



Meeting Minutes

Citizen Rate Review Committee

Tuesday, July 28, 2020

5:00 PM

Virtual Zoom Meeting

This meeting will be held virtually via Zoom.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman McErlean called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: 11 - Committee Member Deshuk, Committee Member Booth, Committee Member Fallon, Committee Member Smith, Committee Member Nepomuceno, Committee Member Majeska, Committee Member Lowell, Committee Member McErlean, Committee Member Minarik, Alternate Gioia and Alternate Paine

Excused: 1 - Committee Member Perez

Absent: 1 - Committee Member Lombardo

Staff Present: Public Works Director Javier Setovich, Public Works Deputy Director Barbara Chappell, Water Resources and Sustainability Manager Gretchen Erwin, Water Conservation Coordinator Katie Peige, Water Resources Planning Advisor Ray Diaz, Customer Service Supervisor John Gaio

**MOTION BY Committee Member Fallon to excuse Committee Member William Perez,
SECONDED BY Committee Member Lowell. The motion carried by the following vote:**

Ayes: 9 - Committee Member Deshuk, Committee Member Booth, Committee Member Fallon, Committee Member Smith, Committee Member Nepomuceno, Committee Member Majeska, Committee Member Lowell, Committee Member McErlean, Committee Member Minarik, Alternate Gioia and Alternate Paine

Excused: 1 - Committee Member Perez

Absent: 1 - Committee Member Lombardo

APPROVE MINUTES

[MINUTES](#) Approve draft minutes of the Citizen Rate Review Committee meeting held on July
[2020-152](#) 7, 2020.

Committee Member Smith requested bullet points be formatted as numerals moving forward. Additionally, Smith requested clarification on the reference of “34,000 more” under item 2.1, bullet 6.

Water Resources and Sustainability Manager Erwin clarified and after some discussion it was agreed the bullet should be amended to read: Is 7-8 years of stored water consistent or has the number been going up or down? A: We have had to dip in before but we have a 7,000-acre feet (AF) lease with Gila River Indian Community and can move 34,000-acre feet more into the aquifer over the next two years, so we will catch up.

MOTION BY Committee Member Lowell, SECONDED BY Committee Member Nepomuceno, that the Minutes be APPROVED as amended. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: 9 - Committee Member Deshuk, Committee Member Booth, Committee Member Fallon, Committee Member Smith, Committee Member Nepomuceno, Committee Member Majeska, Committee Member Lowell, Committee Member McErlean, Committee Member Minarik, Alternate Gioia and Alternate Paine

Excused: 1 - Committee Member Perez

Absent: 1 - Committee Member Lombardo

CITIZENS COMMENTS/ APPEARANCES FROM THE FLOOR

None.

BUSINESS

1. Staff Presentations

1.1 Overview of Wastewater and Reclaimed Water (Barbara Chappell, Deputy Public Works Director, Utilities)

Deputy Public Works Director Chappell presented an overview of wastewater and reclaimed water. During the question and answer period, the committee members had the following questions and responses provided are also below preceded by an "A":

1. Can the smaller facilities be expanded as needed? If yes, how much? A: Yes, and there are plans in the near future to expand the Rainbow Valley facility. When your influent reaches 80% of permitted capacity, you have to begin designing the next expansion and at 90% of permitted capacity, you have to be in construction. As the City grows, we have plans to expand. Rainbow Valley was just expanded from 4mgd to 6pgm and in the next fiscal year, we'll be in design for the next expansion.
2. What is the estimated timeline for build-out population? A: I believe it is 2085 for the City but there are interim build-outs for zones 1 - 3. We can get that information for you.
3. Is there any thought on using UV disinfectant versus chlorine? A: Not currently.
4. Are there microbiology challenges posed by our summer season versus moderate temperatures? A: Actually, it's a better environment in the heat. Cold can cause the bugs to be less active so colder places struggle in the winter.
5. Is it possible to get the cost of each of these projects if ongoing for the next five years? A:

Yes, we do have them in the CIP.

6. What is the percentage of wastewater volume per year for each major customer service groups? A: We don't have that information. We don't meter sewer, only water so we develop the rates based on the water meters. We only know how many connections.
7. For wastewater treatment, are there grants available that we have applied for and have been received? A: We are always on the lookout for grants, but I don't know of any for wastewater particularly and we do not currently have any grants in process for wastewater.
8. If the sewer rate is based on water rates, what percentage of the water is allocated toward wastewater? A: We look at the three winter months - January, February and March - since there is typically less water used for outdoor uses and average the water use to determine sewer rates.
9. In the Liberty or EPCOR service areas, do they do their wastewater or does Goodyear? A: Mostly, they do but in some EPCOR areas where we do it, we get the water usage information from EPCOR.
10. Are there any plans to take their service areas into the City's service? A: There are no plans to.
11. How do the rates compare between Goodyear, Liberty and EPCOR? I only see other cities' rates used as comparisons. A: I believe when WillDan presents more information about rates, they'll include Liberty's water and sewer rates.
12. It's critical that they're included because as neighbor service providers it's more comparative. A: We struggle with exact comparisons because the situations are rather unique.
13. How do you fund capital projects? Cash or borrow? A: We typically borrow, and we call it bonding. It depends on the amounts.
14. Do we ever use the state revolving fund available through the state? A: That's more for water quality. You have to have a contamination site, or WQARF site to get funds. We had one for some time but only got reimbursed for our cost to monitor and sample at the site.

