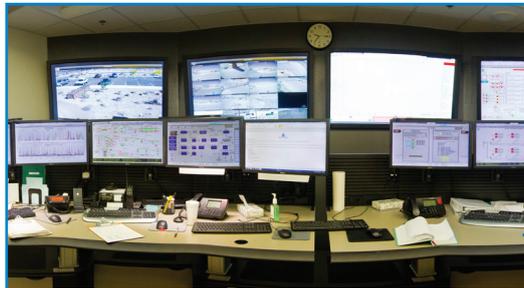




Pima County Celebrates ROMP Completion



Awards

RWRD and its staff received several awards in FY 2013/14. The National Association of Clean Water agencies recognized the RWRD with the following performance awards for exemplary regulatory compliance:

Platinum Awards recognize 100% compliance with NPDES permits over a consecutive five or nine year period.

Platinum 10 Awards:

Avra Valley Water Reclamation Facility
Green Valley Water Reclamation Facility

Silver Awards recognize facilities that have received no more than five NPDES permit violations per calendar year.

Silver Award:

Tres Ríos (formerly) Ina Road Water Reclamation Facility
Roger Road Water Reclamation Facility



The Design Build Institute of America presented the Agua Nueva project with two awards: “The National Award of Merit” and “Finalist for the National Award of Excellence”.

The Arizona Water Association also presented RWRD with two awards. The prestigious “Wastewater Plant of the Year - Large System” was awarded to the Agua Nueva Water Reclamation Facility (WRF) and Barbara Escobar, Wastewater Laboratory Manager, received the “Laboratory Analyst of the Year” award.

The American Public Works Association (APWA) Arizona Chapter presented the Tres Ríos WRF with APWA’s “Public Works Project of the Year” award.

In addition, RWRD’s Green Team was presented with the “Sisterhood in Government” award by the Pima County/Tucson Women’s Commission for the Green Eco Team Program.

Chair’s Message

This was a very significant year for the RWRAC Committee on several fronts! First, the Regional Wastewater Reclamation Advisory Committee (RWRAC) had the honor of celebrating the substantial completion of the Regional Optimization Master Plan (ROMP) Program. Over the past 8 years, the ROMP has been the largest public works construction project in Southern Arizona and one of the largest wastewater reclamation modernization and upgrade projects across the United States during this period!

RWRD management and staff have kept the Committee well-informed of the progress of the planning, design and construction of the ROMP through periodic detailed presentations and discussions, monthly summaries and updates and the opportunity to tour the facilities under construction and at substantial completion.

This was also the first full year of operation for the RWRAC Finance Sub-Committee to meet monthly with Finance staff to review RWRD financial operations including the annual revenues, O&M expenses, bond proceeds and the debt service requirements for the Department. The process went very smoothly and the Committee assisted in the determination that no rate increase was needed for the upcoming FY 2015/16.

In addition, this year the RWRAC was given a comprehensive presentation of the FY 2014/15 Capital Improvement Program for sewer conveyance lines, pump stations and small treatment facilities. These presentations combined GIS mapping tools with CCTV images to graphically show the exact underground condition of the collector and interceptor sewers to be repaired and replaced. This new integrated technology also made it easier for the Committee to follow the prioritization process for each type of rehabilitation project proposed in the CIP Program.

This was a very successful year for the Committee and we are very pleased with the cooperation and commitment of the Department to provide safe and effective wastewater services to Pima County.



Ann Marie Wolf, Chair



John Lynch, Vice Chair

Regional Optimization Master Plan Program Completion

Fiscal Year (FY) 2013/14 was the final year of heavy construction of major elements of the Regional Optimization Master Plan (ROMP) Program. The RWRAC was advised in its monthly briefings on the ROMP Program that the following objectives had been accomplished in FY 2013/14 as follows:

- The mandated regulatory compliance dates to improve the effluent quality discharged to the Santa Cruz River from the Tres Ríos Water Reclamation Facility (WRF) by January 30, 2014 and from the Roger Road WRF by January 30, 2015 were achieved months ahead of these dates.
- The originally approved budget of \$720 million for the ROMP Program was significantly reduced with a savings of more than \$115 million. The projected cost to complete the Program is under \$605 million.
- During the peak of construction of the Program, user rates had to be increased. However, in spite of the multiple years of rate increases, current rates are well within the mid-range for sewer utilities nationally.
- The County's oldest treatment facility, the Roger Road Wastewater Reclamation Facility, has been taken off-line. The decommissioning date was January 8, 2014.
- Major odor control systems have been completed and are operational system wide. These systems are controlling the annoying odors that have been so problematic for County residents in the past.



