

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

**Thursday, November 19, 2020
8:00 a.m.**

Members Present: Steve Foley, Bill Katzel, Rob Kulakofsky, Corin Marron, Matt Matthewson, Armando Membrila, Scott Oldendorph, Asia Philbin, Mark Taylor, Ann Marie Wolf, Claire Zucker

Members Absent: John Lynch

Others Present:

Melanie Alvarez (PAG), Mandy Armenta (FRMD), Marla Berry (RWRD), Adam Bliven (RWRD), James Brown (RWRD), Victoria Buchinger (PCAO), Michelle Campagne (FRMD), Isai Centeno (FRMD), Jennifer Coyle (RWRD), Justyn Dillingham (RWRD), James Dubois (RWRD), Barbara Escobar (RWRD), Mike Gerstenberger (RWRD), Andrew Greenhill (Tucson Water), Jason Grodman (RWRD), Melaine Halash (RWRD), Veronica Lopez (RWRD), Julie McWilliams (RWRD), Sarah Metz (FRMD), Richard Miranda (RWRD), Jeff Prevatt (RWRD), Xavier Rendon (FRMD), Jaime Rivera (RWRD), Caroline Vargas (RWRD), Eric Wieduwilt (RWRD)

A. Call to Order / Roll Call

Scott Oldendorph, Chair, Regional Wastewater Reclamation Advisory Committee (RWRAC), called the meeting to order at 8:00 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

Armando Membrila, Member, RWRAC, stated with the COVID-19 virus on the rise that everyone should continue to take the necessary precautions to stay safe. Mr. Oldendorph added with the holidays approaching, to ensure all holiday meals are prepared safely.

E. Approval of Minutes – Meeting Minutes for October 22, 2020

ACTION: Steve Foley made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from October 22, 2020. Mark Taylor seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

F. Discussion/Action

1. Director's Update – Eric Wieduwilt, Deputy Director, RWRD, provided a presentation on the overall development growth within Pima County.

a. University of Arizona – Capacity Modeling for Growth and COVID Sampling

Mr. Wieduwilt stated the sewer system at the University of Arizona (U of A) campus proper flow primarily to the west. Mr. Wieduwilt explained north of Speedway Boulevard the flow is to the northwest, so as the Department begins to plan and prepare for capacity, it depends

on what side of Speedway Boulevard the U of A is developing. Due to the increase in growth, the Department required that the developer perform an augmentation of various areas because of the capacity demands. The Department is currently performing capacity studies along 5th Street. The U of A area is seeing a lot of activity with new development.

b. Town of Sahuarita – Growth Planning

Mr. Wieduwilt displayed a map and explained the Designated Management Area (DMA) between Pima County and the Town of Sahuarita (Town). Mr. Wieduwilt stated the joint planning areas were created when the DMA was established to form a buffer between the Town's and Pima County's DMA areas. Discussions continue between the two jurisdictions to determine who will ultimately become the service provider in these areas. Mr. Wieduwilt stated both jurisdictions face certain challenges with sewerage in these areas due to the locations of the treatment plants. Pima County purchased a 50-acre parcel outside the Town boundary to begin the planning process of a regional facility. The construction of this facility could begin within 5 – 15 years depending when FICO begins their development and what occurs in the surrounding areas.

c. Raytheon – Growth Augmentation

A few years ago, there were major capacity bottlenecks in the public sewer. With Raytheon expanding in this area, the Department determined it was important to provide Raytheon with the capacity they required and built a connecting sewer to Old Nogales Highway. Mr. Wieduwilt stated this provided Raytheon the ability to grow and to support their mission, as well as provide economic development for the City of Tucson.

d. Development

i. Rancho Vistoso

Mr. Wieduwilt stated the Rancho Vistoso community was developed in 1980 and was one of the first major master plan communities. This community has only one parcel remaining.

ii. Rocking K

The Rocking K development is beginning construction on their on-site sewer system for their first subdivision. Mr. Wieduwilt stated the location is tributary to the Pantano Wash and the north Rillito system, and the growth that this development will bring, up to 5,600 homes, will cause capacity challenges.

iii. Canoa Ranch

Canoa Ranch is a masterplan and retirement community. The Department is working with the developer and the Arizona Department of Transportation to seek approval for a gravity sewer line to connect to Arivaca Junction. Mr. Wieduwilt discussed the potential for contributing flows to a new regional wastewater reclamation facility (WRF).

iv. ASLD – Atterbury Trails Development Coordination

Atterbury Trails is a new state land project, which is west of the Rocking K development. This development is expecting to build up to 12,500 new homes, with buildout out to 2050. Mr. Wieduwilt stated most of the flow would go north to the Pantano system, but hope to direct as much as possible to the southeast interceptor.

v. Twin Peaks – Public/Private Partnership

The Department entered into a public/private partnership with developers to build a sewer extension up to Tangerine Road. Up to three or four subdivisions are able to benefit from this sewer extension and the Department is beginning to see growth in this area.

