



Citizen's Water Advisory Committee
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Citizen's Water Advisory Committee

MINUTES

The regular meeting of the Citizen's Water Advisory Committee was called to order by Frank Boyle, Chairperson, on Wednesday, November 1, 2006, at 7:10 a.m., in the Tucson Water Building, 310 West Alameda Street, Third Floor, Director's Conference Room, Tucson, Arizona.

1. Call to Order

Members Present:

Frank J. Boyle, Chair
Keith Gentzler, Vice Chair
James T. Barry
Evan Canfield (arrived at 7:13 a.m.)
John R. Carhuff
Martin M. Fogel
James Horvath
Ursula Kramer
Robert Logan
Daniel J. Sullivan
Carol Zimmerman

Representing:

Ward 3
City Manager
City Manager
Ward 6
City Manager
Mayor
City Manager
City Manager
Ward 4
City Manager
Ward 2

Members Absent:

Corina A. Baca
Robert Emanuel
Sarah T. Evans

Representing:

Ward 5
Ward 1
City Manager

Others Present:

Anne Mehochko, Tucson Association of Realtors
Barbara Buus, Utility Services Department, Water Division
Belinda Oden, Utility Services Department, Water Division
Bill Richardson, Pima County Wastewater Department, Senior Administrative Services Manager
Bruce Johnson, Utility Services Department, Water Division
Byron Howard, City Manager's Office, Special Projects Manager
Carol West, Council Member, Ward 2
Chris Avery, City Attorney's Office
David Modeer, Utility Services Department, Director
Dennis Rule, Utility Services Department, Water Division
Fernando Molina, Utility Services Department, Water Division
Frank Kern, City Attorney's Office
Holly Lachowicz, Council Administrative Assistant, Ward 3
Jeff Biggs, Utility Services Department, Water Division
John O'Hare, Utility Services Department, Water Division
John Thomas, Utility Services Department, Water Division
Karen Dotson, Utility Services Department, Water Division
Karen Masbruch, Assistant City Manager

Karen Wilson, Pima County Regional Flood Control District
Lori Lustig, Southern Arizona Home Builders Association
Marie Pearthree, Utility Services Department, Water Division, Deputy Director
Melodee Loyer, Utility Services Department, Water Division
Patricia Eisenberg, Utility Services Department, Water Division
Patricia Pittenger, Recording Secretary, City Clerk's Office
Peter Chipello, Utility Services Department, Water Division
Priscilla Storm, Diamond Ventures, Inc.
Ralph Marra, Utility Services Department, Water Division
Ray Wilson, Utility Services Department, Water Division
Rolanda Mazeika, Recording Secretary, City Clerk's Office
Sandy Elder, Utility Services Department, Water Division
Sharon Megdal, Water Resources Research Center, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, the University of Arizona, Director, Professor and Specialist,
Tim Thomure, Utility Services Department, Water Division
Tina Lee, Council Administrative Assistant, Ward 2
Trucynda Hawkins, Utility Services Department, Water Division

2. Approval of Minutes – October 4, 2006

Motion to approve the minutes was made by Committee Member John Logan, seconded by Daniel Sullivan, passed with no objections 10 to 0. (Evan Canfield, Corina A. Baca, Robert Emanuel, and Sarah T. Evans were absent)

3. Call to Audience

No one spoke.

4. Director's Report

a. Recent and Upcoming Mayor & Council Items

- On October 12, Tucson Water staff reviewed with the Environment, Planning, and Resource Management Subcommittee proposed increases in Tucson Water Miscellaneous Fees, and provided an update on development of a Water Resource Fee. Carol Zimmerman discussed CAWCD's Strategic Plan, which would benefit Tucson if CAWCD pursues additional water supplies for utilities that have CAP allocations.
- On October 17, the Mayor and Council discussed an upcoming Site Inspection of Former Sahuarita Air Force Range, south of Tucson where we have some wells, and approved the refunding of up to \$100 million in Water Revenue Bonds
- On October 24 the Mayor and Council approved scheduling a Public Hearing on December 5 of proposed increases in Tucson Water Miscellaneous Fees
- On November 9, staff will provide the Environment, Planning, and Resource Management Subcommittee with a review of Tucson Water's *Drought Preparedness and Response Plan*, provide a briefing on the Central Arizona Groundwater Replenishment District, and provide another update on the CAWCD Strategic Plan.
- On November 14 staff will discuss with the Mayor and Council a number of their questions related to reclaimed water rates and policies, and the Council will also discuss separating Environmental Services from Tucson Water.

b. Other items of interest

- Mineral Level public outreach program – from October 1-29, the public began tasting 450 ppm and 650 ppm mineral level waters at the two malls and traveling kiosks. About 5,500 surveys were completed during that time, with these preference results:

	450 ppm	650 ppm	No Preference
Taste Preference	56%	39%	15%
Overall Preference	49%	34%	17%

- A water leak in the cooling system at the Tucson Convention Center has been in the headlines – it is an internal plumbing issue that is being investigated by the City’s General Services Department which has responsibility in this area.
- 5-Star Safety Program – Tucson Water has participated in the 5-Star safety program for about 5 years, and has been at the 3 star level for the last 2 years. As a result of an outside safety audit that was conducted over the last 2 weeks, Tucson Water has just moved up to a 4-star rating.
- The CAP Board meeting will be held in Tucson tomorrow at the Westward Look.

5. FY 2008 O&M Budget

Committee Member John Carhuff reported that the Finance Committee had completed its first stage of review, and a more detailed update with revenue projections would be provided in December.

