

**WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
March 20, 2008

**Committee Members Present:**

Adam Bliven	John Carlson	John Carhuff
Marcelino Flores	Barbee Hanson	Rob Kulakofsky
John Sawyer	Mark Stratton	Michael Gritzuk

**Committee Members Absent:**

Sheila Bowen	Brad DeSpain	Steve Halverson
Armando Membrila	Ann Marie Wolf	

**Staff Present:**

Ed Curley	Sandra Current	Laura Fairbanks
Mary Hamilton	Suzy Hunt	Mike Kostrzewski
Jeff Nichols	David Smith	Lilian Von Rago
John Warner	Eric Wieduwilt	

**Other County Staff Present:**

Chuck Wesselhoff	Melaney Seacat
County Attorney's Office	

- I. **CALL TO ORDER.** Chair Adam Bliven called the meeting of the Wastewater Management Advisory Committee (WMAC) to order at 7:52 A.M.

At this point in the meeting, Mr. Bliven informed WMAC members that on March 4, 2008, the Board of Supervisors ratified the reappointment of Mr. John Carlson as Supervisor Carroll's representative to the Committee.

- II. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES.** The Committee approved the minutes of the February 21, 2008, WMAC meeting.
- III. **COMMITTEE/SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS.**

A. **Citizens' Water Advisory Committee (CWAC) Update.** John Carhuff said he would give a CWAC Update at the next scheduled WMAC meeting. Mr. Stratton noted that Mr. Carhuff's appointment term to CWAC had ended and asked whether the Committee should be requesting another appointee. Mr. Curley informed the members that it was the preference of CWAC to reappoint Mr. Carhuff and the County Attorney's Office has informed the Department that CWAC is not limited to CWAC members for this appointment.

IV. **DISCUSSION.**

A. **Old Items/Updates.**

1. **System Wide Odor Control Program.** Mike Gritzuk, Department Director, presented an update on the System Wide Odor Control Program and reported on the following items:
  - **January 2008 Odor Monitoring Report.** Mr. Gritzuk referred members to the January 2008 Odor Monitoring Report, which they received prior to the meeting. These Odor Monitoring Reports will be issued on a quarterly basis by the

Department and submitted to the Committee, County Administration and the Board of Supervisors.

Mr. Gritzuk then reviewed the January 2008 Odor Control Report. He informed the members that since implementation of the system-wide odor control measures in 2007, the number of odor control complaints is down by 15 percent and concentrations of hydrogen sulfide have decreased significantly. The Department considers this reduction as significant. In the initial stages of the Citizen's Involvement Committee (CIC) review of the system-wide odor control, the Department requested that calls be made whenever odors were detected throughout the system. As a result, the Department received many calls, and this reduction in complaints is from that level. This is an indication that the Department's Odor Control Management Program is working.

Mr. Gritzuk informed the members that not all odor complaints the Department receives are about the County's sewer system. In October 2007, the January 2008 Odor Control Report notes that 82 percent of the complaints received were about the County sewer system and 18 percent were about private sewers. As the Department progressed with the Odor Control Management Program, in December 2007 about 53 percent of the complaints were about private pumping stations and other odors.

Mr. Carlson asked what defined a private sewer system and where does the effluent go. Mr. Gritzuk responded it could be a sewer system within a development and the effluent goes into the County sewer system.

Mr. Stratton noted that the Department has certain requirements for the quality of the effluent coming into its sewer system from private pump stations, and asked if there was any type of enforcement that the Department could take to ensure that those odors are reduced coming into the County sewer system. Mr. Gritzuk responded there are no actions the Department can take pertaining to odors; however, it does have a quality requirement for discharging. If there is a high level of hydrogen sulfide, the Department can require some corrections.

As a follow-up to previous questions about odor control funding, Mr. Gritzuk noted that the Department will provide separate supplemental reports to the Odor Control Monitoring Reports on the budget of the overall Odor Control Management Program.

