

REGIONAL WASTEWATER RECLAMATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (RWRAC) MEETING

Water Campus

2955 W. Calle Agua Nueva – Radon Conference Room

Thursday, March 28, 2019

8:00 a.m.

Members Present: Steve Foley, Bill Katzel (via phone), Jean McLain, Armando Membrilla (via phone), Scott Oldendorph, Mark Taylor, Claire Zucker

Members Absent: Rob Kulakofsky, John Lynch, Corin Marron, Matt Matthewson, Asia Philbin, Ann Marie Wolf

Others Present: Mandy Armenta (FRMD), Marla Berry (RWRD), Jeff Biggs (Tucson Water), Adam Bliven (RWRD), Michelle Campagne (FRMD), Isai Centeno (FRMD), Jennifer C. Coyle (RWRD), Carmine DeBonis (County Administration), Barbara Escobar (RWRD), Greg Hitt (RWRD), Jackson Jenkins (RWRD), Veronica Lopez (RWRD), Julie McWilliams (RWRD), Mead Mier (PAG), Xavier Rendon (FRMD), Jaime Rivera (RWRD), Caroline Vargas (RWRD), Chuck Wesselhoft (PCAO), Eric Wieduwilt (RWRD)

A. Call to Order / Roll Call

Claire Zucker, Acting Chair, Regional Wastewater Reclamation Advisory Committee (RWRAC), called the meeting to order at 8:16 a.m. Veronica Lopez, Program Coordinator, Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department (RWRD), took roll call and a quorum was present.

B. Pledge of Allegiance

C. Call to the Audience – There were no comments from the audience.

D. Safety Share

Bill Katzel, member, RWRAC, stated to keep calm, stay cool and slow down. Jackson Jenkins, Director, RWRD, reminded the committee to always pay attention and be aware of your surroundings.

E. Approval of Minutes – Minutes from February 28, 2019

ACTION: Bill Katzel made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from February 28, 2019. Jean McLain seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

F. Director's Update

Mr. Jenkins welcomed Carmine DeBonis, Deputy County Administrator for Public Works, to the meeting. Mr. Jenkins announced Yves Khawam was appointed as an Assistant County Administrator and oversees RWRD, the Development Services Department, and the Department of Transportation. Mr. Jenkins also announced that Fernanda Quintanilla accepted a position with the City of Tucson; therefore, Ms. Lopez is currently serving as the RWRAC Coordinator.

Mr. Jenkins stated the three large technology related projects that RWRD is working on are all moving forward and are scheduled to be completed next Fiscal Year. The Biogas Project is continuing to progress well. The Nutrient Recovery Project is moving forward and will result in cost savings for the purchase of chemicals. The Annamox Project will treat centrate and save on energy costs.

Mr. Jenkins stated at next month's meeting, the committee will receive an update on Pima County Code Chapter 13.20 Text Amendment and to get the committee's input on scheduling a special public meeting. There is one reference related to a fee change and staff will determine if this fee component will require the 60-day notice. Mr.

Jenkins added there has also been internal discussions regarding pump stations and if these stations should be run by Pima County. There are a number of items that still need to be vetted with stakeholders and this will be presented at a later date.

G. Discussion/Action

1. County Legislative Agenda

Mr. DeBonis provided an overview of recent County legislative items that the Board of Supervisors (BOS) adopted in resolution for the current 2019 legislative session. The BOS has six key areas that they are interested in monitoring and being active with for this session.

The first area is cost shifts in which funding responsibility is shifted to the County. In previous years, the County has picked up significant components of State mandated activities, such as in the area of criminal justice. In 2018, there was positive movement and the Governor's Office recognized the burden that gets put on local government as a result of some of these activities.

Mr. DeBonis stated another key area is that of transportation and the transportation maintenance deficit. Pima County, as well as other jurisdictions, are facing challenges of aged infrastructure and the funding needed to bring these infrastructures up to safe and functional standards.

The third key area was grant acceptance authority such as the recent Operation Stonegarden grant which the Pima County Sheriff's Department (PCSD) has previously received over a number of years. After much debate, the BOS did not continue to accept the funding of this grant and there has been discussion as to what authority the BOS has in accepting grants. Discussion ensued. Mr. DeBonis stated there is a citizen's committee that reviews and makes recommendations to the BOS on all grants and grant applications received through the PCSD. One topic that arose from this committee's meeting, was the BOS proposing that all significant County committee meetings should be broadcasted in the future. The County Communications Office has been tasked with developing a plan on how to enable the televised broadcasting of these meetings and at some future point this could impact the RWRAC and the meeting location of where meetings are held.

