

**WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
January 11, 2007

**Committee Members Present:**

Adam Bliven	Sheila Bowen	John Carhuff
John Carlson	Brad DeSpain	Rob Kulakofsky
John Sawyer	Ann Marie Wolf	Michael Gritzuk

**Committee Members Absent:**

Steve Halverson	Armando Membriila	Mark Stratton
Les Wolf		

**Staff Present:**

Paul Bennett	Mike Bunch	Ed Curley
Laura Fairbanks	Mary Hamilton	Suzy Hunt
Jackson Jenkins	Mike Lueken	Jeff Nichols
Jeff Prevatt	Karen Ramage	Lorraine Simon

**Other County Staff Present:**

Harlan Agnew	Chuck Wesselhoft
County Attorney's Office	County Attorney's Office

**I. CALL TO ORDER.** Chair Adam Bliven called the meeting of the Wastewater Management Advisory Committee (WMAC) to order at 7:54 A.M.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES.** The Committee approved the minutes of the December 21, 2006 WMAC meeting.

At this point in the meeting, Mr. Bliven introduced Marcelino Flores, who has been nominated by the Pima Association of Governments Environmental Planning Advisory Committee, to serve as their representative on the WMAC.

**III. COMMITTEE/SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS.**

**A. Citizens' Water Advisory Committee (CWAC) Update.** Mr. John Carhuff presented the CWAC Update. CWAC approved a recommendation to the City of Tucson Mayor and Council that the Mayor and Council adopt a new Central Arizona Project impact fee, the revenue from which would be used to purchase approximately 8,000 acre feet of CIP water. The impact fee would be eliminated once the necessary funds were raised to purchase the water.

**IV. DISCUSSION.**

**A. Old Items/Updates.**

- 1. Presentation of the Recommended Regional Optimization Master Plan (ROMP).** Mr. Michael Gritzuk, Department Director, presented the Recommended ROMP, which will be presented on January 16, 2007 to the Board of Supervisors. (Committee members received copies of the PowerPoint presentation of the ROMP.)

The scope of work for the ROMP is to develop the optimal treatment process and an optimal plan to comply with regulatory requirements to reduce nitrogen concentrations in discharged effluent at the metropolitan treatment facilities within the timelines established by the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ), and to master-plan foreseeable regulatory requirements. In addition, the ROMP involves determining the

long-term flow and capacity needs of the County's metropolitan treatment facilities, conveyance system and outlying growth areas. It also involves developing a long-term plan for the treatment, handling and re-use of system biosolids and, in addition, full utilization of the biogas (methane gas) that is produced by the treatment process. The ROMP that is being presented will address regulatory, rehabilitation and capacity needs to 2030. Greeley and Hansen is the lead consultant for the ROMP project.

By February 2007, the Department is required to notify ADEQ of its plans to reduce nitrogen concentrations in the treated effluent to meet the requirements of the new Arizona Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (AzPDES) permits for the Ina Road and Roger facilities. The Department is in the process of preparing these responses.

The site layout included in the Recommended Plan recommends constructing a new 32 MGD Water Reclamation Campus immediately adjacent to the existing Roger Road Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP). Discussion followed.

Mr. Bliven asked if the new Water Reclamation Campus at the Roger Road WWTP site would include a new administrative building and laboratory. Mr. Gritzuk responded the Plan recommends removal of the existing administrative building and construction of a new administrative building. In addition, the ROMP team is evaluating other facilities that might be located at Roger Road. These include the creation of a new environmental educational center, various offices, and whether the laboratory should be constructed at the Roger Road WWTP site or the Ina Road facility.

Mr. Carlson asked who owns the effluent. Mr. Gritzuk responded Tucson Water owns 90% of the effluent that is discharged from the Ina Road and Roger Road facilities, the United States Department of the Interior (through the Southern Arizona Water Rights Settlement Act) owns a portion, and Pima County owns about 60 thousand gallons per day (GPD).

Mr. Gritzuk informed the members that the ROMP Recommended Option for the Ina Road treatment facility includes expanding treatment capacity from 37.5 MGD to 50 MGD. In addition, all of the biosolids processing/handling for the Roger Road and Ina Road facilities would be centralized at the Ina Road facility. This would provide for bio-gas operations/utilization at one location. The existing and expanded treatment facilities would be located on 160 acres owned by the County.

