



Albuquerque Metropolitan Arroyo Flood Control Authority
Regular Meeting Minutes
September 24, 2026
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1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair Taylor called the Board meeting to order at 9:00 a.m., Thursday, September 24, 2026, at the AMAFCA office in Albuquerque, NM.

Directors present: Chair Elizabeth Newlin Taylor – at the AMAFCA building
Director Ronald R. Bohannon – at the AMAFCA building
Director Tim Eichenberg – at the AMAFCA building
Director Bruce M. Thomson – at the AMAFCA building

Directors excused: Director Orlando G. Martinez, Jr.

Attorney present: Marcus J. Rael, Jr. and Mailene Ramos, Robles, Rael & Anaya – at the AMAFCA building

Others present via Zoom and / or in person: David Stoliker, Interim Executive Engineer
Staff
Other attendees on file at AMAFCA

A quorum was present.

2. Approval of Agenda

Chair Taylor asked that Item 15.a. Consideration of possible approval of the Employment Agreement for the Executive Engineer and authorization for the Chair to execute the agreement, substantially as attached, be removed from the Agenda since it was no longer needed.

Director Bohannon made a motion to approve the Agenda, as amended. Director Thomson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously (4-0).

3. Meetings Scheduled

- a. October 22, 2026, 9:00 a.m. – Regular Meeting**
- b. November 19, 9:00 a.m. – Regular Meeting**
- c. December 17, 2026, 9:00 a.m. – Regular Meeting and Board of Director's Luncheon**
- d. January 28, 2027, 9:00 a.m. – Regular Meeting**

Chair Taylor advised she would not be present but might be able to participate via Zoom for the October 22, 2026 meeting. There were no changes to the above dates.

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4. Items from the Floor / Public Comments

A total of 10 speakers appeared, in person, to speak.

Brittany Walters
Joe Graziano
Carolyn Willis
Julie Lawrence
Sandra Montoya
Claudia Monet
Brandy Baldanaldo
Irvin Chacon
Tom Maclean
Ray Strom

Frank Mercer waived his speaking time

The Board thanked everyone for coming; advised AMAFCA is creating a wildlife policy to require an inventory of AMAFCA facilities to see where wildlife most likely could be; the policy would put into place a protocol so that if wildlife are encountered, the work stops; expert biologists will be called in to help AMAFCA evaluate the situation and evaluate whether AMAFCA can proceed, and / or what steps should be taken next in terms of protecting the animals. It was stressed that AMAFCA's intent is to never harm any animal, but AMAFCA does have an obligation to protect property and people from flood(s). The rainy weather from last week was used as an example of importance of this mission and how people and their property are protected; it was stressed that the community's comments were appreciated and heard; and the draft policy was created to move forward so that wildlife will be protected and that AMAFCA will continue to make the proper response when wildlife is encountered in one of AMAFCA's facilities, where they should not be, but given the drought and the lack of rain until the last few weeks it's logical that they went to where the water was built up because the facility hadn't been cleaned out and properly drained. All visitors were encouraged to stay for the upcoming topic under Facilities, Operations & Maintenance.

AMAFCA is one of these little agencies that is below the radar 99% of the time; it is very gratifying to see the public involved and interested in what AMAFCA does. La Orilla is absolutely unique; AMAFCA does not promote standing water; AMAFCA does not create habitats in any of AMAFCA's facilities; AMAFCA budget for environmental protection is close to fifteen percent of the total budget; and AMAFCA is heavily focused on water quality.

5. Approval of Minutes

a. August 27, 2026

Director Bohannon made a motion to approve the Minutes of August 27, 2026. Director Thomson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously (3-0). Director Eichenberg abstained since he was not present at the August meeting.

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6. Consent Agenda

Chair Taylor advised Agenda Items 6.a. to 6.c. were on the Consent Agenda, which was shared on the TV for all participants to view. Director Bohannon made a motion that the Board approve those items on the Consent Agenda. The motion approved the following:

- On-Call Oblique Aerial Photography Services – First Extension with Bowman (formerly High Mesa, A Bowman Company);
- On-Call Geotechnical and Materials Testing Services – First Extension with GEOMATT LLC, Terracon Consultants, NV5, Inc., and YeDoma Consultants, LLC; and
- On-Call Land Survey Services – First Extension with Bohannon Huston, Inc., Bona Fide Surveying, LLC, Bowman (formerly High Mesa, A Bowman Company), Cobb Fendley & Associates, Inc., Souder, Miller & Associates, Inc., and Wilson & Company, Inc.

