



REGIONAL WASTEWATER RECLAMATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Transamerica Building
Pima Association of Governments'
177 N. Church Avenue, 5th Floor Conference Room

MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, June 20, 2013

Committee Members Present:

Ann Marie Wolf	John Lynch	Sheila Bowen
John Carlson	Armando Membriola	Jackson Jenkins
Barbee Hanson	Bob Iannarino	Alan Forrest
Rob Kulakofsky	Mark Stratton	Jeff Biggs

Committee Members Absent:

Bill Katzel	Amber Smith
Kendall Kroesen	Mark Taylor

A. CALL TO ORDER. Ann Marie Wolf, Chair, called the meeting of the Regional Wastewater Reclamation Advisory Committee (RWRAC) to order at 7:49 a.m. Veronica Lopez took the roll call and a quorum was present.

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

C. SAFETY SHARE. Jackson Jenkins, Director, Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department (RWRD), discussed an incident that occurred last week when a young man entered a sewage pipe and was stuck inside the pipes for possibly three days. Mr. Jenkins described some of what the man endured and how he was rescued. Mr. Jenkins reiterated how dangerous manhole entry is and can be.

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES.

1. Meeting Minutes of May 16, 2013

ACTION: Mark Stratton made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 16, 2013 meeting. Bob Iannarino seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. (Ann Marie Wolf and Barbee Hanson abstained from the vote.)

E. COMMITTEE/SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS.

- 1. CITIZENS' WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CWAC) UPDATE.** The CWAC update will be covered in the Tucson Water Operations and Activities Presentation.
- 2. RWRAC FINANCIAL SUB-COMMITTEE UPDATE.** John Lynch, Vice-Chair, stated that the Sub-Committee did not meet last month and will reconvene in September when the budget process for the new fiscal year will be underway. Ms. Wolf thanked Mr. Lynch, the Sub-Committee members and staff for a job well done in their participation with this Sub-Committee.

F. DISCUSSION/ACTION.

1. **DIRECTOR'S UPDATE.** Mr. Jenkins stated that he and upper management hold meetings every six months to meet and speak with all RWRD employees to discuss current departmental issues. Mr. Jenkins stated presentations are given on various departmental topics. The presentation for this round of meetings was on sustainability issues. Employees are given the opportunity to ask questions or voice comments they may have at each of these meetings and these meetings have been well received.

Mr. Jenkins stated that the transfer of the Marana Water Reclamation Facility (WRF) from Pima County to the Town of Marana (TOM) is expected to be finalized on June 27, 2013. The TOM has been running the facility since January 2012 and will continue to do so. Mr. Jenkins added that the Marana WRF, as well as the Mount Lemmon WRF, both received a Platinum award from the National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA). Every year, NACWA recognizes the commitment and achievements of public agencies and the clean water community for high-level regulatory compliance. Pima County operated the Marana WRF four of the five years that the facility received awards. Mr. Jenkins announced that other County WRF's received Gold and Silver awards. Discussion ensued regarding the settlement agreement.

Mr. Jenkins reported that the Regional Optimization Master Plan (ROMP) project is continuing to progress well. The work at the Roger Road Facility is ahead of schedule. The new name of the Design Build Operate (DBO) project is Agua Nueva. Mr. Jenkins gave background of how the name was decided on. Agua Nueva is expected to be up and running by January 2014. Mr. Jenkins stated that the Ina Road project is also progressing well and commended all those involved with this project. The work at Ina Road is expected to be completed in October 2013. The ROMP project is under budget and ahead of schedule.

The Department is still trying to resolve a dispute with Davis-Monthan Air Force Base to collect approximately \$2 million dollars for non-payment of collection fees. Mr. Jenkins stated the hope is to resolve this matter without having to file a lawsuit.

There are two large conveyance projects undergoing rehabilitation, which are the North and South Rillito Interceptors. Total cost for both is approximately \$30 million.

Mr. Jenkins stated the deadline for accepting proposals on the Biogas Request for Proposals (RFP) was on June 18th. Staff is currently reviewing the proposals that were received. Discussion ensued regarding the RFP process. Mr. Jenkins stated that he will keep the Committee updated.

Mr. Jenkins added that the Board of Supervisors (BOS) approved RWRD's \$80.2 million operating and maintenance (O&M) budget for next fiscal year. Raises were also approved for all County employees. Mr. Jenkins stated the BOS also approved a request for contract assistance for short-term staffing needs at Roger Road. The contract is for 6-months.

2. **FY 2012/13 BUDGET UPDATE.** Patrick McGee, Division Manager, Finance and Risk Management Department (FRMD), discussed the Period 10 Expense and Revenue Summary handout that was distributed to the Committee. Mr. McGee stated that as of April 30th, expenses are projected to be approximately \$74.6 million under the (O&M) budget. Revenues are projected to be approximately \$164 million, which is under what was budgeted. This is mostly due to the anticipated growth that did not occur.

