



COUNCIL SUBCOMMITTEE FOR WATER ISSUES MEETING

SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2020, 9:30 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 SEPTEMBER 1, 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 9:32 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 August 4, 2020 Meeting Minutes

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

5. Recommend Water Service Agreement Application No. WSA20-005 by Walter Brown Jr. Representing Diversified Partners, for Residential Water Supplies on APNs 103-20-570K and 570R.

Water Resources Project Manager Leslie Graser provided a presentation to the Subcommittee regarding WSA20-005 for property near Prescott Gateway Mall. The pre-application conference took place in February of this year, all information has been received and is being reviewed by staff. Pending the Subcommittee's recommendation this will be before Council for review and approval at the September 22 Voting Meeting. Proposal is 25 single family residential dwelling units utilizing 4.25 acre feet of water, and is currently in plat review.

Chairman Blair asked staff what the site plan will look like.

Public Works Administration Support Services Manager Gwen Rowitsch commented that the proposals will be reviewed by the Planning & Zoning Commission before going to Council and at that time they will have site plans.

Subcommittee Consensus that this will be good for the mall.

MEMBER SISCHKA MOVED TO RECOMMEND WATER SERVICE AGREEMENT NO. WSA20-005 BE REFERRED TO COUNCIL FOR APPROVAL; SECONDED BY MEMBER ORR: PASSED [3-0].

6. Infrastructure Topic: Pumping vs. Recharge Update

Water Resource Project Manager Leslie Graser provided a presentation to the Subcommittee regarding a pumping and recharge update to include July 2020. The city is still recharging more than is being pumped, but Ms. Graser noted that July and August were low precipitation months and the numbers follow seasonal patterns so there may be changes in later months of the year.

Member Orr commented that she would like to have staff put together a press release and get these numbers out to the public so they are aware of how the city is doing.

Chairman Blair agreed and stated that they will have the City Manager speak with John Heiney to have that information put out. This doesn't get seen as often as it should. He asked staff to address the distance between recharge facility and pump facility.

Public Works Director Craig Dotseth addressed the Subcommittee regarding the fact that there are two wells within the airport area with a third one being outfitted which will be done by the end of this year and will reduce the amount that is being pumped in the Chino Valley area. There is general debate over how long it takes for the five mile distance to be covered between recharge and pump facilities.

Member of the Public Leslie Hoy addressed the Subcommittee requesting that they ensure the press release is clear and emphasizes the fact that we are in a drought and had an extremely dry July and August. She also said she thinks it would be beneficial to wait until the August numbers are in before releasing any information.

Subcommittee consensus to release numbers after August as well.

Member of the Public Peter Krupnick addressed the Subcommittee adding that one of the things missing from the graph is how much of the recharge comes out of the lakes and streams and stated that he would appreciate if that information is included and clarified for the public.

Chairman Blair concurred.

Mr. Dotseth added that the 2984 acre feet of surface water is related specifically to the two reservoirs.

This item was for presentation only, no formal action was taken.

7. Focus Topic: FY21 Conservation and Education Outreach

Water Resource Project Manager Leslie Graser provided a presentation to the Subcommittee regarding outreach tied to the Conservation Program in light of COVID-19 and the input staff is seeking for focus options for the coming fiscal year.

Proposed Focuses:

- * Rebate Program
- * Outdoor conservation
- * Indoor conservation
- * Special projects
- * K-12 education
- * Adult/customer education
- * Customers using septic systems

Marketing:

- * Facebook
- * Website
- * Radio
- * How newsletters
- * Mailed information
- * Local magazines

Chairman Blair suggested that if it is possible to determine when the annual meetings for the various HOAs take place that would be a beneficial place for staff to share information.

Member Sischka agreed and commented that it would be beneficial to re-do our water bills to show people how much water they have used so they can see cumulative amounts.

Ms. Graser said that staff could look into that, but advised that typically Finance puts those together and determines what will be included. It would be a multi department effort but we can definitely look at options.

Chairman Blair added that he was impressed with the Water Rebate Incentives Program card provided by staff as a model, and would like to see it go out to customers that would benefit from it. All of these things are helpful to getting the message out.

Partnerships:

- * Yavapai County Cooperative Extension
- * Highland Center for Natural History
- * Yavapai County Contractor's Association
- * Community Nature Center
- * HOAs

Topics:

- * Water 101
- * Rebate Program
- * Water System
- * Groundwater
- * Recharge and Recovery
- * Prescott AMA
- * Finding and Fixing Leaks
- * Conservation retro fits at your home or business

Staff will continue to have Facebook and website updates, and will work with Finance on options for including information in the bills, as well as working on options for HOA meetings.

Member Orr suggested that the Adult Center would also be a good place to promote these types of things.

Chairman Blair added that CWAG should be on this partnership board as well because they are involved and they care. It is important that even though our opinions are different we keep them informed and exchange ideas and concerns. He also added that the Subcommittee members would be happy to participate in visits and meetings as well.

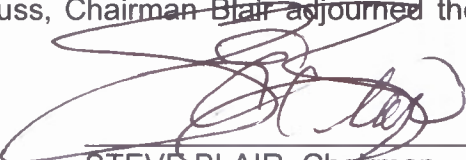
Ms. Graser agreed.

Member of the Public Leslie Hoy addressed the Subcommittee stating that she appreciates Chairman Blair's comments about CWAG and they would like to have a nice working relationship with everyone.

This item was for discussion only, no formal action was taken.

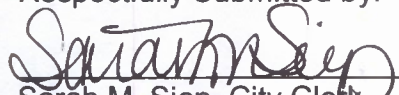
8. Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, Chairman Blair adjourned the meeting at 10:16 a.m.



STEVE BLAIR, Chairman

Respectfully Submitted by:


Sarah M. Siep, City Clerk