Mark Taylor, Member, RWRAC, asked if these developments are on the 5-year CIP plan. Mr. Wieduwilt stated they currently are not because it is not at the point to where the capacity is needed; however, the Department will continue to monitor and as capacity demands increase, they may then appear on the 5-year CIP plan. Claire Zucker, Vice-Chair, RWRAC, asked if the Green Valley WRF would be decommissioned or converted to a smaller local plant once the larger facility is built. Mr. Wieduwilt stated there are recharge basins in the area and there is still a lot of planning yet to be done. Ms. Zucker stated she is interested in continuing to receive updates on the Green Valley WRF and the contribution to the groundwater system and how the Department is working with the Town.

2. Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) Study Report Presentation

Jeff Prevatt, Deputy Director, RWRD, presented a PowerPoint presentation on PFAS Biosolids – A Southern Arizona Case Study. Mr. Prevatt stated last December, the Board of Supervisors expressed concerns related to the land application of biosolids. A temporary moratorium was in place until further evaluations could be conducted on the impact of concentrations of PFAS in the biosolids and any concentrations it may have to the groundwater. A project team was assembled consisting of RWRD staff, staff from Jacobs Engineering and the U of A, as well as colleagues from the National Science Foundation.

Mr. Prevatt discussed the history of PFAS. The land application of biosolids began in 1984. Mr. Prevatt provided an overview of each of the three research papers that they referred to, to cater their study around to gather more information. Mr. Prevatt explained soil sampling and the depth to groundwater in the farming region that was studied. In the Marana farming regions, where biosolids are land applied, it is typically between 150 – 250 feet to groundwater. The study focused on the first 6 feet of the soil documenting the PFAS by accumulation, concentration, and migration in the soil column. Mr. Prevatt discussed the various sample locations and the groundwater results. In conclusion, PFAS compounds are in biosolids. PFAS presence in irrigation sources likely contributes to detection in soils. Mr. Prevatt stated the County Administrator has authorized staff to proceed with land application of biosolids and the Department has a contract going out to bid later this month. Mr. Prevatt noted this research has been recognized nationwide. The committee asked various questions. Barbara Escobar, Program Manager, RWRD, applauded staff for their hard work in conducting this research, as well as successfully doing this during the pandemic and staying within the projected timeline.

3. CIP Subcommittee Report

Mr. Matthewson stated the CIP Subcommittee will meet on Thursday, December 3, 2020 at 8:30 a.m. via Microsoft Teams.

4. Financial Sub-Committee Report

There were no updates to report.

5. Fiscal Year 2020/21 Expense and Revenue Summary

Mandy Armenta, Administrative Support Services Manager, Finance and Risk Management Department provided the Fiscal Year 2020/21 Expense and Revenue Summary for Period 4. The total operating and maintenance budget is at \$82.5 million and the forecast is at \$82.9 million. This main overage is due to the purchase of the Sahuarita farms. There is a slight increase in debt service due to the issuance of \$20 million in sewer obligations. Ms. Armenta stated there is a slight decrease in revenues, but overall the department remains on budget. Mr. Matthewson asked what the rationale was for the issuance of the \$20 million in sewer obligations. Ms. Armenta stated it was due to the good rates at this time. Bill Katzel, Member, RWRAC, asked if there is any potential for this to impact rates. Ms. Armenta stated not at this time and staff will begin to analyze the budget for Fiscal Year 2022 within the next month or two.

6. Citizens' Water Advisory Committee (CWAC) Report – Meeting Report and Tucson Water Activities

Mr. Taylor provided an overview what was discussed at the most recent CWAC meeting. The main item of discussion was regarding the Tucson Water collections for delinquent accounts. Tucson Water has not been shutting off water service on delinquent accounts and discussion ensued on how this affects revenues. Mr. Taylor stated there is continued discussion regarding the pre-annexation agreements and it will be going before the Mayor and Council.

7. 2021 RWRAC Work Plan Review

ACTION: Mark Taylor made a motion to approve the 2021 RWRAC Work Plan. Rob Kulakofsky seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

G. Future Agenda Items

No additional agenda items were provided.

H. Call to the Audience – Mr. Membrilla congratulated Mr. Oldendorph on a job well done on Chairing his first meeting. Mr. Oldendorph stated he will not attend next month's meeting and Ms. Zucker will Chair the December meeting. Mr. Oldendorph requested the member contact list be updated when the newly appointed Board of Supervisors members take office.

I. Adjournment

ACTION: Scott Oldendorph made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Claire Zucker seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 9:16 a.m.