FRMD is preparing to close of the fiscal year budget, which will end on June 30th. A draft of the fiscal year- end report should be ready in August. The actual closing budget will be available in December or January.

- 3. TUCSON WATER OPERATIONS AND ACTIVITIES.** Alan Forrest, Director, Tucson Water, stated that Mr. Jenkins provided a ROMP presentation to the CWAC and Mark Taylor suggested that Tucson Water also provide an overview of their projects and programs to the RWRAC. Mr. Forrest distributed brochures on Tucson Water's Water Reliability Initiative to the Committee. Mr. Forrest gave an overview of this program.

Mr. Forrest stated that in fiscal year 2009, Tucson Water had a \$20 million shortfall in revenue due to local and national economic downturn, decrease in new home construction, a rise in foreclosures and vacancies, and a subsequent decline in the water consumption and usage. Tucson Water finished fiscal year 2009 with 11 days of cash. Mr. Forrest gave examples on how Tucson Water responded to the revenue decline by reducing personnel, delay of large equipment purchases, and restructured debt. Mr. Forrest continued to discuss how Tucson Water was able to get back on track financially over the next few years.

Mr. Forrest displayed charts of Tucson Water's current financial status for water revenue, operating expenses and capital expenditures. In fiscal year 2008, overall revenue increased 4.6% and from 2009 to the present revenue increase trends have consistently been between 8% - 10%. Mr. Forrest continued to discuss some of Tucson Water's recent accomplishments. One area of major improvement was to the Customer Service section. Customers who called in were waiting up to 45 minutes to speak to a representative, but as of today, customers wait time is two minutes or less. Mr. Forrest stated that the majority of the phone calls received are related to delinquent bills. Tucson receives approximately 80,000 calls per month.

Mr. Forrest explained how the Automatic Meter Reading (AMR) works. There are 225,000 water meters and 50,000 meters have drive-by AMR hardware. All manually read (walk-by) meters will be converted to AMR over a ten year capital improvement project. Tucson Water also offers a Utility Technician Program, which allows employees the opportunity to work towards receiving certification in multiple skills. Discussion ensued regarding the outsourced property maintenance in Avra Valley.

Mr. Forrest discussed a chart displaying the transitioning to renewable supplies. The chart showed the mined groundwater pumping at 1947 level and the total potable water at 1994 level. Discussion ensued. Mr. Forrest continued discussing the potable water use projections to 2050 and also the 2012 water production by type.

Tucson Water has partnered with Pima County in several different projects, one being ROMP. A wetwell was installed at the Ina Road WRF. Mr. Forrest stated that Tucson Water is working with the County and the University of Arizona on a research facility at the Water and Energy Sustainability Center.

Jeff Biggs, Administrator, Tucson Water, gave some history of the Tucson Airport Remediation Project (TARP). Mr. Biggs presented a timeline of events of the TCE discovery. In 1981, TCE contamination was discovered by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Tucson Water in the Tucson Airport area wells. Eleven city wells and other private wells had to be shut down. Mr. Biggs stated through the 1980's investigations were conducted and completed. In 1990, settling parties entered into a Consent Decree with the EPA.

Mr. Biggs stated in 2002, 1,4-Dioxane was discovered and efforts were made to routinely monitor the 1,4-Dioxane. Mr. Biggs explained the blending approach. In 2005, a contingency plan was developed for TARP operations to manage 1,4-Dioxane. Mr. Biggs continued to discuss regulatory developments and treatment and technical implementation. Mr. Biggs presented a variety of aerial photos of the TARP Water Treatment Plants. Tucson Water has had huge public outreach efforts on TARP since 1994,

such as neighborhood association meetings, customer communications, groundbreaking events, and news media.

Mr. Forrest concluded the presentation by discussing Tucson Water's future considerations. Emphasis has been made on Strategic Planning and improvements to Customer Service. Discussion ensued.

4. **ELECTION OF OFFICERS.** The Nominating Committee stated that they would like to re-nominate the existing Chair and Vice-Chair, Ann Marie Wolf and John Lynch, to remain in these positions for the next fiscal year.

ACTION: John Carlson made a motion that Ann Marie Wolf and John Lynch remain as Chair and Vice-Chair, for the upcoming fiscal year. Mark Stratton seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

5. **SUMMER SCHEDULE.** The Committee decided they will not hold a meeting in July. The next regular monthly meeting will be held on August 15, 2013.

G. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS.

- Biogas RFP Update
- Financial End of Year Review
- Draft RWRAC Annual Report

Mr. Biggs distributed Tucson Water public outreach goodie bags for those in attendance.

H. CALL TO THE AUDIENCE. Charles "Chuck" Fatum, member of the public, addressed the Committee regarding his concerns on the wastewater sewer bill ordinance. The Sanitary Sewer User Fees Ordinance will be distributed to the Committee for review and this item will be placed on the agenda for August's meeting.

ACTION: Barbee Hanson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mark Stratton seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

I. ADJOURNMENT. The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 a.m.