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**CITY/COUNTY WATER AND WASTEWATER STUDY
OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE**

**September 24, 2008
Meeting Summary**

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Jim Barry called the September 24, 2008 meeting of the City/County Water and Wastewater Study Oversight Committee (Oversight Committee) to order at 6:00 p.m. at the Randolph Golf Course Club House, Copper Room, 600 South Alvernon Way, Tucson, Arizona.

Members Present:

Jim Barry, Chairman
Rob Kulakofsky
Tina Lee
Sean Sullivan
Vincent Vasquez
John Carlson
Marcelino Flores
Bonnie Poulos

Representing:

Citizens Water Advisory Committee (CWAC)
WMAC
CWAC
City Planning Commission
CWAC
Wastewater Management Advisory Committee (WMAC)
WMAC
County P&Z Commission

Alternate Present:

Bob Cook

Representing:

County P&Z Commission

Members Absent:

James Watson
Bruce Gungle
Daniel Sullivan
Mark Stratton

Representing:

City Planning Commission
County Planning and Zoning (P&Z) Commission
CWAC
WMAC

City/County Staff Present:

Nicole Ewing Gavin, City Manager's Office
Sabrina Cotta, City Manager's Office
Sandy Elder, Tucson Water
Ralph Marra, Tucson Water
Michael McCasland, Tucson Water
Melaney Seacat, Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department
Nicole Fyffe, Pima County Administrator's Office

A quorum of the Committee was established.

2. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

Approval of the September 17, 2008 meeting summary was passed by a voice vote of 9 to 0

Bonnie Poulos announced that there is an upcoming water presentation in Phoenix at the Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church on Saturday October 1st and requested those interested in attending to contact her.

John Carlson announced that the Hereford National Resources Conservation District in the Upper San Pedro had been formed and was focusing on stormwater runoff.

Jim Barry stated that Marcelino Flores had sent out an email about an upcoming water conference. Marcelino Flores stated the meeting was in April and was the National Groundwater Association Meeting.

Jim Barry stated that there was nothing new to report about the water provider participation update.

Jim Barry discussed the report writing schedule and asked the committee if there were any comments. Bonnie Poulos requested a copy of the schedule since she was not at the last meeting.

Jim Barry asked Sean Sullivan to explain what he was trying to accomplish with his motion regarding the study area presented at the prior meeting. Sean Sullivan stated he wanted all relevant information available including information regarding groundwater dependent ecosystems. Jim Barry stated he does not feel we need to tie ourselves down to a specific map, that depending on the issue, we need to be able to gather the appropriate information.

Bob Cook gave the example of the Rockies not being in the study area, yet being relevant to the discussion. Jim Barry reiterated that the goal is a common set of facts and the starting point is the Tucson Water obligated service area and the Wastewater service area, but it is not limited to that on all topics.

Vince Vasquez expressed concern that the committee may drift too far off scope, that respect for the environment was a values discussion, and that the committee should focus on gathering the basic information first (pipes, population, resources).

Marcelino Flores reminded the committee that they should be reviewing two chapters per week to stay on track and that the survey that was distributed could be used as a tool.

Sean Sullivan agreed with Vince Vasquez that he did not want to talk about values during Phase I but that the committee needs to gather information related to ecosystems during Phase I.

Jim Barry thanked Tracy Williams for her suggestion to place DVDs of the meetings in the library.

Gail Cordy from the audience stated that she was happy to hear the committee was not limiting the study area as water does not stop at man made boundaries.

3. **PRESENTATION: ADWR WATER BUDGET FOR TAMA**

Jeff Tannler the Director of Arizona Department of Water Resources, Tucson Active Management Area presented on the Tucson AMA Water budget and the goal of reaching safe yield by 2025. The Power Point presentation is posted to the study website (tucsonpimawaterstudy.com).

4. **Q & A WITH PRESENTERS**

Bob Cook requested that Jeff Tannler clarify the definition of lost and unaccounted for water. Jeff Tannler stated that it is the difference between what is drawn and what is metered to customers and that the budget showed total volume lost not percentage and stated that it must stay at 10 percent or below to be in compliance.

Tina Lee asked if exempt wells are exempt from reporting anything and if they had an estimate of their share of the overdraft. Jeff Tannler responded that they estimate a half acre foot per well. Laura Grignano stated that there are approximately 7,500 exempt wells.

Bonnie Poulos questioned if any water providers had been denied a certificate of assured water supply. Jeff Tannler stated he was not aware of any.

Marcelino Flores questioned if GWSI wells are monitoring wells or for pumping. Jeff Tannler responded that they could be both and explained that some wells are measured every year, some every five, some have electronic monitoring equipment, some don't. Marcelino Flores asked if there was a way of breaking those up. Jeff Tannler stated that he could get that to him.

Marcelino Flores asked if the water used by the mining industry is completely consumptive. Laura Grignano stated that they do produce some incidental recharge, about 12 percent. Marcelino Flores asked why natural recharge was such a small amount in the water budget. Jeff Tannler responded that the 60,800 AF/year figure is an estimate based on hydrologic study. Marcelino Flores asked where that assumption comes from. Laura Grignano stated that it was averaged out over time.