RWRAC committee members take a tour of Tres Ríos WRF.

Director's Message

The Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department (RWRD) commemorated a huge milestone this year with the substantial completion of the Regional Optimization Master Plan (ROMP) Program. In order to modernize and upgrade wastewater treatment processes, the Ina Road Wastewater Reclamation Facility, now named the Tres Ríos Water Reclamation Facility (WRF), was significantly upgraded to achieve significant effluent nutrient reduction. In addition, the 62-year old Roger Road facility has been decommissioned and has now been replaced with a state-of-the-art facility, the Agua Nueva WRF. The ROMP construction also included a new state-of-the-art environmental laboratory and training center called the Water, Energy and Sustainability Center (WESC).

The original budget for the entire ROMP project was \$720 million. I am proud to report that the entire ROMP Program is now \$115 million under budget and ahead of schedule. Specific costs for the key elements were: Tres Ríos WRF reconstruction – \$314 million; the new Agua Nueva WRF – \$174 million; the WESC – \$29 million and the Plant Interconnect at \$33 million. The ROMP Program is the largest public works project in Pima County's history and the most challenging project ever undertaken by RWRD.

Two additional major projects for the Department were presented to the RWRAC: Biogas Utilization Project and the Roger Road Decommissioning and Clean Closure Project. In regards to biogas, RWRD has entered into negotiations with a private entity to convert digester gas into a natural gas-like commodity that will generate revenue for RWRD. This project is an integral part of

RWRD's Sustainability Program and will result in a positive revenue stream for the Department. RWRD is also in the process of finding potential new uses for the Roger Road structure and property. The Department has had discussions with the University of Arizona and other interested parties and is in the process of issuing a Request for Expressions of Interest for utilization of the Roger Road facility and land.

Going forward, the Department will now focus its Capital Improvement Program on rehabilitation and upgrade of the conveyance system, as well as improvements to the facility security systems and treatment rehabilitation and conveyance augmentation. The Department will also be focused on continuing improvements to its administrative procedures and processes and the further the development of its key performance indicators systems.

The ROMP Program has received numerous awards and recognition. The success of this Program was made possible because of the hard work and dedication from staff, the contractors, and the consultants. I thank everyone involved! I would like to give a special thanks to the RWRAC for their continued support of the ROMP Program, as well as providing guidance and oversight with other key activities of the Department.



Jackson Jenkins, Director

The Lower Santa Cruz Living River Project

The RWRAC Committee received a presentation from Emily Brott of the Sonoran Institute on the Living River Project for the effluent-dependent reaches of the Lower Santa Cruz River north of the new and upgraded Agua Nueva and Tres Rios Water Reclamation Facilities. The Living River Project has been awarded a \$400,000 EPA grant to evaluate the impacts of the ROMP Program improvements on the water quality and environmental health of the River and to educate the public on the public amenities and community benefits of improved river health.



Santa Cruz River

The Project will publish a series of three annual reports documenting the research and monitoring conducted each year on the River. The Sonoran Institute was selected by Pima County to document the Project and publish the Reports based on their success with a prior living River Project in the Nogales to Tubac reach of the Upper Santa Cruz River. This prior Project measured improvements from the upgrade to the International Boundary commission's WRF serving Nogales Arizona and Sonora.

RWRD and the Regional Flood Control District staff developed the concept and structure for the Project, successfully applied for and received the EPA Grant

and are providing management and staff support and supervision for the actual sampling and data collection on the River. A Pima County Steering Group was formed to work closely with the Sonoran Institute and the volunteer Technical Committee of jurisdictions, agencies and academics which developed the technical indicators to be measured by the Project. The initial Living River report on the baseline data will be available in early October, 2014.

RWRD Puts People and Performance First!

The RWRAC Committee received a presentation from RWRD Director Jackson Jenkins on two key Department programs which assist Department staff and management to measure and monitor progress on selected critical organizational functions.

RWRD has established six "Pillars" or clusters of important organizational values. These pillars are: Employees, Compliance, Safety, Customers, Financial and Sustainability. Each of these pillars has a number of key performance indicators (KPIs) selected by staff and management against which actual RWRD performance is measured.

Examples of KPI areas would be: number and type of customer contacts; number and type of customer complaints; accuracy accident reporting and investigations; number of safety meetings held; number and type of regulatory compliance awards and so forth.

Quarterly upper management meetings are held to review the Department's performance and continuous improvement in these KPI's within each Pillar.



