



CITY COUNCIL SUBCOMMITTEE FOR WATER ISSUES

**Council Subcommittee for Water Issues
April 2, 2019
9:00 a.m.**

**Lower Level Conference Room
201 S. Cortez Street
Prescott, Arizona 86303**

Minutes of the City Council Subcommittee for Water Issues held on April 2, 2019, in the Lower Level Conference Room, located at 201 S. Cortez Street, Prescott, Arizona.

A. Call to Order

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

B. Roll Call

CITY COUNCIL SUBCOMMITTEE FOR WATER ISSUES MEMBERS:

Present:

Chairman Jim Lamerson
Member Steve Blair
Member Steve Sischka arrived at 9:03 am

Staff Present:

Clyde Halstead, Assistant City Attorney
Craig Dotseth, Public Works Director
Leslie Graser, Water Resource Manager
Gwen Rowitsch, Administrative Support Services Manager
Leah Hubbard, Water Resource Coordinator
Carey Oberheim, Administrative Assistant

C. Approval of Minutes for the April 2, 2019 Meeting

COUNCILMAN BLAIR MOVED TO APPROVE THE MEETING MINUTES OF APRIL 2, 2019; CHAIRMAN LAMERSON 2ND. PASSED 2-0.

D. Water Allocation Update, January 1, 2019 to June 30, 2019

For January 1, 2019 until July 1, 2019, alternative water supplies were made available in accordance with City Resolution No. 2018-1663. The available supply is 350 acre-feet and stated to be for, "...any development of any type during this period."

New Water Service Agreement applications filed before March 19, 2019 (submission deadline for 4/2/2019 Subcommittee meeting).

Application No.	Requested Volume (in acre-feet)	Water Budget Remaining (in acre-feet)
		283.70
WSA 19-006 (Bradshaw Hills)	8.25	275.45

WSA 19-007 (Biele)	0.25	275.20
WSA 19-008 (Antelope Crossings)	59.2	Deep Well Reservation

This item was for information purposes only.

E. Water Service Agreement Application, WSA 19-006 (Bradshaw Hills)

Water Service Agreement Application No. WSA19-006 was filed by Granite Basin Engineering on March 4, 2019 (application was dated January 15, 2019). The applicant is seeking an alternative water allocation from the City's January 1, 2019 to June 30, 2019 water budget for thirty-three (33) single family units; a volume of 8.25 acre-feet.

A preliminary site plan was reviewed by Planning and Zoning Commission on May 10, 2018, and the Commissioners requested a decrease in density before the Preliminary Plat was submitted. The Plat was decreased from 40 units plus 12 townhomes to 33 single family residential units.

Many public comments have been received in regard to this subdivision, the preliminary plat will be reviewed by P&Z Commission again.

Chairman Lamerson asked if this WSA was compliant and correct. Leslie Graser stated yes. Councilman Blair had no issues with the WSA but would like the redaction of the application to be removed in future items. Clyde Halstead stated that we can remove redaction for the board members and leave the redaction in the public documents.

CHAIRMAN LAMERSON MOVED TO MOVE THE APPLICATION TO COUNCIL FOR CONSIDERATION WITH 8.25 AF OF POTABLE SUPPLIES FROM THE JANUARY 1, 2019 TO JUNE 30, 2019 WATER BUDGET; COUNCILMAN BLAIR 2ND. PASSED 3-0.

F. Comprehensive Agreement No. 1 – Quarterly Report

On January 8, 2019, the Subcommittee reviewed and provided input on the Comprehensive Agreement No.1 Quarterly Report template. The Fiscal Year 2019, 3rd Quarter Report is now available.

Leslie presented the report to the members. Councilman Sischka asked if the monthly meetings are for updates. Leslie stated that each meeting is to work on contracts (monitoring and modeling). Councilman Blair asked who reviews the reports during the quarter. Leslie answered that she reviews the reports and they are cross checked by the other two parties. Councilman Sischka asked when geologic drilling is done, are they keeping track of what they materials they drill through? Leslie answered that samples were taken every 5 feet and logged. A member of the public was asked that the quarterly reports be available on the City website along with the annual reports.

