

**SOUTHERN SANDOVAL COUNTY ARROYO FLOOD CONTROL AUTHORITY  
(SSCAFCA)  
MINUTES OF JUNE 13, 2011  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS INTERVIEW MEETING**

**CALL TO ORDER.**

The regular meeting of the SSCAFCA Board of Directors was called to order by Mark Conkling, Chairman, at 8:30 a.m.

**ROLL CALL OF DIRECTORS.**

Directors in attendance were John Chaney, Mark Conkling, James Fahey, and Donald Rudy. Catherine Conran, Administrative Services Director and Bernard Metzgar, SSCAFCA's attorney, were also present.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.**

The Board was led in the Pledge of Allegiance by Mark Conkling.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA.**

A motion was made by John Chaney to approve the Agenda as presented. It was seconded by Donald Rudy and passed unanimously.

**INTERVIEWS.**

John Chaney stated that the process would be to interview each candidate one by one. The other candidates are not invited to sit in on the other interviews. All questions will come from the Board. Mr. Conkling stated that he likes the idea of the candidates being responsive to different members of the Board so the questions will be rotated among the Board members.

Mr. Conkling stated that the attributes are prioritized for each candidate. The number one priority is the engineering experience of the person being interviewed. The second priority is management. The third is whether or not the candidate has the ability to handle the political pressures of the job. Mr. Metzgar suggested that the engineering experience be limited to recent experience because he believes they all started out as engineers.

**JIM CHIASSON:**

In response to a question from Mr. Chaney, Mr. Chiasson stated that he has managed and administered engineering projects for over 20 years in New Mexico. He has been involved in various flood control projects, as well as some waste water and solid waste projects. After working at Bohannon-Huston, he started work for the Santa Fe Solid Waste Management Agency. He was brought on as an engineer to oversee the construction of the new facility. It was a quasi-

governmental agency run by the City of Santa Fe and the County of Santa Fe. Politics doesn't get much tougher than those two entities. After that he moved on to the New Mexico Environment Department, where he's been for the last eleven years. He took a step down with this move because he wanted to get something more into engineering. In November 2010, he has been in an acting position as Bureau Chief which oversees 28 staff members and a budget of approximately \$2.5 million. He has been managing employees for approximately 15 to 16 years. He has worked fairly extensively with the Legislature as well.

In response to a question from Mr. Conkling, Mr. Chiasson stated that he has been at his current employment for 11 years and in that time has worked for three governors. He has seen a broad spectrum of ups and downs. His current position is an "acting" position and it most likely will be advertised. He feels he is in his prime now and would like to bring his knowledge to a job and be challenged in his position.

In response to a question from Mr. Rudy, Mr. Chiasson stated that flood control is very different work than he has done in the past. Going back to his original experience with Bohannon Huston, he had flood control projects with them.

In response to a question from Mr. Fahey, Mr. Chiasson stated that his design experience in flood control goes back many years. Planning is important right from the get go. Data management is extremely important and he has a fair amount of experience with that.

In response to a question from Mr. Rudy, Mr. Chiasson stated that he has working relationships with the entities who would be involved in SSCAFCA projects. He is used to working on multiple projects at the same time.

Mr. Conkling asked if he would proactively spend money to be a leader in the eyes of the EPA or if he would meter it out and deal with the situation as cheaply as possible as problems arose. Mr. Chiasson stated that if a budget is pretty tight and it doesn't allow you to pursue other initiatives, he is not sure that the money is well spent in order to gain some sort of higher recognition in the EPA at or above EPA's standards.

In response to a question from Mr. Chaney, Mr. Chiasson stated that with regard to bringing issues to the Board, it is difficult to answer because each issue is its own situation. He would always bring issues up to the Board if they were brought up by staff. Staff is on the front line and has a lot of important information and input and he always listens to what staff says first. He is also a firm believer that as a leader of the organization, he would make the final decision about taking something to the Board and take responsibility for that decision.

In response to a question from Mr. Conkling regarding influencing policy, Mr. Chiasson stated that he's a Type A individual and has opinions that he desires be heard. He would not feel inhibited to let the Board know his professional opinions on issues.

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In response to a question from Mr. Conkling, Mr. Chiasson stated that he would rather be held back rather than having to be pushed. He is very self-motivated and proactive.

In response to a question from Mr. Rudy, Mr. Chiasson stated that he has dealt with issues concerning disagreements among other entities and developers over the last 15 years.