Mr. Gritzuk reviewed the ROMP construction cost estimates for rehabilitating the existing Roger Road WWTP versus constructing a new water reclamation campus. Discussion followed.

Mr. Sawyer asked if the ROMP's cost estimate of \$501.2 million for construction of the new facilities at Roger Road and Ina Road was 2006 or 2014 dollars. Mr. Gritzuk responded the estimate was 2006 dollars.

Mr. Kulakofsky felt that it would be beneficial to quantify these costs and the potential risk factors against past events (e.g., Speedway sewer main collapse) and other utilities experiences.

Mr. Gritzuk observed that the City of Atlanta has been under consent decree for several years, and noted that City is paying millions of dollars in annual penalties because it has not met the schedule/requirements of the consent decree to upgrade its treatment facilities. He expressed that Pima County is required to meet ADEQ's schedule for nitrification/de-nitrification of the metropolitan treatment facilities and the most cost effective way to accomplish this is for the County to move forward with the ROMP rather under a consent decree.

Mr. Carhuff asked what the expected useful life of the Roger Road WWTP was when it was completed in 1951. Mr. Bennett responded that he felt that its original useful life was probably 25 years. Mr. Gritzuk also observed that normally facilities are rehabbed and expanded over the years, and as they are expanded old components of these facilities are retired. He noted that much of the original Roger Road WWTP is still in operation. Mr. Carhuff felt the point should be made that this facility was in operation two times beyond its designed life.

Mr. Sawyer asked about future expansions of the Ina Road WPCF beyond 50 MGD. Mr. Gritzuk responded both Ina Road and Roger Road facilities will need expansions in the future based on population increases. However, any expansion of the Ina Road facility will be quite costly because the existing infrastructure coming into the facility is sized for 50 MGD and would need further expansion. Mr. Sawyer also asked if there was anything preemptive that could be done now (like the laying of additional piping) to lower costs rather than 15 years in the future.

Mr. Bunch responded that flows from the Continental Ranch and Dove Mountain Basin are currently being pumped back to Ina Road, and the Department is conducting an alignment study on how the flows (of approximately 4.0 MGD) from this basin can be moved to the Marana WWTF probably by 2035.

In addition, Mr. Gritzuk said, as the Department moves ahead with the ROMP master planning activity and the conceptual design phase, the Department needs to be looking at where to locate future expansions and, if it is cost effective to put in some of the hardware for that future expansion, to look at that as well.

In order to comply with ADEQ's best available demonstrated control technology (BADCT) regulation, the Department must install a different type of disinfection process at the Ina Road and Roger Road facilities. The BADCT disinfection requirement is that "no fecal coliform organisms are detected in 4 of the 7 daily samples per week." The Recommended ROMP Plan recommends that the surest way to meet the BADCT disinfection requirement is to incorporate ultra-violet (UV) light disinfection at the facilities. UV disinfection requires filtration and a pump station in advance of UV and would cost an estimated \$91 million to install at the facilities. Another method, enhanced chlorination/de-chlorination, is also being evaluated and would meet BADCT. The preliminary estimated capital cost for this process is \$17.6 million.

Mr. Carlson asked if any other utilities were using enhanced chlorination/de-chlorination versus UV disinfection. Mr. Gritzuk responded the Department will be talking with the City of Phoenix who has decided not to use UV disinfection, and have included in their master plan to continue use of enhanced chlorination/de-chlorination at the City's 91<sup>st</sup> Avenue Facility. The Department also plans to hire a specialty consultant that has experience with enhanced chlorination/de-chlorination.

The Department wants to explore with ADEQ the concept of site specific standards for non-chlorine residual rather than ADEQ's current BADCT requirement.

Mr. Carlson asked if other states have this BADCT requirement. Mr. Prevatt responded that other states do not have this requirement.

Mr. DeSpain felt the Department's power costs could be greatly reduced with the building of the two new bridges on Ina Road and installation of low hydro units in these bridges. He said the Town of Marana would like to partner with the County to construct these units. Mr. Gritzuk said the Department needs to look at all options.

The ROMP team is continuing to evaluate the feasibility of deferring some components of the ROMP until after 2015 to spread out the impact of the total program costs. These include delaying construction of one 8 MGD module of the new 32 MGD Water Reclamation Campus at the Roger Road site, demolition of the existing Roger Road WWTP and construction of thermophilic digesters at the Ina Road facility.

