



COUNCIL SUBCOMMITTEE FOR WATER ISSUES MEETING

SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, AUGUST 4, 2020, 10:30 AM

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

Steve Blair, Councilman
Steve Sischka, Councilman Billie Orr, Mayor Pro Tem

MINUTES OF THE CITY OF PRESCOTT COUNCIL SUBCOMMITTEE FOR WATER ISSUES HELD ON AUGUST 4, 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 9:34 a.m.

2. Roll Call

Chairman Steve Blair - Present
Member Billie Orr - Present
Member Steve Sischka - Present

3. Public Comment

Public Comment will be accepted following each agenda item and limited to three (3) minutes. Please complete a comment card and return it to City staff; speakers will be called in the order received.

4. Approval of July 7, 2020 Meeting Minutes

CHAIRMAN BLAIR MOVED TO APPROVE ITEM 4; SECONDED BY MEMBER ORR: PASSED [2-0].

5. Infrastructure Topic: Pumping vs. Recharge Update

Water Resource Project Manager Leslie Graser provided a presentation to the Subcommittee regarding an infrastructure update for the current year to date. The city collects information on a daily basis and that information is filed annually with the department of water resources. Total Water pumped 3,312.33 acre feet and 4,102.21 acre feet delivered to recharge facility so far in 2020.

Chairman Blair commented that the city is recharging more than we are pumping, but some say that it is not going into the aquifer and asked how staff and Council respond to that.

Ms. Graser responded that the recovery well at the recharge facility does fluctuate which is normal. The intent is for it to go down below ground and offset the pumping. The Prescott AMA model, which is produced by the State of AZ, confirms that the water moves to the recharge facility at different rates depending on where you are, there is not a fixed number, however the numbers prove that more is being recharged than pumped.

Chairman Blair asked how often do our wells fluctuate in the Chino area and if there is any correlation between unregulated wells in the Paulden area that have impacted our levels.

Public Works Director Craig Dotseth commented that all wells are monitored in association with production on a monthly basis so we see that the water levels change from time to time depending on the weather and precipitation. He added that we don't monitor anything in the Paulden area and don't have enough information to have a direct correlation.

Chairman Blair thanked staff for their comments and said that it is safe to say that we are recharging more than we are pumping year to date.

Member Orr echoed Blair's comments and stated that she feels the city is doing a great job.

6. Conservation and Education Topic: Facebook Update

Water Resources Project Manager Leslie Graser provided a presentation to the Subcommittee regarding staff's conservation and education efforts on the city's social media particularly Facebook. Staff posts monthly tips and other items with the goal of discussing the conservation rebate program regularly. Rebate for changing toilet is \$100 and septic customers get an additional \$50. Residents qualify if they are receiving water from the city of Prescott.

Chairman Blair commented that people recognize things visually so it might be good to put the actual rebate amounts on the messaging the next time it goes out. He asked if staff has done number counts on people outside of city limits that are on city water.

Public Works Director Craig Dotseth commented that staff is working on that currently and they will target all water users that are on septic.

Ms. Graser continued the presentation with additional examples of postings that have been utilized on social media and what will be done seasonally moving forward.

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

7. Focus Topic: Prescott AMA Groundwater Users Advisory Council (GUAC)

Water Resources Project Manager Leslie Graser provided a presentation to the Subcommittee regarding the Council who was responsible for providing a report to the Department of Water Resources focused on the \$150,000 grant award. COVID caused some delays in the process, but at a June 30th meeting a recommendation was made on the proposed projects, which stemmed from \$2,000,000 appropriation to various active management areas.

Four project applications were reviewed and presented:

- * SR 89 Stormwater recharge pilot project
- * Territorial early childhood education center water management planning
- * Town of Prescott Valley water smart customer portal
- * Rainwater harvesting for aquifer recharge upper Verde river watershed protection (\$65,131)

Recommendation was that items 3 and 4 went forward and were within \$150,000 and leaving \$7,000 used toward item 1 and used funds from other sources to complete. This recommendation is before the Director at this time and a decision will be made and then presented at a future meeting.

Chairman Blair asked if we have had any results from the rainwater harvesting that has been done off Highway 89.

Ms. Graser responded that we do, and a write up has been done. Those pilot project lessons learned will be applied to the next round.

Chairman Blair commented that these are important topics, there isn't always movement every month but he appreciates being updated as needed on them and he looks forward to the Study Session presentation on Aug. 11th.


Member Orr commented that she would like a lot of focus on the recharge numbers and addressing the misinformation regarding that topic.

Chairman Blair echoed Member Orr's comments and said that we are the leader in Arizona and should be promoting that fact.

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

8. Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, Chairman Blair adjourned the meeting at 10:07 a.m.



STEVE BLAIR, Councilman

Respectfully Submitted by:



Sarah M. Siep, City Clerk