

**SOUTHERN SANDOVAL COUNTY ARROYO FLOOD CONTROL AUTHORITY  
(SSCAFCA)**

**MINUTES OF JANUARY 19, 2018  
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 9:00 a.m.

**ROLL CALL OF DIRECTORS.**

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

**ANNOUNCEMENTS.**

An announcement was made by Chairman 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 Fahey.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA.**

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

**ACTION/ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES OF DECEMBER 15, 2017 and JANUARY 2, 2018.**

A motion was made by Mark Conkling to accept the minutes of December 15, 2017 and January 2, 2018 as presented. It was seconded by John Chaney and passed unanimously.

**PUBLIC FORUM.**

No comments were received.

**STAFF REPORTS.**

***Design Services Director:***

1. Presentation on Corrales Heights Dam Access Project.

Mr. Andres Sanchez presented information and pictures of the Corrales Heights Drainage Access project. Mr. Sanchez stated that this project was to provide a more secure paved access down to the base of the Corrales Heights Dam and an auxiliary pond which handles runoff from the adjacent area. The design was completed in-house and construction cost was approximately \$59,000. Mr. Sanchez stated that there was minimal disturbance of existing vegetation during construction. The project included about 400 linear length of trail with a cul-de-sac at the end for staging and associated drainage to capture runoff from the impermeable surface. As a SSCAFCA Facility, the Board requested monumentation to be installed for this project.

***Executive Engineer:***

1. Presentation on Award from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for the Lisbon Dam Project.

Mr. Charles Thomas stated that we were notified from the Denton office of FEMA that we have received a grant of \$1,221,253.00 for the Lisbon Dam project. The total cost of the project is estimated at approximately \$1.8 million. Mr. Thomas noted that this funding only became available because other awarded entities were unable to use it and SSCAFCA was the only other entity that had an eligible project awaiting funding. Mr. Thomas provided a brief history of the project development and planning efforts including Right of Way (ROW) acquisition. He also reviewed the recent storm events that occurred in late September of 2017 which caused flooding throughout the area. In response to a question from the Board, Mr. Thomas stated that this project would have prevented this flooding event had it been completed prior to the storm event. He also indicated that there will be minimal hard-lining of the Lisbon channel but it will be minimized as much as possible. In response to a question from the Board, he stated that access roads/trails will be incorporated into the project, and will also restrict illegal vehicular access to the property from adjacent residential properties.

Mr. Thomas also indicated that the storm event revealed additional drainage improvements that are needed in the Star heights neighborhood which are not covered by the proposed Lisbon Dam project. He stated that many of the channels are very steep, have constrained access and that many of the culvert crossings which pass underneath the City roads are insufficient to pass the 100-year storm flows. The existing drainage features were constructed before SSCAFCA existed and were not designed to current SSCAFCA standards. He also indicated that SSCAFCA has contracted with a consulting engineer to evaluate the remainder of the Star Heights neighborhood and develop a report outlining existing deficiencies and propose possible improvements. SSCAFCA can then proceed with implementation of improvements on an individual basis as funding is available.

In response to discussion by the Board, it was noted that there is overlapping responsibility for the Star Heights neighborhood between the City of Rio Rancho and SSCAFCA, particularly since the existing roads are solely owned by the City, including the culverts

underneath the road. The Chairman noted that the City Council has asked SSCAFCA to assist the City in maintenance of the culverts underneath the City roadways.

There was also a discussion of arroyo monitoring for trash and maintenance. Mr. Thomas stated that the City of Rio Rancho does have one staff person assigned to monitoring compliance with the City of Rio Rancho EPA MS4 Storm Water permit.

2. Presentation of 2018 Legislative Priorities.

Mr. Thomas stated SSCAFCA is seeking support for two improvement projects, the Lomas Negras Phase 2 Drainage Improvements and the Lisbon Dam Project. Both projects have received federal support with grants from FEMA of approximately 4.1 million and 1.2 million respectively. The Lomas Project is the top priority and SSCAFCA is seeking \$550,000 in capital outlay to support this project. The Lisbon Dam project is the second priority and SSCAFCA is seeking \$400,000 in capital outlay support.