Mr. Gritzuk provided an update on the two remaining bio-tower odor control projects. Completion of both projects is ahead of schedule. Completion of the first bio-tower project was projected for the end of March 2008, and will occur within the next two weeks. Completion of the second bio-tower project was projected by July 2008. Mr. Gritzuk anticipated completion of this project would be by June 2008. Once both bio-towers are in operation, the Department will have completed all of the major interim odor control projects. The Department will continue to monitor and address any breakout of odors.

Mr. Gritzuk expressed that the Department has put in effect a well thought-out odor control program, especially at the Roger Road Wastewater Reclamation Facility (WRF) where the major odor problems were occurring. These interim Roger Road WRF projects were completed in record time in a very cost-effective way and will stay in place until to 2015. Discussion followed.

Mr. Carlson asked who enforces the private sewer system concerns and addresses odor complaints. Mr. Gritzuk responded the Department cannot require home owner associations (HOA) to address odor complaints. If the Department receives a complaint about a private sewer, these complaints are referred to the HOA and the Department offers technical advice on how to resolve the odor problem.

Mr. John Sawyer asked if staff requested detailed information when individuals call in with odor complaints. John Warner, Deputy Director of Conveyance, responded in the affirmative and said that the Conveyance Division has developed a detailed information sheet to get all possible information and get a description of the odor. Crews are then dispatched to do some further sampling inspection if it is an odor issue. All of this information is compiled in a database in the Conveyance Division. Conveyance staff are plotting this information on a map to identify "hot" points.

Mr. Marcelino Flores expressed that he would like to have seen the January 2008 Odor Control Report expand on how odor is perhaps a quality of life, though not necessarily a health threat, issue. He also felt there was another opportunity in the Odor Control brochure to emphasize this same issue.

Mr. Carlson asked if members of the CIC would receive copies of the quarterly Odor Control Reports. Ms. Fairbanks responded that once the January 2008 Odor Control Report is submitted to the Board of Supervisors, she will send final thank you letters to the CIC members along with a copy of the January 2008 Odor Control Report. This and future Odor Control Reports will be posted on the Department website.

- **WMAC Report to Board of Supervisors on CIC Recommendations.** (Prior to the meeting, Committee members received copies of the draft response to the Board of Supervisors regarding the WMAC report to the Board on the CIC recommendations.) Mr. Bliven noted that the letter was revised based on comments received from WMAC members. Discussion followed and additional revisions were made to the letter.

Members unanimously approved the revised letter. (On March 20, 2008, staff sent the approved letter to the Board of Supervisors.)

2. **Water Infrastructure, Supply and Planning Study – Joint Oversight Committee.** Mr. Gritzuk reviewed the recommendation made by the City Manager and County Manager to develop a multi-phased water infrastructure, supply and planning study.

An early product of the Water Infrastructure, Supply and Planning Study (Water Study) was to create a joint committee between CWAC and WMAC and the City and County Planning and Zoning Commissions. This would be an 11 member committee and it would oversee the development of this effort, especially in the early phases. At this point, Mr. Gritzuk introduced Mr. Jim Barry who is chair of the Oversight Committee.

Mr. Barry informed the members that the Oversight Committee would have two responsibilities – to provide oversight on Phase I and Phase II of the Water Study. Phase I includes development of inventories by Tucson Water and the Department of their infrastructure. Hopefully some of the other jurisdictions and water providers will develop

inventories of their infrastructures during this period. The City of Tucson Mayor and Council and the County Board of Supervisors have asked that the Oversight Committee present a plan for public involvement to accomplish an open transparent community-wide process to both the City and County.

Mr. Barry felt both the City and County saw this as a multi-year process. He said Mr. Hein and Mr. Huckelberry both have pointed out that it took 20 years to get the Regional Transportation Authority and water is as complicated or more complicated than transportation.

Mr. Barry said there is a lot of work to be done between now and December 2008 to get the inventory together. Phase II is to begin the discussion of goals and policies.

