

MEETING MINUTES
City of Farmington and Farmer's Irrigation District
Vanilla Moose Repair

These minutes are for the meeting held on July 8, 2025, at City of Farmington, Public Works Department conference room located at 805 N. Municipal Drive, Farmington, NM 87401 at 2:00 p.m. mountain time.

The following were attendees:

John Lofgren - Board Member D1
Bonnie Yoakum - Board Member D2
David Elder - Board Member D3
David Sypher – City of Farmington Representative
Mark Hathcock – City of Farmington Representative
Rochell Brown – City of Farmington Representative
Benedikte Webb – City of Farmington Representative
Cody (last name unknown) – City of Farmington Representative
Jeff (last name unknown) – City of Farmington Representative
Issac (last name unknown) – City of Farmington Representative

These minutes are a summary of the meeting and are not a transcript. They intend to record the key decisions and actions taken.

1. This meeting was requested and scheduled by the City of Farmington (COF) to discuss the suggested alterations to widen Farmer's Ditch behind Vanilla Moose in Aztec, NM.
2. The COF presented a proposal to repair 500 feet of ditch line behind the Vanilla Moose. This repair would include a trapezoidal design to increase the water flow. The COF would complete all design requirements, apply for a grant via the water commission, oversee the contract and construction.

The COF stated they would cover all design and engineering costs. Rochell Brown is working on the design and anticipates that it will be completed in the fall (end of August). She is proposing a trapezoidal design allowing for 60 CFS. Anticipated to be four foot wide, two foot high with a 1.5* slope. It would include a one-foot freeboard to prevent flooding on the Vanilla Moose.

The design would also call for 6" thick, reinforced with fiberglass, 4K lb concrete to account for freeze/thaw concerns.

Once the designs are done, she will supply the information to Farmington's acquisition department for request for proposal (RFP).

Mr. Elder stated that the COF should ensure that they inform any potential contractors that the current concrete thickness is inconsistent. He recommended that the COF drive down Southside Road and see how the concrete was applied there.

Mr. Sypher stated that when it was finished, they would approach the water commission and apply for a grant. The city would incorporate this repair with another repair in the city (1 mile). They would provide a percentage of the overall project cost to show "skin in the game". With their portion and the grant, they anticipate that the Vanilla Moose project would be covered 100%.

Mr. Sypher just wanted to ensure that Farmer's ditch was still in agreeance with the plan and that the members had approved the teaming arrangement.

Ms. Yoakum stated that the membership had approved to move forward on design and estimates but would want to look at the total project package before final approval.

Mr. Elder mentioned that the membership “pushed back” when Mr. Hathcock presented at the Farmer’s quarterly meeting. Mr. Hathcock stated that they are humans.

Mr. Sypher stated he understood that Farmers was “cash poor” and that this project would be a win-win for both parties. Mr. Elder stated this would not solve all the issues but would be a good start.

3. A side conversation on whether the culverts had been picked up was had. Mr. Lofgren stated they had not. Mr. Sypher asked Isaac (last name unknown) to attend the meeting. He entered and stated that the COF had attempted to pick them up, but the equipment they used was not strong enough to lift the culverts. The COF had to wait until another project was completed before they could get them. Mr. Sypher asked if Isaac would work with their funding personnel to complete the payment portion of the transaction since the delay was caused by the COF. Isaac confirmed he would.
4. Mr. Lofgren then discussed that the ditch’s main headgate would need repairs and asked if the COF would be willing to supply the engineering. The COF stated they would not but recommend that the ditch work with AECOM or DTF Engineering (Dan Flack) in Kirtland, NM for designs.

He also noted that ideally, he would want to repair ½ mile of ditch per off season and apply for grants to cover the cost. Mr. Sypher warned that the water commission would want to evenly disperse funds and may not award multiple grants to one ditch.

5. Mr. Elder and Mr. Lofgren stated they wanted to show the COF other areas and items on the ditch that concerned them. Examples included: a large tree behind the dollar store, landowners excavating the ditch banks causing seepage and damage caused by teenagers. The removal of the banks had been so significant that you could not stand on the bank without holding on. Mr. Elder stated he wanted to maximize the slope, not decrease it. Mr. Lofgren stated that the county allows the landowners to make the alterations, but then landowners are mad when the ditch floods or seeps. Teenagers throw things in siphons, or in the ditch causing blockages.

In addition, the ditch does not get support from the City of Aztec or San Juan County to hold those members accountable or for them to keep their culverts at road crossings clean.

Mr. Lofgren stated that the Office of State Engineers can use computer imagery to see land alterations up to 15 years ago.

Mr. Sypher suggested documenting any violations in writing to protect the irrigation district if the ditch ever fails, causing private property damage. He also recommended installing pipe in those areas that are of great concern and writing to law enforcement to hold them accountable. He did reiterate that documentation was key. Mr. Lofgren stated the ditch intended on mailing a notice to all users to gather contact information (email addresses) for quick communication.

Mr. Sypher stated that the San Juan Water Commission did like how AECOM completed their engineering packages for grant purposes.

6. A follow-on meeting to review the completed designs was set for September 5, 2025, at 3:00pm mountain time. The meeting ended at 2:32p.m. mountain time.