

REGIONAL WASTEWATER RECLAMATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Transamerica Building
Pima Association of Governments' 5th Floor Conference Room
177 North Church Avenue
Thursday, August 19, 2010

REGULAR MEETING

Committee Members Present:

Jeff Biggs	John Carlson	Kendall Kroesen	Corey Smith
Jim Barry	Mike Gritzuk	Rob Kulakofsky	Mark Stratton
Sheila Bowen	Bill Katzel	John Lynch	Ann Marie Wolf

Committee Members Absent:

Brad DeSpain	Barbee Hanson
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Staff Present:

Ed Curley	Matt Matthewson	Lorraine Simon	John Warner
Gregg Hitt	Ron Meck	Diana St. John	Charles Wesselhoft
Jackson Jenkins	Melaney Seacat	Lilian Von Rago	Eric Wieduwilt

Others:

Chris Avery, COT	Linda Smith, COT	Claire Zucker, PAG
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I. CALL TO ORDER. Chair Sheila Bowen called the meeting of the Regional Wastewater Reclamation Advisory Committee (RWRAC) to order at 7:52 a.m.

II. CALL TO THE AUDIENCE. There were no comments from the audience.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES. The minutes of the June 17, 2010 meeting were approved unanimously.

IV. COMMITTEE/SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Citizens' Water Advisory Committee (CWAC) Update. Jeff Biggs reported that there was no meeting of the CWAC.

Mike Gritzuk made several announcements to the Committee. Mr. Gritzuk stated that Diana St. John would be leaving the RWRAC as she has promoted to another position within the RWRD. Recruitment is currently underway for her replacement. In addition, Mr. Gritzuk introduced Matt Matthewson to the RWRAC. Mr. Matthewson is the new Special Assistant to the Director. He fills the position of Jeff Nichols, who left RWRD recently. Mr. Matthewson will assume all administrative functions in RWRD.

Mr. Gritzuk announced that RWRD has recently received a national award from the National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA). This award is given to utilities in environmental management. RWRD received the award for the Regional Optimization Master Plan (ROMP) program. Mr. Gritzuk, Ed Curley and Arizona Department of Environmental Quality Director Ben Grumbles accepted the award during a NACWA conference in San Francisco.

V. DISCUSSION

A. Old Items/Updates

1. Regional Optimization Master Plan (ROMP) Update. Mike Gritzuk gave an update of the ROMP program.

- **Ina Road Upgrade and Expansion.** The largest Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) package of the project, GMP 6, was negotiated and settled at a price of \$169.7 million. The Pima County Board of Supervisors approved and awarded the contract to MWH Constructors. A Notice to Proceed has been issued. The authorization was for \$169.7 million, to which contingency of \$6.7 million was added, for a total of \$176.5 million. The contingency can only be accessed by the owner.

Corey Smith asked how that compared with the original estimate. Mr. Gritzuk said that the established budget was \$176 million.

Mr. Gritzuk said that six GMP's have been awarded. There are two more GMP's to award. They are much smaller than the previous ones. They are in the early design stages. Overall, the savings of all six GMP's awarded to date is over \$10 million so far.

Ms. Bowen asked about the project schedule. Mr. Gritzuk said that GMP 6 is the most critical. The compliance date deadline is January 2014. GMP 6 is scheduled for completion in October, 2013.

- **Water Reclamation Campus Project.** This project is the replacement of the Roger Road facility. The project is a design-build-operate (DBO) project. Preliminary technical proposals have been received and are under review. Meetings with the two finalists have been ongoing regarding the technical aspects of the project and the draft service contract. The details of the draft service contract have been finalized and the service contract has been distributed to the two finalists. Final technical and cost proposal are due from the two contractors on September 14, 2010. The technical proposals will be opened and distributed to the selection committee and sub-committees. The cost proposals, which are submitted at the same time, are not opened. They are held by Procurement, sealed. By state law, they will be opened after the technical proposal scores are tallied. Conclusion of the overall scoring process is expected to conclude in November with presentation to the Board of Supervisors in early December.

