



COUNCIL SUBCOMMITTEE FOR WATER ISSUES MEETING

SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, JULY 7, 2020, 9:30 AM

Council Chambers, 201 South Cortez Street
Prescott AZ 86303
(928) 777-1272

Steve Blair, Chairman

Steve Sischka, Member

Billie Orr, Member

MINUTES OF THE CITY OF PRESCOTT COUNCIL SUBCOMMITTEE FOR WATER ISSUES HELD ON JULY 7, 2020, IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS LOCATED AT 201 South Cortez Street, PRESCOTT, ARIZONA.

1. Call to Order

Chairman Blair called the meeting to order at 9:39 a.m.

2. Roll Call

Present:

Chairman Steve Blair
Member Steve Sischka
Member Billie Orr

Note: At the 3/3/20 meeting there were many questions on City of Prescott Recycling. This is outside of the Subcommittee duties, but input has been shared with Solid Waste who is in the process of ongoing public research.

3. Public Comment

None.

4. Approval of Minutes of March 3, 2020

MEMBER SISCHKA MOVED TO APPROVE ITEM 4; SECONDED BY MEMBER ORR: PASSED [3-0].

5. Approval of Water Service Agreement Application No. WSA20-003 by Chamberlain Development Representing CP Technologies, for Commercial Water Supplies on a portion of APN 102-08-057E.

Administration Support Services Manager Gwen Rowitsch provided a presentation to the Subcommittee regarding the proposed Water Service Agreement for CP Technologies to use 4.1 acre feet per year. Their demand analysis shows 1000 gallons per acre per day. Pending Subcommittee approval this item will go before Council for final approval. Applicant has met all requirements, no platting process just building permitting process.

Chairman Blair asked what the company does.

Ms. Rowitsch responded that are a manufacturing company that does aeronautic parts, computer hardware and the like.

City Clerk Sarah Siep read the following comment submitted by Leslie Hoy, member of the public: The Water Demand Analysis states that average usage for the project is 1,000 gallons per acre per day. I can't find anything to substantiate this average daily usage. Does it include: 1) average water usage per day for all manufacturing processes, 2) water usage per day for 50 employees using the restrooms, washing their hands multiple times per day, water usage in kitchen or employee lounge, etc. 3) water usage for any landscaping?

Ms. Rowitsch responded that the water demand includes all items listed in the question, and as they actually begin using water the usage will be monitored. Analysis includes backbone infrastructure as well to anticipate estimates.

Subcommittee Member Sischka commented that this seems to be low demand for the area.

Chairman Blair asked how often the modeling is reviewed.

Ms. Rowitsch stated that it is reviewed annually.

Subcommittee Member Orr commented that CPTechnology looked all over the southwest and chose Prescott and having them here will be great for the community.

MEMBER ORR MOVED TO APPROVE ITEM 5 AND FORWARD WSA20-003 TO COUNCIL; SECONDED BY MEMBER SISCHKA: PASSED [3-0].

6. Infrastructure Topic: Pumping vs. Recharge Update

Chairman Blair commented that he requested this item to receive an update on where we are today with water infrastructure.

Administration Support Services Manager Gwen Rowitsch provided a presentation to Subcommittee regarding the last five years of pumping and recharge of water which

includes effluent and surface water. This information will be presented to the Subcommittee on an annual basis moving forward.

Chairman Blair commented on how fortunate we are to have Willow and Watson lakes as part of our water portfolio.

Subcommittee Member Orr stated that she would like to have a press release put out regarding this information as it would be beneficial for everyone to really see how well we are doing with water.

Subcommittee Member Sischka added that it would be beneficial to have a presentation during a study session as well.

Ms. Rowitsch said that staff would be able to provide a brief 30 minute update at the first August Study Session for the balance of Council.

Chairman Blair asked for clarification on the water storage and if it goes into credits or toward safe yield.

Attorney Clyde Halstead responded that the effluent recharged/credits go into the long term storage account for use in the future. Any recharge over our usage is used annually. The surface water directly offsets the pumped water on an annual basis, and approval of projects is separate accounting because it's planning use and not actual use.

Chairman Blair said that he is happy to see the direction things are going in and added that at some point he would like to see the specific amount of water that goes in and out to see on a chart like this for new developments.

