

REGIONAL WASTEWATER RECLAMATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (RWRAC) MEETING

Water and Energy Sustainability Center

2955 W. Calle Agua Nueva – Radon Conference Room

Thursday, February 23, 2017

Members Present: Sheila Bowen, Shaun McClusky, William Garner, Bill Katzel, Rob Kulakofsky, John Lynch, Corin Marron, Matt Matthewson, Armando Membrila, Mark Stratton

Others Present: Mary Allen (RWRD), Suzette Castro (RWRD), Jennifer Coyle (RWRD), Keith Dommer (FRMD), Racheal Eldridge (FRMD), Barbara Escobar (RWRD), Adriana Fuentes (RWRD), Jackson Jenkins (RWRD), Patrick McGee (FRMD), Julie McWilliams (RWRD), Jeff Prevatt (RWRD), Fernanda Quintanilla (RWRD), Charles Wesselhoft (PCAO), Monica Wilson (Sahuarita)

A. Election of Chair – pro tem

ACTION: Bill Katzel made a motion to nominate John Lynch as Chair pro tem, Armando Membrila seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Call to Order / Roll Call

John Lynch, Chair pro tem, Regional Wastewater Reclamation Advisory Committee (RWRAC), called the meeting to order at 8:01 a.m., Adriana Fuentes, Program Coordinator, Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department (RWRD), took roll call and a quorum was present.

C. Pledge of Allegiance

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

E. Safety Share

Bill Katzel, Member, RWRAC, stated that drivers should not tailgate and advised the use of the telephone number when posted on a commercial vehicles to report their driving. Jackson Jenkins, Director, RWRD, added that drivers should take extra caution while traveling on I-10 due to the Ina Road construction project.

F. Approval of Minutes – Meeting Minutes of January 26, 2017.

ACTION: Mark Stratton made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of January 26, 2017. Shaun McClusky seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Jenkins introduced and welcomed William Garner as the newly appointed RWRAC member for District 1.

G. Other Committee/Subcommittee Reports.

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

Mark Stratton, Member, RWRAC, stated the Financial Subcommittee is looking at issues related to revenue stability, conservation programs, and rate structure. Mr. Stratton stated a recommendation will be presented to the Mayor and Council on a rate structure and how to integrate conservation and maintain revenue stability. Tim Thomure, Director, Tucson Water, stated at the CWAC Meeting on February 1, 2017, Tucson Water presented on their outreach program "Get the Lead Out". Mr. Thomure stated this program identifies service lines that may have lead and may require a complete full service line replacement. Discussion ensued regarding regulatory compliance and quality control.

2. Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Subcommittee Update

Matt Mathewson, Chair, CIP Subcommittee, RWRAC, stated they have not had a meeting since October 20, 2017, but a meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 2, 2017.

3. Financial Subcommittee Update

Mr. Lynch stated the Financial Subcommittee received an update on the status of the Rate Study at the February 13, 2017 meeting. Mr. Lynch stated Raftelis will be presenting on the rate study at the Financial Subcommittee meeting, which is scheduled for March 13, 2017, and will also be presenting at the RWRAC meetings on March 23, 2017. Mr. Lynch stated they received an update on the 2017/2018 budget process. Mr. Lynch stated there seems to be two underlying issues, one of which is the extension of the terms of the bonds and understanding the pros and cons. Mr. Lynch stated the other is the understanding of administrative costs charged to the department from other sources within the County, understanding the methodology, and that it is equitably spread over all the operations of the County.

H. Discussion/Action

1. Avoided Costs of Water Conservation Presentation

Peter Mayer, *P.E. Principal, Water Demand Management*, presented on Avoided Costs of Water Conservation for Tucson, Arizona. Topics included a historical water analysis, indoor gallons per capita per day comparisons, impact on water and wastewater rates due to conservation, additional cost to water and wastewater system infrastructures, rate savings from water efficiency, and the challenges with decreasing demand and increasing cost.

2. Director's Update

Mr. Jenkins provided an update to the committee on the following items:

- The Board of Supervisors (BOS) meeting was held on February 7, 2017 regarding the proposed sewer user fee rate increase. Mr. Jenkins stated that the BOS has continued this agenda item until April 18, 2017. Keith Dommer, Director, Finance and Risk Management Department (FRMD), stated every month the rate increase is delayed, it costs the Department \$500,000.
- The rate study will be presented to the Financial Subcommittee on March 13, 2017, and to the RWRAC on March 23, 2017.
- The amnesty program has received 300 responses and the Department now has 125 new customers.
- Open Meeting Law training for members.
- Davis-Monthan Air Force Base and the outstanding connection fees owed. Mr. Jenkins stated there will be an article in the newspaper this weekend.
- Sanitary sewer overflow near Ajo and I-19.
- The County currently has over 12,000 acre feet of recharge credits. Mr. Jenkins stated the County may sell these credits.
- The settlement with Marana and diverting flow from Saguaro Bloom. Mr. Jenkins stated this is scheduled to be completed in March.
- Biogas is still under negotiation and the Department is continuing to evaluate the best way to obtain value from the biogas product.
- Ostara Struvite harvesting is still under evaluation.

Shaun McClusky, Member, RWRAC, requested all RWRAC material be sent electronically. Discussion ensued regarding material that is sent out by the Department and how to cut on cost. Mr. Jenkins stated that mailers are a great communication tool and are a very inexpensive way to get information out to customers. Mr. Lynch stated anyone wanting to be removed from the mailing list may contact Ms. Fuentes or Ms. Coyle.

3. Fiscal Year 2016/2017 Update

Patrick McGee, Division Manager, FRMD, provided the committee with an overview of the Fiscal Year 2016/2017 budget.

4. Capital Improvement Program Subcommittee Status and Moving Forward

Mr. Mathewson addressed this item in agenda item G2. Mr. McClusky stated that there is a vacancy with this committee.

I. Future Agenda Items

Armando Membriola, Member, RWRAC, requested we look back to see if any previous agenda items have been postponed.

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

K. Adjournment

ACTION: Mark Stratton motioned to adjourn the meeting, Shaun McClusky seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 10:36 a.m.