Mr. Smith asked if cost is factored in the scoring. Mr. Gritzuk said yes. The total score is 1,000 points: 200 points are scores for the qualification statements; 400 points are for the technical package; and 400 points are for the cost proposal. *[Actual point total is 1,100: There is an additional 100 points for Pima County's Small Business Enterprise (SBE) Requirement Compliance]* A formula for the cost proposal has been developed. This formula takes the cost proposals and plugs them into the formula. Raftalis, RWRD's financial consultant, will do the scoring, which is essentially automatic. The Procurement Department will tally all the scores.

John Carlson asked if RWRD is able to proceed as needed or are there cash-flow issues. Mr. Gritzuk said the projects are on schedule, and cash-flow was factored into the financial plan. The budget for the design and construction of this project is not to exceed \$240 million.

Bill Katzel asked if RWRD is obligated to contract with the firm with the highest score or do they have discretion. Mr. Gritzuk said that they have to contract with the highest scoring firm.

John Lynch asked if the technical proposals included a presentation and if it is open to others besides the review committee. Mr. Gritzuk said yes, it is open with conditions. The contractors are ready to submit the final proposals on September 14. A final technical presentation is to refresh RWRD as to each of the contractor's proposals. Only a few questions can be asked by the selection committee members. The audience will consist of members of the selection committee and selected staff. The RWRAC can sit in on the presentation if they would like.

Mr. Gritzuk said that that the total design and construct budget is not to exceed \$240 million. The final cost proposal will be scored based on a present worth analysis as the operation cost will be included in the scoring.

- **Central Laboratory Complex.** This lab will be built directly north of the new Water Reclamation Campus. There are two firms involved in the design. HDR will do the vertical building. That design is approaching 50 percent complete. The site work is being done by Stantec and that design is underway. The site is very complicated as it is too low. Thousands of yards of soil are being imported. There are also major drainage issues that have recently been resolved. In addition, all utilities have to be brought to the site. Overall, the site work is 10 percent completed at this time. Currently, the major activity is hauling soil. Almost 100,000 yards of soil have been brought in to date and more is to come. To put it in perspective, 100,000 yards of soil is equivalent to a football field buried in 45 feet of soil.

Mr. Carlson asked if the drainage issues are surface or sub-surface. Mr. Gritzuk said that the problem is getting drainage from the east side of the property, near Interstate 10 and draining both sides of Interstate 10 to the Santa Cruz River. There are existing, yet inadequate, drainage easements to take the large volume of storm water that is projected along with the Interstate 10 improvements. A drainage plan has been agreed upon by other governmental agencies and flood control.

- **Plant Interconnect.** The current construction is the construction of the diversion chamber that will divert flow from the Ina Road service area into the new plant. The rest of the flow will continue to Ina Road. That diversion chamber is under construction and should be completed by November. Flows will be conveyed in the interceptor line to Ina Road by December. All other construction is virtually completed. Currently, the surface is being graded for the construction of the bikeway. The laying of asphalt will start soon and be completed by the end of September. That is RWRD's only involvement in the bikeway. Parks and Recreation and Flood Control will then be providing other infrastructure, such as safety railings. The Interconnect Project is below budget.

2. Financial Update. Ron Meck, Finance and Risk Management, gave the financial update. Overall, the base budget

for RWRD is \$143,958,630. This does not include W6, which is an additional \$1,350,000. There is \$170,000,000 in capital improvement projects scheduled for this year. There will be sewer obligation sales as needed to fund those projects this year.

Ms. Bowen said that the 2010/11 financial plan is on the RWRAC calendar to start discussion in October. Mr. Meck said that they are starting to work on the financial plan now.