Mr. Barry introduced Nichole Gavin who will coordinate staff activities for the City of Tucson and identified the CWAC appointees and City Planning and Zoning Commission appointees to the Oversight Committee. He expressed that he would like to hold the Oversight Committee's kickoff meeting in about one week. The next scheduled CWAC meeting is April 2, 2008. He indicated that he would like CWAC to invite WMAC members to attend this meeting. He would also like to have the Department present its current planning documents - Tucson Water is presenting its 2050 Plan - so both committees will get a sense of what each jurisdiction is doing.

Mr. Gritzuk then introduced County staff, Melaney Seacat, who will co-coordinate the activities of the Oversight Committee with Ms. Gavin. Discussion followed.

Mr. Carlson noted that four WMAC members volunteered to serve on the Oversight Committee. He sensed that other jurisdictions are not initially going to be involved in the initial phases of the Water Study and asked when they would be involved. Mr. Barry said as far as the Mayor and Council and the Board of Supervisors are concerned, they want the other jurisdictions/water providers involved right away. He did not anticipate that the other providers would necessarily do the same staff work as currently being undertaken by the City and County. The invitation is for the other jurisdictions to develop their own infrastructure inventories. The other jurisdictions will be included on the Water Study mailing list, and Mr. Barry intended that they be invited to make presentations. Mr. Bliven commented that all of the Oversight Committee meetings will be open meetings. Mr. Barry added that according to the scope that has been approved by the governing bodies, the Oversight Committee will meet at least once per month.

Mr. Flores commented on the Pima Association of Governments (PAG) effort to map out growth and working toward smart growth policies. He informed the members that this effort started in the PAG Planning subcommittee and is proceeding to PAG's Management Committee level. He felt it was important to note that there is work being accomplished by the jurisdictions as well. He referred to a map that PAG produced showing where growth is projected to occur based on the jurisdictions land use plans.

Mr. Bliven noted that originally five committee members volunteered to serve on the Oversight Committee. Now, we need to appoint the official members for the Oversight Committee. He asked if it would be possible to have three members and an alternate on the Oversight Committee. Mr. Barry responded that we may need to check on whether a jurisdiction can appoint alternates who then can have voting rights.

Mr. Bliven noted that at the February 21, 2008 WMAC meeting, four members were tentatively appointed to the Oversight Committee. Mr. Kulakofsky volunteered to serve as

an alternate to the Oversight Committee, if having an alternate is legally acceptable. Mr. Bliven confirmed with Mr. Carlson, Mr. Stratton and Mr. Flores their willingness to serve on the Oversight Committee.

Mr. Gritzuk suggested that Ms. Gavin and Ms. Seacat solidify the date/location of the Oversight Committee kick-off meeting and develop an agenda. Mr. Stratton urged Mr. Gritzuk to check on the legality of the WMAC having an alternate Oversight Committee member.

The Committee unanimously approved Mr. Carlson, Mr. Stratton, Mr. Flores and Mr. Kulakofsky (as an alternate) to serve on the Oversight Committee.

- 3. Regional Optimization Master Plan (ROMP) Update.** Mr. Gritzuk provided the ROMP Update. There are three major components of the ROMP Program. They are the upgrade and expansion of the Ina Road WRF, the Plant Interconnect and the new Water Reclamation Campus at the Roger Road site.

As reported at the February 2008 WMAC meeting, the contract for the design and Construction Manager at Risk (CMAR) have been let. Design of the Plant Interconnect is actively underway. Several weeks ago, the Board of Supervisors authorized the selection of a cultural resources consultant that will conduct the cultural resources evaluation of the Plant Interconnect. Phase I of the contract is for \$500,000. If it goes into Phase II, which is highly likely, it would cost an additional \$2 million.

The Department has selected the design consultant, CH2MHill, for the Ina Road WRF expansion and upgrade. The Department has been negotiating the scope of services for this contract which is extremely complex. It is about a six year contract including preliminary engineering, engineering efforts, and engineering services during the course of construction until the final stage of startup. The Department is about 95 percent in agreement on the scope of services. Today, the Department will begin negotiations on the level of effort and the contract price. The Board of Supervisors authorized this contract in the range of \$12 million to \$18 million. On February 19, 2008, the Board of Supervisors authorized an award selection of another cultural resources consultant to do the cultural resources evaluation at the Ina Road WRF. The cost of this Phase I evaluation is \$1 million and if it goes to Phase II, the cost will be an additional \$3 million.