Director Thomson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously (4-0).

7. Legal

a. Status Report

Attorney Marcus J. Rael, Jr., summarized information provided in the memo. There were no questions.

8. Facilities, Operations & Maintenance Update

a. AMAFCA Operations Update

Ms. Paula Dodge-Kwan, AMAFCA Director of Operations & Maintenance, summarized information provided in the memo and answered questions from the Board. Part of the presentation included: AMAFCA continued the normal maintenance, stormwater quality, vegetation management, fleet management, and sediment efforts. A significant portion of AMAFCA's time went to responding to the associated conditions identified at La Orilla. At La Orilla, the structure is a trash rack; it is the last water quality structure before discharging into the river; the water that comes into La Orilla is storm water and a connection to the irrigation drain; the time of year determines where the water comes from; AMAFCA cleans it out about every year to a year and a half; before and after pictures were reviewed, clearly noting the difference in the amount of debris that was moving through there; AMAFCA coordinated activities with local government agencies, including MRGCD, prior to going in; when wildlife was found and AMAFCA was alerted, AMAFCA worked with both City of Albuquerque (CoA) Open Space and Environmental Health, and they had their wildlife biologists come out on the same day that AMAFCA started work to help get the wildlife removed.

Ms. Dodge-Kwan thanked CoA's Environmental Health and Open Space Divisions, and the many partner organizations such as Game and Fish, who helped evaluate the work AMAFCA was doing, provided feedback on the way that AMAFCA was proceeding, and then stayed to do the wildlife recovery. Their expertise, responsiveness, and willingness to collaborate were instrumental throughout the effort. The operational work addressed the immediate need. This was important as

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AMAFCA gained experience on where AMAFCA needs to change processes and procedures and where collaboration could be stronger. It was noted that La Orilla is not only for trash but is a sediment area as well.

CoA reported around 66 animals were safely recovered. Most of them were red-eared slider turtles, which are a non-native species; common snapping turtles that are the most abundant there; a few western painted turtles, one spiny soft shell turtle, a number of bullfrogs, and a garter snake. All of the breeding-aged turtles found were safely recovered and moved and they are still doing well in their relocated facility. They are at a couple of ponds that are run by CoA; some were taken to Tingley and some of them were taken further south. CoA did not find anything that was injured or deceased. AMAFCA looked carefully and nothing like that was found. The larger takeaway was procedural and the response gives AMAFCA an opportunity to evaluate, coordinate, document, and make sure that everyone is trained appropriately. Lessons were learned, and AMAFCA wants to be more aware of when a site or seasonal conditions merit additional wildlife considerations. This should not have been an area that was attractive to wildlife, but it was the only standing water in the area. Generally, water moves through La Orilla pretty well, but the river is so low that there was no way to be able to get positive drainage out of the facility. Going forward, AMAFCA will need to look at a redesign of that facility to make sure that AMAFCA can go in and open a front gate if AMAFCA gets into a situation where the river is as low as it is now. AMAFCA must make sure that all biological determinations and wildlife handling are done by qualified professionals. This is not something that AMAFCA staff feels particularly comfortable doing and staff do not want to hurt anything by accident. AMAFCA has heard a lot from the public and is very concerned about having the public interacting with the heavy equipment that is being used in the area, as well as the wildlife. Wildlife can be unpredictably challenging. AMAFCA's intent is to keep qualified professionals around to help with all wildlife. Clearer communication is needed internally and with an outside agency response path set up ahead of time. None of this changes AMAFCA's core mission. It gives AMAFCA a more consistent way to recognize when wildlife considerations need to be evaluated and how to respond. All of this has led to the drafting of the Wildlife Consideration Policy, a guide, and a field directive.

Ms. Dodge-Kwan summarized the rest of her report. She further stressed that she is focusing on implementing and putting the wildlife protection materials into practice, completing the strategic facility review that is called for in that policy, building wildlife awareness into staff training, supporting Valencia County operations, changing locks at the balloon fiesta park, and continuing the core of AMAFCA's functions with operations, maintenance, and environmental stewardship.

Responding to a question from the Board regarding the Zuni-Pennsylvania Project and what appears to be a dump truck full of accumulated debris, Ms. Dodge-Kwan advised AMAFCA had turned the property over to CoA, CoA is aware of the issue on their facility, and the issue is being investigated.