Mr. Smith asked if there is a set time frame for the sale of the sewer obligations or is it on an as-needed basis. Mr. Meck said that it is based on the schedules that the Finance Department receives from RWRD showing what the projected expenditures are by month. As funds are needed, obligations are sold. Mr. Smith asked if they had the same requirement as a typical revenue bond wherein 85 percent has to be spent within 3 years, along with other contingencies. Mr. Meck said that they do have obligations, such as 10 percent of the funds must be set aside and there must be a three-month operating reserve. Those obligations should not be sold too early or there is an arbitrage penalty. There is no benefit in selling the obligations before you need them.

Mr. Carlson said that he received a letter in the mail regarding the County obtaining revenue bonds. The letter is very confusing. He asked if the RWRAC would be discussing this letter in the future.

Ms. Bowen said that it can be placed on the Agenda as a future agenda item.

Mark Stratton explained that the letter was an anonymous letter from Pima County employees to the Board of Supervisors.

Mr. Carlson said that it was titled "financial mismanagement."

Mr. Smith said that perhaps Mr. Burke could attend as he was mentioned in the letter.

Mr. Meck said that there was a detailed response given to the County Administrator that addressed the letter point-by-point. Mr. Smith asked if a copy of the response could be provided to the RWRAC. Mr. Meck said yes.

3. Odor Control Update. John Warner gave an odor control update. The first quarter of 2010 has been one of the best to date in terms of tracking odor reports. This can be attributed to the investment of RWRD work getting the treatment facilities up to date with compliance in regards to the fence line monitoring and the CDU's in the conveyance system. 50 percent of the reported odors are private, such as a home, business or industry-related. RWRD does not own all the odors in Pima County.

Mr. Carlson asked for an example of an odor that does not belong to RWRD. Mr. Warner said some odors come from solid waste storage, such as transfer stations. They have become aware of a new location behind Sam Levitz that they are checking that may be a waste management truck swap area. Even though it is a solid waste issue, RWRD is looking into it to get some answers. Mr. Carlson asked if the County could pass guidelines or restrictions. Mr. Warner said yes, the City of Tucson could, also. That is out of our control. Mr. Carlson said that RWRD gets blamed for it. Mr. Warner said yes, we usually get the initial call. Another issue is household odor due to improper plumbing, venting or dried p-traps, particularly among the "snow bird" population. These are easy to rectify, but RWRD does get the initial complaint.

There have been good results with the fence line monitoring in the regional and sub-regional facilities. There are still two issues. First, there were digester biogas emissions at Roger Road. New parts have been installed and are now operating. Staff have reported that there is an improvement. Second, there has been some odors from the Green Valley facility. These have been tracked to the drying beds and rain events. There is a study planned to investigate the issue, and it will be a future capital improvement project.

Mr. Katzel said that he has noticed an improvement in the odor in the 28 years he lived downwind from the Roger Road facility, but occasionally on the Interstate there is an occasional odor. Will there ever be zero odors? Mr. Gritzuk said that the odor control improvements at Roger Road are temporary. These have been done as efficiently and cost-effectively as possible. The primary settling basins, which are towards the front of the flow at the plant, do give off odors. The traditional way to control these odors is to cover the basins with domes and treat the atmosphere under the dome. As Roger Road is temporary at this point, our consultants evaluated the odors emitting from the primary basins and reported that 80 to 90 percent of the odors are emitted from the flow at the basin overflow trough. There is a cascading effect and gases escape. Instead of spending millions for domes to cover the basins, the weirs around the perimeter of those units were covered. Instead of spending \$4 million, less than \$1 million was spent. The atmosphere under those covers is treated. 80-90 percent of the surface area of the basins is still exposed. That odor can be controlled and contained within the fence line of the plant. The primary basins at the new facility that will replace Roger Road will be completely covered. Of the ROMP budget, \$40 million is for odor control at Ina Road and the new

treatment facility that will replace Roger Road. There will be a vast difference in the way odor is controlled at the new facilities.

