

REGIONAL WASTEWATER RECLAMATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (RWRAC) MEETING

Water Campus

2955 W. Calle Agua Nueva – Radon Conference Room

Thursday, January 23, 2020

8:00 a.m.

Members Present: Steve Foley, Corin Marron, Matt Matthewson, Jean McLain, Armando Membrilla, Scott Oldendorph, Asia Philbin, Mark Taylor, Ann Marie Wolf, Claire Zucker

Members Absent: Bill Katzel, Rob Kulakofsky, John Lynch

Others Present:

Mandy Armenta (FRMD), Marla Berry (RWRD), Adam Bliven (RWRD), Michelle Campagne (FRMD), Isai Centeno (FRMD), Barbara Escobar (RWRD), Mike Gerstenberger (RWRD), Jody Hawkinson (Jacobs Engineering), Jackson Jenkins (RWRD), Veronica Lopez (RWRD), Jeff Prevatt (RWRD), Xavier Rendon (FRMD), Jaime Rivera (RWRD), Lisa Starks (RWRD), Erika Swan (RWRD), Timothy Thomure (COT), Mary Valencic (RWRD), Caroline Vargas (RWRD), Kiersten Wangsvick (Stantec Engineering), Eric Wieduwilt (RWRD)

A. Call to Order / Roll Call

Corin Marron, Chair, Regional Wastewater Reclamation Advisory Committee (RWRAC), called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. Erika Swan, Administrative Specialist Sr., 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 – Jackson Jenkins, Director, RWRD reminded everyone to take the proper precautions regarding their health this flu season. With many activities starting in Tucson, he also reminded everyone to be patient on the roadways and to allow yourself plenty of time to reach your destination.

E. Approval of Minutes - Meeting Minutes for December 19, 2019

ACTION: Ann Marie Wolf made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from October 24, 2019. Steve Foley seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

F. Discussion/Action

1. Director's Report – *Jackson Jenkins, Director, RWRD*

a. Biosolids/PFAS Issues

Since 1983 RWRD has disposed of biosolids in agricultural land. Due to the recent publicity regarding the presence of PFAS in drinking water, RWRD has taken a proactive approach in

regards to its biosolid disposal. As more information comes to light, and because PFAS are also present in biosolids, RWRD is now disposing of biosolids in a lined landfill. This change went into effect at the beginning of the 2020 calendar year, and will continue until more research studies are conducted and information obtained. This change will challenge our current budget, as landfill disposal is more costly than land application. Budget savings in other areas will go towards covering the additional biosolid disposal costs.

Mr. Jenkins answered various questions of the committee regarding biosolid volume, landfills, EPA Guidelines and other methods of disposal.

b. FY 2020-21 Budget Requests

Previously, RWRD budgeted \$1.7 million for biosolid disposal via land application. Now that the Department will be utilizing the landfill for biosolid disposal, the budgeted amount will increase to \$3 million (\$1.3 million higher). Overall, the FY 2020/21 requested O&M budget is 1.7 million higher than the current year. The budget is still being reviewed and adjusted prior to final submittal.

c. Salary & Wage Increase Impact on Personnel Budget

Twenty-one staff positions have been removed from RWRDs Personnel Budget for next year. Eight RWRD GIS positions transferred to the Information Technology Department, three RWRD Training Staff positions transferred to Human Resources and 10 vacant positions will not be filled due to the Department's continuing focus on efficiencies. Due to all these changes, the Department will show about \$1 million in savings in wages. However, with other factors increasing next fiscal year, RWRD Personnel Services overall budget savings will be around \$650,000. More details may be shown at a future meeting as the budget request becomes more finalized.

d. Twin Peaks Project

The gravity sewer line installation along Twin Peaks Road is nearing completion. The Twin Peaks Road stretch is completed and work is now being done along Tangerine Road. The sewer line will terminate at the pump station, which will be decommissioned upon completion of the project.

e. Twin Peaks Agreement with Developers

The Sewer Connection or Utility Fee for an average resident is around \$4,200. In partnership with area developers, RWRD pushed the Twin Peaks Project along sooner than planned. As part of this agreement, developers will pay an additional \$800 for each connection on homes in the area for the next 15 years. These payments are expected to begin this summer. This extra payments helped to fund the project ahead of schedule.

f. Fairgrounds Gravity Sewer Project

The Fairgrounds Gravity Sewer Project is expected to be completed by the end of February 2020. The Project has gone very smoothly and should allow for growth in the area.

