



Citizens' Water Advisory Committee
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Citizens' Water Advisory Committee

MINUTES: June 2, 2010

The regular meeting of the Citizens' Water Advisory Committee was called to order by Sarah Evans, Chair, on Wednesday, June 2, 2010, at 7:10 a.m., in the Tucson Water Building, 310 W. Alameda, 3rd Floor Director's Conference Room, Tucson, Arizona.

1. Call to Order

Members Present:

Sarah Evans, Chair
Christopher Brooks
Mark Taylor
Jim Barry
W. Mark Day
Tina Lee
Bruce Billings
Evan Canfield
Martin Fogel
Jeff Biggs, Tucson Water Director

Appointed by:

City Manager
City Manager
City Manager
City Manager
City Manager
Ward 1
Ward 3
Ward 5
Mayor
Ex-Officio Member

Members Absent:

Martha Gilliland, Vice Chair
Amy McCoy
Jim Horvath
Thomas Meixner
Vince Vasquez
Michael Gritzuk, Pima County Regional Water
Reclamation Department Director

City Manager
Ward 2
City Manager
City Manager
Ward 4
Ex-Officio Member

Others Present:

Ivey Schmitz, Tucson Water Deputy Director
Sandy Elder, Tucson Water Deputy Director
Chris Avery, Tucson Water Interim Deputy Director
Fernando Molina, Tucson Water Public Information Officer
John Thomas, Tucson Water Management Coordinator
Connie Woodhouse, Ph.D., University of Arizona
Holly Lachowicz, Ward 3 Administrative Assistant
Mac Hudson, Ward 1 Administrative Assistant
Patricia Eisenberg, Tucson Water Planning & Engineering Administrator
Joe Olsen, Tucson Water Planning & Engineering Administrator
Deborah Keenan, Recording Secretary, City Clerk's Office

2. **Announcements**

There were no announcements.

3. **Call to the Audience**

No one spoke.

4. **Approval of Minutes: April 7, 2010**

It was **MOVED** by Committee Member Billings, duly seconded, and passed by a voice vote of 9 to 0 (Committee Members Gilliland, McCoy, Horvath, Meixner, and Vasquez absent) to approve the April 7, 2010, minutes as presented.

5. **Recognition of Jim Barry**

Chair Evans presented Jim Barry with a Mayor's Certificate of Appreciation and Recognition, and a CWAC Distinguished Service Award for his many years of community service. She gave a short speech praising Mr. Barry's dedication and commitment both to CWAC, as well as, to the City/County Water and Wastewater Study Oversight Committee.

6. **Director's Report**

(a) Mayor and Council items

- On May 18, 2010, the Mayor and Council approved 3 agreements: (1) the renewal of the water service agreement with the Town of Marana, (2) a second interconnect between the Utility's Sierrita Foothills isolated system and the adjoining Miraval private system, and (3) the IGA extension with the Town of Oro Valley concerning water service to area of Oracle Road and Magee and Hardy Roads.
- On May 25, 2010, the Mayor and Council unanimously approved the Utility's water rates after a public hearing. The new rates go into effect on July 5, 2010.
- On June 8, 2010, the Mayor and Council will be asked to approve purchase of the Rincon Ranch water system, an action previously recommended by CWAC.
- On June 15, 2010, the Mayor and Council will discuss the Tucson Water Service Area Policy.
- On June 22, 2010, the Mayor and Council will be presented with the FY2011 Water Efficiency Program Funding Recommendations for approval.
- On July 7, 2020, the Mayor and Council will be asked to approve 3 agreements:
 - Renewal of a five-year sewer billing IGA with Pima County,
 - Renewal of a three-year SmartScape IGA with the University of Arizona Cooperative Extension, and
 - Renewal of a three-year Project WET IGA with the University of Arizona.

(b) Other items

- In the financial update, the Utility's revenues were down a little from July 2009 through April, 2010. Demand would start picking up soon when the hot weather kicks in. The Utility's Conservation Program, 'Beat the Peak', is now in full gear with the beginning of the demand season, although from now on it will be turned into a year-round program covering all the seasons.

7. Conservation and Education Subcommittee Report: Proposed FY 2011 Water Efficiency Program Recommendations

Fernando Molina, Tucson Water Public Information Officer, distributed a handout covering the current budget, goals and performance of the CCTF recommended projects, as well as recommendations for next fiscal year. CWAC recommended the continuation of the existing pilot projects, approval of two new projects (the Single Family Gray Water Incentive and the Commercial/Industrial Waterless Urinal Rebate), and the recommended program funding allocations for the next fiscal year.

