

WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
February 15, 2007

Committee Members Present:

Adam Bliven	Sheila Bowen	John Carlson
Brad DeSpain	Steve Halverson	Rob Kulakofsky
Mark Stratton	Ann Marie Wolf	Michael Gritzuk

Committee Members Absent:

John Carhuff	Armando Membriila	John Sawyer
Les Wolf		

Staff Present:

Paul Bennett	Mike Bunch	Ed Curley
Mary Hamilton	Suzy Hunt	Jackson Jenkins
Mike Lueken	Rita Mercer	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 7:50 A.M.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES. The Committee approved the minutes of the January 11, 2007, WMAC meeting.

III. COMMITTEE/SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS.

A. Citizens' Water Advisory Committee (CWAC) Update. The CWAC Report was not presented.

IV. Wastewater Management Director's Report. Mr. Michael Gritzuk presented the Director's Report, and reported on the following items:

- **Regional Optimization Master Plan (ROMP).** The ROMP Recommended Plan identifies the Roger Road to Ina Road Plant Interconnect as the most critical element to be accomplished. The Request for Qualifications for design of the Plant Interconnect will be advertised in March 2007.

In order to comply with the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality's (ADEQ) 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 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 to see if that method would meet BADCT. The preliminary estimated capital cost for this process is \$17.6 million.

The Project Consultant, Greeley and Hansen, is mobilizing a group of experts to evaluate the effectiveness of enhanced de-chlorination versus UV disinfection. The Department is also

preparing to meet with ADEQ to explore the concept of site specific standards for chlorine residual rather than ADEQ's current BADCT requirement.

The ROMP Team is also evaluating the optimal electrical supply for the Ina Road and Roger Road treatment facilities. The Ina Road WPCF's main supply of electricity is from a power plant utilizing bio-gas generated from biosolids and natural gas. The ROMP Recommended Option for the Ina Road facility includes centralizing all of the biosolids processing/handling for the Roger Road and Ina Road facilities at the Ina Road facility. This would provide for bio-gas operations/utilization at one location. In addition, the Department will be evaluating a potential upgrade of the existing Ina Road power plant. The Department is also preparing a public notification to see if it can attract a power company to build a bio-gas co-generation plant at the Ina road WPCF site. Mr. Gritzuk informed Committee members that power companies have a requirement to generate a certain amount of "green power" and bio-gas falls into this category.

The Department will develop a very detailed implementation schedule as it moves ahead with the ROMP - including refining the 15-year ROMP construction schedule. In addition, the Department, in conjunction with the Raftelis Financial Consultants, will develop a financial plan to support that schedule and all of the Department's Capital Improvement program (CIP) needs over the next 15-years. Once these elements are developed, they will be presented to the WMAC, County Administration and the Board of Supervisors.

- **Odor Control Plan.** The Department has identified 22 "quick fix" odor abatement projects that are within the conveyance system and at the treatment facilities. All of the projects are scheduled for completion by July 2007. There should be a noticeable reduction in the odor problem throughout the sewer system, most notably around the Roger Road WWTP, by this summer. Discussion followed.

Mr. Steve Halverson asked if the Department conducted an annual odor assessment of the sewer system and if the assessment would be on-going. Mr. Gritzuk responded the Department is changing its culture on how it views odors. He added that this is an extremely aggressive on-going program. Mr. Halverson expressed support for the odor control program. Mr. Gritzuk responded further that one of the tests of whether these odor control improvements are successful will be a comparison of the number of odor complaints the Department receives this summer versus in previous years.

Mr. DeSpain expressed that he would like to suggest that one to two WMAC members be asked to be available to attend the Board of Supervisor meetings when Wastewater Management items are on the agenda. Mr. Bliven also encouraged Committee members to give feedback to their appointing supervisors and attend Board meetings and support the Department.

Mr. Gritzuk informed Committee members that the entire odor control program would be developed by September 2007. He commented further on the question asked at the Board of Supervisors February 6, 2007 meeting - why the Department was spending money on controlling odors at the Roger Road WWTP when the facility eventually will be demolished? His response was that Roger Road WWTP odor control "quick fixes" are cost effective and will last eight to nine years.