2. CIP Sub-Committee Report – Matt Matthewson, RWRAC CIP Sub-Committee Chair

Mr. Matthewson stated there was not a CIP Sub-Committee meeting in January. He reminded the committee that at the December 2019 RWRAC meeting there was a CIP 5-Year Plan draft presented, and that an updated version will be presented today by Adam Bliven.

3. FY 2020/21 CIP 5-Year Plan Review – Adam Bliven, Program Manager, RWRD

Mr. Bliven provided a Capital Improvement Program Update. He presented and explained Exhibit B, an updated draft of the CIP 5-Year Plan Review. Major projects were highlighted and the Department's five buckets, for CIP repair and improvement projects, were explained.

Action: Matt Matthewson moved that the RWRAC confirms that the project and amounts shown in Exhibit B are generally necessary and appropriate. The committee also recognizes that there may be minor modifications made by staff in coming months, as system needs develop and other circumstance change. The Committee therefore expresses its support for the CIP 5-Year Plan as shown in Exhibit B, on the condition that the line items and project amounts do not change in material and substantial ways prior to final approval. Steve Foley seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Technical Services & Engineering Update – Eric Wieduwilt, Deputy Director, RWRD

Mr. Wieduwilt presented an update on the Technical Services and Engineering Division. An overview of the section's organization, staffing, and functions were explained.

5. Grease Campaign Update – Lisa Starks, Program Coordinator, RWRD

Lisa Starks presented an update of the 15th Annual Grease Collection and Recycling Event. The amount of grease collected has continued to increase. With targeted marketing and different methods of advertising playing a roll, this year's event attracted 521 participants.

6. Financial Sub-Committee Report – John Lynch, RWRAC Financial Sub-Committee Chair

There has been no recent activity with the Financial Sub-Committee.

7. Fiscal Year 2019/20 Expense and Revenue Summary – Mandy Armenta, Admin. Support Svcs. Mgr., FRMD

For period 6 projections, Personnel Services is under \$1.7 million which is offset by O&M at \$1.6 million, leaving overall expenses projected to be \$52,280 under budget. Revenue is projecting at \$3 million over.

8. Citizens' Water Advisory Committee (CWAC) Report – Meeting Report and Tucson Water Activities

Jean McClain, RWRAC Member, stated that CWAC met on January 8th, 2020. Water use in the fiscal year is up 1.2%, reclaimed water use is up 14.6% percent. There was also a mid-year budget review presented at the CWAC meeting. Tucson Water updated the Mayor and the Tucson City Council on PFAS as a result of the recent press and media attention on the issue.

G. Meeting Location and Alternate Routes

Access to the Water Campus will remain open throughout the I-10 construction at the Camino Del Cerro/Ruthrauff exit. Barbra Escobar, Program Manager, RWRD recently attended a presentation by the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT). ADOT has not provided any specifics yet, but the work will begin at the end of winter or early spring. At some point, the frontage road will become a two-way street. When the time comes, ADOT will provide maps, which will be shared with the Committee. Mr. Jenkins stated that RWRD continues to recommend the Water Campus as the meeting location, as the alternatives are limited. This item will stay on the Agenda for future meetings.

H. Future Agenda items

- Ann Marie Wolf, RWRAC Member, reminded the committee and staff that she would like an update on the GIS and Training consolidations six months from when they were first discussed.

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

J. Adjournment

ACTION: Scott Oldendorph made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ann Marie Wolf seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:18 a.m.