

SOUTHERN SANDOVAL COUNTY ARROYO FLOOD CONTROL AUTHORITY  
(SSCAFCA)  
MINUTES OF MARCH 17, 2017  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING

CALL TO ORDER.

The regular meeting of the SSCAFCA Board of Directors was called to order by James Fahey, Chairman, at 9:20 a.m.

ROLL CALL OF DIRECTORS.

Directors in attendance were James Fahey, Steven House and Michael Obrey, John Chaney and Mark Conkling was noted as absent. Charles Thomas, Executive Engineer, Charles Garcia, SSCFACA's attorney, and members of the public were also present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

The Board was led in the Pledge of Allegiance by James Fahey.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

An announcement was made by James Fahey that all electronic devices needed to be turned off during the meeting and that the microphones are voice activated.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA.

A motion was made by Steven House to approve the Agenda as presented. It was seconded by Michael Obrey and passed unanimously.

ACTION/APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 17, 2017.

A motion was made by Steven House to approve the minutes of February 17, 2017 as presented. It was seconded by Michael Obrey and passed unanimously.

PUBLIC FORUM.

No comments were made in the public forum.

## STAFF REPORTS.

### *Executive Engineer:*

#### 1. Presentation on Oroville Dam.

Mr. Thomas presented information on the Oroville Dam emergency situation in California. The presentation was created by Dr. Bruce Thomson of UNM. In mid to late February, California has been experiencing a wet winter, likely a record setting winter. Mr. Thomas stated that the Oroville Dam is the highest dam in the U.S., 770 feet, and is at the highest volume of storage in 30 years. This dam is used for water supply and is located just north of Sacramento and discharges into the Feather River. In previous years, storage was not an issue as the region has been impacted by drought. Several concurrent storm events filled the dam to capacity. The primary spillway was activated as a control measure. The primary spillway started experiencing failure after release of flows, causing the operators to activate the emergency spillway. The Emergency spillway is 900 feet of ungated concrete spillway. Below this is unhardened terrain. Mr. Thomas noted that the operating entity was sued in 2005 to upgrade emergency spillway. At a cost of \$100 million to upgrade, the law suit was challenged and no improvements were made. As an indication of the size of the reservoir, Mr. Thomas stated that there are 600,000 acre feet in the top 30 feet of dam height, with a total storage height of 900 feet of storage.

When the lake filled up, operators began operating spillway. As the spillway began failing, they shut it off and operated the emergency spillway, which suffered significant erosion. The operators had to shut off emergency spillway and go back to operating primary spillway despite damage because failure of emergency spillway could have cause a cascading failure of the entire reservoir. The road below the emergency spillway destroyed by erosion from use of emergency spillway. Mr. Thomas noted that it was the unsupported soil downstream of emergency spillway concrete that created erosion. This erosion could undercut the emergency spillway. Use of spillway and spillway failure moved massive amounts of sediment and debris into the Feather river and blocked it. Current cost to repair dam will exceed cost to hardline the emergency spillway.

Mr. Thomas indicated that he added information to the presentation regarding the impact of sediment. California has approximately 1,400 dams. 4.5% of reservoir volume in these facilities has been lost to sediment which translates to 1.8 million acre feet of lost storage. Further, more than 120 reservoirs had less than 25% of volume remaining and nearly 190 reservoirs have lost 50% of storage space. This significantly increases the vulnerability of the whole system and brings up a new question, do you build more dams or clean up old ones? Mr. Thomas stated that this highlights the importance to prioritize maintenance, particularly with facilities that are constrained for sediment removal staging. He stated that SSCAFCA is

pursuing acquisition of ROW near facilities for sediment staging. He stated that SSCAFCA is also working with Waste Management, Inc., Sandoval County and CORR to provide sediment for use by other entities.

Chairman Fahey noted that a common problem is that funds for construction and funds for maintenance are usually from separate sources and that maintenance traditionally is underfunded. Shelley Barnes, USACE, stated that another complication for maintenance is the presence of salmon streams, so maintenance activities may generate the need to address salmon ladders on older facilities.

Mr. Thomas stated that SSCAFCA's strategy of preserving natural systems increases resiliency of system and reduces maintenance. He stated that SSCAFCA is currently repairing all of the joints in the Harvey Jones Channel. In response to a question from Chairman Fahey, Mr. Thomas stated that AMAFCA maintains a strong maintenance program to address their concrete-lined channels.