Mr. Katzel asked if, when the new plant is complete, will there be zero odors beyond the fence line? Mr. Gritzuk said that there will never be zero, but it will be reduced to non-detectable levels at the fence line. The OdoWatch system will be moved from Roger Road to the new facility. Non-detectable is still an odor, but it cannot be smelled. Mr. Katzel asked if that was true both on the Interstate and in the residential areas. Mr. Gritzuk said yes. If there are odors on the Interstate now or in the months to come, do not automatically assume the odor is coming from Roger Road. There are influent lines to that plant and other installations around the Roger Road facility that give off odor, such as a solid waste entity. This is one of the reasons that OdoWatch was installed. If the odor is from the plant it will be captured and the magnitude measured. In the past, the odors detected on the Interstate were primarily from the Roger Road facility. That is not the case today.

Mr. Carlson asked if the other sources, such as the influent lines, are being addressed. Mr. Gritzuk said yes. There is chemical control equipment on those lines. Also at times there is construction and that equipment has to be taken down for maintenance.

Mr. Warner said that there may be a chance in the future for odor on Interstate 10. Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) will be undertaking another expansion project at the ramping of Prince Road to Interstate 10. This is one of the areas that have multiple interceptors discharging to a large pipe on the west side of Interstate 10. RWRD and ADOT's design consultant and contractors are working together to minimize the construction impact, but there will be times during the relocation of existing equipment and moving temporary equipment in during construction that odors may be detected. All the stakeholders are aware of RWRD and the community concerns.

Mr. Stratton asked if the location of the infrastructure in the impact zone will be a cost to RWRD or is it covered under prior rights. Eric Wieduwilt said that it will be a cost to the County. We spent six months looking at our prior rights relationships, and the decision is that we do not have any prior rights for the sewers that will be impacted.

Mr. Carlson said that he is convinced that RWRD is on top of most things. The public needs to be informed that these things take time and will be handled in due time.

Mr. Wieduwilt said that a large part of that project is RWRD's request to relocate some old, poorly designed sewers. The impact is not solely ADOT: RWRD will have some major sewer improvements in the area that, in the long term, will reduce odors at Prince and Interstate 10.

4. Capital Improvement Plan Update. Eric Wieduwilt gave the Capital Improvement Plan update. Mr. Wieduwilt discussed two handouts. First, the Fiscal year 2010/11 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) handout. \$170,000,000 million in CIP with 49 projects, down from 77 last year. The smaller projects are being completed. 81 percent of the budget is ROMP. The lists are sorted by capacity-related and conveyance-system related. There is a list of rehabilitation and utility relocations. With the Regional Transportation Authority improvements, there were a lot of projects impacted by the road projects. Some programs are new this year, such as augmentation and corrosion prevention. Funding is being put in these programs in future fiscal years to make sure that, as new rehabilitation projects come up, we draw down from the program bucket, allowing us to handle short term, unplanned rehabilitation projects.

Mr. Stratton asked where the Prince Road construction was accounted for on the handout. Mr. Wieduwilt said it is in the rehabilitation section. They are rehabilitation projects, not relocation projects. There will be fees to ADOT for the protection of our existing sewers, which will most likely be a utility cost. Mr. Wieduwilt said that descriptions of the projects are located on the RWRD website.

The second handout is a 5-year look ahead at CIP projects beginning with this fiscal year. On the back, the bottom line CIP program total is the County's cumulative CIP, not just RWRD's CIP.

Mr. Stratton asked if the \$2 billion is the funded CIP or proposed. Mr. Wieduwilt said that is projected based on each Department's projections.

5. Treatment Update. Jackson Jenkins gave the Treatment Division update.

- **Multi-skilled program.** Last year, a pilot program was launched to combine the skill sets of maintenance and operating employees. After a learning curve, the endeavor has been successful. Effective this fiscal year, the program was implemented in Treatment. Operators and maintenance (O & M) workers no longer have to wait to promote; they can receive on-the-job and classroom training, and once they demonstrate a higher skill set, can receive a higher rate of pay. As a result, the workforce has been reduced 18 percent. The result is a higher level of skilled employees and an expected \$1 million savings. The new O & M team is doing 75 percent of

the maintenance work orders in the operations area.