G. Proposed Updates to City Code 3-10-8 (Incentive Program) and Land Development Code 6.5 (Landscaping and Screening)

The City of Prescott has been a regional leader in water conservation for almost 30 years. In 1992, Ordinance No. 2377 allowed for new development that installed water saving features to receive a discount on the development impact fees. In 2004, it was determined that a Water Conservation Committee was to be created to make recommendations to Council for amending the water conservation code, including incentive/rebate program, educational programs, water-wise landscaping for new development, water rate structures, voluntary and mandatory restrictions on water use, and penalties and enforcement of code provisions. The 2004 incentive/rebate program was very effective at the time, but in the following years the rebates were determined to be high cost with lower benefits for the City. In early 2009, the individual incentive/rebate amounts were decreased and some were removed. Since 2010, only one change has been made to the water conservation rebate program. In 2016, the incentive for rainwater harvesting cisterns increased from \$0.10/gal of storage to \$0.50/gal of storage.

In 2018, the City Council sought to reinvigorate the water conservation rebate program. A marketing campaign (radio and Facebook) was created to make the public more aware of the rebate program and native landscaping practices. While this marketing is necessary, the City needs to ensure they are receiving maximum water conservation for money spent. By releasing new rebates, the City can provide education to the public, and receive better water conservation and sustainability practices. The updated program would consist of new rebate measures and cancellation of less effective rebate measures.

Leah presented a draft of proposed changes to the rebate program, a new low-income toilet replacement program and Landscape Development Code updates. Chairman Lamerson asked if the current rebate program has generated success. Leah stated that the program has been successful and the updated program will focus on maximum water conservation. Councilman Blair asked what efforts are being made to educate the citizens, plumbers and contractors of the rebates available. As an example, Leah responded that she circulates at the Home and Garden Show to deliver the City message to all vendors.

Leah presented a draft of a proposed new low-income toilet replacement program. The program may work well with both the City's efforts related to neighborhood projects, and the remaining funds of the CDBG program. More details will be available in the future. An initial 100 toilets would be paid through the Water Conservation Rebate Program funding.

Leah presented the draft redlines to City Code 6.5. Currently, the low-water use plant list is only required to be used in public right-of-ways. It is proposed to amend the L.D.C. to include requirements that all new vegetation added to the City of Prescott is from the ADWR Low-Water Use Plant list. If landscapers, developers, and other stakeholders wish to add plants to the list, there is an ADWR process to do so.

H. Overview of State of Arizona "Safe-Yield" goal and the status of the Prescott AMA

The Prescott AMA (PRAMA) has a statutory goal of achieving safe-yield by 2025. Safe-yield is a groundwater management goal which attempts to achieve and thereafter maintain a long-term balance between the amount of groundwater withdrawn in an active management area and the annual amount of natural and artificial recharge in the active management area A.R.S. § 45-561(12). The safe-yield goal is a basin-wide balance. Under current groundwater rules, pumping from one location in the AMA can be offset by recharging a volume of water at another location.

A decadal management plan is prepared and adopted for each AMA, in the PRAMA, the Fourth Management Plan is effective from 2010-2020. The Plan provides the following as a list of management issues:

- Physical Availability of Groundwater within the PRAMA
- Consistency with the AMA Goal under the AWS Rules
- Financial Capability under the AWS Rules
- Limitations of the Management Plan Authority

Leslie presented a summary of Safe-Yield to the members. Chairman Lamerson voiced his concerns over AMA vs. PRAMA, the name PRAMA is an area not just Prescott as the name misleads. Councilman Sischka asked how much surface water we are currently releasing for recharge. Craig Dotseth stated that we were able to start recharging early this year, we usually only recharge April through November. We have been recharging up to 10 million gallons per day since March 1. Councilman Sischka asked if Water Resources is able to give an update before the radio shows that he, Councilman Blair and Mayor Pro Tem Orr speak on so they can give a water report weekly. All members agreed this was a good idea.

I. April Water Awareness Month

Each year the City engages in local activities, and provides displays and presentations during April Water Awareness Month. WaterSmart: Drop by Drop water education series will be continuing and staff will also be providing public education at these upcoming events.

Upcoming events

- April 1 – April 30- GPCD (Gallons per capita per day) Exhibit at the Prescott Public Library
- April 13 – Librarypalooza
- April 20 – Earth Day
- May 3 – May 4 – Grow Native Plant Sale
- May 17, 18, and 19 – YCCA Home & Garden Show

Leslie recommended that the first item the Subcommittee members may like for their radios shows is the list above.

J. Future Agenda Items

ADWR Annual Report (including recharge updates)
Big Chino and ITC Update
Rainwater Harvesting efforts at Saddlewood

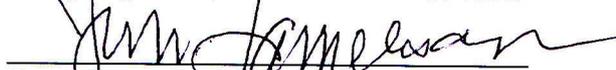
The next meeting will be held Tuesday, May 7, 2019

K. Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 10:35 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:


Carey Oberheim, Administrative Assistant


Councilman Jim Lamerson, Chairman

Date: 5/7/19