Committee Member Jim Barry asked about the 5% increase in personal services budget over the prior year, and Belinda Oden, Operating Budget Supervisor, responded that the increase reflects a budgeted 3½% for merits or COLAs, plus increases in pension and insurance costs and carry forward of current year adjustments.

6. Long-Range Plan Update

Ralph Marra, Tucson Water, introduced staff who would provide an update on the Long-Range Plan. Peter Chipello explained how the service area was slightly modified to recognize smaller water providers and to reduce the area served in Avra Valley. The reduction in area, coupled with an updated population projection from PAG through 2030, resulted in a decrease in the population to be served in 2030 by about 120,000 people (now will serve an estimated 1.1 million people instead of 1.2 million).

Tim Thomure presented the original 2050 demand curves, and showed how the reduced population estimate, coupled with faster use of CAP water and a larger CAP allocation (8,206 AF from the SWARSA settlement), pushed the “gap” where additional water supplies would be needed out to 2025. Possible supplies to close the gap include locally available effluent as well as new supplies that may be obtained by CAWCD.

Discussion followed.

7. Water Resource Availability in the Tucson Region

Presentation given by Sharon Megdal, Director of the Water Resources Research Center, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, University of Arizona. Copies were

circulated of her Powerpoint presentation including a Scenario Worksheet and a Sensitivity Analysis which she would be referring to later in the presentation.

- Tucson Metropolitan Region
- Explanation of CAGR
- Explanation of Water Management
 - Assured Water Supply Rules
 - Role of CAP Water
 - The Central Arizona Ground Water Replenishment District
- Regional Management Consideration
- Water Availability Scenarios Work Sheet, with sensitivity analysis
- Potential Role for the Business Community

Committee Member John Carhuff was concerned with the use of the term “water resources” as we use it because it seems to apply only to the water. Looking at Tucson Water as a business, about 90% of the cost is due to infrastructure. The water we have the right to is worthless if we can not get it to the consumer.

Committee Member Jim Barry had two questions on Regional Government. He asked for clarification about Metro Tucson, were you talking about everything east of the Tohono O’odham Reservation?

Sharon Megdal replied that they used PAG population projections, which included the whole county but excluded Indian Water. The population numbers could be reduced somewhat because they were not looking at western Pima County.

Committee Member Jim Barry’s second question had to do with the focus on Regional Water including southern Pinal County, Northern Cochise County and Santa Cruz County in our concerns about the region.

Sharon Megdal replied that Santa Cruz County did not want to be included and actually seceded from the group.

Mr. Modeer explained that rural areas like Cochise County are part of the State Water Advisory Group (SWAG) looking at rural water issues. They want nothing to do with association with the CAP service area or the AMA’s, but are looking to the State Water Advisory Group to address rural water issues in other ways.

10. Subcommittee Reports

Note: this item was taken out of order.

Chair Boyle asked that Carol Zimmerman give her Technical/Planning & Policy Subcommittee report out of order because it tied in with the discussion on the previous item.

Committee Member Carol Zimmerman explained that the subcommittee has not met yet but will be meeting in mid-November to pursue the charge they received at last month’s meeting. To prepare for the upcoming meeting, Ms. Zimmerman said she met at length with Council Member Uhlich as well as Council Member West who also sits on the Mayor and Council’s Environment, Planning and Resource Management Subcommittee, to get a sense of their concerns and the direction they would like to go. Council Member Uhlich will send Ms. Zimmerman their questions before the CWAC subcommittee meeting in November.

Chair Frank Boyle said he had received a call from Holly Lachowicz, Council Administrative Assistant at Ward 3 stating the questions were not formulated yet but they were working on it.

Committee Member Dan Sullivan asked if the members of the subcommittee would receive a copy of those recommendations in advance of the November meeting?

Committee Member Carol Zimmerman will give copies of the recommendations to the subcommittee members as soon as she receives them.

This item was continued again after item 9.

8. Reclaimed Contracts

Chris Avery, City Attorney's Office, gave a brief history on the Reclaimed Contracts and the background information on how and why rates were established for different users. A hand out was given to the board members and audience members. The hand out contained the costs for the 2007 contracts:

- Pima Stadium District (Sports Park & Wetlands), Pima County regional parks and Pima County Arthur Pack Golf Course & Park pay the \$0.14 rate.
- U of A Farms pay the \$0.06 rate.
- Oro Valley Utility, City of Tucson Parks, Non-Reid parks, Reid Park Complex, Interruptible Rate pays the \$0.58 rate.
- Ventana Canyon Golf Course and La Paloma Golf Course pay the \$1.04 rate.
- Starr Pass Golf Course pays the \$1.18 rate.
- There is no charge for the Reid Park Complex.
- The Standard Reclaimed Rate is currently \$1.55 for new users.

Discussion followed.

9. Nominating Process for Chair and Vice-Chair Positions

Chair Boyle announced that annually, Chairman and Vice Chairman positions are selected to serve for the next calendar year. He asked Sara Evans to chair an ad hoc nominating subcommittee composed of Martin Fogel, Evan Canfield, and Daniel Sullivan to choose names for the positions and present them at the next meeting.

10. Subcommittee Reports

This item was taken out of order. Carol Zimmerman gave her presentation earlier in the meeting after item 7.

Finance Committee had no report at this time.

11. Call to the Audience

Chair Boyle asked for a last call to the audience. There was no discussion.

12. Adjournment

Adjournment was at 9:18 a.m.