Mr. Smith asked, from a financial planning standpoint, what the expected decreased head count to be. Mr. Jackson said that it is expected to reduce 22 positions out of 110. Mr. Smith asked if the total number of RWRD employees was 500. Mr. Jackson said that RWRD has 538 employees. Mr. Smith said that 110 are in the multi-skill program and Mr. Jackson expects a 20 percent decrease in that workforce. Mr. Jackson said yes, they expect to decrease 22 positions. There have been 15 reductions so far and they would like attrition to bring the number to 22. Several positions were held vacant last year during the pilot program. Those 12 have been released. Due to attrition they are up to 16 vacancies. Mr. Smith asked if there was a comparable program that could be implemented for the remaining 400 employees. Mr. Jackson said that it has been discussed, and they would like to focus on the Conveyance division next to see if it would be applicable. It is most likely to succeed when a multitude of classifications are combined. They combined six skilled classifications into one. In some of the other areas only one or two classifications could be combined. The same benefit may not be realized.

Ms. Bowen asked if the savings included additional training and certifications. Mr. Jackson said yes, they have added additional cost for training and certifications. The net saving is \$1 million.

Mr. Biggs asked who is responsible to evaluate the demonstrated skills and evaluate the maintenance of those skills. Mr. Jackson said that there is an elaborate program in place so that the worker can not stay in one area and they have to work at different facilities. It is built into the checks and balances for the system. Mr. Biggs asked if they were eligible for annual merit raises in addition to the skill set raises. Mr. Jackson said that currently they are still in the County system and will get cost of living raises. The O & M multi-skill program minimizes salary disparity for the same job experience, so there is still a potential for differences to occur.

Avra Valley WRF. A 4 million gallon per day biological nutrient reactor oxidation ditch was recently built in Avra Valley. Recently during a monsoon storm the facility saw the equivalent of 10 million gallons per day. The robustness of the oxidation ditch was apparent. It held it's own. They thought they would have weeks of problems with biology washed out and filters plugged. There was only one minor permit violation as, when washing out the filters, some silt was washed into the UV channel. It has been cleaned and disinfected.

Mr. Stratton said that due to infiltration inflow to the conveyance system there were increased flows. Mr. Jackson said yes, and it raised other issues. Typically the facilities are designed for twice the capacity during wet weather. To see an event five times what the facility was designed for was significant. They are checking for issues with construction or manholes in the area but so far nothing has been found.

National Association for Clean Water Act (NACWA) Awards. Every year, facilities are recognized for their environmental compliance performance. Once again, a number of our facilities continue to perform extremely well. Virtually all RWRD sub-regional facilities received recognition. The Silver Award monitors 3,000 parameters and allows only five exceedances per year. The Gold Award is given in there are zero non-compliance events. The Platinum Award is given if there are zero non-compliance events for three consecutive years. Two sub-regional facilities received Platinum Awards, four received Gold Awards. At Roger Road, RWRD believes that Roger Road should receive a Gold Award, but NACWA is showing one event and awarded a Silver Award. They are investigating that now. The primary goal and mission is to protect the public's health. To do that, RWRD must remain in environmental compliance. Year after year, RWRD is demonstrating that with these excellent results.

Going forward. One key issue that needs to be addressed is that the Roger Road facility will be going away. With that, the workforce must be balanced with attrition. The DBO contractor is required to offer some positions to a large percentage of the Pima County staff. RWRD is going to continue to find ways to shrink the workforce at Roger Road in the coming years. The multi-skilled program is one method. Another method is to treat all biosolids at the Ina Road facility. As soon as the digesters are built, instead of pumping digested sludge from Roger Road to Ina Road as is done now, untreated sludge will be sent to Ina Road, processed and treated. When the digesters are completed, RWRD will stop digesting and treating sludge at Roger Road so they can isolate a large section of the plant that requires maintenance and operations staff. By eliminating that component, and as attrition takes effect, the workforce should be reduced. Roger Road has to stay ready during the construction period due to possible shutdowns, tie-ins and coordination. Flows may need to be diverted back and forth between Roger and Ina Road.