This item was for presentation only. No formal action was taken.

7. Conservation and Education Discussion, Fiscal Year 2020 Rebate Summary and Fiscal Year 2021 Goals

Administration Support Services Manager Gwen Rowitsch provided a presentation to Subcommittee regarding the City's conservation and rebate program. Washing machine rebates were the most used and staff estimates annual water savings of 2.2 million gallons per year which is very impressive. The goal is to continue to promote conservation in a number of ways. There have not been as many public events this year due to COVID, but staff provided pamphlets at the Highland Center during their plant sale, and used Facebook postings to communicate with the public. Budgeted at \$40,000 for the program and came in just under that. This is a positive influence on the water system here in Prescott.

Subcommittee consensus that this information should also be part of the presentation to Council at the August Study Session.

Chairman Blair asked if it might be beneficial for staff to go out to specific neighborhoods that are older to let them know this money and program is available.

Ms. Rowitsch said that staff can look into that and commented that an additional Water Resource Manager has been hired and will be starting later this month to help get the word out regarding the conservation and education programs.

Chairman Blair added that he feels it is important to send something directly to the Governor's office regarding what the City of Prescott is doing.

Subcommittee Member Orr echoed Member Blair's comments.

Subcommittee Member Sischka added that Prescott is on the leading edge of PSPRS and water as well.

This item was for presentation only. No formal action was taken.

8. Focus Discussion, Regarding Governor's Water Augmentation, Innovation, and Conservation Council (GWAICC) Annual Report

Administration Support Services Manager Gwen Rowitsch provided a presentation to the Subcommittee regarding the GWAICC Annual Report. This group was formed in January 2019 by Executive Order at same time as the drought contingency plan was adopted and is to provide guidance to ADWR. First report shows what was addressed in 2019 and included the following issues:

- * Pressure on Groundwater Supplies
- * Completion of the 4th Management Plans (Prescott AMA is developing a 5th Management Plan)
- * General Stream Adjudication
- * Water Supply Physical Availability in Pinal County

Four Subcommittees:

- * Long Term Water Augmentation Committee - very active in 2019 and created a document providing options for Arizona (recommendations are not mandated by the state); subcommittee of this to determine locations for augmentation
- * Desalination Committee - developing desalination projects, focused in the Yuma area
- * Post 2020 Active Management Areas Committee - reduce the reliance on groundwater over 5 management periods from 1980-2025 through progressive conservation requirements; doing this through "issue briefs" including un-replenished groundwater withdrawals and exempt wells (12% are located in a basin that accounts for less than ½ of the state area and Prescott AMA contains the highest density of exempt wells in the state) and hydrologic disconnect (ability to legally recover stored or pumped water in a different location)
- * Non Active Management Area Groundwater Committee - haven't produced any documents or statements of direction, still discussing issues like well spacing/impacts/reporting/water adequacy requirements/groundwater transportation basis (would deal with Big Chino Water Ranch); outreach to non AMA areas

Subcommittee and staff discussion regarding the "hydrologic disconnect" being primarily focused in the Central AC AMA areas where they are increasing heavy pumping in areas and then recharging away from those areas. Related to above ground storage.

Ms. Rowitsch commented that in 2020 these subcommittees are identifying the issues that are most important with water management and will then look at what needs to be done to address them and come up with long term solutions likely coming in 2021.

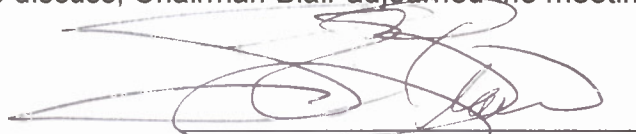
Chairman Blair asked at what point it would be possible for us to look at the option to recharge well water onto individual property.

Attorney Clyde Halstead responded that the Upper Verde Watershed Protection Coalition has looked into things like that and part of the purpose of this Committee is to look at those types of issues as well, however a solution to address that premise has not yet been developed.

This item was for presentation only. No formal action was taken.

9. Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, Chairman Blair adjourned the meeting at 10:24 a.m.



STEVE BLAIR, CHAIRMAN

Respectfully Submitted by:



SARAH M. SLEP, CITY CLERK

