

REGIONAL WASTEWATER RECLAMATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (RWRAC) MEETING

Water Campus

2955 W. Calle Agua Nueva – Radon Conference Room

Thursday, February 22, 2018, 8:00 a.m.

Members Present: Rob Kulakofsky, John Lynch, Corin Marron, Jean McLain (via phone), Matt Matthewson, Armando Membrilla (via phone), Asia Philbin, Mark Taylor

Members Absent: William Garner, Bill Katzel, Shaun McClusky, Amber Smith, Ann Marie Wolf

Others Present: Adam Bliven (RWRD), Michelle Campagne (FRMD), Isai Centeno (FRMD), Jennifer C. Coyle (RWRD), Jim DuBois (RWRD), Barbara Escobar (RWRD), Jackson Jenkins (RWRD), Veronica Lopez (RWRD), Patrick McGee (FRMD), Mead Mier (PAG), Jeff Prevatt (RWRD), Dan Quintanar (Tucson Water), Fernanda Quintanilla (RWRD), Xavier Rendon (FRMD), John Sherlock (RWRD), Chuck Wesselhoft (PCAO), Eric Wieduwilt (RWRD)

A. Call to Order / Roll Call

Corin Marron, Regional Wastewater Reclamation Advisory Committee (RWRAC), called the meeting to order at 8:03 a.m. Veronica Lopez, 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, Chair, RWRAC, reminded everyone to be mindful of where work boots are left after coming in from the field, as spiders ie: black widows may burrow in boots/shoes. Keep them inside.

E. Approval of Minutes

Meeting Minutes for January 25, 2018

ACTION: Rob Kulakofsky made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of January 25, 2018. Mark Taylor seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

F. Discussion/Action

1. Dispose-A-Med Presentation

Dr. Jeff Prevatt, Research and Innovation Manager, RWRD, introduced Dan Quintanar, Project Manager, Tucson Water, and Chair of Dispose-A-Med Partnership. Mr. Quintanar proceeded to give a presentation that included a brief history/profile, mission and a more in-depth explanation of the purpose of said program.

Mr. Quintanar began the presentation by explaining the mission statement, which is to be a central resource to coordinate, educate and promote safe disposal, storage and use of medications to protect public health, the environment and drinking water quality. The program is a national, state and countywide program that was launched in Pima County in 2009. In 2018, the Dispose-A-Med Partnership became an independent organization, with 65 members, which includes: Banner Medical, Tucson Medical Center, branches of law enforcement, and several utilities.

Mr. Quintanar explained how the Dispose-A-Med Partnership is working towards informing the community about the importance and impact the Partnership has had both on the local and national level. From 2010 to 2017, the County has participated in 13 National Take-Backs and has collected a total of 45,049 pounds of unused/expired drugs. Mr. Quintanar provided event information on upcoming Dispose-A-Med Take-Back events, which will be hosted by the Town of Oro Valley.

Mr. Quintanar stressed the importance of proper storage and disposal of unused/expired drugs, as they pose a threat to the environment and our water supplies. Mr. Quintanar provided statistics showing the increase of illicit drug use and how it is contributing to emergency room admissions and accidental overdose deaths. Mr. Quintanar discussed various ways the public can assist with this cause, such as: properly disposing of medicine, sharps, etc., and securing drugs in your home, or volunteering to assist with Take-Back events. Mr. Quintanar also expressed interest in a possible collaboration with the RWRAC to assist with developing incentives to encourage best practices for disposal by medical facilities.

Matt Matthewson, Vice-Chair, RWRAC, asked what steps are involved for a pharmacy to become a drop off location. Mr. Quintanar stated the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) would have to be involved as there are certain rules that must be followed and it must be a secured environment. Rob Kulakofsky, Member, RWRAC, asked who collects the unused drugs. Mr. Quintanar stated that both the Pima County Sheriff's Department and the DEA process the collections and the DEA guarantees the drugs are destroyed. Mark Taylor, Member, RWRAC, asked if there has been any noticeable reduction of pharmaceuticals in the waste stream or rivers. Mr. Quintanar stated with the testing that has been conducted, they have not seen a reduction and concentration is still detected. Discussion ensued.

2. Director's Update

Mr. Jenkins stated RWRD was presented with the 2018 National Environmental Achievement Award for the Living River Project. Mr. Jenkins introduced Jim DuBois, Permit Regulatory Compliance Officer, RWRD, and Mr. DuBois discussed the details of the award presentation/ceremony. Mr. DuBois explained this was a collaborative effort with the Regional Flood Control District, the Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation Department, and the Office of Sustainability and Conservation. Mr. Jenkins noted there were external organizations that were also involved with this project and thanked Dr. Jean McLain, Member, RWRAC, for her participation. Mr. Jenkins added the Board of Supervisors (BOS) presented staff with a proclamation at their February 6, 2018 meeting.