The Department is in the process of selecting the procurement method for the new Water Reclamation Campus at the Roger Road site. The procurement method will probably be some version of design-build procurement method. The Department has scheduled a series of workshops with a diverse group of project management individuals. The workshops will come up with what is the most appropriate procurement method for this particular project.

Mr. Gritzuk informed the members that there is a lot of interest in the Water Reclamation Campus project. The Department continues to get calls from entities including large American, Canadian and French consortiums.

Mr. Stratton asked for an update on the recent Bond Advisory Committee meeting. Mr. Gritzuk responded that at the recent Bond Advisory Committee meeting, Mr. Gritzuk and Jeff Nichols, Controller, made a presentation based on the financial data in the FY 2007/08 Financial Plan, indicating that the Department cannot wait until 2010 for a bond authorization election. If the Department had to wait until 2010 for a bond election, the Department would have to generate financial resources to fund the ROMP Program in

another way (e.g., trying to raise cash which would mean astronomical rate increases). Therefore, the Department is advocating for a bond election in 2008. No decision was made by the Bond Advisory Committee; however, Mr. Gritzuk felt the Department's presentation was well received.

Mr. Blivens informed the WMAC members that he also attended the Bond Advisory Committee meeting and told the committee that these bonds had the full support of the WMAC and reiterated that the projects had to be completed in a certain amount of time in order to meet Arizona Department of Environmental Quality regulatory requirements.

4. **FY 2008/09 Capital Improvement Program (CIP).** Eric Wieduwilt, Acting Deputy Director of Planning and Engineering, provided an update on the Department's FY 2007/08 and FY 2008/09 CIP. The \$97 million FY 2007/08 CIP budget is halfway through. The Department expects to do about \$60 million of projects by the end of FY 2007/08, Approximately \$20 million of the remaining \$30 million CIP budget was delayed to maintain a positive cash balance. This is not related to issues with the projects themselves but is a strategic move for cash flow purposes.

For FY 2008/09, the Department's CIP budget is for \$117 million, \$23 million of which is for the ROMP. Carryover projects amount to approximately \$40 million. The Department has about 45 new CIP projects for FY 2008/09 totaling about \$48 million.

Mr. Carlson asked if the Department had the money for the new projects. Mr. Wieduwilt responded the Department currently has the money to start these projects; however, the bond election is critical to maintain the funding over the longer projects. Mr. Wieduwilt reviewed the list of prioritized projects. (Members received copies of the prioritized CIP list.)

Mr. Wieduwilt informed Committee members that, since 2005, the Department has been in the process of continuously improving the CIP delivery program. The Department also utilized a consultant, Gannett Fleming, to help evaluate the capital delivery process and provide recommendations.

The Department also approached this FY 2008/09 CIP project development as a team effort. Key staff from Finance and Planning solicited input from the Conveyance and Treatment divisions as well as the Engineering and Planning Division to put together what the Department feels is a very comprehensive CIP budget. Now the impetus is on Department staff to define the scopes, get estimates and develop a delivery process.

With the ROMP projects starting up, the Department also has Greeley&Hansen/Parsons developing project tools and techniques for ROMP. These tools also will be used for non-ROMP projects and will improve the Department's delivery methods going forward. Both Gannett Fleming and Greeley&Hansen/Parsons have presented a concept formalizing milestones into "gates." These "gates" formalize the CIP delivery process by using checklists and discussion to make sure all elements are covered before being allowed to move to the next gate – such as conception to scoping, and design to construction. Mr. Wieduwilt felt this would be a key tool to implement for FY 2008/09.

Mr. Wieduwilt also informed the Committee that last year Engineering established a dedicated CIP Management Capital Delivery Group. The challenge for this group is to take the FY 2008/09 budget and move it forward. Discussion followed.

