



**REGIONAL WASTEWATER RECLAMATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Water & Energy Sustainability Center  
2955 W. Calle Agua Nueva  
Radon Conference Room

**MEETING MINUTES**

**Thursday, May 15, 2014**

**Committee Members Present:**

Ann Marie Wolf	Kendall Kroesen	Jackson Jenkins
Barbee Hanson	Rob Kulakofsky	Alan Forrest
Bob Iannarino	Armando Membriola	
Bill Katzel	Mark Taylor	

**Committee Members Absent:**

Sheila Bowen	Amber Smith
John Lynch	Mark Stratton

**A. CALL TO ORDER.** Ann Marie Wolf, Chair, called the meeting of the Regional Wastewater Reclamation Advisory Committee (RWRAC) to order at 8:03 a.m. Veronica Lopez took the 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.** Bill Katzel stated that during rush hour traffic, it can be safer to drive on the frontage roads rather than the freeway.

**E. APPROVAL OF MINUTES.**

1. Meeting Minutes of April 17, 2014

**ACTION:** Barbee Hanson made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 17, 2014 meeting. Bob Iannarino seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Bill Katzel abstained from the vote since he was not present at the April 17<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**F. COMMITTEE/SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS.**

1. **CITIZENS' WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CWAC) UPDATE.** Mark Taylor stated CWAC did not meet last month so there is no update to provide.
2. **RWRAC FINANCIAL SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING.** Ms. Wolf stated since the majority of the Sub-Committee members are not present at today's meeting to discuss scheduling of the next meeting, she asked that staff please try to schedule a meeting to discuss the Billing IGA with Tucson Water.

**G. DISCUSSION/ACTION.**

- 1. DIRECTOR'S UPDATE.** Jackson Jenkins, Director, Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department (RWRD), announced that Matt Matthewson, Special Assistant to the Director, RWRD, will be retiring on May 16, 2014. Mr. Jenkins thanked Mr. Matthewson for his service to RWRD and congratulated and wished him well on his retirement. Ms. Wolf also added she and the RWRAC enjoyed working with Mr. Matthewson and will miss working with him. Mr. Jenkins introduced Jennifer Coyle, RWRD, who will be replacing Mr. Matthewson as the Special Assistant to the Director.

Mr. Jenkins stated a BBQ luncheon was held for RWRD staff to thank and recognize them for a job well-done on the Regional Optimization Master Plan (ROMP) project. Mr. Jenkins also noted that biogas negotiations are still pending with the selected firm and will keep the Committee updated.

Acceptance testing continues at the Agua Nueva Water Reclamation Facility (WRF). The testing began on April 28, 2014 and is going well. Staff is considering modifying the contract and changing the acceptance testing period from a 30-day period to a 15-day period. Mr. Jenkins provided explanation as to why staff is considering making this modification. The Committee asked various questions of Mr. Jenkins regarding the acceptance testing.

Mr. Jenkins added that with regards to the Roger Road facility repurposing, the County will be signing an intergovernmental agreement (IGA) with the Arizona Board of Regents. This IGA will allow the Arizona Board of Regents to partner with the County to assist with finding potential uses for the Roger Road facility. Mr. Jenkins stated he expects that this IGA will be signed soon. Mr. Jenkins also noted that RWRD will be advertising a Request for Expressions of Interest (REFI) to receive responses from those interested in bringing economic development to the Roger Road facility. Discussion ensued regarding the costs for the clean closure of the facility.

Mr. Jenkins stated RWRD staff is working diligently on revising ordinances and this is a huge effort by staff. At some point, this could be an agenda item for the RWRAC to discuss. Mr. Jenkins briefly discussed the billing IGA with Tucson Water. Tucson Water has increased charges to the County for providing billing services to RWRD. If approved, this would be an \$800,000 increase to the department's budget for billing services. Ms. Wolf noted that the billing IGA is the main topic for discussion at the next Sub-Committee meeting and that the ordinance revision issue will be presented to the RWRAC in the future because there will be adjustments to the rates on some of the ordinances. Bill Katzel asked if Tucson Water intends to continue to increase billing costs. Alan Forrest, Director, Tucson Water, provided an explanation for the need to significantly increase billing costs at this time, but indicated that future billing cost increases would only need to reflect inflationary factors.

