

REGIONAL WASTEWATER RECLAMATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (RWRAC) MEETING

**Pima County Administration East Building
Board of Supervisors Hearing Room
130 W. Congress, 1st Floor
Tucson, Arizona 85701**

Thursday, September 27, 2018

Members Present: Bill Katzel, Rob Kulakofsky, Armando Membrila, Jean McLain, Shaun McClusky, Scott Oldendorph, Asia Philbin, Ann Marie Wolf, Claire Zucker

Members Absent: John Lynch, Corin Marron, Matt Matthewson, Mark Taylor

Others Present: Mary Allen (RWRD), Mandy Armenta (FRMD), Marla Berry (RWRD), Adam Bliven (RWRD), Beth Borozan (BOS), Melody Burton (FRMD), Isai Centeno (FRMD), Michelle Campagne (FRMD), Jennifer C. Coyle (RWRD), Supervisor Steve Christy (BOS), Carmine DeBonis (County Administration), Andrew Greenhill (Tucson Water), Jason Grodman (RWRD), Michael Guymon (Tucson Metro Chamber of Commerce), Michelle Hamilton (FRMD), Jackson Jenkins (RWRD), Meredith Litton (FRMD), Veronica Lopez (RWRD), Jeannette Montano (RWRD), Jeff Prevatt (RWRD), Jaime Rivera (RWRD), Chuck Wesselhoft (PCAO), Eric Wieduwilt (RWRD), nine members of the public.

A. Call to Order / Roll Call

Claire Zucker, acting Chair, Regional Wastewater Reclamation Advisory Committee (RWRAC), called the meeting to order at 9:09 a.m. Fernanda Quintanilla, 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

Bill Katzel, Member, RWRAC, suggested leaving early if utilizing I-19 due to construction. Armando Membrila, Member, RWRAC, said it is better to relocate rather than kill rattlesnakes because they reduce mice populations.

E. Approval of Minutes – Meeting Minutes for August 23, 2018

ACTION: Bill Katzel made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of August 23, 2018. Shaun McClusky, Member, RWRAC, seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

F. Discussion/Action

1. Proposed Modifications to the Billing Methodology for Non-Residential Users from Winter Quarter Average to Actual Water Usage

ACTION: Shaun McClusky made a motion to exclude multi-family and residential sewer users from the proposed modifications to the billing methodology from Winter Quarter Average to actual water usage. Ann Marie Wolfe seconded the motion. Discussion ensued.

Jean McLain, Member, RWRAC, stated data is lacking for the multi-family class. Ms. McLain said she would like to see multi-family residences are moving towards xeriscaping to conserve water.

Mr. Katzel stated multi-family water use is the same as residential water use and should therefore be categorized in the same class as residential.

Rob Kulakofsky, Member, RWRAC, stated multi-family does not fit properly into the proposed billing methodology changes for non-residential and expressed concern that swamp coolers and cooling towers were not taken into consideration.

Scott Oldendorph, Member, RWRAC, asked Mr. Jenkins if he would be able to address concerns raised by the public and still meet the forecasted deadline to bring a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors (BOS) in December. Mr. Jenkins stated after internal Department discussions, he believes more time would be needed before bringing a recommendation to the BOS.

Ann Marie Wolf, Member, RWRAC, said the public meetings should have been prior to the August RWRAC vote so that members would have had complete information. Ms. Wolf added the RWRAC should take an additional look at the issue, including the implications for the multi-family classification. Ms. Wolfe noticed a potential motion to rescind the original motion at the next regularly scheduled RWRAC meeting. Discussion ensued.

Ms. Zucker voiced her concern with how the proposed modifications might be a financial hardship for Homeowner's Associations since they are limited to how much they can charge for utilities. Ms. Zucker asked the Department to consider Homeowner's Associations and that fall under the commercial class but have residential use.

Ms. McLain asked Mr. Jenkins whether the Department would be able to obtain data on multi-family and Homeowner's Associations before moving forward. Mr. Jenkins said that the Finance and Risk Management Department (FRMD) has much data related to those classes, but the data is vast and he would need a more specific request before directing staff.

Mr. McClusky stated single-family residences are disproportionately charged more for sewer services than commercial users. Mr. McClusky said removing multi-family from the original motion would sustain multi-family sewer user fees at the same rate as residential class. Mr. McClusky suggested individuals and Homeowner's Associations install irrigation meters. Mr. McClusky suggested the Department annualize the bill so that it is a flat rate and does not affect businesses as much.

Mr. Jenkins clarified with Mr. McClusky that he wants residential and multi-family users to continue to utilize winter quarter averaging, while excluding the remaining classes from being able to utilize the winter quarter average. Mr. McClusky affirmed this statement.