2. Action/Approval of donation to support CoCoRAHs.

Mr. Thomas stated that he was seeking approval by the Board to donate the funds remaining in the Flood Control YES PAC created for the Bond Election to CoCoRAHs, the Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Snow Network. CoCoRAHs is a non-profit organization that collects rainfall data. This data is used by SSCAFCA; Mr. Schoener uses this information to ground-truth radar data from storm events. Mr. Thomas also stated he is asking the Board to approve an additional donation matching the remaining funds on a dollar to dollar amount.

A motion was made by Steve House to approve the donation of funds from the bond election Pac and match the donation. It was seconded by Michael Obrey and passed unanimously.

3. Capital Projects Update.

Mr. Thomas provided a summary of active or soon to be active, projects, totaling eleven. Mostly in the southeastern quadrant, these projects are tracking with existing development, catching up to address concerns in developed areas. The list of projects includes Alberta Drainage Improvements, Phase 2, Acapulco Road Improvements, Black Arroyo Wildlife Park Phase 2, Bosque de Bernalillo, Calle Baack Rd. Improvements, Lisbon Chanel Improvements, Rainbow Pond, Corrales Heights Dam



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Access Improvements, Lomitas Negras Ph. 2 (Saratoga Dam), Cactus Ponds and Upper Bosque de Bernalillo.

Mr. Thomas stated that Lomitas Negras Ph. 2 (Saratoga Dam) and Cactus Ponds have both been approved for grants from FEMA.

*Alberta Drainage Improvements, Phase 2.* This project is expected to hit substantial completion at the end of April. The total project cost is approximately \$1,550,000, comprised of a grant from FEMA and capital outlay funds from the legislature and NMDHSEM.

*Acapulco Rd.* SSCAFCA is doing a separate project to install paving and curb over storm drain installed on Acapulco as part of Alberta project. The paving will end where the pipe turns west into the pond. The road to the south is quite steep and presents significant risk of erosion. One resident, Mr. Pike, has been flooded twice and he is essentially homebound as is his wife, which highlights the importance of this project. Mr. Thomas stated that the design includes extending paving to top of hill, which is the end of the watershed boundary that flows north on Acapulco. He further indicated SSCAFCA will pay for the full design and pave 50% of the project and the City and County will follow up at a later time with the remainder. He indicated that the City and County are proposing to place millings for the road surface instead of asphalt. He also stated that the design includes a cut off wall to protect the project against erosion from undercutting the asphalt from flows from the south, where Acapulco Rd. gets very steep. In response to a question from Chairman Fahey, he stated it is 2-3 feet deep.

In response to a question from Director House regarding the timing of the next phase by the City and County, Mr. Thomas stated that it is likely they would pursue it under the next budget cycle. Director House stated that doing it as a single project would likely be cheaper and from a community standpoint, it is better to do it all at once since it will minimize disturbance to residents.

Director House further inquired if a change order could be issued to include the remainder of the paving. In response, Mr. Gatterman indicated that the bid tab from the currently bid portion of Acapulco Rd. improvements could be used to determine the cost of extending project.

Chairman Fahey noted that paving the additional road is not required to protect our project. Although SSCAFCA could complete the full street section as one project, he stated that the full length was not critical to protect our infrastructure and we need to be sure our bond funds are used correctly. Director House commented that we need to contact the City and County about doing this project jointly.

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Director House stated he is concerned that paving Acapulco Rd. as two separate projects will be seen negatively by the residents.

*Black Arroyo Wildlife Park Phase 2.* This project is funded with an FHWA grant similar to the Lisbon project, which provides \$350,000 from the FHWA TAP funds. This project ties into the existing trail system created in phase 1. A grade control structure combined with a pedestrian bridge crossing was moved up Lisbon Channel slightly to avoid encroaching on the conservation easement.

*Calle Baack Rd. Improvements.* This project is located in the Town of Bernalillo and the funding was acquired by the Town. Mr. Thomas stated that we are acting as the project manager for the Town on this project. The design has been completed and we are waiting on NMDOT authorization, otherwise it is ready to bid. The project cost is \$375,000. The arroyo being improved receives discharge from SAD 8 improvements in the City of Rio Rancho. The existing drainpipe is undersized and clogged. This project also includes improvements to the intersection of Calle Baack and NM 528.

*Bosque de Bernalillo.* This project is currently in construction, and it's expected to finish in July 2017. The project cost is \$629,000 and includes funding from legislative capital outlay and the River Stewardship Program, from NMED. Mr. Thomas stated that this project will stabilize the arroyo channel downstream of Sherriff's Posse Rd. and create a water quality meander for first flush flows. In response to a question from Chairman Fahey, Mr. Thomas confirmed that no work has been done on this arroyo in this area, but the Santa Ana Pueblo has done some improvements upstream.