- 2. FY 2013/14 BUDGET UPDATE.** Patrick McGee, Division Manager, Finance and Risk Management Department (FRMD), presented the Period 9 Revenue and Expense Comparison data. Expenses are \$647,000 under budget. Staff is forecasting expenses to be at \$78.4 million with a budget of \$79 million. Mr. McGee stated with revenues, connection fees are forecasted to be \$1 million under budget, with an offset of \$3.8 million because of the Pascua Yaqui Tribe and Davis-Monthan Air Force Base cases. Sewer User Fees are forecasted at \$159.7 million and the budget is \$159.9 million. Total revenue is at \$178 million. Mr. Jenkins asked Mr. McGee to discuss the County Administrator's possible recommendation on next year's budget for a 2% salary increase, but it would have to be absorbed from the department's current budget. Mr. McGee stated Mr. Jenkins is correct and staff that make below \$37,000 annually would get a little more than the 2%.
- 3. FY 2014/15 BUDGET UPDATE.** Mr. McGee stated the Board of Supervisors (BOS) will hold a tentative budget hearing on May 20<sup>th</sup> to review the FY 2014/15 budget and will then make a recommendation. The final adoption of the budget will take place at the BOS meeting on June 7<sup>th</sup>. Bill Katzel asked how the FY 2014/15 budget will affect user rates. Mr. McGee stated there is no increase

for rates on the FY 2014/15 budget, but staff will be reviewing whether a rate increase is needed for the FY 2015/16 budget.

4. **SONORAN INSTITUTE “LIVING RIVER” PRESENTATION.** Ian Dowdy, Sonoran Institute, gave a presentation and update on the “Living River” project for the lower Santa Cruz River. Mr. Dowdy stated a huge part of this project is to bring awareness to the Santa Cruz River. Sonoran Institute has been around since 1990 and works with communities throughout the west to assist them within their culture and context of the landscape to help make things better and more sustainable. Mr. Dowdy provided an overview of some of the projects Sonoran Institute is involved with.

Mr. Dowdy stated that the Santa Cruz River may appear to be “dead,” but in fact, it is going into a new life cycle. Mr. Dowdy stated that the main question is what can we, as a community, do to protect the Santa Cruz River and maintain river health. Mr. Dowdy discussed the history of the Santa Cruz River.

Since 2008, a series of reports have been published discussing the health of the Upper Santa Cruz River and how it can be improved. Between 2013 and 2015, the focus will be to evaluate the Lower Santa Cruz River. Mr. Dowdy recognized the various County departments that are involved with this project. Mr. Dowdy stated some of the goals of this project are to prove the river is still alive, to make it more vibrant and improve the watershed, generate a human connection to this river, and inform water management of the benefits of improving the quality of water. The work that is conducted with this project is work that can be replicated elsewhere, especially through the southwest. Mr. Dowdy continued to discuss the details and schedule of this project, as well as what is being done to raise public awareness for this project.

Some of the goals of this project are to monitor river flows, improve water quality, protect and raise groundwater levels, reduce run-off, and bring a successful model to other communities. Mr. Dowdy asked the Committee members to help with the public outreach of this project by scheduling him for presentations with their individual agencies or by spreading the word of this project. The Committee asked Mr. Dowdy various questions.

5. **FY 2013/14 CIP UPDATE AND FY 2014/15 CIP PROJECTION.** Jaime Rivera, Project Manager, RWRD, gave the CIP update to the Committee. Mr. Rivera provided a summary of the various programs for the FY 2014/15 budget. Two large projects in the Conveyance Rehabilitation area are the North and South Rillito Interceptor Rehabilitation Projects. Construction costs will use 89% of the total funds for the FY 2014/15 budget. Mr. Rivera displayed a list of projects over \$1.5 million for next FY. Mr. Rivera briefly discussed some of the projects with the Committee. Mr. Jenkins clarified that the costs displayed are the costs just for the upcoming fiscal year and not total costs for each project. Most of these projects are multi-year projects. The Committee received handouts on the list of CIP projects for FY 2014/15 and FY 2015/16. Mr. Rivera and staff answered various questions from the RWRAC.
6. **NOMINATING COMMITTEE APPOINTED.** Ms. Wolf asked the Committee members who would like to serve on the nominating committee to appoint a RWRAC Chair and Vice Chair for the next fiscal year. Rob Kulakofsky and Armando Membrila volunteered to serve on the nominating committee.
7. **SUMMER MEETING SCHEDULE.** Ms. Wolf stated per the RWRAC 2014 Work Plan, the proposal is to not hold a meeting in July and re-convene in August. Ms. Wolf asked the Committee for any comment or objection to this schedule. The Committee agreed to keep with the Work Plan and not hold a meeting in July.

- H. **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS.** Mr. Membrila suggested changing the regular RWRAC meeting time from 8:00 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. The Committee discussed and chose to keep the meeting time as 8:00 a.m. For the June meeting, the two main items on the agenda will be the Key Performance Indicator presentation and the Open Meeting Law presentation.

Mr. Taylor suggested having a South Rillito Interceptor Rehabilitation presentation/update at a future meeting. Mr. Katzel stated he would like to have a discussion on household hazardous waste programs.

**I. CALL TO THE AUDIENCE.** There were no comments from the audience.

**ACTION:** Armando Membrila made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Bill Katzel seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**J. ADJOURNMENT.** The meeting was adjourned at 9:46 a.m.