

COUNCIL WATER ISSUES  
COMMITTEE  
REGULAR MEETING  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 3, 2017  
PRESCOTT, ARIZONA

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE COUNCIL WATER ISSUES COMMITTEE HELD ON JANUARY 3, 2017, in the LOWER LEVEL CONFERENCE ROOM, located at CITY HALL, 201 SOUTH CORTEZ STREET, Prescott, Arizona.

A. Call to Order.

Chairman Lamerson called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

B. Roll Call.

COUNCIL WATER ISSUES COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Present:

Chairman Jim Lamerson  
Member Steve Blair, absent  
Member Steve Sischka

Staff Present:

Michael Lamar, City Manager  
Dana DeLong, City Clerk  
Clyde Halstead, Assistant City Attorney  
Craig McConnell, Regional Program Director  
Leslie Graser, Water Resources Manager

C. Approval of minutes of the December 6, 2016, Council Water Issues Committee meeting

**COUNCILMAN SISCHKA MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 6, 2016, WATER ISSUES COMMITTEE MEETING; SECONDED BY MAYOR PRO TEM LAMERSON; PASSED 2-0.**

D. Alternative Water Portfolio Update

Leslie Graser, Water Resources Manager presented. She gave background on the policy, and that were no new pending water service agreements.

No action was taken.

E. Water Service Agreements  
1. Storm Ranch amendment (WSA08-013)

Leslie Graser, Water Resources Manager, presented. She said that LandCor Group had submitted a letter to the City requesting to amend its existing water service agreement. They sought a one-time extension for one year in accordance with the City's Water Management and Calendar year 2017 Alternative Allocation Policy. She gave background information on the 2007 Development Agreement and the Water Service Agreement.

Councilman Sischka asked what would happen if they did not get done what they needed to this year. Ms. Graser said it would expire.

Mayor Pro Tem Lamerson said they would then have the option to extend it a year.

Ms. Graser said it had been quiet for awhile, but they were working on the project, so that was why they were asking for a one year extension.

**MAYOR PRO TEM LAMERSON MOVED TO FORWARD THE REQUEST TO THE FULL COUNCIL FOR CONSIDERATION; SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN SISCHKA; PASSED 2-0.**

F. Big Chino Water Ranch, Comprehensive Agreement No. 1 Update

Leslie Graser, Water Resources Manager, presented. Ms. Graser gave an update on the Big Chino Water Ranch and said it would be a standing item on the agenda from now on.

Councilman Sischka asked what a Geochemical contract was. Ms. Graser said geochemistry was done to look at source water and flowpath.

Ms. Graser said the contracts were necessary in order to collect new data for the groundwater flow model. Currently, they were engaged with a firm who was preparing a proposal, and hoped to have it in front of Council by February. The document would then be placed on the City website – Big Chino Water Ranch page

Mayor Pro Tem Lamerson asked if they were working in concert with ADEQ, ADWR, and with EPA. He thought the various agencies needed to be aware of this.

Ms. Graser said, yes, over the past two years they had meetings, and ADWR did all the water data collecting for us. They had done mutual agreements with Yavapai County.

Mayor Pro Tem Lamerson wanted to make sure that was what they were doing.

Mayor Pro Tem Lamerson said they had the two lakes and were working with the entities to get to where they needed to get to. Ms. Graser thought that was reflective in the latest water policy that was adopted by Council.

Councilman Sischka said the process would ensure that there was no ground they should not be crossing, and to keep everyone aware of what was going on.

Michael Lamar, City Manager, asked what other technical analysis was pending for the year. Ms. Graser said they should have all the data development so that should be everything that was pending. Monitor well drilling would come in later in the year when site assessment was completed.

Mayor Pro Tem Lamerson asked the purpose for the wells. Ms. Graser said they were an early warning system.

Mayor Pro Tem Lamerson said there were arbitrary numbers assigned, and this was no longer a valid assumption. In order for them to meet the objection of the State of Arizona there was no way the City could do that without importing water. He said that importation was not all new growth, but for people who were already here. This was from the General Plan and it was very important for the public to know.

Mr. Lamar did not think it would just be this position, and was under the assumption that more outreach and communication was expected.

Councilman Sischka asked if the active irrigation wells in Big Chino were being monitored.

Ms. Graser said somewhat, but it depended on if they were private land or State land. She said the State and others monitor wells on different cycle (daily, yearly, or every 5 years).

#### G. Upcoming NAMWUA Discussion of Non-Indian Agricultural (NIA) Water

Leslie Graser, Water Resources Manager, presented. She said the water in the Big Chino that resulted in the Big Chino Water Ranch purchase was based on an original CAP water allocation. The City sold that off. Now, there was another block of water termed NIA. In 2004, the Arizona Settlements Act was passed and there was a CAP reallocation of over 96,000 acre-feet of agricultural rights to priority water to be held for further allocation. She said at that time the Water Resources Manager indicated he wanted to see a portion of this go to rural Arizona. In 2012, they began the reallocation of the water. She gave a brief history of the agreement.

Craig McConnell, Regional Programs Director, said the water being discussed was surface water from the Colorado River. He said as the levels dropped in the dams there could be some uncertainty on the availability on that water. He said it was about water rights that you can touch, but it could be less or more over a long period of time.

Councilman Sischka asked if the water had to be used for agricultural purposes. Ms. Graser said it could be reallocated for municipal use, but it was lower priority water and if the Colorado River was low it would be the first to not be made available. She said she continued to look at it because they have to look at options. She said if the City had not made efforts for the CAP water they probably would not have the supplies located in the Big Chino. She brought this forward because the City did participate in NAMWUA and Councilman Blair represents the City on the Board. There were a lot of steps for the NIA supplies and they would need to review the scope of services that the NAMWUA Board approved to be drafted.

Councilman Sishka asked if they were acquiring real water or paper water.

Mr. McConnell said it was making it physically available.

Ms. Graser said it would have to be a contract just like the CAP. She was bringing this to the Committee's attention and that it would be discussed at a NAMWA at the January meeting.

Mr. McConnell said the City was a member of NAMWUA, and the City was engaging in a dialogue.

Ms. Graser said this item was informational and then would bring it back.

Mayor Pro Tem Lamerson thought it should be taken to the Council so they knew what was going on. He asked if Prescott Valley was a member of NAMWUA. Ms. Graser said yes.

Councilman Sischka said it sounded like a moving target, because of the levels of the dam. Ms. Graser said she would have to come back with more information.

H. Council Water Issues Committee 2017 meeting calendar.

Ms. Graser, Water Resources Manager, presented the calendar for 2017. She noted that the Fourth of July fell on the first Tuesday of July and asked if the committee would like to move the meeting to a different date. She said the meetings would stay at 9:00 am.

Mayor Pro Tem Lamerson said they could move it to a different date when it got a little closer.

H. Adjournment

There being no further business to be discussed, the Council Water Issues Committee adjourned the Public Meeting of January 3, 2016, at 9:40 a.m.

  
JIM LAMERSON, Chairman

ATTEST:

  
DANA R. DeLONG