

Regular Meeting of the Santa Fe River Commission
August 13, 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 Chair Bill Carey at 6:00 PM, on Thursday, August 13, 2026, 2931 Rufina St, Santa Fe, NM 87507.

2. Roll Call

Roll Call was taken by Staff Liaison, Zoe Isaacson. All Commissioners were present. In attendance were City of Santa Fe Water Division Staff Alan Hook, Water Resources Manager 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 Montoya, to Approve the agenda.

VOTE The motion Passed on a roll call vote.

4. Approval of Minutes

- a. Approval of the April 9, 2026, Meeting Minutes

MOTION A motion was made by Price, seconded by Hutchinson, to Table the approval of the April 9th Meeting Minutes due to inaccuracies located.

VOTE The motion Passed 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 provided an update on upcoming Santa Fe Watershed Association programs and events. Confluence Santa Fe will begin in September and will include the September 10 River Talk, an Upper Watershed Hike on September 19, a film screening at the Center for Contemporary Arts, Toss No Mas activities, water-themed story times at local libraries, and an open house in October. Commissioners interested in attending the Upper Watershed Hike were asked to register and notify staff so that a quorum notice could be posted if necessary.

6. Informational Items

- a. A Brief Update on Sustainable Aquifer Management Strategies for Santa Fe Water: Monitoring, Modeling, & Collaboration (William Schneider, Water Resources Manager, Public Utilities, whschneider@santafenm.gov)

William Schneider provided an overview of Santa Fe's sustainable aquifer management strategies, including the City's history of developing multiple water sources in response to drought and increasing demand. The presentation reviewed the City well field, Buckman well field, Buckman Direct Diversion (BDD) system, non-potable reuse, and the recovery of groundwater levels following reduced reliance on pumping after the BDD system came online. Discussion also addressed

groundwater monitoring, updated modeling, aquifer recharge and storage opportunities, water rights and offset requirements, regional water projects, and the need to improve scientific understanding of the aquifer system. Commissioners asked questions regarding the connection between Living River flows and groundwater recharge, future water storage opportunities, wastewater and PFAS concerns, potential regional water connections, and balancing the use of San Juan-Chama water, groundwater, conservation, and water reuse to improve long-term resilience.

7. Discussion and Action Items

- a. Welcome, New River Commissioners, Introductions, Brief Overview of River Commission Roles and Responsibilities (Bill Carey, Chair and Zoë Isaacson, Staff Liaison)

The Commission welcomed new members Jesse Shapiro and Tanya Trujillo, who introduced their professional backgrounds and experience in state and regional water planning, engineering, water policy, and Colorado River issues. Existing Commissioners and staff also introduced themselves and described their professional experience and connection to the Santa Fe River. Chair Bill Carey and Staff Liaison Zoë Isaacson provided an overview of the Commission's structure, meeting schedule, quorum requirements, appointment terms, Open Meetings Act requirements, and procedures for communicating and requesting agenda items. The discussion also reviewed the Commission's advisory role to the Governing Body and examples of its work, including Living River flows, the Voluntary River Conservation Fund, river restoration, flood studies, education, outreach, and special projects.

- b. Consideration of Suitability of Nichols Reservoir for a City Sponsored Childrens Fishing Derby on September 26th, 2026 (Alan Hook, Water Resources Coordinator, aghook@santafenm.gov)

Alan Hook presented information regarding a proposed City-sponsored Children's Fishing Derby at Nichols Reservoir on September 26, 2026. Due to insufficient water available to support the traditional fishing event in the Santa Fe River, the City is considering Nichols Reservoir as an alternative location and has pursued ordinance and resolution changes necessary to authorize the event. The proposed event would serve approximately 150 children and their families in scheduled groups, with educational activities also planned. Commissioners discussed watershed access, public safety, restroom facilities, fish stocking requirements, funding, potential impacts, and concerns expressed during previous Governing Body discussions about opening the watershed to additional public use. The proposal remains subject to additional Governing Body consideration and other required conditions before the event can proceed.

- c. Cerro Gordo Flood Study and Conveyance Design Update (Zoë Isaacson, Staff Liaison, zrisaacson@santafenm.gov)

Zoë Isaacson provided an update on the Cerro Gordo Flood Study and Conveyance Design project. Targeted stakeholder engagement has been completed with representatives from acequias, conservation organizations, neighborhood associations, the U.S. Forest Service, and other groups affected by the project. The study is evaluating the volume of water that must be conveyed through the Cerro Gordo crossing during a 100-year, 24-hour storm event while also considering a conceptual future realignment of the Santa Fe River through the Two Mile Pond area. The crossing will be designed to 100 percent, while potential river realignment will remain conceptual at this stage. A public meeting is scheduled for September 1 at 5:30 PM at La Farge Library, and technical plans and memoranda developed at the 30, 60, and 90 percent design stages may be made available to the public.

8. Matters from Staff

- a. Source and Supply Update (Alan Hook, Water Resources Coordinator, aghook@santafenm.gov)

Alan Hook provided a brief source and supply update and discussed source water protection efforts associated with the Santa Fe Fire shed. Commissioners were also informed about the new *Fire for Water* video produced by the Forest Stewards Guild.

- b. River Talks Update (Claire Jordy, Project Manager II, csjordy@santafenm.gov)

Claire Jordy provided an update on the River Talks series. The next River Talk is scheduled for September 10 and will feature a Community Lightning Round format.

- c. Junior Ranger Book and Santa Fe River Trail Trash Can Update (Dan Alt, Park Ranger Superintendent, dralt@santafenm.gov)

Dan Alt provided an update on the Junior Ranger Program and recently installed trash cans along the Santa Fe River Trail. The trash cans feature educational information about local plants and were developed with River Commission involvement. The Junior Ranger Program continues to encourage youth to explore and learn about the local environment through activities including guided hikes, archery, and community cleanups. The first upcoming cleanup is scheduled for September 18 at Villa Linda Park.

9. Matters from the Public

10. Matters from the Commission

11. Next Meeting:

- a. October, 8th, 2026

The next River Commission meeting was rescheduled from October 8, 2026, to October 1, 2026.

12. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Zoe Isaacson, Staff Liaison

Attested To By:

Bill Carey, Santa Fe River Commission Chair