

Wednesday, March 20, 2013

MEETING MINUTES

Call to Order - The meeting was called to order by Mark Taylor at 7:02 a.m. Those present and absent were:

Present:

Mark Taylor	Chair, Representative, City Manager
Christopher Brooks	Vice Chair, Representative, City Manager (arrive 7:05am)
Brian Wong	Representative, City Manager
Chuck Freitas	Representative, City Manager
W. Mark Day	Representative, City Manager
Catlow Shippek	Representative, City Manager (left @ 9:06 a.m.)
Jean McLain	Representative, City Manager
Herman Ortiz	Representative, City Manager
Alan Tonelson	Representative, Ward 1
Amy McCoy	Representative, Ward 2
Bruce Billings	Representative, Ward 3
Evan Canfield	Representative, Ward 5
Kelly Lee	Representative, Ward 6

Absent:

Mark Murphy	Representative, Mayor
-------------	-----------------------

Call to Audience – No one spoke.

Announcements –

Mark Taylor introduced Herman Ortiz, a new CWAC member. Mr. Ortiz spoke about his background in water. Mark Taylor thanked Diane Garcia for the administrative support she provided for the committee and welcomed Leah Rhodes as her replacement. There was no replacement yet for Vince Vasquez for the committee. Discussion of LAR requirements issues by City Clerk – henceforth, audio recordings will be placed on website. The Clerk's office will receive a LAR and meeting notes.

Review of January 9, 2013 Legal Action Report and Meeting Minutes –The motion to accept the Legal Action Report and Meeting Minutes from February 6, 2013 was proposed by Committee Member Freitas and seconded by Committee Member Tonelson. The motion was past unanimously.

Director's Report - (Alan Forrest)

Mayor and Council Items –

March 18-24, is Fix a Leak Week by Mayor's proclamation. Mayor and Council approved the Five Year Financial Plan on 3/5. The Water Policy recommendations have been forwarded to M&C for review.

Department Updates –

Active recruitment for staff continues; there are still about 65 vacancies. The Department has completed controlled shut-down, inspection, and repair for Clearwell and 96" main. The Celebration of 1,000,000 acre feet of recharged CAP water is scheduled for 4/28. A memo discussing the Black and Veatch report has been issued to staff and links to full report provided. Mr. Forrest emphasized that the report was limited in scope and concerned primarily with organizational design. The report contains many acceptable recommendations, some of which have been already implemented, some are in progress and some have short-term and long-term horizons depending on their resource requirements. Some were essentially unacceptable given Civil Service Rules and others did not rise to level of implementation. The major result is the creation of a new Strategic Initiatives Division to be headed by Jeff Biggs. This will be concerned with external relationships including inter-governmental communications, public information, conservation, and links with industry, and research institutions. Stephen Dean will move to Water Quality and Operations. Recruitment for a new Customer Services Division Administrator will commence shortly. Mr. Forrest thanked Kathy Carlisle and IBM for their Smarter Cities Challenge.

Subcommittee Reports

Technical, Policy, and Planning Subcommittee – Have not met since last full CWAC meeting. The next item for consideration is the Long Range Water Plan.

Finance Subcommittee – The results of their work will be for presented later in meeting

Conservation and Education Subcommittee – Continues with strategic planning and will review mid-year report and proposed budget for FY14.

Urban Agriculture Subcommittee – Chuck Freitas provided an update. Next meeting is April 18th, 2013.

RWRAC Update – One more rate increase is scheduled. The settlement of the Wastewater Plant issue between County and Marana is imminent. The ROMP infrastructure upgrade on track.

IBM Smarter Cities Recommendations –

Kathy Carlisle of IBM gave a presentation on IBM team's recent visit to Tucson as part of their Smarter Cities Challenge. She provided an overview of the team's response to challenge from COT and Tucson Water to provide recommendations on: improving customer service, capturing failures, water usage and leaks in real time, continuing to conserve and save water, reduce costs of energy to deliver water, and applying best practices such as data-driven management across other city departments. The team's detailed report will follow.

Review Cost of Service Results

A presentation was given by Belinda Oden and Harold Smith, rate consultant. They provided a reminder of the process – Financial Plan, Cost of Service Analysis, RateDesign and a recap of the FY13 rate-making and residential rate structure changes. They identified the objectives for FY14: to ensure financial sufficiency, to temper pocketbook shock, to continue the conservation message, and to improve rate resilience. They presented three rate options and described their consequences for residential revenue recovery, bill impacts and their evaluation in terms of the objectives. Committee Member Freitas motioned to approve and move forward all three options to M&C for their consideration. Committee Member Billings seconded the motion. The Motion passed unanimously.

Future Meetings / Agenda Items –

Line Item on Metro Water Bill for RTA Water Main Relocation Costs, Green Streets Presentation

Call to Audience – None

Adjournment - Meeting was adjourned at 9:05 a.m.