2014 Financial Plan and the Capital Improvement Program

As one of its main responsibilities, the RWRAC is charged by the Board of Supervisors to act as the official advisory body on the Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department (RWRD) Financial Plan and Capital Improvement Program (CIP). The RWRAC is to annually review the proposed Financial Plan and Capital Improvement Program and to recommend to the governing body an annual and a five-year financial program.

To accomplish this task, the RWRAC implemented a Financial Sub-Committee, which spent several months meeting with Finance and RWRD staff to go over the details of the Financial Plan and CIP projects and then reported their findings back to the full Committee.

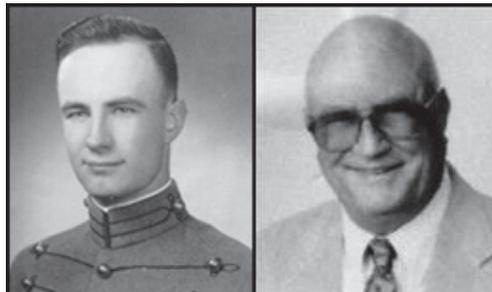
With regards to the Financial Plan, the Committee reviewed the historical data and were reminded that the Board of Supervisors in 2010 established a series of four annual increases of 10% for the user fee, 10% for the user service charge, and 6.5% for the connection fee increase to finance the construction of the Regional Optimization Master Plan (ROMP) Program. The last increase was implemented in July 2014. The RWRD budget proposed for Fiscal Year (FY) 2014/15 included \$84 million in operating and maintenance expenses, \$28 million in

bond debt service, and \$180 million in user fee and connection fee revenues. The Committee was advised that the required debt service ratio expenses/revenues was a minimum of 120%. After careful examination of the proposed budget, the Committee sent a letter of support for the budget to the Board of Supervisors in March 2014, and included a recommendation that if possible, the debt service ratio should be maintained at 130%.

RWRD staff also presented a series of briefings on the CIP for the Sub-Committee, as well as the full Committee, which included graphics and video, illustrating and documenting the CIP priorities in conveyance rehabilitation and augmentation, pump station retrofits and small treatment facility modifications for FY 2014/15. This evaluation was in addition to the ongoing financial and construction status reports on the progress of the \$605 million ROMP Program. The Committee discussed the rationale for individual projects and the prioritization process for the CIP and sent a letter of support in February 2014.

In Memory of John E. Carlson

Sadly, in February of this year, the Committee lost a fellow Committee member and friend, John E. Carlson. Mr. Carlson was a native of McGill, Nevada and graduated from West Point Academy in 1952 and served in the Korean War. Mr. Carlson earned his Master's Degree in Hydrology from the University of Nevada. After a successful 40-year world-wide construction career with Sundt Corporation, Mr. Carlson continued to stay active in the community by serving in various local organizations and boards.



John E. Carlson

Mr. Carlson proudly served as a RWRAC member since 2001. He was devoted to the RWRAC and his wisdom and insight was truly an asset. Mr. Carlson was extremely valued on this Committee because he was passionate about assisting the Department and forthright when it came to matters he felt were important. Mr. Carlson's unique sense of humor and perspective is one that is irreplaceable. He is truly missed!

Regional Wastewater Reclamation Advisory Committee

District 1

Barbee Hanson
Robert Iannarino

District 2

Sheila Bowen
Armando Membrila

District 3

John Lynch
Amber Smith

District 4

Bill Katzel
Charles Matthewson

District 5

Rob Kulakofsky
Ann Marie Wolf

Citizens' Water Advisory Committee

Mark Taylor

AZ Water Association

Mark Stratton

Ex-Officio

Jackson Jenkins, Director, RWRD
Alan Forrest, Director, Tucson Water

Environmental Planning Advisory Committee (EPAC)

Kendall Kroesen

The Regional Wastewater Reclamation Advisory Committee (RWRAC) was established by the Pima County Board of Supervisors in 1986 to act as its official advisory body on wastewater management matters. As the regional wastewater management agency for most of Eastern Pima County, the Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department (RWRD) provides wastewater collection, treatment and disposal services.

The RWRAC is charged with advising RWRD on program and policy decisions, as well as short- and long-term operating capital program funding needs and the annual Financial Plan. The Committee holds monthly meetings to accomplish these functions. During the last fiscal year, the RWRAC discussed and acted upon a number of issues of importance to Pima County as described in this report.