*Rainbow Pond.* This project is currently in design. The total project cost is estimated to be \$1.3 million and includes \$877,000 from the Water Trust Board. Mr. Thomas stated that we completed two dimensional hydraulic modeling to identify flow paths for storm follows due to the lack of an incised channel. This modelling identified that most flow is coming down on east side. Mr. Thomas also stated that this project will involve placing storm drain underneath two large Very High Pressure gas lines, which constrained the grade and will require the project to deepen the existing downstream channel. In response to a question from Chairman Fahey, Mr. Thomas stated that the downstream terminus of the flow path is the Calabacillas Arroyo by way of the Saltillo diversion.

*Lisbon Chanel Improvements.* This project is scheduled for Winter 2017. This project will create an extension of the trail system developed as a part of Black Arroyo Wildlife Park Phase 1 & 2. The project includes arroyo access for maintenance and a pedestrian trail, up to Tarpon Rd.

*Corrales Heights Dam Access Improvements.* This project would improve access to Corrales Heights Dam by providing a hardened access to face of dam and pond, extending from the recently



improved path Dam 4 to 1 Trail. Mr. Thomas stated this would also provide a connecting point for the Village of Corrales to extend a bike trail to the Dam 4 to 1 Trail.

*Lomitas Negras Ph. 2.* This project is currently in preliminary design, \$5.4 million. Mr. Thomas stated that SSCAFCA is awaiting the subgrant agreement from NMDHSEM, which will provide \$4.1 million from FEMA-HMGP. Our consultants have completed the benefit cost ratio and the environmental evaluation. Mr. Thomas indicated that this project has two parts, the first is a large off channel detention basin above Saratoga Dr. This facility will only receive peak flows, so it is a good site for multi-use. For scale, it could fit three football fields. The lower part is bank stabilization and spoil of excavated materials. This improves the property for development and improves constrained access point for first responders to Enchanted Hills Elementary School. In response to a question from Chairman Fahey, Mr. Thomas stated that the bank will be slope paving similar to that installed in the Montoyas Bank Stabilization project and will leave the bottom of the arroyo open for infiltration. SSCAFCA is looking to partner with CORR, County and RRPS to cover match. Mr. Thomas indicated that NMDHSEM could also supply capital outlay for match.

*Cactus ponds* – This project received award of a \$1.4 million PDM grant. Mr. Thomas stated that our consultant is still completing the environmental investigation. Pending approval, FEMA would issue a grant agreement. Both this project and the Lomitas Negras Phase 2 project are scheduled for 2018 or later for construction. There is no clear incised channel but there is a clearly defined flow path for the storm flows which would flood properties without this project. SSCAFCA is proposing to use a natural channel to mitigate storm flows, which would then flow into a traditional pipe system discharging below Northern.

*Upper Bosque de Bernalillo.* This project was submitted for the 2016 grant cycle of the PDM grant along with Cactus Ponds, but it was rejected for funding based on a mistake in the technical evaluation. The reviewer apparently transposed two elevations, which reduced the Benefit Cost Ratio below 1. The SSCAFCA Appeal was also rejected. Mr. Thomas stated that he is hoping to reapply for 2017 funds, if the program is not cut by the Trump administration. This project will modify the existing channel, removing it from private property and containing peak flows.

Director House inquired if SSCAFCA was having regular coordination meetings with City and County on capital projects. Mr. Thomas confirmed that such meetings were taking place. Director House indicated that he would like Board more involved in meetings, so Board can help coordinate. Chairman Fahey stated the he met with city on their Southern Blvd. to discuss funding partnership. Chairman Fahey asked if elected officials attended the meetings. Mr. Thomas stated that only staff were represented at the meetings. Director House stated that he would like to be more involved to

help effect change. Director House stated he wants to ensure that there isn't a loss of continuity between upper management and staff at the City.

Mr. Thomas clarified that SSCAFCA has a good working relationship with staff at the City and the County. However, he is also concerned that SSCAFCA currently has an aggressive construction schedule, so our priorities may not consistently align with that of the City and County. He also stated that as we build new infrastructure that maybe best for another public body to own, a problem can be O & M costs to the other public body. He suggested that SSCAFCA may need a more formal agreement with elected body and upper management of the City regarding the long-term goals for development and transfer of new infrastructure. Currently only dealing with each project in a piece meal fashion.

Chairman Fahey designated Director House the as SSCAFCA liaison with CORR. Chairman Fahey also indicated that there may be a perception that the SSCAFCA funding stream is larger than it is, but based on our use of external state and federal grants, not bonds funds, so it is not a realistic picture of our actual budget.

