

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

**Thursday, August 26, 2021  
8:00 a.m.**

**Members Present:** Steve Foley, Alison Jones, Scott Kolt, Rob Kulakofsky, Matt Matthewson, Armando Membrila, Scott Oldendorph, Mark Taylor, Ann Marie Wolf, Claire Zucker

**Members Absent:** Bill Katzel, Corin Marron, Asia Philbin

**Others Present:**

Melanie Alvarez (PAG), Mandy Armenta (FRMD), Laura Arnold (RWRD), Adam Bliven (RWRD), Marla Berry (RWRD), Julie Brixen (FRMD), Victoria Buchinger (PCAO), Craig Cannizzaro (Westland Resources), Isai Centeno (FRMD), Justyn Dillingham (Communications Office), Mike Gerstenberger (RWRD), Jodi Hoskinson (Jacobs Engineering), Jackson Jenkins (RWRD), Veronica Lopez (RWRD), Julie McWilliams (RWRD), Jeff Prevatt (RWRD), Jaime Rivera (RWRD), Jessica Rodriguez (Tucson Water), Mary Valencic (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**

Jackson Jenkins, Director, RWRD, reminded everyone to be cautious of snakes while walking in high grass or weeds. Mr. Oldendorph reminded everyone to be safe while driving now that schools are back in session.

**E. Approval of Minutes** – Meeting Minutes for June 24, 2021

**ACTION:** Steve Foley made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from June 24, 2021. Mark Taylor seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**F. Discussion/Action**

**1. Director's Report**

**a. COVID-19 Update**

Mr. Jenkins reported that with the new Delta variant of COVID-19, the County has reinstated certain safety practices/protocols. Mr. Jenkins discussed the incentives the County is implementing to employees who are vaccinated and to those who get vaccinated by or before October 1, 2021. The Board of Supervisors will discuss disincentives for unvaccinated employees at their next meeting.

**b. In-Person Meetings**

Mr. Jenkins opened the discussion to the committee to get their feedback on when the committee wishes to return to in-person meetings. Discussion ensued. The decision was made to hold the September meeting via Microsoft Teams and continue this discussion at that meeting.

**c. Staffing / Turnovers**

Mr. Jenkins provided a brief update on RWRD's staffing and turnovers. Mr. Jenkins stated the department fills approximately 80 positions per year from vacancies, in which half of the positions are filled by current employees receiving promotions and the other half are from new employees. Mr. Jenkins announced that Barbara Escobar recently accepted a promotion as the Deputy Director of the Pima County Department of Environmental Quality. Mr. Jenkins stated he held the department Pillar Talks with staff recently and employees were able to attend in-person or virtually.

**2. Treatment Division Update**

Jeff Prevatt, Deputy Director, RWRD, gave a PowerPoint presentation. Mr. Prevatt provided an overview of the organizational structure of the Treatment Division and discussed some of the major projects staff worked on this year. The Process Optimization team has been working on the Energy Master Plan and the Biosolids Master Plan. Mr. Prevatt explained how the department is addressing the struvite issue and what has been done to combat this problem. One of the newer projects that is currently online is the Renewable Natural Gas Project. Mr. Prevatt presented pictures and described the various challenges this monsoon season caused, such as accessing certain RWRD facilities, as well as floodwater damage. Mr. Prevatt went on to discuss Key Performance Indicator Metrics that staff has created, which are real-time dashboards that include multi-source data. Mr. Prevatt displayed a sample of what the dashboards look like.

Mr. Prevatt explained the importance of the COVID-19 Wastewater Based Epidemiology, which is being conducted at the Water Campus, in conjunction with the University of Arizona. RWRD also partnered with the U.S Department of Health and Human Services in which the department participated in two nationwide surveys and also conducted weekly sampling from the Tres Rios Water Reclamation Facility (WRF) and the Agua Nueva WRF. Mr. Prevatt discussed other research and innovation projects that the department is currently undertaking, such as microplastics in the environment and PFAS in biosolids and soils.

**3. CIP Subcommittee Report**

There were no updates to report.

**4. Financial Subcommittee Report**

There were no updates to report.

**5. Fiscal Year 2020/21 Budget – Year-End Review**

Mandy Armenta, Administrative Support Services Manager, FRMD, provided the Fiscal Year 2020/21 Expense and Revenue Summary for Period 14. The operating and maintenance (O&M) target budget was set at \$82.5 million and the Department is projecting to spend \$80.7 million, with the majority of the savings being in personnel services. Department revenues are expected to come in higher than what was projected.

**6. Fiscal Year 2021/22 Expense and Revenue Summary**

Ms. Armenta provided the Fiscal Year 2021/22 Expense and Revenue Summary for Period 1. The O&M budget is set for \$86.5 million and total revenues is budgeted at \$187 million.

**7. CWAC Report – Meeting Report and Tucson Water Activities**

Alison Jones, Member, RWRAC, stated CWAC has not met since June so there were no updates to report. Mark Taylor, Member, RWRAC, stated he attended a CWAC Finance Subcommittee meeting recently and reported the CWAC Finance Subcommittee is reviewing a cost of service study. Mr. Taylor stated the study is scheduled to go before the full committee in October.

**8. Election of Officers**

**ACTION:** Armando Membrilla made a motion to nominate Scott Oldendorph as the RWRAC Chair and Claire Zucker as the RWRAC Vice-Chair for Fiscal Year 2021-22. Matt Matthewson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**G. Future Agenda Items**

- RWRAC Annual Report
- 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 9:11 a.m.

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