Regional Wastewater Reclamation Advisory Committee

Activities: August 2013 - June 2014

August 2013: Emily Brott from the Sonoran Institute gave a PowerPoint Presentation on the “Living River Project” to the Committee. Ms. Brott explained the importance of this project and the community benefits that will result from tracking the health of the effluent dependent reach of the Lower Santa Cruz River. Sonoran Institute has conducted research in the Upper Santa Cruz River (Tubac to Nogales) attempt to determine how those river conditions are changing.

September 2013: The Committee received a PowerPoint Presentation from Eric Wieduwilt, Deputy Director, on the Southeast Houghton Area Recharge Project (SHARP), which is a joint project between the City of Tucson and Pima County. Jim DuBois, Principal Hydrologist, also gave a presentation on the 2012 Annual Effluent Generation and Utilization Report and provided the Committee with copies of the report.

October 2013: In lieu of the monthly RWRAC meeting, the Committee took a tour of the Agua Nueva Water Reclamation Facility before its official opening.

November 2013: The Committee received an update on the RWRAC’s Financial Sub-Committee’s review of the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) projects. The Sub-Committee reviewed the five and ten year capital project programs and gained an understanding of how they are internally developed and prioritized within the department. John Warner, Deputy Director, also provided an update on the Fiscal Year 2013/14 CIP status. The Committee decided to hold their monthly meetings at the Water and Energy Sustainability Center beginning January 2014.

December 2013: Jackson Jenkins, Director, updated the Committee on the progress of the Regional Optimization Master Plan (ROMP). Mr. Jenkins also presented key RWRD staff from three main divisions (Planning/Engineering, Treatment, and Conveyance) with Metropolitan Pima Alliance awards for RWRD received for the ROMP Program. The Committee also voted unanimously to issue a letter of support for the 2014 Capital Improvement Program.

January 2014: The Committee received notification that the Roger Road Wastewater Reclamation Facility had officially stopped receiving wastewater flows on January 8, 2014. Mr. Jenkins presented a PowerPoint presentation on the Biogas Sale Request for Proposals and the proposed new Struvite Treatment System. The Committee reviewed and discussed the draft Fiscal Year 2014/15 Financial Plan.

February 2014: Mr. Jenkins notified the Committee that the overall ROMP Program had reached substantial completion. The Committee also received two presentations on potable water flushing of minimum slope sewers and also on the impact on sewer design of water conservation. The Committee voted to support the RWRD Fiscal Year 2014/15 Financial Plan.

March 2014: The Committee viewed a video clip of an interview Mr. Jenkins gave with Arizona Illustrated in which he discussed the County’s plans for biogas sale and utilization. Laura Fairbanks, Community Relations Manager, provided a presentation on Community Relations Section activities. The Committee was invited to the ROMP ribbon cutting ceremony on April 9, 2014.

April 2014: Mr. Jenkins provided an update on an ongoing special project to review and standardize all Department ordinance language. The Committee received a waste composting presentation from Catlow Shipek from the Watershed Management Group. The focus of the presentation was on the Site-Built Composting Toilet Pilot Project. The Committee also received a semi-annual System-Wide Odor Control Program update from Deputy Director, John Warner.

May 2014: The Committee received updates on the Agua Nueva Water Reclamation Facility, as well as the Roger Road Facility property repurposing. The Committee received a FY 2013/14 Budget Update and a FY 2014/15 Financial Plan Update.

June 2014: Mr. Jenkins presented the Key Performance Indicators for RWRD and discussed how the metrics measure the effective functioning of the department. The Committee received an Open Meeting Law presentation from Karen Friar of the County Attorney’s Office. Ann Marie Wolf was re-nominated as Chair and Mark Taylor was nominated as Vice-Chair of the Committee for Fiscal Year 2014/15.

Regional Wastewater Reclamation Advisory Committee

Fiscal Year 2014/15 Meetings

August 21, 2014	December 18, 2014	April 16, 2015
September 18, 2014	January 15, 2015	May 21, 2015
October 16, 2014	February 19, 2015	June 18, 2015
November 20, 2014	March 19, 2015	

General Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department activities can be viewed on the department’s website:

www.pima.gov/wastewaterreclamation

To view agendas and minutes from the Regional Wastewater Reclamation Advisory Committee visit the department’s webpage and click on the right sidebar button: **Boards, Commissions & Committees**

Regional Wastewater Reclamation Advisory Committee meetings are generally held on the third Thursday of every month, in the Radon conference room, at the Water & Energy Sustainability Center (WESC), 2955 W. Calle Agua Nueva, Tucson.

Committee Coordinators:

Ed Curley 740-6500 (ed.curley@pima.gov)
Veronica Lopez 724-6500 (veronica.lopez@pima.gov)