



REGIONAL WASTEWATER RECLAMATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Transamerica Building
Pima Association of Governments'
177 N. Church Avenue, 5th Floor Conference Room

MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, September 19, 2013

Committee Members Present:

Ann Marie Wolf	Kendall Kroesen	Mark Stratton
Sheila Bowen	Rob Kulakofsky	Mark Taylor
John Carlson	John Lynch	Jackson Jenkins
Bob Iannarino	Armando Membrita	Jeff Biggs

Committee Members Absent:

Barbee Hanson
Bill Katzel
Amber Smith

A. CALL TO ORDER. Ann Marie Wolf, Chair, called the meeting of the Regional Wastewater Reclamation Advisory Committee (RWRAC) to order at 7:50 a.m. Veronica Lopez took the roll call and a quorum was present.

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

C. SAFETY SHARE. Jackson Jenkins, Director, Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department (RWRD), reminded the Committee to be extra cautious and pay attention to construction signs when driving in construction zones.

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES.

1. Meeting Minutes of August 15, 2013

ACTION: Sheila Bowen made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 15, 2013 meeting. Mark Stratton seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

E. COMMITTEE/SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS.

1. **CITIZENS' WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CWAC) UPDATE.** Mark Taylor stated the CWAC held its first meeting after their summer break on September 4, 2013 and discussed several items. Some of the items that were discussed were the Vail Water Wheeling Agreement, which was passed by the City of Tucson (COT) Mayor and Council, the status of the Tucson International Airport remediation project, and the shortage on the Colorado River and how that may affect Tucson Water. Mr. Taylor continued to discuss items that the CWAC addressed at their meeting.

2. **RWRAC FINANCIAL SUB-COMMITTEE UPDATE.** John Lynch, Vice-Chair, stated the Financial Sub-Committee held its first meeting of this fiscal year on September 4, 2013. Mr. Lynch stated the Sub-Committee should be better prepared this year to be more proactive in having input with the Department's budgetary process. The Sub-Committee received a recap of last fiscal year's revenues and projections for this fiscal year's revenues. Mr. Lynch stated that RWRD staff also provided a CIP

Update. The Sub-Committee requested additional information on the CIP projects and this will be discussed at the October meeting. The Sub-Committee has already outlined agendas for the coming months and has structured their approach to the FY 2014/15 Financial Plan.

Ms. Wolf reminded the Committee that review of the CIP projects is one of the Committee's responsibilities as outlined in Ordinance 2008-115. Ms. Wolf also stated the October Financial Sub-Committee meeting will be held at the Conveyance Field Office.

F. DISCUSSION/ACTION.

1. **DIRECTOR'S UPDATE.** Mr. Jenkins announced that Jeff Nichols, the former RWRD Controller, was recently appointed as City Treasurer for the City of Scottsdale. Mr. Jenkins also congratulated Sheila Bowen with her recent promotion as the Public Works Director for the Town of Sahuarita.

Mr. Jenkins stated the Department has been working on collecting two outstanding collection fees from the Pascua Yaqui and Davis-Monthan Air Force Base (DMAFB). The Department and Pascua Yaqui are working towards a resolution; however, the Department has been working with DMAFB for four years and has not yet reached a resolution.

Mr. Jenkins congratulated two RWRD Project Managers, Glen Petersen and Jaime Rivera, for receiving annual State awards. Mr. Petersen received an award for the Santa Cruz Interceptor – Phase III project and Mr. Rivera received an award for the Plant Interconnect – Regional Optimization Master Plan (ROMP).

With regards to the Biogas Request for Qualifications (RFQ's), RWRD received five submittals and an evaluation team will be reviewing the RFQ's. Mr. Jenkins stated he will keep the Committee updated on this process.

Mr. Jenkins stated there are two key issues in RWRD's budget this year. One is the Board of Supervisor's approved salary increases for the entire County and the impact of those increases that were not budgeted for. The second is the Tucson Electric Power (TEP) 15% increase on the tariff rate that the Department uses. Mr. Jenkins explained that the Department could potentially have a \$2 million deficit with this year's budget due to these two issues. Mr. Jenkins also discussed the clean closure activities at Roger Road. The Committee asked Mr. Jenkins questions with regards to his various updates.

2. **FY 2013/14 BUDGET UPDATE.** Patrick McGee, Division Manager, Finance and Risk Management Department (FRMD), discussed the FY 2013/14 Period 1 – Expense and Revenue Comparison summary. Mr. McGee reiterated what Mr. Jenkins previously stated regarding the reasons why RWRD is over budget. The forecast is showing over \$1.1 million over budget. Mr. McGee stated currently the revenues are expected to come in on budget. Mr. McGee added that the final numbers for FY 2012/13 are not ready to be reported on, but should be ready in October.

John Carlson asked if the Department foresees any future rate increases. Mr. Jenkins stated the last approved rate increase was applied July 1st and RWRD does not plan on requesting any further rate increases. Ms. Wolf asked during what Period staff would be able to report to the Sub-Committee on what the impact will be to the Department with the two unexpected budget increases. Mr. McGee stated perhaps Period 6, in December. The Committee continued to discuss the Period 1 summary.

3. **SOUTHEAST HOUGHTON AREA RECHARGE PROJECT (SHARP) UPDATE.** Eric Wieduwilt, Deputy Director, RWRD, presented a PowerPoint presentation on the SHARP. This is a joint project between the COT and Pima County and both are contributing \$4 million towards this project. The final first phase would be to allow 2,000 acre feet (AF) per year recharge for Tucson Water and RWRD. A

Joint Recharge Oversight Committee has been established. Mr. Wieduwilt displayed a map showing the location of this project, which is on the southeast side of town.

