

**Flood Recovery Task Force Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, August 19, 2026, 10:00 AM
City Hall – Mike Mathews Conference Room,
425 North Richardson
Roswell, New Mexico 88201**

**Chair: Chris Cortez
Vice Chair: Brian Houghtalin
Committee Members: Mike Espiritu, Gordon Patton, Michael Sanchez
Non-Voting Member: Jon Hitchcock
Staff Liaison: Mac Rogers**

Notice of this meeting was given to the public in compliance with Sections 10-15-1 through 10-15-4 NMSA 1978 and Resolution 26-12

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 10:03 A.M. by Chair Chris Cortez

ROLL CALL

Members present: Chair Chris Cortez, Vice Chair Brian Houghtalin, Gordon Patton, Michael Sanchez, John Hitchcock

Members absent: Mike Espiritu

Staff present: Mayor Tim Jennings, Hess Yntema, Mac Rogers, Amalia Martinez, Vanessa R Valdez, Caroline Brooks, Steve Chavez

Guests: Councilor Cristina Arnold, Anne Baker, Michael Sanchez, Terry Harber, Jeremy Klass, Ashley Saulcy, Jackie Herrera, Frank Sturges

Online Guests: None

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Vice Chair Brian Houghtalin made a motion to approve the agenda. Member Michael Sanchez was the second.

MOTION PASSED: 4-0

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Member Gordon Patton moved to approve the minutes of the July 15, 2026, Regular Flood Task Force Meeting. The motion was seconded by Member Michael Sanchez. Member Gordon Patton made a motion to approve of the minutes from the Wednesday, July 15th, 2026 regular Flood

Task Force Meeting. Member Michael Sanchez was the second.

MOTION PASSED: 4-0

NON-ACTION ITEMS

Museum History (Caroline Brooks) – Museum Director Caroline Brooks provided an overview of the Roswell Museum’s history, its significance to the community, and the impacts resulting from the flood. Historical Architect Gene Fulton presented findings regarding the condition and architectural significance of the facility, noting that the original 1930s adobe structure withstood the flood exceptionally well. Discussion followed regarding the preservation of historic artifacts, potential federal grant opportunities, planning efforts for a future museum facility, strategies for public engagement, and the possibility of temporary or satellite operations during the recovery process.
~~Museum History (Caroline Brooks) – Museum Director Caroline Brooks provided an overview of the Roswell Museum’s history, community significance, and flood impacts. Historical Architect Gene Fulton provided findings regarding the buildings status, architectural significance, and noted that the original 1930s adobe building held up very well during the flood. Discussion included preservation of historic artifacts, federal grant opportunities, planning for a future museum building, public engagement, and temporary or satellite operations during recovery.~~

CDBG-DR Infrastructure Investment Projects – The Task Force discussed Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funding and other grant opportunities to support infrastructure improvements and residential recovery efforts, noting the September 13 application deadline. Discussion included the approved \$2.75 million river channel project, infrastructure improvements east of the railroad tracks, the approximately \$7.5 million Brasher Road project, and approximately \$10 million in potential infrastructure improvements, including an arterial roadway near the Air Center. The Task Force also reviewed grant eligibility criteria, the potential benefits to low- and moderate-income residents, flood mitigation and prevention efforts, and opportunities to secure alternative funding sources.
~~CDBG-DR Infrastructure Investment Projects – The Task Force discussed CDBG-DR and other grant opportunities for infrastructure and home recovery, including an application deadline of September 13. Projects discussed included the approved \$2.75 million river channel project, improvements east of the railroad tracks, the approximately \$7.5 million Brasher Road project, and approximately \$10 million in potential improvements and an arterial road near the Air Center. Discussion also focused on grant criteria, impacts to low-income residents, flood prevention, and identifying alternative funding sources.~~

Financial Plan - The Task Force discussed the financial plan and potential funding mechanisms, including approximately \$24.3 million in bond funding. An update was provided on the City’s 76 active FEMA projects, with 90 percent of associated damage claims approved. Staff reported that contents-related projects Completed projects include contents projects related to for the landfill, museum, and fire facilities had been completed. Updates were also Additional updates were provided on museum and Convention Center projects submitted to currently under review by FEMA, with coordination and planning efforts continuing through ongoing meetings with engineers.
~~with meetings with engineers continuing.~~

Map Updates - An update was provided on the flood damage assessment map and the prioritization of affected properties. A total of 628 surveyed properties were identified with damage, including 63 total-loss, 262 major-damage, 174 minor-damage, and 129 cosmetic-damage properties. Discussion included the use of geocoding and mapping tools to identify, track, and prioritize affected properties and addresses for recovery and mitigation efforts. Geocoding and mapping were discussed as tools for prioritizing affected addresses.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Anne Baker, owner of Stellar Coffee, addressed the Task Force regarding flood resilience, the importance of protecting local businesses, and the need to consider flood impacts when planning future development and building locations. Ms. Baker also expressed her support for the Roswell Museum. Anne Baker, owner of Stellar Coffee, spoke regarding flood resilience, protecting local businesses, and considering flood impacts in future building placements. She also expressed support for the museum.

Discussion followed regarding public engagement and communication efforts, emphasizing the importance of keeping residents informed as flood recovery studies, mitigation strategies, and infrastructure projects advance. The Task Force also discussed the upcoming CAPO campaign and an October 10 fundraising event benefiting the Roswell Museum, which will feature a dinner and auction of flood-damaged artifacts and items at the Anderson Museum. Public engagement and communication were discussed, including the need to keep residents informed as flood-recovery studies and projects progress. The upcoming CAPO campaign was mentioned, along with an October 10 fundraiser for the Roswell Museum featuring a dinner and auction of flood-damaged items at the Anderson Museum.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 11:18 A.M.