

REGIONAL WASTEWATER RECLAMATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (RWRAC) MEETING

Water Campus

2955 W. Calle Agua Nueva – Radon Conference Room

Thursday, June 28, 2018, 8:00 a.m.

Members Present: Bill Katzel, Rob Kulakofsky, Corin Marron, Shaun McClusky, Matt Matthewson, Armando Membriola, Mark Taylor, Claire Zucker

Members Absent: William Garner, John Lynch, Jean McLain, Asia Philbin, Ann Marie Wolf

Others Present: Mandy Armenta (FRMD), Marla Berry (RWRD), Adam Bliven (RWRD), Michelle Campagne (FRMD), Isai Centeno (FRMD), Jennifer C. Coyle (RWRD), Barbara Escobar (RWRD), Jason Grodman (RWRD), Michelle Hamilton (FRMD), Jackson Jenkins (RWRD), Veronica Lopez (RWRD), Julie McWilliams (RWRD), Jeanette Montano (RWRD), Jeff Prevatt (RWRD), Xavier Rendon (FRMD), Jaime Rivera (RWRD), Timothy Thomure (Tucson Water), Caroline Vargas (RWRD), Chuck Wesselhoft (PCAO), Eric Wieduwilt (RWRD)

A. Call to Order / Roll Call

Corin Marron, Regional Wastewater Reclamation Advisory Committee (RWRAC), called the meeting to order at 8:02 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 – Ms. Marron welcomed and introduced Claire Zucker as the newly appointed RWRAC member.

D. Safety Share

Armando Membriola, Member, RWRAC, cautioned everyone to be aware of pedestrians while on the road. Bill Katzel, Member, RWRAC, added everyone should try to minimize stress while driving. Jackson Jenkins, Director, RWRD, stressed the importance of receiving medical attention even if you or someone else thinks the situation is not severe.

E. Approval of Minutes – Meeting Minutes for May 24, 2018

ACTION: Rob Kulakofsky made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of May 24, 2018 with the suggested edits. Bill Katzel seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

F. Discussion/Action

1. Director's Update

Mr. Jenkins announced the Board of Supervisors (BOS) approved the budget for FY 2018/2019, which included a salary increase for employees. Employees will receive a 2.5 percent increase effective July 8, 2018 and those that earn less than \$50,000 a year will receive another 1 percent increase in January 2019.

Mr. Jenkins stated the Town of Bisbee management requested he and other RWRD staff visit to tour their facility and to provide recommendations on the operations of their plant. Mr. Jenkins stated their plant was in good shape and it was a good visit.

Mr. Jenkins stated the Department received awards from the American Public Works Association for three projects: the Broadway Augmentation Project, the North Rillito Interceptor Project, and the Job Order Contract Program.

Mr. Jenkins stated staff is continuing to review and evaluate the needs of the Department in the event of another power outage. The Department needs to ensure the operations of the Department can continue to function in the event of a power outage and/or emergency.

The Department continues to move forward with the biogas and struvite projects. The struvite project is currently in design and two technologies are being considered. A firm has been selected in the biogas project. The Department is still working with Southwest Gas as a partner with this project. Mr. Jenkins gave an update on the gravity sewer line that is being put in at the Twin Peaks development. Mr. Jenkins stated the Department is in talks with the Town of Marana (TOM) regarding the manhole covers in Marana and getting those covers changed with the TOM logos. Mr. Jenkins provided information on the long-term contract with Robson to purchase effluent in Green Valley. In November the deal will revert to an index that is closer to the CAP index and will return to the market value.

2. Mount Lemmon WRF Update

Mr. Jenkins stated the Department shut down the Mount Lemmon facility earlier this month to clean it and make minor repairs. The overall condition of the facility was very good. Staff conducted an internal evaluation and will need to determine what upgrades are necessary. Some of the upgrades that the Department is considering is the electrical system and the SCADA system. Staff will need to evaluate the costs associated with these potential upgrades. Mr. Jenkins answered various questions from the committee.

3. Presentation of Number of Industrial Classes

Mr. Jenkins gave an overview of the three billing topics the Department is making recommended changes on and introduced Jason Grodman, Permit Regulatory Compliance Officer, RWRD. Discussion ensued. Mr. Grodman gave a PowerPoint presentation on the number of industrial classes. Mr. Grodman explained how he conducted a review of approximately 1,300 non-residential class users to determine if they are properly coded within one of the 16 high strength user classes. Mr. Grodman stated it is sometimes impossible to know what kind of business is attached to the water account based on the customer name and some of these businesses are miscoded. Mr. Grodman explained why the classification of businesses can be difficult to properly code and provided examples. There are currently 16 high strength user classes and in those classes there are 1,238 customers in which most are food service. Mr. Grodman provided examples of the inconsistencies with how the various businesses are being coded.

Mr. Grodman stated he reached out to the San Diego County to inquire as to how they handle the classification of various commercial/industrial customers and how they reconcile the strength of wastewater. Mr. Grodman discussed and displayed a table which shows how commercial/industrial customers are charged based on their flow, TSS and COD. Mr. Grodman stated the preferred option is to eliminate all current high strength users, recalculate the high strength rate for all non-residential customers, and retain multi-family at 1.00. Mr. Grodman stated it needs to be determined as to what the actual strength of the non-residential customers is so that the proper code is applied to eliminate the inequities. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Jenkins provided a summary of the three billing topics and the committee discussed the best approach with presenting these recommendations to the BOS. The committee will continue this discussion at the next meeting.

4. Financial Subcommittee Update

The Subcommittee did not hold a meeting this month and will reconvene in August.

5. Capital Improvement Program Subcommittee Update

Matt Matthewson, Chair, RWRAC CIP Subcommittee, stated the subcommittee met earlier this month and the primary focus was on long-term planning. Greg Hitt, Program Manager Sr., provided a review of the 2016 Facility Plan. The CIP Subcommittee will meet again in the fall to review next fiscal year's CIP.

6. Fiscal Year 2017/2018 RWRD Expense & Revenue Update

Mandy Armenta, Administrative Support Services Manager, FRMD, provided the expense and revenue update for Period 11. The total operating and maintenance (O&M) expenses projections are \$81.4 million. Total revenues is projected at \$182 million.

7. Citizens' Water Advisory Committee (CWAC) Update

Mr. Jenkins stated the City Mayor and Council approved two years of consecutive water user increases for Tucson Water.

8. Election of RWRAC Chair and Vice Chair for FY 2018/2018

ACTION: Rob Kulakofsky made a motion to nominate Corin Marron as the RWRAC Chair and Matt Matthewson as the RWRAC Vice-Chair for FY 2018/2019. Armando Membrila seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

G. Future Agenda Items

- Continued discussion on the three billing topic recommendations

The committee will not hold a meeting in July and will reconvene in August.

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

H. Adjournment

ACTION: Bill Katzel made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Rob Kulakofsky seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 10:08 a.m.