Mr. Jenkins announced with the upcoming retirement of John Sherlock, Deputy Director, RWRD, Dr. Jeff Prevatt will take over as the Deputy Director for the Treatment Division. Mr. Jenkins stated Patrick McGee, Division Manager, Finance and Risk Management Department (FRMD), will be transferring to another Division and another FRMD staff member will eventually take over for Mr. McGee in attending the RWRAC meetings.

Mr. Jenkins stated the BOS approved the Tucson Water Billing Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) at their February 20, 2018 meeting. The IGA is retroactive to January 1, 2018. Mr. Jenkins stated billing is a large cost item and staff will be evaluating and holding discussions on how billing is handled in the future.

Mr. Jenkins stated the department held a management workshop in which the Director's Office/Administration was highlighted. Mr. Jenkins stated the workshop was informative, beneficial and well-received.

With regards to the Struvite Recovery Project, a number of interested parties responded, which was then narrowed down to three firms. Presentations from these three firms will be held in a few days and the selected firm will do a Design Build at the Tres Rios Water Reclamation Facility. The Biogas Project is currently being advertised and the deadline for parties to respond is in a couple of days.

Mr. Jenkins stated RWRD provides services to the Pascua Yaqui Nation and one request they have made is that they are notified prior to RWRD performing work on the reservation. Staff did not provide proper

notification at a recent job; however, Mr. Jenkins assured that staff will provide proper notification in the future.

Mr. Jenkins provided an update of the 16% adjustment to the high strength factor for the commercial class. Mr. Jenkins stated the RWRAC voted 8 to 2 to support this item, but it was ultimately rejected by the BOS in a vote of 4 to 1 at their February 6, 2018 meeting. Mr. Jenkins stated he is unsure of what additional information could have been provided. Staff offered to meet with the BOS, and did meet with one of the Board members to answer questions and provide information. Mr. Jenkins continued to discuss the data related to this item. Mr. Jenkins clarified the proposed 16% adjustment was not about the department's financials, it was strictly an equity issue. Mr. Matthewson stated he voted in support of the proposed adjustment; however, after realizing there was no financial need at this time, he advised Supervisor Christy to vote against the department's recommendation. Mr. Jenkins went on to discuss the modifications to the rate structure and the other billing alternatives. Discussion ensued. Mr. Jenkins stated per the County Administrator's request, he will be issuing a memorandum regarding the equity issue on the proposed 16% adjustment. The County Administrator will then forward the memorandum to the BOS.

3. Financial Subcommittee Update

John Lynch, Chair, RWRAC Financial Subcommittee, provided an update. Mr. Lynch stated the subcommittee discussed the department's future revenue needs in which Keith Dommer, Director, FRMD, indicated the revenue needs are on a sound foundation. The subcommittee also discussed the 2018 Financial Plan and will receive an initial draft at the March meeting. Staff is also preparing to present on the modifications to the rate structure and the other billing alternatives at the next subcommittee meeting.

4. Capital Improvement Program Subcommittee Update

Mr. Matthewson stated the CIP Subcommittee's next meeting is scheduled for June 2018 and he will keep the committee informed of the meeting date once a date and time is scheduled.

5. Fiscal Year 2017/2018 Expense & Revenue Update

Mr. McGee provided the Expense and Revenue update for Period 7. Operating and maintenance expenses are projected at \$82.3 million, which is approximately \$1 million under budget. Total revenues are forecasted at \$179.8 million, which is \$2.3 million above the projected budget.

6. Citizens' Water Advisory Committee (CWAC) Update

Dr. McLain stated the CWAC met on February 7, 2018 and the committee learned that Tucson Water's potable and recycled water production is up from last year. Dr. McLain stated most of the meeting consisted of legislative updates. CWAC's Financial Subcommittee approved a five-year Financial Plan, which will be presented to the Mayor and Council next month.

G. Future Agenda Items

- Presentations on Modifications to the Rate Structure and Other Billing Topics
- Dispose-A-Med: Policy Options
- Section 208 Plan Update
- Conserve to Enhance Presentation

Call to the Audience – Mead Mier, Sustainability Coordinator, Pima Association of Governments, stated if the committee is interested, she would be willing to give presentations on the Section 208 Plan and also the Conserve to Enhance programs. Mr. Sherlock stated that he enjoyed working with the committee over the past few years and thanked them for their public service. The committee wished Mr. Sherlock well in his retirement.

H. Adjournment

ACTION: Mark Taylor made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Matt Matthewson seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 a.m.