Mr. Sawyer asked if all of the CIP projects on the itemized list were due to be finished in FY 2008/09, or are we putting in something for future cost of money. Mr. Wieduwilt responded the list includes a five percent escalation as projects move forward into future fiscal years. Many of these projects cover multiple fiscal years.

Mr. Stratton commented that the Avra Valley WRF 4.0 million gallons per day (MGD) expansion is shown as \$25 million. He asked what the total cost was for that project. Mr. Wieduwilt responded that the total was over \$53 million. The project is currently under construction and it will be finished at the end of the next fiscal year.

Mr. Sawyer asked that the next CIP prioritization list be expanded to include the total cost of the projects and how much is spent in the previous fiscal years. Mr. Wieduwilt said he would provide the Department's five year CIP at the next scheduled WMAC meeting.

5. **State Legislative/Regulatory Update.** Ed Curley presented the State Legislative/Regulatory Update and referred Committee members to information they received prior to the meeting. He informed the members that there have not been any bills of substance in the wastewater, water quality or water arena. Mr. Curley said staff would be happy to provide more frequent updates if Committee members had legislation they were particularly interested in. Discussion followed.

Mr. Stratton commented that the Department also is a member of the Southern Arizona Water Users Association (SAWUA) which provides a lobbyist's report on water-related legislation.

Mr. Stratton asked Mr. Gritzuk to comment on the proposed Federal legislation on control of chemicals – especially chlorine – from a security basis. Mr. Gritzuk responded that bill generally is being opposed by the entire water sector because it is already being addressed by water industry regulations and it is being discussed in the American Water Works Association (AWWA) and Water Environment Federation (WEF).

Mr. Stratton commented that in his view, if in fact you do not have chlorine storage at water and wastewater facilities for disinfection and you go to an alternative method, you are actually transferring the responsibility for the bulk storage of chlorine to a third party. He expressed that this complicates the issue more as opposed to letting the industry self monitor its chlorine handling and storage capabilities.

Mr. Curley referred members to information on media coverage they received prior to the meeting on the Associated Press (AP) investigation into pharmaceutical in drinking water and wastewater. He noted that the AP articles have led to Federal congressional hearings and to a lot of local and national attention on this issue. Mr. Gritzuk added because of this national exposure of the pharmaceutical issue, County Administration has asked the Department to develop a white paper on pharmaceutical/personal care products that are discharged to the sewer system. Once the paper is completed, it will be presented to the WMAC.

Mr. Carlson asked if there was regulation governing pharmaceuticals. Mr. Gritzuk responded that there is no regulation in existence either on the drinking water or wastewater side regulating the concentrations of pharmaceutical compounds. Mr. Carlson also asked if the Department tested for these compounds. Mr. Gritzuk replied the Department does not test for pharmaceuticals. He added that the government has a lot of research underway and that will be referenced in the white paper. He added that the Department has been involved in looking into this issue over the last five to 10 years.

Mr. Stratton commented that there have been no human health studies related to pharmaceuticals and their potential effects.

At this point in the meeting, Mr. Stratton commented on the Department's name change to Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department and noted that the WMAC was still referred to as the Wastewater Management Advisory Committee. He asked if the Committee's name should also be changed. Discussion followed.

Deputy County Attorney, Chuck Wesselhoft, responded the Committee is governed by ordinance. He suggested that if Committee members want to suggest names for the Committee they forward them to the WMAC Coordinator, Suzy Hunt.

Mr. Bliven noted that the WMAC members were invited to attend the April 2, 2008 CWAC meeting at which time the Department will present its ROMP Plan and Tucson Water will present its 50 Year Plan. Staff will forward information about the location/time of the CWAC meeting.

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

**V. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS.** FY 2008/09 Budget; Water Infrastructure, Supply and Planning Study - CWAC/WMAC Joint Committee; State/Regulatory Update; Regional Optimization Master Plan; Odor Control Plan Update; Low-Income Program; and Capital Improvement Program Update.

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

**VII. ADJOURNMENT.** The meeting adjourned at 9:12 A.M.