In response to a question from Mr. Fahey, Mr. Chiasson stated that he doesn't have any direct experience in issuing bonds. The state does not directly issue bonds. He has a general understanding of how it works, but has not worked with it directly.

Mr. Chiasson thanked the Board members for their time. He knows it is an important process and he is grateful at being a part of that process. Choosing a leader for an organization like SSCAFCA is no easy task.

**DANNY McFADEEN:**

In response to a question from Mr. Conkling, Mr. McFadeen stated that he has the ability to handle large projects. He has been the engineer of record for both public and private type of developments. He is not LEEDS certified but he was studying for that a couple of years ago. He handles the public very well, along with "hot headed" developers. His projects have consisted of schools, parks, interconnecting trails in the desert of Las Vegas.

In response to a question from Mr. Conkling regarding multi-use facilities, Mr. McFadeen stated that the last development he did was Adelante Community. It was a private acquisition and 2,500 acres in size. The requirements was to provide intermingled trails. A golf course has bike paths, walking trails, trail heads that would open up into the open areas. The 2,500 acres was part of the 7,500 public acres BLM public release area.

In response to a question from Jim Fahey regarding what area of technical engineering expertise he believes is necessary for this position, Mr. McFadeen stated that understanding the results of the hydrologic modeling that is done and being able to use those results is very important.

In response to a question from Jim Fahey with regard to Data Asset Management Systems, Mr. McFadeen stated that he does not have much experience with DAMS, but he does have extensive experience with Excel and other data bases.

In response to a question from Mr. Chaney regarding his most recent engineering project, Mr. McFadeen stated that his last project was the Adelante community done in 2009. The project basically conveys the 100 year flow through the developments.

In response to a question from Mr. Conkling, Mr. McFadeen stated that when a new project comes through the door and the development plans are in conformance with SSCAFCA's Watershed

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Management Plan, the first thing the engineers would do is their modeling to ensure that everything is draining correctly. He is a firm believer to get everybody around the table to solve any problems that arise.

In response to a question from Mr. Fahey, Mr. McFadeen stated that, with regard to handling and developing budgets, and bonding, as a design engineer, he is very good at staying within internal budgets. He does not have much experience in getting the financing in place. Most of the financing for his projects came from the private side.

In response to a question from Mr. Conkling regarding working for a Board of Directors, Mr. McFadeen stated that he has handled a lot of hot-headed developers, so he doesn't really have a problem working for a group of people. In response to a question from Mr. Rudy, Mr. McFadeen stated that if you can help the public by simplifying drainage to the point where they understand what is happening, it can make your job easier.

In response to a question from Mr. Conkling, Mr. McFadeen stated that he has managed a staff of about 40 people, and the firm he worked for was about 500 people. As far as his management style, he would have manager meetings on Monday mornings, and a staff meeting on every other Friday afternoon. He is a firm believer in letting staff know their deadlines and budget and let them take the lead.

In response to a question from Mr. Chaney, Mr. McFadeen stated that he has handled multiple projects at one time. In the Adelante community, they ripped through 7,500 lots in a two and half year period. He was also handling the north Las Vegas project for Pulte Homes at that point.

In response to a question from Mr. Fahey regarding a plan on how he would bring himself up to speed and become acquainted with SCAFCA, Mr. McFadeen stated that he would be commuting until he could get his family here with him. He has read SCAFCA's drainage policy and the Administrative policy and didn't see anything peculiar. SCAFCA is a little more conservative than Las Vegas. It would be a matter of getting in and getting his feet wet. He stated that he thinks it's necessary to have policies such as SCAFCA has with regard to multi-use facilities.

In response to a question by Mr. Conkling regarding being updated on the use of modeling software, Mr. McFadeen stated that he knows how to use the results of the software. With regard to a fidelity insurance bond, he sees no reason why he would be denied such a bond. He has no felony arrests or convictions.

Mr. McFadeen stated that he is very proud of his career and some of the projects he has put together. He pays keen attention to the details of his plans. He would love the opportunity to get back to New Mexico and would like to be on the side that enforces the rules.

**ERIC ZAMORA:**

In response to a question from Mr. Chaney, Mr. Zamora stated that his experience with working in Valencia County gives him good experience to work with SSCAFCA. He stated that he believes that opening up the process to the public will help all governmental entities in the long run.

In response to a question from Mr. Conkling, Mr. Zamora stated that the reason he wants to focus more on the engineering side of his employment is that he's at the point in his career where he has five years left under PERA to retire. If he continues in his current career path, he will be stepping farther away from the engineering and more into government. He really enjoys the technical aspects of engineering.