Mr. Molina discussed the results of the Pilot Projects this past fiscal year.

- The Single and Multi-Family HET Rebate
- The Single Family Residential Low-income Toilet Replacement Program
- The Multi-Family Rebate Program
- The Commercial/Industrial HET Rebate Program
- The Commercial/Multi-family Irrigation Rebate
- The Rinse Smart Program

Committee Member Canfield discussed the recommendations of the Subcommittee on the new projects proposed for the next fiscal year. A question and answer period followed on the recommendations.

It was **MOVED** by Committee Member Canfield, duly seconded, and passed by a voice vote of 9 to 0 (Committee Members Gilliland, McCoy, Horvath, Meixner, and Vasquez absent), to approve the Conservation and Education Subcommittee's Proposed FY 2011 Water Efficiency Program Recommendations.

8. Presentation: "Using Tree-Rings to Reconstruct Past Droughts in the Colorado River Watershed: Lessons from the Past and Implications for the Future"

Dr. Connie Woodhouse, University of Arizona Professor, School of Geography and Development, gave a PowerPoint presentation on Dendrochronology, the study of tree rings, in relation to the reconstruction of the Colorado River's stream flow. Dr. Woodhouse's presentation covered the reconstructions for the Colorado River Basin, what information they provided, and a brief summary of how these were being used by some water providers and other decision-makers.

The topics included in the discussion were:

- How tree rings record climate information
- Ideal trees for the recording of precipitation, streamflow and drought
- How tree rings can be used to reconstruct streamflow
- Colorado River Basin reconstructions; history and timelines

Dr. Woodhouse spoke about the valuable information provided by the Colorado River reconstructions which included:

- A context for assessing gage record over a longer time frame
- A way to evaluate the recent drought in terms of natural variability over past centuries

- A framework for understanding the range of drought characteristics (intensity, duration, magnitude) that has occurred
- An insight on low-frequency (scale of decades to half century) hydrologic variability
- An understanding of the rich sequence of flows that has occurred over past centuries

Dr. Woodhouse compared drought conditions on the Colorado River over the past five hundred years with twentieth century statistics. She stressed that streamflow reconstructions and monsoon studies were being used by water providers and other decision makers today for a variety of reasons, including assessing a range of plausible future scenarios and providing an awareness of a broader range of hydrologic variability than that contained in the gage record. Dr. Woodhouse concluded by noting the importance of studies such as these representing information concerning past natural hydrologic variability was needed to plan for a future that included warmer temperatures and increased demands on water resources in the western United States. There was a question and answer period following the presentation.

9. Proposed Tucson Water Service Area Policy

Chris Avery, Tucson Water Interim Deputy Director gave a presentation, using a Proposed Tucson Water Service Area Map. This map illustrated areas of proposed water service development beyond the current water service area, and how the Utility was moving forward on this item. Mr. Avery began his presentation with a brief summary of how this policy evolved over two years ago in conjunction with the City/County Water Study that was recently adopted by Mayor and Council.

Mr. Avery also said this proposal was scheduled to go before the Mayor and Council in a few weeks. He noted the basics of the policy was to extend water service inside the City's core area and also to provide service to environmentally protected areas that were immediately adjacent to the City limits such as the Tanque Verde Creek area where there was a shallow aquifer and a long history of groundwater pumping. Mr. Avery stated there had been pro and con reactions to this policy from the community, with some groups favoring a more restricted growth area and other groups favoring a more expansive growth area.

A question and answer period followed with discussion centered on the specific areas outside City limits available for annexation and inclusion in the water service area. The discussion also touched on other facets of the proposed policy:

- ◆ an annual review of the water service area policy when the Water Checkbook balance was updated
- ◆ discussions with the County for collaboration in areas that the City may annex
- ◆ continuation of the existing appeals board that would review appeals from property owners denied water service extension

It was **MOVED** by Committee Member Fogel, duly seconded, and passed by a voice vote of 8 to 0 (Committee Members Gilliland, McCoy, Horvath, Meixner, and Vasquez absent, and Committee Member Canfield abstained), to approve the Proposed Tucson Water Service Area Policy.

10. Subcommittee Reports (a) Technical, Planning & Policy

Committee Member Brooks noted there would be a meeting in a few weeks and welcomed attendance by all CWAC members.

11. Future Agenda Items

12. Call to Audience

No one spoke.

13. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 a.m.