Ms. Katherine MacDonald, a resident in Star Heights Neighborhood, provided comments regarding her experience with the recent storm event in September of 2017, which resulted in flood impacts to her house and property, and indicated her house was also flooded in 2006. She is very concerned that no action has been taken to correct the existing flood control deficiencies and indicated that she and others have asked the City to correct these deficiencies for years and have never received any response or action from the City.

Ms. MacDonald asked the Board for SSCAFCA's help to unplug the culvert which resulted in flooding of her property. Following discussion of the drainage problems, specifically the culvert near her home, Mr. Thomas stated that the culvert cleaning should be done in conjunction with improvements to the arroyo downstream. At the direction of the Board, Mr. Thomas indicated that SSCAFCA would pursue improvements to the arroyo adjacent to her home before the upcoming monsoon season which starts in June, including cleaning of the culvert, which will protect her property and several others along the arroyo.

3. Development Review.

Mr. Charles Thomas stated that there are no individual items for review, however, as a general comment, the ongoing development projects are primarily subdivisions, which indicated an increase in significant development activity.

***Fiscal Services Director:***

1. Action/Acceptance of the Fiscal Services Report for December 31, 2017.

Ms. Casaus stated that after receiving the December property tax distribution has skewed the reported numbers. Due to the timing of collections, which are slightly earlier than last years, we are at 77.6% greater than last year for the operating property tax revenue at the same time last fiscal year, and the debt service property tax revenue is 88.8% greater than last year. Ms. Casaus also stated that we received confirmation of our final assessed valuation numbers and agreed with projects of 2-2.5% increase over last year.

Ms. Casaus indicated that General Fund expenditures fiscal year-to-date through December 31, 2017 amount to 32% of the total budget for the year. We are currently 50% through Fiscal Year 2018. There were 44 Single-Family Residential permits issued by the City of Rio Rancho for the month of December and 455 for 2017, a decrease of 113 permits when compared to the previous year. Finally, she stated that interest was earned on funds invested in State Treasurer's Office local government program at a rate of 1.15% for the month of December. The current yield on a 90-day U.S. Treasury bill is 1.43%.

Ms. Casaus also stated that we received confirmation that the FY18 Audit Report is approved for printing from the State Auditor and will be brought to the Board for approval in February.

A motion was made by Steve House to accept the fiscal services report as presented. It was seconded by Mark Conkling and passed unanimously.

**ATTORNEY'S REPORT.**

None.

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT.**

Chairman Fahey stated that he appreciates comments from the public on drainage related issues or roadway issues, but that it is important that the appropriate entity who holds jurisdiction over the issue is responsible for the correction of the issue. Dr. Fahey further stated that SSCAFCA needs to prioritize correcting problems that are clearly the responsibility of SSCAFCA in accordance with the enabling legislation.

The Board indicated concurrence and stated that SSCAFCA should take a leadership role in addressing drainage related concerns.

**OTHER COMMITTEE REPORTS.**

**Quality of Life Committee.**

In response to a request from the Board regarding the Rio Rancho Golf Course. Mr. Thomas informed the Board that the Rio Rancho Planning & Zoning Commission has deferred action on the zoning application of the golf course to February.

Director Chaney replied that he didn't understand how the Commission could move forward with approval without Mr. Skarsgard presenting the other alternatives that may occur, such as the proposed conservation easement in lieu of a golf course. Mr. Thomas stated that the re-zoning application is proceeding with the option most preferred with the residents. Mr. Thomas also indicated that negotiation of the proposed conservation easement could not occur prior to any re-zoning approval.

**BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS.**

None.

**PROPERTY MATTERS.**

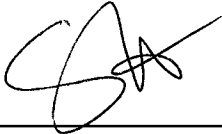
None.

**OTHER BUSINESS.**

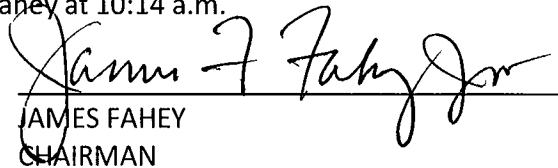
- Next Regular Board Meeting is on Friday, February 16, 2018 at 9:00 a.m.

**ADJOURNMENT.**

The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Fahey at 10:14 a.m.



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STEVE HOUSE  
Secretary, Board of Directors

  
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JAMES FAHEY  
CHAIRMAN

DATE APPROVED: 2/16/2018