

CITY COUNCIL SUBCOMMITTEE FOR WATER ISSUES

**Tuesday, January 7, 2020
9:30 a.m.**

**Prescott City Hall
Downstairs Conference Room
201 South Cortez St., Prescott, AZ
(928) 777-1130**

Minutes of the City Council Subcommittee for Water Issues held on **Tuesday, January 7, 2020, at 9:30 a.m.** in the City Hall Downstairs Conference Room, 201 South Cortez Street, Prescott, Arizona.

A. Call to Order

Member Blair called the meeting to order at 9:27 a.m.

B. Roll Call

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Member Steve Blair
Member Billie Orr
Member Steve Sischka

CITY STAFF PRESENT:

Craig Dotseth, Public Works Director
Clyde Halstead, Senior Assistant City Attorney
Gwen Rowitsch, Administration Support Services Manager
Leslie Graser, Water Resource Administrator
Carey Oberheim, Business Manager

C. Nomination and Vote to Appoint a Chairperson

MEMBER SISCHKA MOVED TO APPOINT MEMBER BLAIR AS CHAIRPERSON OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE; MEMBER ORR 2ND MOTION. PASSED 3-0

D. Approval of Minutes of November 5, 2019, and December 3, 2019

CHAIRMAN BLAIR MOVED TO APPROVE THE MEETING MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 5, 2019; MEMBER SISCHKA 2ND MOTION. PASSED 3-0

MEMBER ORR MOVED TO APPROVE THE MEETING MINUTES OF DECEMBER 3, 2019; CHAIRMAN BLAIR 2ND MOTION. PASSED 3-0

E. Forecasted 2020 Topics, Part 1

Leslie Graser presented an overview of the duties of the Council Subcommittee for Water Issues as described in Resolution No. 4413-1622. Graser also reviewed a handout of upcoming discussion topics for the Subcommittee to consider for future agendas.

Memberships were discussed. Chairman Blair stated that updates on these groups twice a year would be helpful especially when the City is engaged in preparing financial budgets. Graser ask if those updates would be to the Subcommittee and then at their recommendation to the full Council at a Study Session? Member Sischka contributed that it should be in Chambers (a Study Session). Dotseth further clarified that more frequent updates can be given to the Subcommittee and then the twice/year updates at a Study Session would occur approximately two weeks before the Council approves the FY21 Budget. All members agreed to Dotseth's proposal.

During this item the Subcommittee also requested to move the future meetings to the Council Chambers. Carey Oberheim confirmed the request was underway with Michelle Rush.

Graser reviewed the Governor's workgroups, Member Sischka asked the difference between the Groundwater User's Advisory Council (GUAC) and the Governor's Groundwater, Augmentation, Innovation, and Conservation Council (GWAICC). Clyde Halstead responded GUAC created by a statute and is specific to the Prescott AMA, and GWAICC is created by the Governor to come up with ideas that they can recommend to the Governor to propose new legislation in the future. Chairman Blair asked that the Council receive updates on these two workgroups twice per year a study session. Chairman Blair and Member Sischka both mentioned that they will be applying for GUAC appointments.

Annual Water Withdrawal and Use Report is due March 31st each year. Graser asked if the subcommittee would like a presentation on the annual numbers prior to a presentation to Council. The members agreed that bringing the presentation to the Subcommittee first is appropriate.

Drought Management Plan is due in 2022. Chairman Blair asked what the Plan looks like and do we make changes to it? Graser stated it is based on population tiers and the City has not changed tiers. Restrictions have not been enforced since the bark beetle which created a need for conservation measures. Chairman Blair asked if our increased infrastructure capacity puts us in a better position and how many additional gallons of storage have we added since 2007. Dotseth stated that we have added 10 – 15 million in storage. Through conservation, the City has decreased production volume since 2006 up to the last 2 years when we have started a marginal climb due to increased population.

Graser discussed the Water Resource Management Model as a possible Subcommittee topic. The uses of the model were for 1) long term planning

scenarios, 2) tracking, and 3) a repository for data for D&O modifications. Member Orr asked if it could be made available for other communities to use. Graser mentioned it was built specifically for Prescott conditions, but the neighboring communities could work with Herb Dishlip to build something similar.

Discussion topics that the Members would like to focus on:

- Chairman Blair – Chino Valley Irrigation District, what is our obligation and what are we giving them now.
- Member Sischka – recommends that the Chairman meet with Public Works prior to agenda finalization to guide agenda topics. Chairman Blair would like to schedule meetings to review the agenda.
- Chairman Blair – long range water plans, and serving water outside the City. What are the effects of that service, positives and negatives? Halstead will work on a draft proposal for February.
- Member Sischka – presentation on how our surrounding communities, Prescott Valley, Chino Valley look at and manage water, similarities and differences. How each community's systems work.
- Member Orr – Drop by Drop schedule and topics for the year. Graser stated that the 2019 program has completed and no future plans have been made for the program. Dotseth commented that with current staffing we will be looking into how to reach more and new people. Development of education and conservation are currently on hold until we hire a replacement for the Water Resources Specialist vacancy.

Chairman Blair stated that water is a big deal and feels that the Water Resources Division is understaffed, would like to talk to the City Manager about staffing up this division with an additional employee. Member Orr recommended that the Water and Wastewater funds become a combined fund to allow for greater resources to focus on water resources.

F. Big Chino Water Ranch Overview and Closed Loop Pumped Storage Update

Halstead presented highlights of the Big Chino Valley Pump Storage Project, two reservoirs with hydroelectric turbines for electricity. Closed loop, not part of a surface water system. No updates as the website is down, no correspondence, no substantive filing with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) in more than 6 months. Last progress update with FERC was November 29, with a statement of "since the 3rd 6 month progress report, ITC has continued its internal evaluation of the projects potential impact to regional resources including the Big Chino Aquifer."

G. Public Comment

Leslie Hoy made several comments;
ITC pump storage – Several CWAG science committee members were involved in the science of the project, the science appears to have stopped and CWAG has a concern that if ITC sells the project, the new owner may not be as environmentally sensitive.

WRMM – Wanted to clarify that she wondered if a WRMM could be created for the entire AMA. If the City intends to serve water outside City limits, does the model extend to those areas? Graser remarked that the WRMM is 2 models, one within City limits and one for the approved General Plan area.

CWAG will miss the Drop by Drop program and Ms. Hoy wonders if a panel presentation might be given at a future CWAG meeting.

CWAG member Kate Curren was appointed to the post 2025 AMA committee and is interested in the exempt wells.

G. Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 10:33 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:



Carey Oberheim, Business Manager



Councilman Steve Blair, Chairman

Date: 2/4/2020