ACTION: Motion passed 6 – 3.

Mr. Kulakofsky stated he agreed multi-family should not be exempt from winter quarter averaging but does not think there is enough information regarding the industrial and commercial classes to promote removing the winter quarter average from those classes. Discussion ensued.

Ms. Wolfe stated she would like to know how the Department would handle or how the proposed changes would affect commercial and industrial businesses with cooling towers and other situations in which there is a high volume of water usage that is not going into the sewer system.

Mr. McClusky asked the Department to find out whether or not it is possible to install an irrigation or flow meter on a cooling tower by the next meeting. Discussion ensued.

2. Financial Subcommittee Update

The Subcommittee did not hold a meeting this month and will reconvene in October.

3. Director's Update

Mr. Jenkins stated the engineering firm and contractor for the Biogas Project has been selected, and the design is still being developed. Mr. Jenkins expects that ground will be broken on the project the beginning

of 2019. Discussion with Southwest Gas on the agreements continues as both parties determine whether to sell locally or pursue the national market.

Mr. Jenkins stated the Struvite Recovery Project will be implemented within the next 12 months as the engineering firm and contractor are currently under contract. Mr. Jenkins stated the project will save the Department on chemicals such as ferric chloride and polymer and will result in improved performance.

The Continental Ranch Pump Station Project has completed Phase I, installed emergency bypass backup pumping, and the system will be updated and rehabilitated.

Mr. Jenkins stated 10 women in RWRD were recognized for a variety of awards at the Women in Government Awards Ceremony.

Mr. Jenkins stated the contractor, AvraGro, has struggled with the proper disposal of biosolids. The Department is discussing remedies to the situation and looking at other viable options for biosolid disposal.

Mr. McClusky asked Mr. Jenkins if the Department has had any air quality issues within the last 90 days. Mr. Jenkins responded that the Department has not.

4. Presentation on Proposed Ordinance Revisions: 13.20, 13.28 & 13.32

Eric Wieduwilt, Deputy Director, RWRD, gave a presentation regarding proposed revisions to the Pima County Code (PCC), Chapters 13.12, 13.16, 13.20, 13.28, and 13.32. Mr. Wieduwilt stated that with the support of the RWRAC, it is desired to bring the ordinance changes to the Pima County Board of Supervisors in December 2018 or January 2019.

Mr. Wieduwilt stated since the early 1980s, PCC Chapters 13.12, 13.16, and 13.20 have not been thoroughly reviewed for clarity, functionality, and consistency. The proposed ordinance revision reorganizes the existing information to provide clarity for the public, removes and updates customer services fees, and adds a new surcharge for Residential subdivision pump stations.

Mr. Wieduwilt stated the Chapters that govern Mt. Lemmon sewer connections and conservation fees were established in the 1980s with the construction of the Mt. Lemmon Water Reclamation Facility in Summerhaven and the contract with the US Forest Service. The historic elements and references have been removed and the proposed ordinances for 13.28 and 13.32 are updated to reflect the remaining specific requirements.

Mr. Wieduwilt asked the RWRAC for recommendations in moving forward and suggested scheduling a public meeting on the ordinance revisions at the next RWRAC meeting and determining at that point how to move forward. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Membrila stated he does not feel that holding a special public meeting immediately before a regularly scheduled RWRAC meeting is enough time to take into consideration potential comments and concerns raised. Mr. Membrila suggested having the special public meeting a few days before the regularly scheduled RWRAC meeting. Discussion ensued.

Ms. Zucker put forward a recommendation to the Department that the RWRAC hold a special public meeting in the evening the Monday or Tuesday prior to the regularly scheduled public meeting. The ordinance revisions and any potential public comment would then be discussed at the October RWRAC meeting.

5. Fiscal Year 2018/2019 RWRD Expense & Revenue Update

Mandy Armenta, Administrative Support Services Manager, FRMD, provided the Expense and Revenue Update for Period 2. The total operating and maintenance expenses projection is \$83.4 million. Total revenues are projected at \$177.3 million.

6. Citizens' Water Advisory Committee (CWAC) Update – Meeting Report

Ms. McClain stated much of the September CWAC meeting was an update from Tim Thomure, Director,

Tucson Water, regarding the Santa Cruz River, water quality issues, and closing of wells in central Tucson.

G. Future Agenda Items

- Proposed Modifications to the Billing Methodology for Non-Residential Users from Winter Quarter Average to Actual Water Usage, to include discussion on public comments, other billing recommendations, and the impact of elimination of Winter Quarter Averaging for Homeowner's Associations and multi-family
- Update from Tucson Water regarding installation of irrigation meters on cooling towers and swamp coolers

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

I. Adjournment

ACTION: Shaun McClusky made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Bill Katzel seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 10:18 a.m.