4. Development Review.

Mr. Thomas stated that there has only been a small amount of development to report on. Adjacent to our office, U-Haul submitted a grading and drainage plan to discharge into Lisbon channel. This has been approved. Vista Montabella is a subdivision adjacent to the border with Bernalillo County upstream from Gateway Pond. They have submitted a construction plan which was approved. The site has no direct impacts to our facilities, the design of gateway pond accounted for development in the area.

Chairman Fahey noted that there was a lot of open land in unit 10 that could be developed. Mr. Thomas concurred, mentioning the Los Diamantes development but also stating that a significant barrier to development is completion of Westside Blvd. from Golf Course Rd. to NM 528.

***Environmental Services Director:***

1. Action/Approval of Grant Agreement with NMDOT for Lisbon Channel Access/Trail Construction Project.

Mr. Gatterman stated that we are asking for approval to accept a Grant of Award from the FHWA Transportation Alternative Program totaling \$542,168.00. The local match required will be \$92,392.00. The funding will be used to construct a channel access for the Lisbon arroyo from



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Southern Blvd. to Tarpon Rd. that will double as a pedestrian trail. The project is currently under design and we will use the cost of design services towards the required match.

A motion was made by Steve House to approve the grant agreement and acceptance of funds. It was seconded by Michael Obrey and passed unanimously.

2. Update on Alberta Phase II Watershed Improvements Project.

Mr. Gatterman stated that the project is progressing well and has several pictures of the project to share. Pictures show the project before construction as well. The project included 3,600 feet of stormdrain, curb & gutter, paving and manholes. A picture of the grade control at top of upper pond to prevent erosion upstream prompted a question by Chairman Fahey, inquiring how close it is to the nearby house. Mr. Gatterman stated that it is very close to house, 10 feet from the edge of the channel to the backyard wall. He also noted that the west pond still needs access ramp. The curb and gutter is 99% complete and the road is ready for paving. The storm drain installation is 95% complete.

Director House commented that the contractor has been very aware of residents and has kept the work site clean, worked with residents and gets positive responses from residents. There have been very few complaints from residents. The Contractor has good communication with residents.

**OTHER COMMITTEE REPORTS.**

None.

**ATTORNEY'S REPORT.**

None.

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT.**

None.

**BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS.**

In response to statements that the County was maintaining roads within City of Rio Rancho limits, Chairman Fahey inquired of Mr. Garcia if there is a point at where all the maintenance costs



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exceed cost of paving, could that be used as an argument to navigate the anti-donation clause if the cost-benefit ratio made it cheaper to pave the streets?

Mr. Garcia stated it is function of how a city looks at responsibilities. If you do grading of a street, it should include drainage. He assumes that they do some sort of cost-benefit analysis to determine what to pave or not pave, to keep expenditures within the budget.

Mr. Obrey stated that it could create political issues with residents who have already paid to get paving, they might feel others getting it as a gift.

### **PROPERTY MATTERS.**

1. Action/Acceptance - U08, Blk9, Lots 110, 163, 164 and U08, Blk 87, Lot 71 - 3.34 acres Calabacillas Tributary D Diversion.

Mr. Charles Thomas stated that it is necessary to obtain this property for drainage improvements in the Calabacillas Watershed Park near where the Calabacillas Arroyo crossed under Southern Blvd. This project is hampered by existing homes constructed in the natural floodpath as well as the regional high pressure gas lines serving northern New Mexico. These four properties are a key piece of the alignment of proposed flood control improvements.

A motion was made by Steve House to approve the property acquisition as presented. It was seconded by Michael Obrey and passed unanimously.

2. Action/Acceptance – U11, Blk 25, Lot 30 - 0.50 acres - Rainbow Pond.

Mr. Charles Thomas stated that it is necessary to obtain this property for the Rainbow Pond project. This is one of three properties needed for the collection of inflows to the pond and is a key piece for this project.

A motion was made by Michael Obrey to approve the property acquisition as presented. It was seconded by Steve House and passed unanimously.

### **FOR YOUR INFORMATION.**

1. Rio Rancho Observer article, "SSCAFCA project nears completion"
2. The Professional Lobbyist Services contract has been renewed with Murray, Montgomery &

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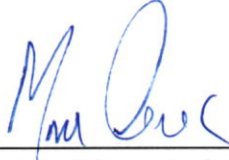
O'Donnell with no requested changes for the third year.


**OTHER BUSINESS.**

- Next Regular Board Meeting is on Friday, April 21, 2017 at 9:00 a.m.

**ADJOURNMENT.**

With no further business, Mr. Fahey declared the meeting adjourned. Meeting adjourned at 10:56 a.m.

  
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MARK CONKLING  
Secretary

  
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JAMES FAHEY  
CHAIRMAN

DATE APPROVED: 4/21/17