

**SOUTHERN SANDOVAL COUNTY ARROYO FLOOD CONTROL AUTHORITY  
(SSCAFCA)  
MINUTES OF MARCH 21, 2019  
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 Pro Tem, at 9:04 am.

**ROLL CALL OF DIRECTORS.**

Directors in attendance were James Fahey, Mark Conkling and Steve House. Michael Obrey and John Chaney were absent. Charles Thomas, Executive Engineer was present, as well as Charles Garcia, attending as SSCAFCA's attorney. Members of the public were also present.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS.**

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

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.**

The Board was led in the Pledge of Allegiance by Chairman Pro Tem Fahey.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA.**

A motion was made by Steve House to approve the Agenda as amended. It was seconded by Mark Conkling and passed unanimously.

**ACTION/ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 21 & MARCH 7, 2019.**

A motion was made by Mark Conkling to accept the minutes of February 21, 2019 & March 7, 2019 as presented. It was seconded by Steve House and passed unanimously.

**PUBLIC FORUM.**

None.

**STAFF REPORTS.**

***Executive Engineer:***

1. Action/Approval of Resolution 2019-07 for Support and Commitment to Fully Fund and Complete the Lisbon Flood Prevention Project.

Mr. Thomas stated that this resolution is being required as part of the funding being received from the Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DHSEM) through the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. Mr. Thomas stated that DHSEM has identified up to \$2,500,000 in additional HMGP funding that is being made available to SSCAFCA to incorporate into an expanded Lisbon Flood Prevention Project and has also identified \$372,414.00 in funds from Capital Outlay award 14-2153 and \$251,775.00 from Capital Outlay Award 15-1073 to be awarded to SSCAFCA as matching state funds for the additional federal grant.

In order to receive the funds from DHSEM, they are requesting this resolution of support and commitment for the Board of Directors.

A motion was made by Steve House to approve Resolution 2019-07 as written. It was seconded by Mark Conkling.

Roll call vote: Steve House, yes; Mark Conkling, yes; James Fahey, yes. The motion carried 3-0.

2. Action/Approval of Selection/Agreement with Murray, Montgomery & O'Donnell for Professional Federal Lobbyist Services.

Mr. Thomas indicated that a request for professional services was published and SSCAFCA received a single response to the RFP. The Selection Committee recommended award of the contract to Murray, Montgomery & O'Donnell (MMO). Mr. Thomas stated that MMO has served in the same capacity the previous four years and has provided an excellent return on investment to SSCAFCA over that time and has greatly expanded SSCAFCA's presence in Washington D.C. and with New Mexico's Congressional Delegation.

In response to a question from the Board, Mr. Thomas stated that MMO was seeing a 16% increase in the monthly fee for services. Chairman Pro Tem Fahey indicated that he feels that MMO has been very effective in helping SSCAFCA with funding and increasing the awareness of our Agency.

A motion was made by Steve House to approve the Agreement with Murray, Montgomery & O'Donnell. It was seconded by Mark Conkling and passed unanimously.

3. Discussion of New Waters of the United States (WOTUS) Rule.

Mr. Thomas stated that there has been a new Rule proposed to define Waters of the United States. Currently, SSCAFCA's arroyos are considered as WOTUS by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers but not by the Environmental Protection Agency. This proposed rule is intended to consolidate both interpretations into a single definition.

Mr. Thomas stated that the new rule is much simpler and clearer on the specific definitions. Under the proposed Rule, the SSCAFCA arroyos would not be considered Waters of the United States by either agency.

4. Presentation on the update of the Montoyas Watershed Park Plan.

Mr. Thomas stated that as part of pursuing funding through the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), we discovered that the NRCS generally required a Watershed Plan to identify the conservation activities underlying the funding requests. In reviewing the content of the NRCS Watershed Plan guidance documents, we discovered that SSCAFCA could use this format and incorporate all of the various conservation and multi-use activities into our existing Watershed Management Plans and come up with a more comprehensive detailed document for each watershed. Mr. Thomas indicated that Mr. Schoener has completed a draft of the plan and will present details.

Mr. Schoener stated that he has taken the existing Watershed Management Plan and has updated it into the new format, along with an update of the hydrology which incorporated the research and calibration efforts completed over the past 3-4 years.

Mr. Schoener presented an overview of the hydrologic calibration efforts. Mr. Schoener also presented an outline of the challenges and opportunities, including channel erosion, land use changes, flooding, water quality, habitat loss and water supply. Opportunities include recreational activities.

Director Conkling stated that he would like to consider adding a political/policy element to include working with other jurisdictions, such as the Office of State Engineer, on things such as the impact or benefits of the infiltration of storm flows. In response to a question from the Board, Mr. Thomas indicated that we would research information on the water rights within New Mexico and how much water is required to be delivered downstream.

5. Development Review.

Mr. Thomas stated that there is an increasing amount of development activity with our jurisdiction. Mr. Thomas stated that staff are still working on additional solutions with regards to Broadmoor Heights subdivision. In response to questions from the Board, Mr. Thomas stated that there was no further news on the golf course. Mr. Thomas stated that the Los Diamantes development and Joe Harris Elementary School are moving forward.

**OTHER COMMITTEE REPORTS.**

None.

**ATTORNEY'S REPORT.**

Mr. Garcia stated that he has received a copy of a notice in an EEOC complaint made by a former employee and recommends an Executive Session to discuss in a future Board Meeting.

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT.**

Chairman Pro Tem Fahey stated that he was pleased that Congressman Lujan visited the SSCAFCA offices recently and was taken on a tour of active and recently completed drainage facilities.

**BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS.**

None.

**PROPERTY MATTERS.**

None.

**FOR YOUR INFORMATION.**

1. ABQ Journal Article, "Public Lands Package Protects 275K Acres in NM," (2/27/2019) (m/o)

**OTHER BUSINESS.**

Next Regular Board Meeting is scheduled for April 18, 2019 at 9 am.

**ADJOURNMENT.**

The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Pro Tem Fahey at 10:13 am.



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STEVE HOUSE  
Secretary

  
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JAMES FAHEY  
Chairman Pro Tem

DATE APPROVED: 4/24/2019