes of the Fall Watershed Fest and also discussed the lessons learned from this year's events.

Ms Hensley discussed ongoing workshops and volunteer cleanup efforts.

Ms Hensley took the opportunity to speak to the fact that some of our arroyos and reaches of the Santa Fe River are becoming untenable for volunteers to clean as they are becoming inundated with bio hazards. This has been an alarming trend for volunteers especially for younger volunteers and or folks who are unfamiliar with this type of use. The SFWA is thinking about tailoring their cleanups base on the demographic of the volunteers as some areas may be unsuitable for certain volunteers.



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Commissioner Hansen asked if there are any lessons learned with our pet waste campaigns and if any could apply to the messaging regarding human-based bio hazards. Ms Hensley pointed out that human waste is very different from pet waste and the systemic issues that force humans to use outdoor bathrooms are very different.

Commissioner Carey asked if consideration has been given to port a potties at the new trail head at Siler. Ms Isaacson mentioned that port a potties have been used in the past, however, these have been liabilities as folks push them into the river, set them on fire or vandalize them in other ways. However, they may be a viable option in reaches outside of the downtown area.

Mr Hook asked if there are any hot spots along the River? Ms Isaacson mentioned that there are know hot spots that the Park Rangers make sure to visit more frequently than other reaches. This is a constantly evolving issue as when folks get displaced from one area, they are forced to relocate to another area.

This sparked a great conversation concerning the larger issue of the un-housed in our community and how we can hopefully use these experiences as a conduit to broaden the conversation and hopefully build connection to bring various community groups and nonprofits together. In the meantime, Mori will continue to work with the City's Park Rangers and River and Watershed Section to ensure volunteer safety and continue this discussion on how we can work together to affect change.

7. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Alan Hook discussed issues with the transducer below Nichols Reservoir that is currently offline. Water Utility does not seemed interested in replacing it, Alan Hook is urging the Commission to support replacing the transducer.

8. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

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- a. Formation of Subcommittees: Determining Projects and Assigning Groups (Heidi Klingel, Santa Fe River Commission Chair, heidiklingel@hotmail.com)

Ms Isaacson presented the subcommittee goals spreadsheet with the rankings of each commissioner. The idea is to have three commissioners on each subcommittee to avoid violations to the open meetings act; if there is a project that a commissioner feels strongly about, they are welcome to work on a project by themselves, although it is encouraged to work in groups. Once subcommittees are assigned, the expectation is that each commissioner spends about four hours a month in service to their project. The Commission can decide to set aside a half-hour to hour of each meeting to regroup and collaborate with their subcommittee.

Chair Klingel mentioned that there seemed to be a common thread between the highest ranked and ongoing projects of the Commission that includes climate change and resiliency. Topics such as stormwater capture and infiltration, aging infrastructure, and invasive species vs. native species were highlighted.

Ongoing Projects include: continuation of the Two Mile Pond subcommittee, updates to the existing Stormwater StoryMap, finishing touches to the leading edge model, river stewardship/cleanup of Louis Montano Park reach.

New subcommittee focus areas include: Hillslope erosion and protection strategies, water quality testing and monitoring, grant writing and identifying funding sources, plant species identification/native vs non-native; ethnobotany, more robust participation at the Love Your Watershed Day (outreach with kids, design fun activities, scavenger hunt, etc.), StoryMap of the history and development of the SF River over time with QR codes in the field so individuals could take a self-guided tour, the history of the Acequia Madre mapping and signage, and mapping stormwater infrastructure to help build out the City's database.

The River Commission will look at the final list of potential subcommittee focus areas and come prepared to join a subcommittee at the next meeting.

9. MATTERS FROM STAFF

- a. River Talks 2024 Debrief (Zoe Isaacson, Staff Liaison, zrisaacson@santafenm.gov)

Over 150 participants, using libraries as venues proved successful at recruiting and accommodating participants.

10. MATTERS FROM THE PUBLIC

John Buchser form River Commission Chair, was unable to attend the meeting but presented a letter urging the Santa Fe River Commission to champion the Closson Street Bridge removal and replacement. He stated that this is a needed crossing for the local community and the City should replace it as soon as possible.

Neil Williams attended this meeting and introduced himself to the Commission as a former member of ther River Taskforce, local longtime resident and retired PE that is especially concerned with the Santa Fe River.

11. MATTERS FROM THE COMMISSION

- a. Modeling the Santa Fe River's Leading Edge (Pat Smyth, Santa Fe River Commission, pat@2ndnaturewater.com)

Commissioner Smyth demonstrated the leading edge model that he and Chair Klingel have been working on. The model uses data captured in several years of studying the the seepage rates of the Living River releases from the Santa Fe River and tying this information geospatially to how far down the channel remains saturated with surface flows. This information can help inform the public on how far downstream they can expect to see a wetted river channel based on the Target Flow Hydrograph. Another element to this model is to bring in the SFWA's leading edge data to track in real time, the leading edge.

- b. Notes from the Water Conservation Committee Presentation (Heidi Klingel, River Commission Chair, heidiklingel@hotmail.com)



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Chair Klingel reported on her presentation at the Water Conservation Committee meeting. Take aways from that meeting included, the idea of partnering to educate the community of the appropriateness Siberian Elms and the importance of promoting biodiversity within our community, riparian ecology and the use of green stormwater infrastructure in helping reduce the dependency on potable water for vegetation establishment.

12. **NEXT MEETING: December 12 2024**

13. **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.

Zoe Isaacson

Liaison

Heidi Klingel
[heidi klingel \(Dec 14, 2024 08:23 MST\)](#)

Chair