Meeting Minutes

REGIONAL WASTEWATER RECLAMATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (RWRAC) MEETING
Virtual Microsoft Teams Meeting
Thursday, June 24, 2021
8:00 a.m.

Members Present: Steve Foley, Alison Jones, Bill Katzel, Matt Matthewson, Armando Membrila, Scott Oldendorph, Asia Philbin, Mark Taylor, Ann Marie Wolf, Claire Zucker

Members Absent: Scott Kolt, Rob Kulakofsky, Corin Marron

Others Present:
Mandy Armenta (FRMD), Adam Bliven (RWRD), Julie Brixen (FRMD), Victoria Buchinger (PCAO), Craig Cannizzaro (Westland Resources), Isai Centeno (FRMD), Kim Challender (BOS – District 1), Barbara Escobar (RWRD), Mike Gerstenberger (RWRD), Andrew Greenhill (Tucson Water), Jason Grodman (RWRD), Mirela Hromatka (RWRD), Celeste Karlsrud (Member of Public), Veronica Lopez (RWRD), Julie McWilliams (RWRD), Jeff Prevatt (RWRD), Jaime Rivera (RWRD), Steven Valencia (RWRD), Mary Valencic (RWRD), Eric Wieduwilt (RWRD)

A. Call to Order / Roll Call
Scott Oldendorph, Chair, 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
Mr. Oldendorph reminded everyone to follow safety protocols during monsoon season. Bill Katzel, Member, RWRAC, reminded everyone to be safe while driving. Mark Taylor, Member, RWRAC, reminded everyone of the various fires and to be careful of potential forest fires.

E. Approval of Minutes – Meeting Minutes for May 27, 2021

ACTION: Alison Jones made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from May 27, 2021. Steve Foley seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

F. Discussion/Action
1. Compliance & Regulatory Affairs Office (CRAO) Update
Barbara Escobar, Program Manager, RWRD, provided a brief introduction and overview of the CRAO. Ms. Escobar shared Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for Fiscal Year 2020/2021, which included data for permitting, monthly inspections and sampling events, and technical training hours.
a. EPA’s Dental Amalgam Rule Presentation
Steven Valencia, IWC Permit & Regulatory Compliance Specialist, RWRD, presented a PowerPoint presentation on EPA 441, which is a new federal category restricting the discharge of dental amalgam to the sewer system from a dental facility. This category was ratified in July 2017 and gave all dental facilities and control authorities until October 2020 to get in compliance. The purpose of the new restrictions is to keep the mercury that is in amalgam out of the sewer system. Mr. Valencia discussed the requirements needed in order to comply with the new standards. Mr. Valencia provided a graph displaying the micrograms of mercury in the wastewater influent from 2015 to 2020.

2. CIP Subcommittee Report
Asia Philbin, Member, RWRAC, reported the RWRAC CIP Subcommittee met on Thursday, June 3, 2021. Ms. Philbin introduced Ms. Mirela Hromatka.

a. Long-Range Planning
Ms. Hromatka, Senior Planner, RWRD, presented on the Long-Range Planning and Capacity Planning. Ms. Hromatka provided an update and overview of the 208 Plan (Plan). The Plan was approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on June 8, 2021.

Ms. Hromatka stated the 2016 Wastewater Facility Plan (Plan) is the most current Plan. The Plan is scheduled to receive major updates every 10 years, with the next update scheduled for 2026. Ms. Hromatka provided updates on ongoing and completed CIP projects. Ms. Hromatka also discussed future projects that the department will be working on, such as the Canoa Ranch Sewer Extension Project, the Green Valley – Sahuarita Interceptor Project and the Pantano Interceptor Augmentation Project. Ms. Hromatka went on to discuss the Corona de Tucson Outfall Sewer Project, which is in the planning stage.

3. Financial Subcommittee Report
Mr. Matthewson reported the RWRAC Financial Subcommittee met on Thursday, June 17, 2021, in which Jackson Jenkins, Director, RWRD, spoke on his views of cash flow budgeting and cost accounting. Mr. Matthewson stated the subcommittee heard about the County’s goal of reducing interest payments and debt service. Over the next few months, the Financial Subcommittee will look at getting a more comprehensive picture of financial planning and the Pay-As-You-Go Program. The RWRAC Financial Subcommittee plans on holding their next meeting in December 2021.

4. Fiscal Year 2020/21 Expense and Revenue Summary
Mandy Armenta, Administrative Support Services Manager, FRMD, provided the Fiscal Year 2020/21 Expense and Revenue Summary for Period 11. The operating and maintenance target budget is set at $82.5 million and the Department is projecting to spend $82.5 million, with just a slight variance on the budget, but very close to being on target. Department revenues are expected to come in higher than what was projected.

5. CWAC Report – Meeting Report and Tucson Water Activities
Alison Jones, Member, RWRAC, gave an update on the CWAC meeting held on June 2, 2021. Ms. Jones stated a topic of discussion was the two-year anniversary of the Heritage Project. Ms. Jones also stated the Mayor and Council voted to approve the proposed differential rates at their June 22nd meeting. The majority of the CWAC was opposed to the differential rate proposal.
6. **Election of Officers**  
Armando Membrila and Corin Marron, Members, RWRAC, were not present, and therefore, the Election of Officers will be postponed to the August meeting.

G. **Future Agenda Items**  
- Infrastructure Security Update

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

I. **Adjournment** – The meeting adjourned at 9:29 a.m.

**ACTION:** Claire Zucker made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Steve Foley seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.