

**REGIONAL WASTEWATER RECLAMATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (RWRAC)  
SPECIAL PUBLIC MEETING ON PROPOSED ORDINANCE REVISIONS  
TO PIMA COUNTY CODE CHAPTERS 13.28 & 13.32**

**Kirk-Bear Canyon Library  
8959 E. Tanque Verde Road  
Tucson, Arizona 85749**

**Thursday, November 15, 2018  
6:00 p.m.**

**Members Present:** John Lynch, Corin Marron, Matt Matthewson, Armando Membrilla, Asia Philbin, Mark Taylor (via phone), Ann Marie Wolf, Claire Zucker

**Members Absent:** Bill Katzel, Rob Kulakofsky, Shaun McClusky, Jean McLain, Scott Oldendorph

**Others Present:** Mary Allen (RWRD), Adam Bliven (RWRD), Beth Borozan (BOS District 4), Jennifer C. Coyle (RWRD), Jackson Jenkins (RWRD), Jaime Rivera (RWRD), Caroline Vargas (RWRD), Chuck Wesselhoft (PCAO), Eleven Citizens

**A. Call to Order / Roll Call**

Corin Marron, Chair, Regional Wastewater Reclamation Advisory Committee (RWRAC), called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m. Fernanda Quintanilla, Program Coordinator, Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department (RWRD), took roll call and a quorum was present.

**B. Pledge of Allegiance**

**C. Proposed Ordinance Revisions to Pima County Code 13.28 Mt. Lemmon Sewer Connections, and 13.32 Mt. Lemmon Conservation Fees**

**1. Presentation**

Mary Allen, Program Coordinator, RWRD, 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 (WRF) in Summerhaven and the contract with the US Forest Service. The code has not been modified since 2004 following the fire that occurred on Mt. Lemmon. The Department has a new permit with the US Forest Service, with the code outlining 77 permitted connections. Ms. Allen stated there are currently no capacity concerns with the current number of connections allowed.

Ms. Allen added that 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. The stand-by list for future connections will be eliminated with a sunset of 5 years. Discussion ensued.

Ms. Allen stated the low flow fixture administrative requirement has been removed since industry standard fixtures are low flow. A conservation fee will only be charged to residential customers who exceed 4 CCFs (hundred cubic feet) and 40 CCFs for commercial sewer users. The code affirms that sewer users will be billed on their monthly water usage, not by the winter quarter average.

Ms. Allen stated an operational surcharge has been added to the ordinance (currently set at zero) for operation and maintenance of the remote system. Discussion ensued.

Matt Matthewson, RWRAC, Member, stated he did not quite understand the purpose of the operational surcharge. Mr. Jenkins stated half of the volume that comes into the WRF is residential, and the other half of volume comes from commercial. As the Department looks towards potential upgrades or additions to the Mt. Lemmon WRF, the placeholder allows for consideration for an additional charge. Mr. Jenkins stated he is uncertain of when or if the surcharge will be increased. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Jenkins stated the US Forest Service is responsible for limiting the amount of sewer connections to the WRF and any changes to that number would need to be discussed with them.

Mr. Jenkins noted the plant is in good condition and is currently at 25% capacity. In addition, there are upgrades the Department plans to invest in as well. Mr. Jenkins added the Department is open to discussions with constituents if there are plans to increase the number of connections needed due to development on Mt. Lemmon.

#### D. Call to the Audience

Michael Stanley, Mt. Lemmon Water District, stated he desires that Pima County be receptive to what the needs of the mountain community are. Mr. Stanley added he would be reaching out to more residents so that they can become more involved in the meetings and outreach.

Bob Zimmerman, Mt. Lemmon Realty, stated that a quarter of taxes paid by residents of Mt. Lemmon go towards the fire district, and another quarter goes towards the water district. Mr. Zimmerman added the community is small and will likely not have large commercial developments.

Bill Piatkiewicz stated Mt. Lemmon has tremendous potential and wastewater infrastructure will be key and will require a close working relationship with RWRD.

Richard Westervelt stated that expanding the Mt. Lemmon WRF in a way that resulted in cleaner water released to Sabino Canyon might satisfy government entities and potentially expand the number of sewer connections. Mr. Jenkins responded that cleaner water would open the conversation to the possibility of allowing more connections. Discussion ensued.

#### E. Discussion/Action

**ACTION:** Matt Matthewson moved that the RWRAC support the proposed ordinance revisions to Pima County Code 13.28 Mt. Lemmon Sewer Connections 13.32 Mt. Lemmon Conservation Fees with the exception of one minor typo and an amendment to remove the specific volume and number of connections and reference the US Forest Service permit. Claire Zucker seconded the motion. Discussion ensued.

Claire Zucker, Member, RWRAC, stated she believed much of the discussion during the meeting centered around items not directly pertaining to the ordinance revisions proposed and do not affect the potential of future discussions regarding Mt. Lemmon.

John Lynch, Member, RWRAC, stated he found it confusing that ordinance 13.32 refers to gallons while in 13.28 the discussion addresses 77 connections without connecting the two items. Mr. Lynch suggested the language be clarified regarding what the US Forest Service permit delineates.

Ann Marie Wolf, Member, RWRAC stated she did not understand why a conservation surcharge is only applicable to Mt. Lemmon WRF but not towards other regional WRFs. Mr. Jenkins stated the conservation fee was included when it was created; the Department is adjusting the fee to reflect low flow usage. Mr. Jenkins added Mt. Lemmon WRF is different from the rest of the community in that it has large fluctuations in flow due to many part time users and additionally, the Department pushed conservation to increase the original US Forest Service limit to sewer connections. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Matthewson stated the ordinance revisions are lower fees, less regulation, less restriction, and less complexity, in a system with plenty of capacity for the near future. Mr. Matthewson added he found these changes as desirable. Discussion ensued.

Ms. Zucker asked if imposing an operational fee would require an additional public process. Mr. Jenkins stated in order to add a dollar figure to the operational surcharge, it would require a new public process.

Armando Membrila, Member, RWRAC, asked Mr. Lynch if the changes he suggested could be incorporated into the motion without having to go through a new public process. Mr. Lynch reiterated his concerns with the perceived discrepancies in the ordinance. Jennifer Coyle, Special Assistant to the Director, RWRD, stated the Ordinance Chapter 13.28 focuses on sewer user accounts and Ordinance 13.32 focuses on the plant and conservation fees.

Ms. Wolf asked if the ordinance had to reference a specific number of connections or if it could state that the connections are based on the permit issued by the US Forest Service. Mr. Jenkins agreed it was a minor change that could be made to the ordinance revisions. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Matthewson and Ms. Zucker accepted a friendly amendment from Ms. Wolf to change the language of the ordinance to reference the current US Forest Service permit.

**ACTION:** Matt Matthewson moved that the RWRAC support the proposed ordinance revisions to Pima County Code 13.28 Mt. Lemmon Sewer Connections and 13.32 Mt. Lemmon Conservation Fees, with the exception of one minor typo and an amendment to remove the specific volume and number of connections and reference the US Forest Service permit. Claire Zucker seconded the motion. The motioned passed 5 – 1 – 1 with one “nay” and one abstention.

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

**G. Adjournment**

**ACTION:** Armando Membrila made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ann Marie Wolf seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 7:36 p.m.