Sean Sullivan asked how the ground water replenishment district (CAGRDR) works and if they have an assured water supply. Jeff Tannler stated that CAGRDR must replenish water pumped within three years. Laura Grignano stated that they make a plan every ten years to ensure supplies meet demands. Sean Sullivan asked how CAGRDR would be affected in a shortage. Jeff Tannler stated that there is an order to shortage sharing. Ken Seasholes stated that in order for a development to be approved, they must demonstrate a 100 year supply and a physical supply on-site.

John Carlson asked why the net natural recharge number remains steady when other numbers vary and if we keep track of depth to groundwater in various sub-basins. Jeff Tannler stated that the 60,800 AF is an average and that it varies by sub-basin. For example Green Valley area groundwater levels are declining while central Tucson are increasing. John Carlson asked about the status of purchasing water from Indian nations. Jeff Tannler stated it was a possibility in the future and that for example Asarco is starting to lease Indian water in exchange for not pumping groundwater.

Bob Cook asked about the components of net natural recharge. Jeff Tannler replied that the components are mountain front recharge, inflow from the Santa Cruz, streambed recharge, snowmelt and rain. Bob Cook asked if the number could change if we “catch” more water. Jeff Tannler stated that yes, approaches such as rainwater harvesting could add to supply to some degree.

Bonnie Poulos asked how the net natural recharge number could remain constant when things such as riparian destruction, paving, and drought were occurring. Jeff Tannler replied that the number was hard to get a handle on and for modeling they take an average. It is tough to figure out year by year. Laura Grignano stated that the new interactive tool will help them look at alternate scenarios including varying this number. Bonnie Poulos suggested that the methodology for arriving at this number should be re-evaluated.

Vince Vasquez asked for how the different sectors are projected to contribute to the 2025 overdraft. Laura Grignano stated that in the 3rd Management Plan they project being off of safe yield by 50,000 AF/ year and that the industrial sector is the biggest contributor to that. They will have an updated projection soon as part of 4th Management Plan.

Tracy Williams stated that we need to see a map showing depth to groundwater and trends based on location. She stated that the net natural recharge number does not seem based on reality. She asked whether CAGR is up to date with its replenishment obligations.

Clyde Stagner requested more transparency from the two utilities and that the Tucson Water/Pima County Wastewater gestalt needed more data and an adaptive management strategy.

Colette Altaffer asked if there were any entities that are not meeting their assured water supply obligations. Jeff Tannler replied no, not that he is aware of. She asked what happens when the 2 dams on the Colorado River silt up. Jeff Tannler stated that there is a plan for dealing with storage at Lakes Powell and Mead.

Carol Heller asked if any measures could be used to address not attaining safe yield by 2025. Jeff Tannler stated that the 4th Management Plan will identify steps that can be taken and some may require statutory change.

Sean Sullivan asked that as a follow up, ADWR provide to the Committee a list of statutory and local changes that they believe could help to achieve safe yield. He also requested a map showing groundwater levels and trends by location.

5. **CALL TO THE AUDIENCE**

Tracy Williams stated that we need to control growth to achieve sustainability and that water supply should drive land use policy. ADWR needs to enforce the rules.

6. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned by Jim Barry at 8:10 p.m.



**City/County Water & Wastewater Study Oversight
Committee Meeting- 9/24/2008 Attendees**



	Last Name	First Name	Organization	9/24/2008
1	Altaffer	Colette		✓
2	Brooks	Chris		✓
3	Chang Kakoh	Ben	Pima County	✓
4	Cloninger	Tim	U of A	✓
5	Colton	Arlan		✓
6	Cordy	Gail		✓
7	Daw	Sarah	UA Water Sustainability Project	✓
8	Dickerson	Dennis		✓
9	DuPont	Bill & Denise		✓
10	Elder	Sandy	Tucson Water	✓
11	Freitas	Chuck		✓
12	Garcia	Margot		✓
13	Grignano	Laura		✓
14	Guymon	Michael	Metro Pima Alliance	✓
15	Heller	Carol		✓
16	Lachowicz	Holly		✓
17	Larson	Scott		✓
18	Marikos	Mark	UA - Facilities Mgmt	✓
19	Moxley	Monica	Town of Sahuarita	✓
20	O'Brien	Dorothy	Town of Marana	✓
21	Pierce	Les	Arroyo Chico Neighborhood Association	✓
22	Proctor	Ron	Sustainable Tucson	✓
23	Romero	Steve	Town of Marana	✓
24	Seasholes	Ken		✓
25	Smith	Walker	South Tucson	✓
26	Stagner	Clyde	Social Security	✓
27	Tenney	Warren	Metro Water	✓
28	Von Rago	Lilian	PCRWRD	✓
29	Williams	Tracy		✓
30	Zucker	Claire	PAG	✓