The Board asked that Mr. Patrick J. Chavez, AMAFCA Storm Water Quality Engineer, update the Board on the Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) monitoring that AMAFCA does with something like a white paper, to see where AMAFCA is at with PFAS monitoring throughout AMAFCA's jurisdiction. The Board asked that any staff who provides a presentation to an outside entity or conference to consider giving the Board the same prevention.

Responding to a question on whether damage had been reported at the Hahn and Carlisle bridge, where CoA put in a lane drop, which has a hydraulic jump, Ms. Dodge-Kwan advised nothing had been reported but it would be looked at.

b. Wildlife Consideration Draft Policy for Review

Ms. Paula Dodge-Kwan, AMAFCA Director of Operations & Maintenance, summarized information provided in the memo and answered questions from the Board. Part of the presentation included: The Wildlife Consideration Draft Policy (draft policy) is for Board review and comments before returning with the final version for Board consideration and approval. AMAFCA had been presented with an opportunity to evaluate AMAFCA's existing practices and identify where additional guidance, training, and coordination protocols could benefit future operations; the draft policy will be a guide and field directive. Ms. Dodge-Kwan empathized that the purpose of these documents would not change AMAFCA's mission; AMAFCA's primary responsibility remains protecting people and property, maintaining safe, functional flood control, and stormwater infrastructure. AMAFCA's responsibility remains paramount and is specifically recognized throughout the policy. What the draft policy does is establish a practical and consistent framework for incorporating wildlife considerations into AMAFCA's planning, maintenance, and operational activities; one of the key lessons from La Orilla was many of AMAFCA's facilities exist in places where flood control, infrastructure, open space, utilities, public use, environmental resources, and wildlife intersect; those conditions can create situations where additional awareness and coordination can be beneficial; the draft policy is built around very few specific simple concepts; wildlife reviews should be risk-based and proportional to the situation; not every maintenance activity requires a biological review; when wildlife is known or reasonably likely to be present, staff observe wildlife activity, seasonal conditions warrant additional review, or site conditions indicate a need for specialized expertise. AMAFCA will have a process in place to evaluate those circumstances; AMAFCA employees are not wildlife professionals; AMAFCA staff are highly skilled operators, mechanics, inspectors, maintenance professionals, engineers, and stormwater quality specialists; AMAFCA personnel are not experienced with handling animals; wildlife handling, relocation, species identification, and biological determination is a responsibility that belongs to qualified wildlife professionals and their appropriate agencies; the draft policy clearly establishes that distinction; the draft policy emphasizes coordination and awareness; AMAFCA staff want to understand what conditions may warrant additional review, recognize when wildlife concerns may exist; and know who to contact for assistance.

To support implementation of the draft policy, staff developed two additional documents. The first document is the Wildlife Consideration Guide; it provides a practical framework for facility review; seasonal considerations; wildlife awareness; coordination with agencies and consultants; training; documentation; and future implementation activities. The document is intended to be a working document that can evolve as AMAFCA gains additional information regarding its facilities and wildlife integrations throughout the watershed. The second additional document is a wildlife encounter field directive. This field directive is simple and designed for field use; the directive is to document, contact, coordinate, and then proceed; it provides staff with a consistent response when wildlife is being encountered; establishes reporting expectations; identifies management contacts; and outlines how the agency will coordinate with appropriate wildlife professionals and agencies when needed. In addition to these documents, AMAFCA is in the process of contracting for biological consulting services with Daniel B. Stephens & Associates

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under an existing on-call contract for small water quality services; work would include a strategic review of mapped facilities and maintenance activities; identify the locations and conditions where wildlife considerations may be appropriate; evaluate seasonal considerations; target biological assessments where warranted; recommend future pre-maintenance review; provide staff wildlife training; and results of the work are intended to be incorporated into the wildlife considerations guide and its technical appendices so that the guidance can become more specific as AMAFCA learns more. Ms. Dodge-Kwan emphasized that the policy is intended to be practical and that AMAFCA is not trying to become a wildlife agency, just a concerned organization that takes wildlife into account. The goal is to ensure that AMAFCA can continue to protect people and property while reasonably operating in an environment where infrastructure, wildlife, environmental resources, and the public frequently interact. Ms. Dodge-Kwan concluded with a thank you to CoA's Environmental Health Department and Open Space, as well as AMAFCA's consultants, and the many individuals who assisted during the response at La Orilla. Their experience, expertise, and collaboration helped with the draft policy as presented.

