

**CITIZENS' WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
(CWAC)**

**Technical/Planning and Policy Subcommittee**

Wednesday, February 24, 2016, 12:00 p.m.

Director's Conference Room

Tucson Water, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor

310 W. Alameda Street, Tucson, Arizona



**Summary Minutes**

**1. Roll Call/Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Subcommittee Chair Mark Murphy, at 12:01 p.m. Those present and absent were:

**Present:**

|                |                                   |
|----------------|-----------------------------------|
| Mark Murphy    | Chairperson-Representative, Mayor |
| Mitch Basefsky | Representative, City Manager      |
| Brian Wong     | Representative, City Manager      |
| Kelly Lee      | Representative, Ward 6            |

**Absent:**

|                    |                              |
|--------------------|------------------------------|
| Placido dos Santos | Representative, City Manager |
| Chuck Freitas      | Representative, City Manager |

**Tucson Water Staff Present:**

|                   |                                   |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Timothy Thomure   | Director                          |
| Britt Klein       | Water Administrator               |
| Ray Wilson        | Water Administrator               |
| Pat Eisenberg     | Water Administrator               |
| Andrew Greenhill  | Intergovernmental Affairs Manager |
| Wally Wilson      | Chief Hydrologist                 |
| Chad Lapora       | Water Program Superintendent      |
| Fernando Molina   | Water Program Superintendent      |
| Remy Sawyer       | Environmental Scientist           |
| Johanna Hernandez | Staff Assistant                   |
| Kris LaFleur      | Staff Assistant                   |

**Others Present:**

Chris Avery

**2. Announcements** – No action taken.

**3. Call to Audience** – No action taken.

**4. Review & Approval of January 27, 2016 Legal Action Report and Meeting Minutes** – Tucson Water noted a correction to the minutes. Member Wong motioned to approve the Legal Action Report and Meeting Minutes of January 27, 2016. Member Basefsky seconded. Motion passed unanimously by a voice-vote of 4-0.

**5. Lead and the Tucson Water System** – Tucson Water staff Chad Lapora, along with Britt Klein, presented on lead and the Tucson Water system. Subjects covered were the Lead and Copper Rule, the status of lead in the Tucson Water system, and consideration of lead poisoning in Flint, Michigan. The Lead and Copper rule was summarized for the Subcommittee: lead monitoring levels are 15 ppb, and copper monitoring levels are 1,300 ppb, systems exceed EPA

## **Citizens' Water Advisory Committee, Technical/Planning and Policy Subcommittee**

### **Summary Minutes**

February 24, 2016

regulations if 10% of samples exceed monitoring levels. Water is tested at the tap pursuant to EPA criteria, the public are notified of all results, and annual notices appear in the consumer confidence report. If systems exceed EPA regulations, additional monitoring, education, and treatment may be necessary. Between 1913 and 1929, lead services were mandatory in Tucson, 3,935 services were estimated to be installed during this time-period. Between 1988 and 2014, Tucson Water identified and replaced all known lead piping in the system. In 2004, Tucson Water reported an exceedance in the Thunderhead Isolated system, additional samples were taken, the source water was tested, and an aeration system was installed to increase the PH and address the corrosivity of the water. Testing of this system was done more frequently after the exceedance, until results were consistently below monitoring levels, and the PH of this system is still tested biweekly. Testing will continue while the wells are still in use (5-10 years). Tap, main, and isolated systems are all tested every three years, any lead found incidentally is assessed for replacement. Aside from Thunderhead, no exceedances of lead or copper monitoring levels have been reported. The Utility must carefully assess lead service lines to residential meters to determine if the customer has lead pipes after the meter as well. If the customer does have lead pipes, replacing Tucson Water infrastructure could cause a spike in lead levels. Such replacements are referred to as partial replacements, and must be carefully coordinated. It is important to remember that, the Utility's system stops at the customer's water meter, Tucson Water's samples are consistently below monitoring levels, and water corrosivity is monitored monthly. What caused the lead in Flint's water? Flint changed its source water from treated Detroit water to untreated Flint River water. The new source water is highly corrosive and was not tested or treated properly, resulting in lead leaching into the water from the systems 20,000 lead service lines. In addition to lead, cases of Legionnaires' disease increased dramatically. Systematic lack of addressing these problems resulting in the current situation in Flint. A comparison of blood lead levels in Flint, in other parts of the country, and in Pima County was provided for context. What happened in Flint is different from Tucson's own Red Water problem in 1992. Tucson Water also changed its source water, to CAP water, which resulted in complaints of water color, odor, and hardness, and increased water corrosivity. Differences in the composition of the new source water, hydraulics, and corroded iron infrastructure caused issues with the water. The Utility engaged in extensive studies, infrastructure, and customer panels to address the issues. In summary, all known lead services in the Tucson Water system have been eliminated, identification of unknown lead services will continue. The number of unknown lead service is very low and likely localized in the older residential areas around downtown. Tucson water will continue to monitor lead levels in the water, and replace lead services when encountered.

**6. Future Meetings/Agenda Items** – See projected agenda for further information.

**7. Adjournment** – Meeting adjourned at 12:27 p.m.

**Approved 3/23/16**