V. DISCUSSION.

A. Old Items/Updates.

1. **Financial Plan Update and Low Income Assistance Program.** Mr. Mike Bunch presented the Update. Commenting on the cost of the odor control project, he informed Committee members, that the Department is looking for \$1 per month for one year of the user fee revenue to pay for the odor control project.
 - o **Financial Plan Update.** The CIP planning group continues to work with Greeley and Hansen to integrate the ROMP into the Department's previous long-range CIP. These efforts include the Fiscal Year (FY) 2007/08 CIP, the five-year CIP, and ultimately a fifteen-year CIP for the entire ROMP/Department CIP for that period. Once complete, the Department will work with Raftelis Financial Consultants to develop the Department's 2007 Financial Plan that will be presented to the WMAC for its review and to the Board of Supervisors for their consideration in October of 2007.
 - o **Low Income Assistance Program.** The Department has begun working on two separate programs. One, an emergency assistance program, would help those customers who are in need due to an unforeseen circumstance. The other, a rate discount program, would provide reasonable assistance to those customers whose financial situation qualifies them for ongoing assistance. The Board of Supervisors has directed the Department to bring a recommended program back to them for consideration in May 2007. Details will need to be worked out with billing providers (Tucson Water, Marana, Oro Valley, Metro Water, etc.) as well as the entity that will administer the program. Right now the Pima County Community Action Agency is being considered to administer the Program.
2. **2006/07 and 2007/08 Budget Update.** Mr. Bunch also presented this Update. FY2006/07 Budget Period 7 forecasts are not complete. An update on Period 7 (or 8 if the timing allows) will be given at the next Committee meeting.

The FY2007/08 Operations and Maintenance (O&M) budget has been submitted to Mr. John Bernal, Deputy County Administrator for Public Works, for consideration. The next step in the process is for Mr. Bernal to submit the requested O&M budgets for all Public Works Departments to the County Administrator.

3. **Regional Optimization Master Plan Update.** This item was previously discussed under Agenda Item IV.
4. **Odor Control Plan Update.** This item was previously discussed under Agenda Item IV.
5. **Creation of Compliance and Regulatory Affairs Office (CRAO).** Mr. Gritzuk informed the Committee that the Department has consolidated all of its compliance and regulatory responsibilities into a single office for greater efficiency. CRAO reports directly to the Director's Office.

Mr. Jeff Prevatt presented the Report on Creation of the Compliance and Regulatory Affairs Office. (Committee members received copies of the PowerPoint presentation on CRAO.)

Mr. Prevatt reviewed the structure of CRAO and the critical tasks of each of the five groups within the Office. The Permitting Group is focused on tracking applications, amendments and legislative issues. The Compliance Group is focused on making sure all of the Department's monitoring requirements are scheduled/met. The Industrial

Wastewater Treatment Group oversees the Fats, Oils and Grease Program, Sanitary Service Overflow (SSO) response and emerging pollutant research. The Biosolids Group manages the biosolids disposal contract, biosolids research control administration and is overseeing efforts to get ISO certification for the Department's biosolids program. The Information Management Group handles automatic generation of (Discharge Monitoring Reports (DMR) and Self-Reporting Report Forms (SMRF) reports, permit exceedances and permit non-compliance reporting. Discussion followed.

B. New Items.

1. **Ina Road Water Pollution Control Facility Briefing and Tour.** Committee members toured the Ina Road WPCF immediately following adjournment of the meeting.

At this point in the meeting, Mr. Bliven informed the Committee that Mr. Brad DeSpain had agreed to act as interim chair for the next WMAC meeting as neither he nor Ms. Bowen can attend the meeting. The Committee approved holding the next Committee meeting at the Town of Marana Operations Center.

VI. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS. 2007 Financial Plan Update; FY2007-08 Budget; Capital Improvement Program Update; Arid West Water Quality Research Project Update; Regional Master Plan and Odor Control Plan Update; Low-Income Assistance Program; and Wastewater Management Strategic Plan.

VII. CALL TO THE AUDIENCE. Mr. John Carlson referred members to information they received prior to the meeting in their meeting packets. This included the County Administrator's February 13, 2007, memo regarding the Department's Application of Revenues from Recent Rate Increases and the Department's 2006 Financial Update to the Board of Supervisors. Mr. Carlson noted that the County Administrator recommended that the Board of Supervisors adopt an additional six percent increase in user fee rates effective July 1, 2007. Mr. Carlson also reminded Committee members that, in June 2006, the Committee had recommended approval of four 10% increases in user fee rates to the Board of Supervisors.

Mr. Gritzuk reminded the members that the Board of Supervisors had approved the recommended series of four 6% connection fee rate increases and two 6% user fee rate increases rather than the series of four 10% user fee increases requested by the Department. On February 6, 2007, the Department requested that the Board consider authorizing one additional 6% user fee rate increase as a "stop gap" until the Department presents its detailed financial plan in fall 2007 to the Board of Supervisors. Discussion followed.

Mr. Bunch reminded Committee members that the series of four 10% user fee rate increases recommended in the Department's 2006 Financial Plan was based on recommendations from the Black & Veatch Rate Study. This recommendation did not include the Regional Optimization Master Plan.

Following this discussion, the Committee voted (7 to 1) to forward a letter to the Board of Supervisors in support of an additional user fee rate increase of six percent in July 2007.

Mr. Bliven requested staff prepare a letter forwarding the Committee's recommendation to the Board of Supervisors.

In addition, staff was asked to notify the Committee when the Board considered the 6% user fee rate increase.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT. The meeting adjourned at 8:45 A.M.