

REGIONAL WASTEWATER RECLAMATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (RWRAC) MEETING

Water Campus

2955 W. Calle Agua Nueva – Radon Conference Room

Thursday, November 15, 2018, 8:00 a.m.

Members Present: John Lynch, Corin Marron, Matt Matthewson, Jean McLain, Armando Membriola, Asia Philbin, Mark Taylor (via phone), Ann Marie Wolf, Claire Zucker

Members Absent: Bill Katzel, Rob Kulakofsky, Shaun McClusky, Scott Oldendorph

Others Present: Mary Allen (RWRD), Mandy Armenta (FRMD), Marla Berry (RWRD), Jeff Biggs (Tucson Water), Melody Burton (FRMD), Michelle Campagne (FRMD), Isai Centeno (FRMD), Jennifer C. Coyle (RWRD), Mike Gerstenberger (RWRD), Michelle Hamilton (FRMD), Jackson Jenkins (RWRD), Jeanette Montano (RWRD), Fernanda Quintanilla (RWRD), Jaime Rivera (RWRD), Caroline Vargas (RWRD), Chuck Wesselhoft (PCAO), Eric Wieduwilt (RWRD)

A. Call to Order / Roll Call

Corin Marron, Chair, Regional Wastewater Reclamation Advisory Committee (RWRAC), called the meeting to order at 8:01 a.m. Fernanda Quintanilla, 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

Ms. Marron stated she recently cut her finger while slicing bread and expressed the importance of remaining aware of your actions even in the mundane daily activities. Jackson Jenkins, Director, RWRD, stressed the importance of utilizing safety practices while decorating for the holidays.

E. Approval of Minutes – Meeting Minutes for October 25, 2018

ACTION: Matt Matthewson made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of October 25, 2018. Armando Membriola seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

F. Discussion/Action

1. Director's Update

Mr. Jenkins stated the Department has recently been focusing on technological improvements. Mr. Jenkins stated the Struvite Nutrient Recovery is in the 60% design/engineer review process and is expected to be in place by next summer.

Mr. Jenkins stated the Biogas Project is in the design stage and the Department is currently working with Southwest Gas with an expected launch date at the end of next calendar year. The Anammox Project, low energy bacteria that does nitrification and denitrification with minimal air, will allow the Department to cut back on energy use. Mr. Jenkins stated the CLEARAS Water Recovery Project, an algae growing process that pulls ammonia from the wastewater treatment process, is in the process of being piloted. Mr. Jenkins stated the Department met with the Arizona State Prison System regarding the large amount of debris and trash in the sewage coming from their facilities. The Arizona State Prison System has begun to secure drain covers and improve practices to reduce debris.

Mr. Jenkins stated Pima County has a policy that requires 1% of capital projects go towards public arts. The Southeast Interceptor (SEI) Project that runs through the Greenway installed artistic manhole covers and an art filled ramada with community participation. The City of South Tucson has received complaints regarding the ramada due to the homeless utilizing the structure for shelter. Mr. Jenkins added the City of South Tucson has asked that the ramada be removed and discussions are underway to resolve the issue.

The Department is currently discussing options related to the disposal and application of biosolids.

2. Fiscal Year 2018/2019 RWRD Expense & Revenue Update

Mandy Armenta, Administrative Support Services Manager, Finance and Risk Management Department, provided the Expense and Revenue Update for Period 4. The total operating and maintenance expenses are projected at \$82.9 million, while the total revenues are projected at \$80.3 million.

3. CIP Subcommittee Update

Mr. Matthewson stated the next CIP Subcommittee is scheduled for December 4, 2018 at 2:00 p.m. The Subcommittee will review the proposed CIP Five-Year Budget for Fiscal Year 2019/20.

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

Jean McLain, Member, RWRAC, stated CWAC held its meeting on November 7, 2018. During the meeting, there was discussion on the current demand for potable and reclaimed water. Ms. McLain stated Tim Thomure, Tucson Water Director, gave an update on the Colorado River Lower Basin area contingency plan that is currently under discussion with anticipated cuts for low priority water pools.

5. 2019 RWRAC Work Plan Review

Ms. Marron stated she would like to look ahead into the new calendar year and revisit updates from the various Department divisions. Ms. Marron asked for feedback from other members to include items onto the 2019 Work Plan.

John Lynch, Member, RWRAC, stated he would like to get updates on implications and benefits on programs and internal items that keep the Department running well, and the financial implications. Discussion ensued. Claire Zucker, Member, RWRAC, suggested the RWRAC receive an update on personnel and staffing. Ms. Zucker stated she would like to see a slideshow on the public art that the Department has incorporated into the CIP projects.

6. December RWRAC Meeting

Ms. Marron stated there are not many projected discussion items for a December meeting and there had been a suggestion that the meeting be cancelled.

Mr. Jenkins stated he hoped that during the evening public meeting regarding the Mt. Lemmon Pima County Code Revisions, the Committee would be willing and able to vote on the proposed changes. Discussion ensued.

ACTION: John Lynch made a motion to cancel the December RWRAC meeting. Jean McLain seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

G. Future Agenda Items

- Discussion on billing topics

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

I. Adjournment

ACTION: Claire Zucker made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Corin Marron seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 a.m.