

**REGIONAL WASTEWATER RECLAMATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (RWRAC) MEETING**

**Water Campus**

**2955 W. Calle Agua Nueva – Radon Conference Room**

**Thursday, January 24, 2019**

**8:00 a.m.**

**Members Present:** Steve Foley, Bill Katzel, John Lynch, Corin Marron, Matt Matthewson, Jean McLain, Armando Membrilla (via phone), Scott Oldendorph, Mark Taylor (via phone), Ann Marie Wolf

**Members Absent:** Rob Kulakofsky, Asia Philbin, Claire Zucker

**Others Present:** Mary Allen (RWRD), Mandy Armenta (FRMD), Marla Berry (RWRD), Adam Bliven (RWRD), Michelle Campagne (FRMD), Isai Centeno (FRMD), Jennifer C. Coyle (RWRD), Jim Dettmer (Carollo), Barbara Escobar (RWRD), Mike Gerstenberger (RWRD), Michelle Hamilton (FRMD), Jackson Jenkins (RWRD), Julie McWilliams (RWRD), Jeanette Montano (RWRD), Fernanda Quintanilla (RWRD), Xavier Rendon (FRMD), Jaime Rivera (RWRD), Tim Thomure (Tucson Water), 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**

Jackson Jenkins, Director, RWRD, stated to use caution as moisture turns to ice on the ground during the winter months creating fall hazards.

**E. Approval of Minutes**

Minutes for RWRAC Special Public Meeting September 24, 2018  
Minutes for RWRAC Special Public Meeting September 27, 2018  
Minutes for RWRAC Special Public Meeting November 15, 2018  
Minutes for Regular Monthly Meeting November 15, 2018

**ACTION:** Bill Katzel made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of September 24 and 27, and both minutes for November 15, 2018. Ann Marie Wolf seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**F. Discussion/Action**

**1. Director's Update**

Mr. Jenkins stated the Department is currently experiencing a high rate of retirements, with an average of three retirements per month creating a loss of institutional knowledge and an increase in brain drain.

Mr. Jenkins stated the Department is still experiencing challenges in identifying individuals who are receiving sewer services but are not accounted for in the billing system. Jean McLain, Member, RWRAC, asked Mr. Jenkins how the Department finds individuals not paying for sewer. Mr. Jenkins explained many accounts were identified through the Amnesty Program and staff is also responsible for going through archived records

and databases to identify those that paid for a sewer connection fee but are not listed as a paying sewer account.

Mr. Jenkins presented the new RWRAC member, Steve Foley, with a Philabaum glass sculpture in appreciation for his willingness to serve on the Committee. Mr. Foley went on to give a few brief details about his background and interest in serving on the Committee.

Mr. Jenkins stated the Department's Fiscal Year 2019/2020 budget is equal to or less than the current fiscal year's budget despite upward pressures, which include chemical cost increases and employee benefit cost increases.

Mr. Jenkins stated the Department is still in discussions with the Town of Sahuarita to build a joint regional wastewater reclamation facility. Mr. Jenkins clarified that the development along Interstate 10 is a Sharpe Development project, not a Red Pointe Development.

Mr. Jenkins stated the ordinance revisions to the Pima County Code Chapters 13.28 and 13.32 are scheduled to go before the Board of Supervisors on February 5, 2019. Mr. Jenkins added the operational surcharge was removed from the language in the ordinance revisions.

Mr. Jenkins gave an overview of the ordinance revisions to the Pima County Code Chapter 13.20, which are intended to simplify the ordinance. Mr. Jenkins added that he did not anticipate any controversy over the proposed changes and he delineated three significant changes made to the ordinance. Discussion ensued.

## 2. CIP Subcommittee Update

Matt Matthewson, Member, RWRAC, gave an update on the CIP Subcommittee meeting that occurred December 4, 2018, during which the proposed CIP five-year budget for fiscal year 2019/2020 was reviewed. Mr. Matthewson stated the CIP Subcommittee members felt the current proposal was comparable to previous CIP budgets and project lists, consistent with the last five-year plan, driven by Department policy, and included good use of "buckets" of money.

Mr. Matthewson stated the CIP Subcommittee voted to recommend approval of the program to the full RWRAC. Mr. Matthewson added that since the Committee's approval, the five-year budget had been modified and he felt that the changes should be reviewed.

Adam Bliven, Program Manager, RWRD gave an overview of the changes that had been made to the CIP Five-Year Budget since the Financial Subcommittee had previously met. Discussion ensued.

**ACTION:** Matt Matthewson moved the RWRAC approve the current draft of the Fiscal Year 2019/2020 Five-Year CIP Budget, recognizing the potential for changes to the plan before it goes to the Board of Supervisors for approval. Ann Marie Wolf seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

## 3. Financial Subcommittee Update

John Lynch, RWRAC, member, stated the Financial Subcommittee had not met pending updates from the Department regarding billing topics. Mr. Lynch added the Financial Subcommittee would be meeting prior to the next full RWRAC meeting to discuss the budget and receive a status update on several items.

## 4. Fiscal Year 2019/2020 Rate Workbook Review

Michelle Campagne, Director, Finance and Risk Management Department (FRMD), presented the highlights of the draft Fiscal Year 2019/2020 Rate Workbook that is used to create the annual financial plan. Ms. Campagne stated the Workbook indicates revenues are up and expenses are staying flat as the Department continues to defease debt with no recommended rate increases between now and 2025. Ms. Campagne added the current debt ratio is in the 1.35 range with an ending unrestricted cash above the three months of operations set by the Department.

**5. Fiscal Year 2018/2019 RWRD Expense & Revenue Update**

Mandy Armenta, Administrative Support Services Manager, FRMD, provided the Expense and Revenue Update for Period 6. The total operating and maintenance expenses are projected at \$82.8 million, while the total revenues are projected at \$182.5 million.

**6. Citizen's Water Advisory Committee (CWAC) Update**

Ms. McLain stated the January CWAC meeting involved discussion on the Tucson Airport Authority Remediation Project (TAARP), which was constructed to treat the plume in the groundwater near the Tucson Airport. Tucson Water moved to do further testing to look for contaminants in the area and found none.

Tim Thomure, Director, Tucson Water, added granulated carbon in the water treatment process was not designed to removed perflourintated compounds but was initially doing so, which led Tucson Water to change out the carbon filters to continue removing the perflourinated compounds in their entirety.

Mr. Thomure stated the Drought Contingency Plan (DCP) is currently with the legislature and he believes the DCP is good for the City of Tucson and includes regulatory relief on effluent in the Santa Cruz River.

**7. 2019 RWRAC Work Plan Review**

Ms. Marron stated there were no significant changes to the RWRAC Work Plan since the previous meeting. Mr. Matthewson stated under the month of January he would like to include the Fiscal Year 2019/2020 Five-Year CIP Budget review.

**ACTION:** Bill Katzel moved to approve the 2019 Work Plan with the addition of the Fiscal Year 2019/2020 Five-Year CIP Budget review in January. John Lynch seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**G. Future Agenda Items**

Proposed Ordinance Revisions to Chapter 13.20 of the Pima County Code

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

**I. Adjournment**

**ACTION:** Bill Katzel made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ann Marie Wolf seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 9:28 a.m.