

**REGIONAL WASTEWATER RECLAMATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (RWRAC) MEETING
Virtual Microsoft Teams Meeting**

**Thursday, September 23, 2021
8:00 a.m.**

Members Present: Steve Foley, Alison Jones, Bill Katzel, Scott Kolt, Rob Kulakofsky, Matt Matthewson, Armando Membriola, Scott Oldendorph, Asia Philbin, Ann Marie Wolf, Claire Zucker

Members Absent: Corin Marron, Mark Taylor

Others Present:

Melanie Alvarez (PAG), Mandy Armenta (FRMD), Vanessa Barchfield (Member of Public), Adam Bliven (RWRD), Marla Berry (RWRD), Victoria Buchinger (PCAO), Michelle Campagne (FRMD), Craig Cannizzaro (Westland Resources), Isai Centeno (FRMD), Kim Challender (BOS - District 1), Justyn Dillingham (Communications Office), Mike Gerstenberger (RWRD), Andrew Greenhill (Tucson Water), Karen Heyse (Member of Public), Jackson Jenkins (RWRD), Amber Kerwin (Member of Public), Yves Khawam (County Administration), Kris LaFleur (City of Tucson), Veronica Lopez (RWRD), Julie McWilliams (RWRD), Sarah Metz (FRMD), Jaime Rivera (RWRD), Jessica Rodriguez (Tucson Water)

A. Call to Order / Roll Call

Scott Oldendorph, Chair, RWRAC, called the meeting to order at 8:01 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

Mr. Oldendorph reminded everyone to be safe while driving around school busses and school zones.

E. Approval of Minutes – Meeting Minutes for August 26, 2021

ACTION: Bill Katzel made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from August 26, 2021. Matt Matthewson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

F. Discussion/Action

1. Director's Report

a. COVID-19 Update / In-Person Meetings

Mr. Jenkins stated the department continues to enforce safety protocols and County guidelines related to COVID-19. Mr. Jenkins discussed vaccine incentives and disincentives that the County has in place. Currently, 77% of RWRD employees are vaccinated, and over the next few months, it is expected that this percentage will increase. With regards to resuming in-person meetings, Mr. Jenkins stated staff is in the process of ordering camera equipment, which will provide a broader view of the meeting room for those that wish to continue to participate

virtually. Mr. Jenkins suggested the RWRAC meetings continue to be held via Microsoft Teams, until the new equipment is set up, and at that time, the committee can discuss how to proceed.

b. RWRD Vacancies / Staffing

Mr. Jenkins stated the department continues to experience staffing challenges with certain positions. The department has been performing with a 7% vacancy rate. Mr. Jenkins discussed some of the contributing factors, which includes competing with what other agencies/companies pay for similar types of positions. The County has raised the salary for electrician positions, but still are not seeing much interest for these positions. Mr. Jenkins stated he will continue to work with the Human Resources Department on how to address these staffing challenges. Pima County is currently conducting a compensation study and is expected to be complete next year. The Board of Supervisors recently approved a 5% increase for most County employees, with a few exceptions.

c. Effluent Recharge Credits / SAWRSA Deductions

Mr. Jenkins stated RWRD and the Tucson Water Department meet monthly to discuss a variety of activities and projects that involve both departments. One item that has been a topic of discussion is effluent recharge credits and whether modifications can be made to how these credits are calculated. Mr. Jenkins stated discussions continue regarding SAWRSA deductions and how those deductions are being divided up.

d. Biogas Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

Mr. Jenkins invited the committee to a ribbon cutting ceremony on Thursday, October 21, 2021 at the Tres Rios Water Reclamation Facility to commemorate the completion of the Biogas Project. The ceremony is by invitation only and Mr. Jenkins asked that those planning to attend, please RSVP. Once the event time is confirmed, an official invitation will be sent. Mr. Jenkins stated the ceremony will be held outdoors and safety protocols will be in place.

2. Conveyance Division Update

Jaime Rivera, Deputy Director, RWRD, provided an overview of the organizational structure of the Conveyance Division. Mr. Rivera discussed the various enhancements that have been made to the asset management software. Mr. Rivera provided an overview of the FY 2021 Capital Improvement Program and the Odor Control Program. The Gravity Section has completed 2,127 safety work orders to-date. Since FY 2000, the department has reduced the number of Sewer Sanitary Overflows by 90%. Mr. Rivera gave an update on the CCTV Program and the Power BI Key Performance Indicators (KPI) Dashboards. The Power BI KPI Dashboards utilizes 9 departmental and enterprise datasets. This dashboard provides an interactive way to analyze data and look for patterns.

3. CIP Subcommittee Report

There were no updates to report.

4. Financial Subcommittee Report

There were no updates to report.

5. Fiscal Year 2021/22 Expense and Revenue Summary

Ms. Armenta provided the Fiscal Year 2021/22 Expense and Revenue Summary for Period 2. The O&M budget is set for \$86.5 million and total revenues is budgeted at \$187.1 million.

6. CWAC Report – Meeting Report and Tucson Water Activities

Alison Jones, Member, RWRAC, stated CWAC met on September 1, 2021. Ms. Jones stated Central Arizona Project will be holding a free educational program called CAP University, which is scheduled for September 29, 2021. Ms. Jones stated John Kmiec, Interim Director, Tucson Water Department, spoke about job vacancies, water demand, and water bill delinquency rates. Ms. Jones stated a public hearing will be held on differential rates on October 19, 2021 at the Mayor and Council meeting. CWAC will be discussing a cost of service memorandum at their next meeting.

7. RWRAC Annual Report

ACTION: Rob Kulakofsky made a motion to approve the FY 2020-2021 RWRAC Annual Report. Steve Foley seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

G. Future Agenda Items

- Infrastructure Security Update
- Desalination Report
- RWRAC In-Person Meetings

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

I. Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 9:10 a.m.

ACTION: Bill Katzel made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Steve Foley seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.