In response to a question from Mr. Conkling, Mr. Zamora stated that he thinks he would work well with a Board. He has worked for one of the most politically volatile entities in the state and has worked well with them.

In response to a question from Mr. Chaney regarding three key components to the job which are direction and management of engineering, office administration, and then being able to coordinate SSCAFCA's activities with the other entities and the private sector. Mr. Zamora stated that the most important of those would be running the department as the primary function of the position; the second would be the interaction with the public and the business sector; and the third would be the engineering because of the present engineers on staff.

In response to a question from Mr. Fahey, Mr. Zamora stated that project management would be the all encompassing area of expertise necessary for the position. You've got to be able to envision the drainage needs and plan for addressing the issues, develop ideas, acquire funding and follow through on the construction and to ensure the work is done in compliance with regulations.

In response to a question from Mr. Fahey, Mr. Zamora stated that in Valencia County they had four bond issues presented to the public, two that passed and two that did not. He has worked with bond counsel in developing those bond issues.

In response to a question from Mr. Conkling, Mr. Zamora stated that planning encompasses about 90% of his job at this point. He enjoys working with the community. He is not a planner by trade. He enjoys the construction and managing the construction.

In response to a question from Mr. Conkling, he stated that he has not seen the five year plan for SSCAFCA.

In response to a question from Mr. Chaney with regard to hydrologic modeling and flood control, he stated that his expertise is very limited in this regard as he has not had much opportunity to work in this field.

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In response to a question from Mr. Conkling, he stated that his most exciting project is the solid waste project. Developing the concepts to help the contractors is exciting to him. He is a task oriented person who likes to set little goals and move forward as he can. The bulk of his experience is in construction work.

In response to a question from Mr. Conkling regarding issues being brought to the Board, he stated that bringing issues to the Board would have to be on a case by case basis once he made the determination that it couldn't be handled by staff or by him.

In response to a question from Mr. Fahey regarding storm water quality projects, he stated that he started the bridge over Tijeras Arroyo project and some concepts were developed with community input. They had one very vocal resident who thought that the project was being done for the benefit of the developer. The design process took several years because of delays with regard to public input. They had received legislative funding for the construction costs. They spanned 150 feet with two lanes of concrete with a wall barrier with no impact to the creek. It was done on time and under budget. The way he dealt with the people who were opposed to the project was to talk to them personally, but there are some people that you won't satisfy.

In response to a question from Mr. Rudy regarding interactions with other entities and their projects that need to be evaluated and compared to SSCAFCA's plans, Mr. Zamora stated that he has done this type of work on a weekly basis. He will not be "bullied" into pushing something through and ensures that his staff follows protocol.

In response to a question from Mr. Rudy regarding SSCAFCA's policy to get secondary benefit out of every project, Mr. Zamora stated that he is certainly more up front with how business is done and why things are done.

In response to a question from Mr. Fahey regarding taking an innovative approach to a problem, Mr. Zamora stated that in the water and waste water study, there are certain individuals and communities which are activists. They set up an advisory board and brought on people who were very active in their communities to be involved in the process.

In response to a question from Mr. Chaney, Mr. Zamora stated that he would work on the weekends in order to bring himself up to speed with regard to hydrology and modeling, if need be. He stated that, with regard to data asset management systems and GIS, he has worked with GIS on almost a daily basis, however, he has no specific on-hand experience. He is currently in the process of bringing in someone to help with document management.

In response to a question from Mr. Rudy regarding experience in bonds, a mil levy and a general operating budget, right now he runs about a \$13.8 million general operating budget with other accounts that bring in an additional \$9 million or so. He oversees the business manager, who has oversight of the finance department. He is generally not a micro-manager, with the exception of

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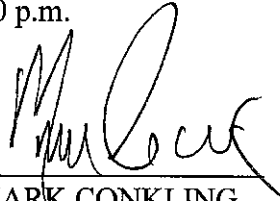
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finance. This is one of the most critical facets of government. He has done a couple of bond sales in the past.

Mr. Zamora stated that he is at a crossroads in his career where he will have to take a step away from the engineering. He really enjoys the technical aspect of his job and would like to keep doing more of that rather than management responsibilities.

**ADJOURNMENT.**

A motion was made by John Chaney and seconded by Donald Rudy to adjourn the meeting. It was carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 1:20 p.m.



MARK CONKLING  
CHAIRMAN



DONALD RUDY  
Secretary

DATE APPROVED: 7/27/2011

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