

REGIONAL WASTEWATER RECLAMATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (RWRAC) MEETING

*Attend the Meeting In-Person at:
Water Campus – 2955 W. Calle Agua Nueva, Radon Conference Room
OR
Virtually via Microsoft Teams*

**Thursday, May 26, 2022
8:00 a.m.**

Members Present: Steve Foley, Alison Jones, Rob Kulakofsky, Corin Marron, Armando Membrila, Scott Oldendorph, Asia Philbin, Mark Taylor, Ann Marie Wolf, Claire Zucker

Members Absent: Bill Katzel, Scott Kolt, Matt Matthewson

Others Present:

Melanie Alvarez (PAG), Sylvia Amparano (Tucson Water), Marla Berry (RWRD), Isai Centeno (FRMD), Justyn Dillingham (Communications), Max DiSante (RWRD), Jim Doyle (RWRD), Andrew Greenhill (Tucson Water), Jackson Jenkins (RWRD), Meredith Litton (FRMD), Veronica Lopez (RWRD), Julie McWilliams (RWRD), Jeff Prevatt (RWRD), Jaime Rivera (RWRD), Robert Szilagyi (FRMD), 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

Jackson Jenkins, Director, RWRD, stated with the unfortunate recent events in Texas, to pay attention to the demeanor of people and to remain aware of your surroundings.

E. Approval of Minutes – Meeting Minutes for April 28, 2022

ACTION: Claire Zucker made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from April 28, 2022. Alison Jones seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

F. Discussion/Action

1. Director's Update

a. RWRD FY 2022/23 Budget Presentation

Mr. Jenkins presented a PowerPoint presentation and read the Department's mission statement. Mr. Jenkins stated he presented the Department's proposed Fiscal Year 2023 budget to the Board of Supervisors earlier this month, and discussed and presented a pie chart displaying the Department's operations and maintenance (O&M) expenses. The Department

is requesting approximately \$91.5 million for next year's budget, which is almost \$5 million more than the current budget and is due to inflationary costs. Mr. Jenkins gave a brief history on the O&M budget, as well as a brief account of how the Department has decreased the number of full-time employees over the past several years. Over the years, the CIP budget has remained consistent within a \$45 million dollar budget range, but are now beginning to see an increase in costs. The last user fee increase was in June 2017, which will make Fiscal Year 2023 the sixth year without an increase. Mr. Jenkins provided a list and briefly discussed each of the Department Division's operational plans for next Fiscal Year.

Mr. Jenkins stated last year, the County gave a five percent increase to all employees and are again considering another increase at their next Board meeting on June 7, 2022. Mr. Jenkins explained the Department is not given more funding to cover this increase in personnel services, but it is the Department's responsibility to cut costs elsewhere to cover the wage increases.

b. CIP Consolidation

Mr. Jenkins stated County Administration recently directed that Public Works capital improvement staff be consolidated into the centralized Capital Program Office (CPO). The CPO staff will manage some of RWRD's CIP projects. Alison Jones, Member, RWRAC, asked if the CPO staff has the expertise to manage RWRD capital projects. Mr. Jenkins stated the CPO is having to acquire staff to perform this task.

Ms. Philbin stated the topic of the CIP consolidation was mentioned and it was agreed upon by the subcommittee members to discuss this item with the full committee, as there were concerns raised on this issue. Ms. Philbin stated she has feels the staff managing RWRD projects, should have background and experience with wastewater operations. Ann Marie Wolf, Vice-Chair, CIP Subcommittee, also voiced concern with the consolidation and stated she does not like that the expertise was pulled out of the Department. Ms. Wolf also mentioned that under the RWRAC's Ordinance 2008-115, it is one of the committee's primary responsibilities to annually review the Department's CIP plan and capital needs. Discussion ensued.

2. CIP Subcommittee Report

Asia Philbin, Chair, CIP Subcommittee, gave a brief overview of what was discussed at the last CIP Subcommittee meeting on May 19, 2022. Ms. Wolf requested a presentation on the CIP Consolidation to learn how the CPO plans to work with the Department and communicate with the RWRAC going forward.

3. Financial Subcommittee Report

There were no updates to report.

4. Fiscal Year 2021/22 Expense and Revenue Summary

Robert Szilagyi, Administrative Support Services Manager, FRMD, provided the Fiscal Year 2021/22 Expense and Revenue Summary for Period 10. The O&M projected expenses are \$85.6 million, with a savings of approximately \$900,000, which is primarily due to vacancy savings. The Department's projected revenues are forecasted at \$190 million.

5. CWAC Report – Meeting Report and Tucson Water Activities

Alison Jones stated the CWAC met on May 4, 2022 and stated the Acting Director, John Kmiec, gave updates on various items, to include items discussed with the Mayor and Council. Ms. Jones stated

Tucson Water currently has 99 vacancies, with 32 active recruitments and 24 pending new hires. Ms. Jones continued to provide a brief overview of the CWAC meeting discussion.

6. Election of Officers

ACTION: Rob Kulakofsky made a motion to elect Scott Oldendorph to serve as the RWRAC Chair and Claire Zucker to serve as the RWRAC Vice-Chair for Fiscal Year 2023. Asia Philbin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

G. Future Agenda Items

- CIP Consolidation Presentation

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

I. Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 9:07 a.m.

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

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