

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

**Thursday, October 28, 2021
8:00 a.m.**

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

Members Absent: Claire Zucker

Others Present:

Melanie Alvarez (PAG), Mandy Armenta (FRMD), Irene Barriga (RWRD), Adam Bliven (RWRD), Marla Berry (RWRD), Julie Brixen (RWRD), Victoria Buchinger (PCAO), Isai Centeno (FRMD), Kim Challender (BOS – District 1), Francisco Galindo (RWRD), Belinda Gamboa-Felix (RWRD), Mike Gerstenberger (RWRD), Kris LaFleur (City of Tucson), Veronica Lopez (RWRD), Julie McWilliams (RWRD), Sarah Metz (FRMD), Fatima Munoz (PDEQ), Jaime Rivera (RWRD), Jessica Rodriguez (Tucson Water), Mary Valencic (RWRD), Eric Wieduwilt (RWRD)

A. Call to Order / Roll Call

Scott Oldendorph, Chair, RWRAC, called the meeting to order at 8:05 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 wear protective gear when riding a bicycle.

E. Approval of Minutes – Meeting Minutes for September 23, 2021

ACTION: Matt Matthewson made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from September 23, 2021. Rob Kulakofsky seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

F. Discussion/Action

1. Director's Report

a. Biogas Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

Eric Wieduwilt, Deputy Director, RWRD gave a recap of the ribbon cutting ceremony, which was held on Thursday, October 21, 2021 at the Tres Rios Water Reclamation Facility to commemorate the completion of the Biogas Project.

b. RWRAC In-Person Meetings

Mr. Wieduwilt stated beginning next month, RWRD will offer a hybrid option for the RWRAC meetings. A limited number of guests will be able to attend the meetings in-person at the Water

Campus – Radon Conference Room. For those that wish to continue attending the meetings virtually, will be able to do so. Mr. Wieduwilt stated for those attending in-person, masks must be worn to enter the building, and if a 6-foot distance cannot be maintained in the conference room, masks will be required for the duration of the meeting. No food or beverages will be provided. Discussion ensued regarding the audio of the new camera/microphone equipment.

2. Desalination Report

Mr. Wieduwilt gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Water Security via the Sea of Cortez. This conceptual project to deliver desalinated water to Pima County was completed at the request of County Administration. Mr. Wieduwilt explained with the potential of a decreasing water supply and over-allocation of available water from the Colorado River, the community continues to look for additional water resources within and outside the region.

This year, Tier 1 rationing began for CAP deliveries and Mr. Wieduwilt discussed how we plan for a future without CAP and what the possible options are, which includes sea water piped in from the Sea of Cortez. Mr. Wieduwilt discussed a pie chart of total potable demand and sources. Desalination is happening within the United States, as well as around the world. California has 12 facilities and six proposed facilities with the largest, Carlsbad facility, producing 50 mgd. and Israel has five large facilities that produce approximately 6.1 billion gallons per day. Mr. Wieduwilt stated the International Boundary and Water Commission's 2020 Binational Study of Water Desalination was the primary resource for cost estimates and facility location. The County selected the Puerto Libertad as the preferred site for a desalination plant. Mr. Wieduwilt explained the alignment is straight and would not cross significant cultural or environmental boundaries. Mr. Wieduwilt stated desalination is one option to consider. Mark Taylor, Member, asked if the committee could receive Mr. Wieduwilt's presentation, as well as the report that was sent on this matter. Mr. Wieduwilt answered various questions from the committee.

3. RWRD 2021 Engineering Design Standards

Francisco Galindo, Sanitary Engineering Manager, RWRD, presented on the 2021 Engineering Design Standards (Standards). Mr. Galindo provided a list of the Standards Committee members. Mr. Galindo explained that comments from the engineering community, contractors, and from Pima County staff were evaluated and considered when making revisions to the Standards. The revisions were made for clarification purposes, to provide better guidance, enhancements and to comply with current construction methods. Mr. Galindo discussed some of the significant changes that were made. Staff intend to present these revisions to the Board of Supervisors on December 21, 2021.

4. CIP Subcommittee Report

There were no updates to report.

5. Financial Subcommittee Report

There were no updates to report.

6. Fiscal Year 2021/22 Expense and Revenue Summary

Ms. Armenta provided the Fiscal Year 2021/22 Expense and Revenue Summary for Period 3. The O&M budget is set for \$86.5 million and total revenues is budgeted at \$187.1 million, which are both projected to be on target.

7. CWAC Report – Meeting Report and Tucson Water Activities

Alison Jones, Member, RWRAC, stated CWAC met on October 6, 2021. Ms. Jones stated the main topic of discussion was on the cost of service analysis for the differential water rates, and no action was taken on this item at the meeting.

G. Future Agenda Items

- Infrastructure Security Update
- Sustainable Action Plan Update

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

I. Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 9:10 a.m.

ACTION: Steve Foley made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Alison Jones seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.