

REGIONAL WASTEWATER RECLAMATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (RWRAC) MEETING

Water Campus

2955 W. Calle Agua Nueva – Radon Conference Room

Thursday, February 27, 2020

8:00 a.m.

Members Present: Steve Foley, Rob Kulakofsky, Jean McLain, Armando Membrila, Asia Philbin, Mark Taylor, Ann Marie Wolf, Claire Zucker

Members Absent: Bill Katzel, John Lynch, Corin Marron, Matt Matthewson, Scott Oldendorph

Others Present:

Mandy Armenta (FRMD), Marla Berry (RWRD), Adam Bliven (RWRD), Victoria Buchinger (PCAO), Michelle Campagne (FRMD), Isai Centeno (FRMD), Jim Dettmer (Carollo Engineers) Barbara Escobar (RWRD), Belinda Gamboa-Felix (RWRD), Mike Gerstenberger (RWRD), Andrew Greenhill (Tucson Water) Jody Hawkinson (Jacobs Engineering), Jackson Jenkins (RWRD), Julie McWilliams (RWRD), Jeff Prevatt (RWRD), Xavier Rendon (FRMD), Jaime Rivera (RWRD), Erika Swan (RWRD), Mary Valencic (RWRD), Caroline Vargas (RWRD), Kiersten Wangsvick (Stantec Engineering), Chuck Wesselhoft (PCAO), Eric Wieduwilt (RWRD), Claire Zugmeyer (Sonoran Institute)

A. Call to Order / Roll Call

Ann Marie Wolf, Acting Chair, Regional Wastewater Reclamation Advisory Committee (RWRAC), called the meeting to order at 8:12 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 proper precautions regarding their health during this cold and flu season. RWRD staff has been of reviewing the Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) to insure we are able to operate in the event that a portion of our workforce is unable to come in and perform their jobs. Ann Marie Wolf added to the discussion by encouraging those feeling sick in the future, to remain home.

E. Approval of Minutes - Meeting Minutes for January 23, 2020

ACTION: Claire Zucker made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from January 23, 2020. Mark Taylor seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

F. Discussion/Action

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

Mr. Jenkins introduced the RWRAC to Victoria Buchinger, from the Pima County Attorney's Office. Ms. Buchinger will be fulfilling the duties of Chuck Wesselhoft, who will retire in March. Mr. Jenkins thanked Mr. Wesselhoft for his many years of service to the RWRAC and RWRD.

a. Landfill / Biosolids

An update was provided regarding the landfill and biosolids issues discussed in the previous meeting. Initially, taking the biosolids to the landfill was done by utilizing an emergency contract. Since the disposal method will be more of a long term practice, RWRD opened the process to obtain a permanent contract. Three landfill locations and five trucking companies responded with bids. RWRD is researching limitations, logistics and cost to determine the best option.

b. Schwing Project

RWRD is looking into renting additional portable dewatering equipment for the Schwing Project. This equipment is necessary since a thinner sludge is produced while the pumps are being switched. This thinner sludge cannot be taken to the land fill. The dewatering equipment will create a biosolid concentration acceptable for the landfill.

c. Vector Policy

Over the course of two years, each manhole in Pima County is scheduled to be treated with a paint-infused insecticide to control roaches. Recently a member of the public expressed concern with the insecticide and did not want the product applied to their nearby manhole. The product and the way in which RWRD applies the product is EPA approved. Effluent testing has shown no residual insecticide. However, RWRD understands there may be concerns and the Conveyance Division is currently evaluating the product RWRD uses and checking to see what other options may be available.

d. Pillar Talks

The semi-annual Pillar Talks were held in February. This is one method used to maintain Department-wide communications between Director Jenkins and staff.

e. Twin Peaks / Fairgrounds Project

The major portions of both the Twin Peaks and Fairgrounds Capital Improvement Projects are coming to a conclusion, with only minor details left to address.

f. GIS Consolidation Update

The GIS staff consolidation that occurred a few months ago is being revisited. There may be modifications in the coming weeks. The RWRAC will be updated on this topic in future meetings.

g. Metro Water Request

The breakdown of effluent ownership, recharge credits and deductions were described. Metro Water has requested to get their portion of water at Tres Rios. There is more demand from various water utilities to capture more water credits from the effluent. Workshops have been

held and discussions are planned regarding changes over the years and the possibility of the re-proportioning of deductions.

2. **Sonoran Institute “Living River” Report** – *Claire Zugmeyer, Ecologist, Sonoran Institute*
Ms. Zugmeyer presented an overview of the geography, history and health of the Santa Cruz River. Copies of the current *A Living River* report were distributed as Ms. Zugmeyer highlighted the continued improvement of the Santa Cruz River’s health.
3. **Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) Report** – *Barbara Escobar, Program Manager, RWRD*
Ms. Escobar presented on Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS). She reviewed the findings of the *Environmental Toxic Substance Assessment* on PFAS, which was commissioned by Pima County. Ms. Escobar explained the presence PFAS in Biosolids, the preventative measures RWRD is taking, and the importance of future PFAS / Biosolid studies. A final report on the PFAS Biosolids 2020 Study is expected to be available in the fall of 2020.
4. **2020 Rate Workbook Review** – *Michelle Campagne, Director, FRMD*
Ms. Campagne presented the highlights of the 2020 Rate Workbook Review. The Rate Workbook presented includes \$40 million of debt that was sold last week. This debt issuance was at a 1.0165% interest rate. This interest rate is the lowest we have seen in over 20 years and is a result of our financial plan and yearly debt defeasance. Overall, the financial ratings for Pima County has improved from stable to positive. The Finance and Risk Management Department is not recommending any rate increases for the 2021 Fiscal Year. The rating agency ratio for the Department remains above 1.3. The Debt Service Payments past and future plans were discussed. Ms. Campagne also reviewed the County’s plan to move to Pay-As-You-Go financing for CIP expenditures.
5. **CIP Subcommittee Report** – *Matt Matthewson, RWRAC CIP Subcommittee Chair*
There has been no recent activity with the CIP Sub-Committee.
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 7 projections, the O&M budget is \$83.4 million, with \$84 million in expenditures being projected. Revenue is projecting to come in \$2.7 million over budget at \$185 million.
8. **Citizens’ Water Advisory Committee (CWAC) Report – Meeting Report and Tucson Water Activities**
Jean McClain, RWRAC Member, stated that CWAC met on February 5, 2020. The Green Stormwater Infrastructure Fund was passed by the Tucson City Council. It is expected to be on water bills in April of 2020. Tom Thomure, Director, Tucson Water, celebrated his four year anniversary with Tucson Water. Mark Taylor, RWRAC Member, added Tucson Water is going forward with the 4-year rate process. Four open houses will be held in March regarding the rate process.

G. Meeting Location and Alternate Routes

Updates and changes to detours will continue to be shared with RWRAC members. It was suggested that the detour map be posted to the RWRAC website for those wishing to attend future meetings.

H. Future Agenda items

There was discussion to remove the Subcommittees from the agenda. The matter will be brought to the attention of the Chair and Vice Chair.

- The Legislative Agenda is on the 2020 Work Plan for next month, the RWRAC would like not only wastewater but all relevant water-related legislative discussed.
- Vector update, if changes are made.
- GIS Consolidation – next update in 3 months.
- Corona Virus / Public Health
- Board of Supervisors Members or their aides – what they are working on and what direction they are going.

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

J. Adjournment

ACTION: Rob Kulakofsky made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mark Taylor seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:55 a.m.