The Board suggested consulting with MRGCD and their biologist to see if they have any suggestions for the draft policy. The Board concurred that a policy that will serve AMAFCA's mission and also protect the wildlife that inadvertently gets caught up in some of AMAFCA's facilities was a great plan. The Wildlife Consideration Draft Policy will be posted on the website, and comments should be directed to Ms. Paula Dodge-Kwan. The Board asked that a second statement under 2. Policy Statement be added to read, "Comply with all State, Federal Wildlife, and Environmental Protection Laws." The Board asked that page numbers also be added to the document.

c. On-Call Water Quality Task Order for Wildlife Consultation

Mr. Patrick J. Chavez, AMAFCA Storm Water Quality Engineer, summarized information provided in the memo and answered questions from the Board. Part of the presentation included: AMAFCA set up a task order to help with wildlife encounter consultations, also known as environmental stewardship; DBS&A is under contract for their wildlife biologists; Mr. Chad Johanneson, Senior Scientist with DBS&A, and Ms. Megan Rabinowich, Senior Biologist, with DBS&A, were present via Zoom; AMAFCA knows where there is water because AMAFCA identified those facilities as sample collection sites; there are seven to nine locations that AMAFCA routinely samples and has to maintain; AMAFCA assigned the task order and will be kicking off a meeting shortly; field visits will occur to take a look at AMAFCA's facilities; provide feedback on where AMAFCA is likely to have those interactions; AMAFCA staff training will include some seasonality concerns as well; for example, if there is a burrowing owl in some locations AMAFCA will know what to look for; and operations and maintenance will call DBS&A directly to come out to provide assistance.

The Board asked that DBS&A be present at the next Board meeting for follow-up on the task and the Wildlife Consideration Draft Policy.

d. Field Highlights

Mr. Esqui Padilla, AMAFCA Operations Manager, provided a report on various projects and storm events at numerous AMAFCA facilities and answered questions from the Board. Mr. Padilla stressed the sediment removal and other work done prior to monsoon season was extremely beneficial since there was no serious damage at any AMAFCA facility.

9. Executive Engineer's Update

a. Notification of Past Month's Activities

Ms. Paula Dodge-Kwan, AMAFCA Director of Operations & Maintenance, referred the Board to the document from Mr. David Stoliker, AMAFCA Interim Executive Engineer, and answered questions from the Board. The Board asked that an update be sent out on the progress on Chaparral Pond.

The Board thanked Mr. Stoliker for his help during his tenure as Interim Executive Engineer.

10. Financial Matters

a. Financial Matters – Acceptance of Financial Information

Ms. Maria Zuniga, AMAFCA Director of Finance & Procurement, along with Ms. Cassandra Gutierrez, AMAFCA Assistant Director of Finance & Procurement, summarized information provided in the memo and answered questions from the Board. The presentation included Budget information for Fiscal Year 2027 such as General Fund Budget to Actual; Revenues; Expenditures; Cash & Investments; and Property Taxes. Ms. Zuniga advised that AMAFCA is looking to diversify investments, per a request from the Finance Committee. Information will be provided to the Board at a later date.

Director Thomson made a motion that the Board accept the Financial Information. Director Eichenberg seconded the motion, which passed unanimously (4-0).

b. Other Matters

Ms. Maria Zuniga, AMAFCA Director of Finance & Procurement, summarized information provided in the memo, answered a question from the Board, and walked the Board through upcoming tasks within the ConceptBoard system. The Board asked that both the Board and new AMAFCA staff that should be aware of the Bond process be provided with training. The Board congratulated Maria on the receipt of an Excellence in Reporting designation from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA).

c. Resolution 2026-15 Procurement Resolution

Ms. Maria Zuniga, AMAFCA Director of Finance & Procurement, summarized information provided in the memo and answered a question from the Board.

Director Thomson made a motion that the Board approve and adopt Resolution 2026-15, Procurement Resolution, and authorize the Chair and Secretary-Treasurer to execute the same on behalf of AMAFCA. Director Eichenberg seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (4-0) on a roll call vote.

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d. Resolution 2026-16 Executive Engineer's Contracting Authority to replace Resolution 2024-17

Ms. Maria Zuniga, AMAFCA Director of Finance & Procurement, summarized information provided in the memo and answered questions from the Board. Chair Taylor asked for an editorial correction.