1.2 Conservation Committee Recommendations Update (Katie Peige, Water Conservation Specialist)

Water Conservation Coordinator Peige presented the Conservation Committee Recommendation Update. During the question and answer period, the committee members had the following questions and responses provided are also below preceded by an "A":

1. Are water rates on different scales for residential and business? A: Yes, there are different rate structures for residential, non-residential and irrigation. The rates all have an inverted block structure so after you use a certain amount of water, you move to a higher rate.
2. Saving water is critical...hence...pools can leak and there is a means to determine if a pool is leaking that cost no more than an orange Home Depot bucket. Might the customer bills offer instruction on how to find a leak? Customer education? A: We have the information on our site about the bucket test and have a tweet about it scheduled for next month. If we see a

large spike in usage and they have a pool, we send the information directly to them. There is also a blurb on the bill to direct them to the webpage.

3. Will the product of the Landscape Design Committee apply to the City or to all the residents?
A: Both. It's meant for future development and City development and all residents including those in the Liberty service area. HOAs, if redoing their landscape, would also have to adhere to it.
4. Are there programs to help customers remove water intensive landscaping to desert plantings and is there one for HOAs and commercial businesses? A: Not at the moment but we will offer incentives if they take classes to go to a local nursery for low water use plants.
5. What would you replace turf with? A: Desert landscaping or hardscape. It is trendy now to have expanded patios or entertainment space in front yards. There are a lot of beautiful, low water plans aside from cacti.
6. Does the current utility billing system have any other usage reports that could flag leaks? Many snowbirds could experience leaks for months. A: Our current system does flag high usage and we use the phone tree system to call the customer to tell them to investigate but we only read meters once per month so a leak could exist for some time before it's caught. It's best to monitor it yourself.
7. Do HOAs have a separate rate structure? A: It depends on what their use is. If it's irrigation, they'd be on the irrigation tier, if it is for common areas, it would be the non-resident tier.
8. Are there water efficiency reports for HOAs? A: They can request them. I can calculate it by using GIS when they let me know what the HOA is responsible for. Then, they can compare their use to see if they're overwatering. We have advertised it but haven't had any requests yet. The city has also used WaterFluence, a water budgeting program, to assist HOAs.
9. Flume is great but Flo by Moen can real time shut off water if a leak is detected. A: A lot of what we're looking for are less invasive. Others cut into the line and we want to avoid that to reduce our liability.
10. I understand the liability but what would the cost benefit be versus leaks? Is there a thought that someday the City would provide remote shutoff, or would it be built into houses? A: Our first time is to get as close to real time as possible...we hope to have the ability to get notified of increased amount of water usage so we can get the information to the customer. The challenge with remote shutoff is the technology isn't there yet. There are some pilots where it is retrofitted but you need a significant amount of power to shut if off remotely.
11. Do you see HOAs being mandated down the road to remove their turf? A: No.
12. For HOAs, is the water you talk about potable, non-potable and/or untreated well water? A: It's potable. Goodyear moved away from installing purple pipe because reclaimed water has more value in replenishing groundwater. We have a one water concept...less about different types of water and more about how to use it to get the most value to the City, such as recharge.
13. I'm on the Board of the Centerra HOA and we have five large stormwater collection basins with about 283,000 square feet of turf. We are in the process of reducing the turf by about 120,000 square feet at our expense of about \$220,000 plus inflation. We have done one and

are now on our second and will do one each year until we're done. Other HOAs have done this too. When you speak of a grant to reduce turf, you should consider that those who did it with their own money will find it objectionable. We think the incentive should come through the rate structure, not grants.

14. Are the AMI meters available to homeowners? A: The meter is capable of AMI, the infrastructure needed to take advantage of the AMI technology is not in place.
15. Is the controller pilot program and classes available to Goodyear residents or only Goodyear customers? A: The classes are available to anyone, but the incentives will probably only be available to Goodyear customers.

QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

None.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Committee Member McErlean sent an email in advance of the meeting that read: Our HOA attorneys recently sent us a notice that two lawsuits are in process that could "decide the water rights of virtually everyone in Arizona" and asked if it could be explained. Water Resources and Sustainability Manager Erwin explained the General Stream Adjudication.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for August 4, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, Chairman McErlean adjourned the meeting at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Charles McErlean Jr, Chairman

Date: _____