The 15-year ROMP construction schedule is currently under development. The Department in conjunction with the Consultant will develop a financial plan to support that schedule. Once these elements are developed, they will be presented to the WMAC, County Administration and the Board of Supervisors.

Mr. Bliven asked if the Department can get a “clean closure” on the Roger Road WWTP if demolition of the facility is deferred. Mr. Harlan Agnew, Deputy County Attorney, responded, there are closure requirements for closing wastewater treatment plants, but he did not feel that the timing of the demolition would be a major issue.

Mr. Bliven also asked if the Department would be carrying a potential environmental liability while deferring the demolition cost. Mr. Gritzuk responded that it is the Department’s intent to move ahead with both a regulatory clean closure and construction of the new Water Reclamation Campus at the Roger Road site.

Mr. Gritzuk reviewed the Recommended Plan’s potential implementation schedule as well as the implementation costs. The Recommended Plan identifies the plant interconnect as the most critical element, and the Department wants to move ahead with the design and construction of the plant interconnect as quickly as possible. The ROMP will develop a more detailed overall implementation schedule and then develop a financial plan and then overlay that financial plan, including financing options, over all of the Department’s other CIP needs.

Following this in-depth discussion, the Committee voted 8 to 0 to forward the following recommendation on the ROMP to the Board of Supervisors:

- After review and evaluation by the Committee, we unanimously support the ROMP Recommended Plan as presented to the Committee; and
- In addition, the Committee recommends that the Board of Supervisors authorize the Department to submit the Recommended Plan to the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality pursuant to the requirements of the AZPDES permits for the Ina and Roger Road facilities.

Mr. Bliven asked staff to prepare a letter forwarding the Committee’s recommendation to the Board of Supervisors. (Staff forwarded the letter for Mr. Bliven’s review/signature on January 11, 2007.)

2. **2007/08 Budget and 2007 Financial Plan Update.** Mr. Jeff Nichols, Controller, presented the 2007/08 Budget and 2007 Financial Plan Update. Staff have completed the Department’s recommended Operations and Maintenance (O&M) budget for FY2007/08. At the present time, the difference between projected net revenues and O&M expenses and debt service expenses is approximately \$10.2 million. These funds will be used to fund the increased CIP projected for FY2007/08. The Department is looking at creating approximately \$10 million to \$15 million each year to pay for CIP projects that need to be funded with System Development Funds. The proposed budget includes one supplemental budget package requesting a six percent user fee rate increase in July 2007. The Department plans on presenting an update to the 2006 Financial Plan to the Board of Supervisors in February 2007. Presentation of a full 2007 Financial Plan will be

deferred until fall 2007, to incorporate all ROMP recommendations into the Department's projected future O&M and CIP budgets for this financial plan.

Mr. Nichols also informed the members that the Department has received the first draft of the Low Income Assistance Program Report. This Draft Report will be presented in February 2007 to Board of Supervisors and to the WMAC at the Committee's next meeting. Discussion followed.

3. **Creation of Compliance and Regulatory Affairs Office.** Mr. Gritzuk presented a brief report on the creation of the Compliance and Regulatory Affairs Office. The Office was established to consolidate all of the Department's compliance and regulatory duties into one section. The Office will report directly to the Department Director, and includes the Industrial Waste Program, permitting staff and the laboratory facility. An in-depth presentation will be made by Mr. Prevatt at the next WMAC meeting.
4. **Approval of 2007 Work Plan.** Mr. Bliven recommended that the Plan be revised to include the presentation on the Compliance and Regulatory Affairs Office.

A motion to approve the Revised 2007 WMAC Work Plan was unanimously approved by the members.

**B. New Items.** No new items were discussed.

**V. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS.** 2007 Financial Plan Update; Compliance and Regulatory Affairs Office Update; Arid West Water Quality Research Project Update; Regional Master Plan and Odor Control Plan Update; Black & Veatch Rate Study Report on Low-Income Assistance Program; Skill-Based Pay Program; Ina Road Facility Tour; Wastewater Management Strategic Plan; a Tucson Water Assured Water Supply Presentation; and Regional Discussions on Water/Wastewater Issues.

The Committee decided to hold the next WMAC meeting in conjunction with a tour of the Ina Road WPCF.

**VI. CALL TO THE AUDIENCE.** There being no response from the audience, Mr. Bliven adjourned the meeting.

**VII. ADJOURNMENT.** The meeting adjourned at 9:42 A.M.