Mr. Wieduwilt explained the various steps that had to take place prior to construction, to include: an archeological clearance, an environmental site assessment, geophysics, drilling program and infiltration testing. Mr. Wieduwilt showed an aerial picture of the site and showed the Committee where the property boundaries are. Mr. Wieduwilt discussed the geophysical results with the Committee. There were 17 borehole locations, which were 50' to 100' deep. Mr. Wieduwilt stated there are 10 basins where additional infiltration tests were conducted. The basin infiltration rates were 10-14 feet per day.

Mr. Wieduwilt stated that Tucson Water purchased 40-acres from the COT. Some of the advantages are the reclaimed water infrastructure is in place, it is level terrain and there are high infiltration rates. Mr. Wieduwilt displayed and discussed a conceptual photo of the SHARP facility. Although this facility will be primarily for recharge, there is some discussion for making it a multi-functional facility. Mr. Lynch asked if this project is in the engineering phase. Mr. Wieduwilt stated they are currently negotiating with the engineering firm to move forward with the preliminary design phase. Discussion ensued regarding the SHARP facility. Ms. Bowen asked that the PowerPoint be sent to the Committee members.

4. **ANNUAL EFFLUENT UTILIZATION REPORT.** Jim DuBois, Principal Hydrologist, RWRD, distributed copies of the 2012 Annual Effluent Generation and Utilization Report to the Committee members. Mr. DuBois stated this report covers the calendar year of 2012 and explained that the purpose of the report stems from the 2003 Wheeling Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) that requires annual accounting for the County's effluent entitlement use, to include: recharge, storage, recovery, sale, direct public use, excess water from Randolph delivered to Tucson Water and reclaimed wheeled from any other metro WRF. This report also shows key aspects of Pima County's water resource management. Mr. DuBois explained how the Randolph production and wheeling costs were calculated. Discussion ensued regarding the wheeling costs.

There are currently 10 treatment facilities, three are metropolitan and six are sub-regional facilities. The Rillito Vista facility belonged to Pima County last year, but has since been transferred to the Town of Marana.

Mr. DuBois showed a chart of the effluent that was produced in 2012. The Ina Road WRF produced less effluent in 2012 than in 2011, partly due to the construction of ROMP. The Roger Road WRF produced 53%, Randolph Park produced 4%, and 6% of effluent was produced from the sub-regional facilities. The total metropolitan effluent was just over 6,100 acre feet in 2012. Mr. DuBois continued to discuss the distribution of the effluent and how the effluent is allocated. Discussion ensued regarding the 90/10 allocation between the COT and Pima County and the IGA terms. Mr. DuBois discussed what the use of the County's share of metro effluent was for 2012. Mr. DuBois and Jeff Biggs answered questions from the Committee.

Mr. DuBois explained environmental restoration with reclaimed water and how it is tracked. Mr. DuBois displayed a chart of Pima County's recharge credits from 2003 through 2012. Mr. DuBois pointed out to the Committee that there is a fold-out page in the report that they may want to review more closely, which displays the 2012 Tucson AMA effluent.

5. **ANNUAL REPORT REVIEW.** Ms. Wolf asked the Committee for any questions or comments on the RWRAC Annual Report.

ACTION: Sheila Bowen made a motion that the Committee approve the 2012/13 RWRAC Annual Report. Rob Kulakofsky seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

G. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS. Ed Curley, Program Manager, reminded the Committee that in lieu of the regular scheduled monthly meeting next month (October 17, 2013), the Committee will take a tour of the Agua Nueva Water Reclamation Facility. Mr. Curley asked that the Committee arrive at the Water Energy and Sustainability Center at 8:30 a.m. The presentation and tour will begin at 9:00 a.m. and will be concluded by approximately 11:00 a.m. Mr. Curley stated that the Committee should wear closed-toe shoes. Mr. Jenkins stated that the new entrance from the frontage road is in the process of being completed, and staff will notify the Committee if it is open by October 17th. Mr. Jenkins reiterated to use extra caution if using the entrance from El Camino del Cerro.

Ms. Wolf stated she would like to add a discussion to a future agenda. One of the Committee's responsibilities is to support and sponsor community programs and provide information and education to the community regarding wastewater reclamation.

The RWRAC Financial Sub-Committee will be concluding their CIP analysis and Mr. Curley suggested adding a CIP update to the entire RWRAC in November or December.

Kendall Kroesen stated that the Watershed Management Group has done a small pilot study of low cost home human waste composting and offered to request a presentation be given to the RWRAC.

Mark Taylor suggested receiving a presentation regarding the potable water that is being used to flush the wastewater system and what can be done to not use as much.

Mr. Curley announced that the WESTCAS Conference will be held on October 30 – November 1, 2013 at the Westward Look Resort. An e-mail with additional information will be sent.

Mr. Kroesen added another future item, the effects of water conservation on the liquid content of sewage flow and how much decrease in water going into the sewer system the system can tolerate and still move material along.

H. CALL TO THE AUDIENCE. Ricky Wascher, Program Coordinator, RWRD, addressed the Committee and stated on October 11 through October 13, the Tucson Meet Yourself event will take place downtown. Several County departments, including RWRD, will have booths to hand out informational/educational material to the public. RWRD's theme this year is sustainability.

Sheila Bowen announced the next National Dispose-A-Med event is scheduled for October 26, 2013. Sites will be announced. Ms. Wolf added that the Dispose-A-Med website has further information.

ACTION: Mark Stratton made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Sheila Bowen seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

I. ADJOURNMENT. The meeting was adjourned at 9:33 a.m.