Mr. DeBonis stated the fourth area that was key to the legislative agenda is criminal justice reform. The County places a significant amount of its general fund revenue into the criminal justice area. There is a strong interest from the BOS to find ways to better manage our services and reduce cost footprints in this area. Water policy is another key area of interest to the BOS and the County has had an active presence in the overall area of conservation and sustainability, with RWRD being one of the largest contributors to the successes that the County has been able to achieve.

The sixth key area is ensuring border counties receive appropriate state funds to offset the impacts created by the increased financial burden and infrastructure stressors related to immigration and the present effort to secure the border by the federal government.

Mr. DeBonis provided an overview of various key bills that are currently being reviewed in the Senate. Discussion ensued. Ms. Zucker asked if Mr. DeBonis would attend a future RWRAC meeting once the legislative session ends to provide an update on the items he discussed. Mr. DeBonis stated he would be happy to do so and to possibly schedule it to coincide with the budgeting approval process so that he could give an update on both.

2. CIP Subcommittee Report

There was no CIP Subcommittee meeting report.

3. Financial Subcommittee Report

There was no Financial Subcommittee meeting report.

a. Future Debt Payment

Michelle Campagne, Director, Finance and Risk Management Department (FRMD), discussed and presented a graph displaying debt service payments. Ms. Campagne stated the Rate Workbook goes through 2025 and the debt payments are projected to still be at \$70 million. In 2026, the debt is projected to decrease, but cannot say there will be rate reductions as it is still too far out to determine. After 2026, there should be a decrease in debt payments. Ms. Campagne continued to discuss and answer questions regarding the debt service payment chart.

4. Fiscal Year 2018/2019 RWRD Expense & Revenue Report

Mandy Armenta, Administrative Support Services Manager, FRMD, provided the Expense and Revenue Update for Period 8. The total operating and maintenance expenses are projected at \$82.9 million, while the total revenues are projected at \$183.7 million.

5. PAG 208 Plan 2019

Greg Hitt, Program Manager, RWRD, introduced Mead Mier of Pima Association of Governments (PAG) and stated over the past two years RWRD has been working with PAG to update the 208 Plan. The Town of Sahuarita and the Town of Marana have also been involved in this effort.

Ms. Mier gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Draft PAG 208 Plan Update and discussed the purpose and roles, the Plan update and feedback timeline, components of the Plan, and the summary of changes. PAG is the region's Designated Planning Agency (DPA) under Section 208 of the Clean Water Act, in which they provide guidance, technical assistance and coordination of regional water quality management planning for groundwater, stormwater, solids and wastewater. Ms. Mier explained the purpose of the DPA planning, which includes ensuring stakeholder cooperation is in place, as well as encouraging integrated planning and coordination with local principles. Some of the Designated Management Agencies (DMAs) responsibilities are to treat residential, commercial and industrial wastes, develop facility plans, and maintain capacity for financial arrangements.

Ms. Mier explained the purpose of this update is to streamline and align with the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality, to maintain a minimum 20-year horizon, and update condition, facilities, issues, progress and future actions. PAG is required to provide an update every five years, or as needed. Ms. Mier provided a timeline of the approval process and added that all of the appendices are online for review. Ms. Mier discussed the 208 Processes for Water Reclamation Proposals application process. Ms. Mier provided comparison charts of private and public facilities from 2006 and 2019, and showed that in 2019 there are less process steps than in 2006. Discussion ensued.

6. Citizen's Water Advisory Committee (CWAC) Update

Jean McLain, member, RWRAC, stated the CWAC held their monthly meeting on March 6, 2019. The committee discussed an intergovernmental agreement (IGA) with Pinal County Irrigation Districts to mitigate the shortages that are being faced by farmers, in which the City of Tucson will receive credits. The Mayor and Council approved this IGA. Ms. McLain stated that water demand has decreased and potable water is down by 5.6 percent for the calendar year and use of reclaimed water has decreased by 55 percent. Ms. McLain announced a ceremony is anticipated to occur on June 24th to commemorate water being discharged back into the Santa Cruz River. Jeff Biggs announced that Sandy Elder will be retiring on May 3rd and will send out information on celebratory events.

H. Future Agenda Items

- Debt Repayment Schedule

I. Call to the Audience – There were no comments from the audience.

J. Adjournment

ACTION: Steve Foley made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Bill Katzel seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 9:51 a.m.