



SCNA Annual Meeting

Sunday, September 13, 2026

8:30 Coffee and Breakfast Breads

9:00 President Caroline Yezer called the meeting to order at 9:07. People were asked to introduce themselves.

- **Treasurer's Report:** See uploaded report. Balance: \$5645.87 No major expenditures this year; income is from renting the community room and from United Way.
- **Presentations by SC Community Organizations/Leaders**
 - **UDC Peggy Nelson:** Peggy said there was a sizeable meeting earlier this month here at the SC Community Center on the County's **Unified Development Code (UDC)** Plan. It was a good turn-out however about half were not residents of SC; many were from other Neighborhood Associations concerned with the proposed UDC. Representatives from the Taos County Planning Department were present to provide information about the proposed plan. Peggy explained that the county has a legal responsibility to update its comprehensive plan. The county contracted with an agency from Albuquerque. This agency produced a 400-page UDC document that is very complex and includes plans for county wide zoning. One major concern is that the document, including zoning plans, was produced without public input. These contractors did say that this county has one of the most comprehensive plans they've ever seen, but then they expanded this plan to include any type of planning (night sky, short-term rentals, etc.). There are critiques that this plan is way beyond what was asked for. Concern is that the plan leans too much toward housing contractors, with no public oversight or input. Plus, "affordable housing" is seen as \$300,000 which is not realistic for most working families in the area. There is no protection of agricultural land, and, in a 400-page document, acequias are only mentioned 14 times (it was mentioned that the state sees acequias as a dying system). It is hoped that one of the commissioners will propose retracting a bit and start over in another direction.

Peggy doesn't feel that the county is really listening to the public. She said we need to stay on top of this and push for a retraction. (Include link.) Doug Kaufman is involved with this. Darlene Vigil, County Commissioner District 3, is likely to present to the County Commission to provide better guidance to the Planning Department. Rose des Georges, Cynthia Patterson, and Hank Saxe are from the Ranchos de Taos Neighborhood Association and actively speaking out against the current plan and its lack of transparency and public input. Summer Wood added that the Historical Designation has been

temporarily sidelined due to this county-wide issue. Peggy added that this historical designation is still important as it might give us political clout.

At the meeting the County Planning Department could not provide timelines. The Taos Valley Acequia Association has done surveys and analysis at several UCD community meetings and have made reports available at these community meetings. Our County Commissioner, Miguel Romero, was at the SC meeting and stated that he is available to hear comments from his constituents. His email is: Miguel.romero@taoscountynm.gov. Phone: 575-779-4203

- **Source Water Protection - Michael Roberts** introduced himself. Background is in water governance and policy; he works with a research institute at NMHU. His focus is on fire and water. He is now associated with NM Rural Water Association working closely with Martha Graham to protect public waters and community domestic water systems. Michael and Martha have already reached out to the SCMDWCA and SC Acequia to form a core planning community, and are gathering data in case of a wildfire. Michael explained that “water” includes anything not treated, so domestic wells are included. The Source Water Protection Plan takes a community engaged approach. The next Source Water Protection meeting is Wednesday, September 30 at 5:30 in the Community Center. All are welcome to attend and be part of the group.
- Summer Wood invited the community to the Sept. 27, 6pm meeting at the community center on “planting water” so that ground water can be replenished. She referenced Zach Weiss, a well-known expert in this field, <https://www.waterstories.com/>. Another group, the Sacred Mountain Water Society, is also involved in the Source Water Protection plan, bringing indigenous practices to the plan.
- **SCVFD** – Fire Chief Steve Pace could not attend the meeting due to a multi-day training in Red River so he sent an annual report. He said that our local fire department averages between 30-70 calls per year, covering wildfire, structure fires, medical calls, motor vehicle accidents, rescues, as well as calls to neighboring districts. A third of the calls are at night and most calls are an hour to two long, although some have been 6-8 hours in length. The number of active volunteer firefighters has dropped in the county and nationwide so anyone interested in serving would be welcome. Trainings are twice a month. Both La Loma and San Cristobal have aging equipment that needs replacement. Chief Pace did acknowledge that we are lucky to have County Chief Cordova working to support all fire stations.
- **SCMDWCA** – Mary Gilroy explained how the “domestic water system” came to “own” the county school we now call the community center. She said the Board of the SCMDWCA is always writing grants to improve the water system and the community center building. Currently, there is a grant to repair and upgrade the community building that has been submitted to Senator Martin Heinrich. It has passed two of three hurdles in Congress.
- **SCNA**: Finally, to keep things simple, the SCNA has decided that San Cristobal Day will always be the first Saturday of August. So set your your calendars for August 7, 2027.

Quick Announcements:

- Upcoming event Sept. 27, 6 pm, on water preservation
- Vom Dorp’s event tonight from 4-7.

Community Wide Concerns: Most of the discussion was around bears and the need to hold onto trash in one’s house until it can be taken to the dump. Kathy Namba mentioned that she has organized her “Vecino” so that if anyone is going to the dump, he or she lets the others know. Someone mentioned that Taos Land Trust has a composting bin for public use. It was also explained

that while the USFS can put out hay for elk and deer, feeding bears in the forest will lead to fighting and dependency.

As for dogs, while there is a county-wide leash law, the bottom line is that all residents are responsible for their dogs so that no animal (pet or livestock) nor person is ever hurt by a dog.

SCNA Proposed Projects: *Adopt a Project*

- Library organization: Kathy Namba, Peggy Nelson, and Mary Gilroy volunteered to organize the books in the library including a treasure trove of Jenny Vincent's books, books by SC residents, and books on the Southwest. Others are welcome to join.
- Window Washing: Kelvin and Catherine Watts will continue to wash the post office windows with Jim and Mary Gilroy.
- Alice Morillon agreed to work with others who use the basketball courts in keeping the weeds at bay around the court.
- There was a brief discussion on tearing up the community room carpet and refinishing the original hardwood floors. Kathy Namba will look into this.
- Debby Taylor also shared Chris Taylor's ideas for a mosaic in the hallway of the CC building. The board suggested that when Chris is ready to unveil his plans, we hold a potluck dinner to get community input and commitment for this art project.

Elections for 2026-2027 Term: Liz, Kathy, Mary, and Junito will stay on the board. Peggy Nelson nominated Michael Roberts to the Board. Caroline seconded. All approved. Then Caroline nominated Kathy Namba to serve as president. Debbie Taylor seconded the motion. All approved.

- The entire SCNA Board thanks Caroline Yezer for serving as President for two terms.

Adjournment: Kathy Namba adjourned the meeting at 10:30.