Director Eichenberg made a motion that the Board approve and adopt Resolution 2026-16, Executive Engineer's Contracting Authority, to replace Resolution 2024-17, and authorize the Chair and Secretary-Treasurer to execute the same on behalf of AMAFCA. Director Thomson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (4-0) on a roll call vote.

11. Planning and Engineering Items

a. Notification of On-Call Services Task Orders

Ms. Vera Belaia, AMAFCA Project Engineer, referred the Board to their memo. There were no questions.

b. Construction Report

Ms. Vera Belaia, AMAFCA Project Engineer, summarized information provided in the memo and answered questions from the Board.

c. Award of Construction Contract for Calabacillas GCS 3a1, 3b1, and Bank Protection Project to Lowest Responsible Bidder

Mr. Esqui Padilla, AMAFCA Operations Manager, summarized information provided in the memo and answered questions from the Board.

Director Thomson made a motion that the Board award the construction contract to Salls Brothers Construction, Inc., in the amount of \$5,627,653.40, plus NMGR, for the Calabacillas GCS 3a1, 3b1, and Bank Protection Project. Director Bohannon seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (4-0).

d. Approval of Amendment 1 to the Construction Management for the Calabacillas GCS 3a1, 3b1, and Assoc. Bank Projection Project

Mr. Esqui Padilla, AMAFCA Operations Manager, summarized information provided in the memo, emphasized that the Executive Engineer would sign the Amendment, and answered questions from the Board.

Director Bohannon made a motion that the Board authorize the Executive Engineer to approve Amendment One to the Agreement for Construction Management for the Calabacillas Grade Control Structures 3a1, 3b1, and Assoc. Bank Protection Project. Director Thomson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (4-0).

12. Administration Information

a. Human Resource Updates

Ms. Crystal Griego, AMAFCA Director of Administration, summarized information provided in the memo. There were no questions from the Board. It was noted the Personnel and Salary Committee have been meeting frequently and are aware of all items.

13. Executive Session (closed)

- a. Limited Personnel Matters (§ 10-15-1(H)(2) – Discussion regarding the Employment of the Executive Engineer**
- b. Limited Personnel Matters (§ 10-15-1(H)(2) – Discussion regarding the Services Contract for David Stoliker & Associates Services**

Chair Taylor advised Items **13a. and 13.b.** were Closed Session agenda items. The meeting was at the AMAFCA office with four Directors in attendance. Director Thomson made a motion that the meeting be closed, pursuant to the Open Meetings Act, § 10-15-1 NMSA 1978, Subsection H, to preserve the confidentiality of the information to be discussed, and as further described in “*The Open Meetings Act, A Compliance Guide for New Mexico Public Officials and Citizens*,” eighth edition, 2015, to discuss Limited Personnel Matters regarding Employment of the Executive Engineer (§ 10-15-1(H)(2)) and Services Contract for David Stoliker & Associates Services. Director Bohannon seconded the motion, which passed unanimously (4-0) on a roll call vote. Ms. Griego and Attorneys Rael and Ramos were present.

Chair Taylor closed the meeting at 11:33 a.m. Chair Taylor asked for a motion to re-open the meeting at 12:31 p.m. Director Thomson made a motion that the meeting be re-opened. Director Bohannon seconded the motion, which passed (4-0) on a roll call vote. Director Thomson stated only Limited Personnel Matters were discussed in closed session and no decisions were made.

14. David Stoiker & Associates

a. Approval for Davide Stoliker & Associates Services Contract

Attorney Rael covered Sole Source specifications and advised the proposed contract, if approved, would meet AMAFCA’s procurement requirements.

Director Thomson made a motion that the Board approve the Services Contract with David Stoliker & Associates. Director Bohannon seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (4-0).

15. Personnel Matters

- a. Consideration of possible approval of the Employment Agreement for the Executive Engineer and authorization for the Chair to execute the agreement, substantially as attached**

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This item was removed at the beginning of the meeting.

16. Unfinished Business

None

17. New Business

It was noted that the Real Estate Committee had met regarding the Broadway and Lomas property to review the possibility of a future sale of the property. More information will be provided at another time.

The Board asked that a Special Meeting be held on October, 2, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. for Personnel Matters.

18. Adjourn

There being no further business to come before the Board, Chair Taylor adjourned the meeting at 12:35 p.m.

Orlando G. Martinez, Jr., Secretary – Treasurer, 10/22/2026

If Draft is noted as a watermark, the minutes are in draft form, are not the official minutes of record, and are subject to approval by the AMAFCA Board of Directors