Mr. Carlson said that governments are in trouble all over the county because they pay more than the private sector for equal skills and are allowed to retire too early. It sounds like Mr. Jackson is doing a good job.

6. Conveyance Update. John Warner gave the Conveyance Division update. As far as rehabilitation efforts this year, the Prudence Pump Station was in dire need of rehabilitation. That was done and is in great shape. The Julian Wash siphons have been at issue and were also taken care of. With the reconstruction of siphon inlets and outlets it is

much easier to maintain and there is less odor. The 49ers emergency repair has been repaired with minimal impact to the neighborhood.

In the past six months, there were only 558 vector complaints reported. There used to be that many per week. The vector program and privatization has had a positive impact.

Also in the past six months, with one vacancy in data entry and two have been involved in the PimaCore project, the remaining data entry staff was still able to process in excess of 49,000 work orders to the crews. Over 5.7 million feet of sewers have been serviced and cleaned in six months. The annual target for cleaning is 12 million feet. Conveyance is a little short of that currently due to 52 percent of the fleet down for service.

The HCS repair program received 66 repair requests last year. 16 were repaired at a cost of \$81,832.

Pro Pipe, one of the largest companies in the southwest, has the CCTV contract. They are a very experienced company and a top industry performer. The goal is to TV the entire conveyance system by the end of 2016 to maintain compliance with CMOM. A city in the Midwest under an EPA consent decree has been ordered to CCTV their entire system in five years. RWRD has been proactive in house and is ahead of the curve. We have been able find and identify defects in the system. There are some pipes that will be revisited to assure that the condition has not deteriorated.

Bluestake moved to RWRD last year. With the economy one would expect the requests to go down. In reality, the Bluestake requests have increased in the same period from 24,600 in 2009 to 24,995 in 2010.

7. Draft Annual RWRAC Board of Supervisors Report. Ed Curley discussed the draft Annual RWRAC Board of Supervisors Annual Report. He asked that comments or corrections be relayed to Diana St. John either by e-mail or telephone so that the RWRAC can approve it at the September meeting.

B. New Items

1. Conservation Effluent Pool. Charles Wesselhoft gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Conservation Effluent Pool.

VI. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS. 2010/11 Financial Plan; ROMP Update, Anonymous letter discussion and response; adoption of RWRAC Annual Report to the Board of Supervisors; and Effluent Sub-committee update in October.

Mr. Katzel said he would like to see a Dispose-A-Med update in October as there will be a national take-back initiative in September. He would like to see some correlation between the Dispose-A-Med and biological reduction in treatment. Mr. Jackson said that would be difficult to produce as there is no analysis for endocrine disruptors. Mr. Katzel asked if there was any historical record to prescription drug treatment in the effluent. Mr. Gritzuk said that we do not monitor for any type of pharmaceutical waste compounds therefore there is no baseline. There is no way to monitor for a reduction of medication as a result of the program. Mr. Katzel said that Jeff Prevatt should be commended for his efforts in the program.

Mr. Lynch asked if there were any funding sources for public service announcements for the Dispose-A-Med service. Mr. Gritzuk said that there are activities underway, but there is no program in RWRD, except that we are a very active participant in this program. Mr. Lynch asked if there was federal funding available. Mr. Jackson said that the EPA is spending money on studies right now. Mr. Curley said that Bob Arnold from the University of Arizona could come and talk about the progress of the research on this subject. Also, southern Arizona is hosting the WESTCAS conference at the Westward Look Resort the last week in October. Shane Schneider, one of the leading experts in emerging contaminants, will be speaking.

VII. CALL TO THE AUDIENCE. There were no comments from the audience.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT. The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 a.m.