

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

**Thursday, January 27, 2022
8:00 a.m.**

Members Present: Steve Foley, Alison Jones, Scott Kolt, Corin Marron, Matt Matthewson, Armando Membrila, Scott Oldendorph, Asia Philbin, Mark Taylor, Claire Zucker

Members Absent: Bill Katzel, Rob Kulakofsky, Ann Marie Wolf

Others Present:

Mandy Armenta (FRMD), Marla Berry (RWRD), Michelle Campagne (FRMD), Isai Centeno (FRMD), Kim Challender (BOS – D1), Max DiSante (RWRD), Mike Gerstenberger (RWRD), Andrew Greenhill (Tucson Water), Jodi Hoskinson (Jacobs Engineering), Jackson Jenkins (RWRD), Veronica Lopez (RWRD), Julie McWilliams (RWRD), Jeff Prevatt (RWRD), Robert Shay (RWRD), Robert Szilagyi (FRMD), Mary Valencic (RWRD), Eric Wieduwilt (RWRD), Bobby Yu (PCAO)

A. Call to Order / Roll Call

Scott Oldendorph, Chair, RWRAC, called the meeting to order at 8:01 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, stated with cooler temperatures walking surfaces can tend to get icy and cautioned everyone to try and avoid slips, trips or falls, both at work and at home. Armando Membrila, Member, RWRAC, cautioned everyone to be careful while driving around the Gem Show area and be aware of more traffic due to winter visitors. Claire Zucker, Vice-Chair, RWRAC, stated to practice food safety even when it comes to eating candy.

E. Approval of Minutes – Meeting Minutes for December 16, 2021

ACTION: Steve Foley made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from December 16, 2021. Claire Zucker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

F. Discussion/Action

1. Director's Report

Mr. Jenkins introduced Bobby Yu, Deputy County Attorney, Pima County Attorney's Office, to the committee. Mr. Yu will now serve as the attorney for the RWRD.

a. COVID Update

Mr. Jenkins stated since the beginning of December 2021, the department has seen an increase in staff absenteeism due to COVID. The Department has had up to 20 employees out at one time for COVID-related matters. The numbers have since decreased somewhat. Currently, 90 percent of RWRD staff are vaccinated.

b. Vacancy Update

Mr. Jenkins stated the Department has been averaging approximately 36 vacancies of a Department of about 400 staff. Overall, the Department has seen as high as a 16 percent absenteeism rate during this time with the pandemic. Mr. Jenkins stated this has presented a challenge for the Department and there has also been an increase in overtime. Mr. Jenkins stated Pima County (County) has experienced challenges in remaining competitive and hiring qualified candidates. The County is in the process of searching for a firm to conduct a compensation study. Mr. Jenkins explained the Department is having difficulty filling electrician positions and is currently having to contract out for these positions.

c. Grant Award

Mr. Jenkins stated the Department was recently informed that through the Corps of Engineers, the Department will be receiving a \$2.25 million grant award for the Tres Rios back-up generator project.

Mr. Jenkins answered various questions from the committee.

2. Technical Services and Engineering Division Update

Eric Wieduwilt, Deputy Director, RWRD, provided a Geographic Information Systems (GIS) update. Mr. Wieduwilt gave a brief overview the Technical Services and Engineering Division. In 2019, the Public Works Departments consolidated the GIS functions to the Information Technology Department (ITD), which ultimately resulted in five employees transferring to ITD. Mr. Wieduwilt explained that four employees remained with RWRD due to the critical needs of the Department.

Mr. Wieduwilt provided an overview of the type of information the RWRD GIS staff develops and maintains. Mr. Wieduwilt discussed the various sewer information that can be found in Pima Maps, how connection research is done and the different dashboards that are utilized.

3. CIP Subcommittee Report

Asia Philbin, CIP Subcommittee Chair, provided an overview of what was presented and discussed at the CIP Subcommittee on January 6, 2022. Ms. Philbin stated The RWRAC CIP Subcommittee will hold its next meeting in May.

a. FY 2021-22 CIP Project Progress Update – Mr. Jenkins provided a CIP progress update for FY 2022.

ACTION: Asia Philbin made a motion that the Regional Wastewater Reclamation Advisory Committee support the FY 2023 CIP 5-Year Plan. Motion failed for lack of a second.

ACTION: Scott Oldendorph made a motion to continue the item for the February meeting to allow the committee time to review the FY 2023 CIP 5-Year Plan. Mark Taylor seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Financial Subcommittee Report

Michelle Campagne, Director, Finance and Risk Management Department (FRMD), stated staff spoke with the financial advisors earlier this month and confirmed in order to keep our current ratings, the Department needs to maintain a rating ratio of 1.3 and a cash balance of at least \$50 million.

5. Fiscal Year 2021/22 Expense and Revenue Summary

Mandy Armenta, Administrative Support Services Manager, FRMD provided the Fiscal Year 2021/22 Expense and Revenue Summary for Period 6. The O&M budget is set for \$86.5 million and total revenues are on budget.

6. CWAC Report – Meeting Report and Tucson Water Activities

Alison Jones provided a brief overview of what was discussed at the CWAC meeting on January 5, 2022. Ms. Jones stated that on January 25, 2002, there was a review of the commercial rainwater harvesting ordinance. Ms. Jones reported that Tucson Water has 108 vacancies with 35 active recruitments, and 44 pending new hires. Ms. Jones also gave an update on the TARP Project and PFAS.

G. Future Agenda Items

- Sonoran Institute Living River Report
- CIP Consolidation Update / CIP 5-Year Plan
- Rate Workbook

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

I. Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 9:27 a.m.

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