

Santa Fe River Traditional Communities Collaborative

Meeting

10:00 am

July 10, 2025

1. Update and Review of Santa Fe River Watershed Planning Initiatives: PFAS, La Cienega Spring Restoration, SFWA CWMP, BLM Restoration plan, Tres Rios Project, Water2100, City Water Conservation Plan, “Pending” water conservation plans for Acequia Associations and Mutual Domestics
 - a. Also to consider: water hauling and “informal” water use (from Cora’s research)
 - i. Relation to County Sustainable Land Development Code
 - ii. How do fill station pipelines relate to development zones
2. Paseo Real Wastewater Treatment Plant Update and Algae Event
 - a. Dave Aponte is doing a pilot study to treat wastewater with algae. Open house event is in August, everyone is invited.
 - b. City has an RFI out for a design-build estimate for PRWRF
3. WPAC “Where does the water come from” Event: TBD in August
 - a. Commissioner Bustamante wanted to have an event that presents water issues across the County that will be recorded and shared on County website
4. Santa Fe Watershed Association News WaterSMART grant update: officially launching September 17th. SFWA will begin reaching out to core partners for conversations and site visits to identify priority restoration areas. Also starting on a literature review.
5. Ongoing Conversations
 - a. Culverts in La Cieneguilla: BLM is pushing SF County to get the road permitted, and bridge to replace the culverts. Sage has gotten a permit to install pond levelers, but no current evidence of beaver. More of an issue of the road being below grade, rather than it truly being an issue of issues. William highlighted that road maintenance requests might be more fruitful going through NMDOT.
 - b. BLM NEPA for lower river: SFNF, BLM, WildEarth Guardians signed in 2011, but nothing has ever happened. Sage is tracking down why no work was ever done, what updates need to happen to begin implementation. Sage has a 5-year agreement with Rio Grande Return, and is hoping to bring them to the lower Santa Fe to begin work. Also working on restoration management plan for Rael Ranch. Ideally work would begin below Tres Rios, coordinating with Alonzo, and trying to tie in to SFRTCC for community engagement.
 - c. Working with City and USFS on EA for Return Flow Pipeline: Sage is working with Bill to develop an MOU and five year plan to commit to certain actions including restoration.
6. Other News

- a. Emily and Carl are working with Alonzo to build Tres Rios into a community hub for the lower watershed. COLTPAC has visited and is interested in supporting.
- b. William is working with NMWild to restart the National Monument process for the Caja, still challenges with engaging Pueblo de Cochiti.
- c. William suggested discussing Los Alamos and White Rock Canyon pollution and tie relationship to SF water at a future meeting.

Recorded by: Mori Hensley, SFWA