



**CITY OF PRESCOTT COUNCIL SUBCOMMITTEE ON
WATER ISSUES MEETING**

**REGULAR SUBCOMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES**

TUESDAY, JANUARY 12, 2021, 9:30 AM

201 S Cortez Street
Prescott, AZ 86303
Council Chambers

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING OF THE PRESCOTT COUNCIL SUBCOMMITTEE ON WATER ISSUES HELD ON JANUARY 12, 2021, IN THE 201 S CORTEZ STREET PRESCOTT, AZ 86303 COUNCIL CHAMBERS.

Steve Blair, Councilman - Chairman

Billie Orr, Councilwoman - Member

Steve Sischka, Councilman - Member

The following Agenda will be considered by the Prescott Council Subcommittee on Water Issues at Regular Subcommittee Meeting pursuant to the Prescott City Charter, Article II, Section 13. Notice of the meeting is given pursuant to Arizona Revised Statutes, Section 38-431.02. One or more members of the Council may be attending the meeting through the use of a technological device.

- 1. CALL TO ORDER**
- 2. ROLL CALL**

Chairman Steve Blair

(Present)

Member Billie Orr

(Excused)

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 the City Clerk, speakers will be called in the order received.

4. DISCUSSION & ACTION ITEMS

A. Approval of the December 1, 2020 Meeting Minutes.

MOTION BY MEMBER SISCHKA TO APPROVE ITEM 4.A.; SECONDED BY CHAIRMAN BLAIR: PASSED [2-0].

B. Infrastructure Topic - Pumping vs. Recharge Update, Calendar Year 2020

Water Resources Project Manager Leslie Graser provided a presentation to the Subcommittee regarding pumping vs recharge for calendar year 2020. In 2020, 7,486 acre feet were pumped, deliveries to recharge facility were just over 5,000 acre feet. There were three months where recharge was more than pumping, but this does vary depending on the month and amount of precipitation received. There was only 6.7 inches of precipitation for the whole of 2020.

Member Sischka asked if we have consistent well information from the Chino wells and added that he would like to see the information.

Ms. Graser stated that is available and is reported to the state regularly.

Public Works Director Craig Dotseth added that of the six wells, five are used for production.

Chairman Blair commented that he would like a monthly report from staff. He also asked for confirmation that less is being pumped than in previous years.

Mr. Dotseth confirmed that less is being pumped than in the early 2000s, and said that staff can work on putting the information into graph form so it is easier to view. These numbers are preliminary and still need to be reviewed by staff which will be done over the next month and a half.

Ms. Graser added that staff will have provisional numbers in March for annual report filing and they can be presented to the Subcommittee and Council.

Member of the Public Leslie Hoy addressed the Subcommittee and asked how pumping in 2020

compared to 2019.

Ms. Graser responded that in 2019 reported pumping was 6,855 acre feet and provisional numbers for 2020 are approximately 7,000 acre feet.

Mr. Dotseth responded that due to a lack of moisture there are months that are much lower.

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

C. Focus Topic – ADWR 2019 GPCD Notification

Water Resources Project Manager Leslie Graser provided a presentation to the Subcommittee regarding the annual review of gallons per capital per day (GPCD). In 2019, the city was at 107 GPCD. The state's target for 2019 was 157 GPCD which is a community wide number. A home typically uses approximately 42 GPCD.

Member Sischka asked how the city's numbers compare to the state's requirements.

Ms. Graser responded that the state's requirement is 157 GPCD and Prescott is doing 107 GPCD so we are well within and it has not been a challenge for the city to meet the annual requirement. The state will be looking at reformulating how they look at this and we should continue to strive to do better. Our tiered rate water structure has helped tremendously, as have the rebate programs and the trend shows that the GPCD has been dropping. She added that everyone plays a part and the city must lead.

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

D. Focus Topic - ADWR Drought Dashboard Overview and Forecast

Water Resource Project Manager Kay Sydow provided a presentation to the Subcommittee regarding ADWR's drought dashboard which shows the last 20 years of data related to water in the area. 2020 was exceptionally dry and it is predicted that 2021 will be as well. This information is available to the public to review.

Member Sischka asked if they do forecasts.

Ms. Sydow responded that they do and continued the presentation with an overview of the 2020 year in review done by the Flagstaff National Weather. Wet month of March which was 200-400% above normal but by April-December we had the three warmest temps on record in Arizona and in Prescott we had 6th warmest temp - reaching 102 degrees - and 3rd driest year in history. There were only 30 days of measurable precipitation in 2020.

Member of the public Peter Kroopnick commented that with these numbers we don't have any surface water to recharge and that is a problem.

Ms. Sydow continued the presentation with information provided by state climatologist at ASU looking at water 2019-2020 and 2021 outlook. 2019 had much more precipitation than 2020 particularly in the later part of the year. We are currently in a La Nina weather pattern with abnormally cold water and continued drought. These are predictions and we don't know how long it will go on or what the impacts will be necessarily.

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

E. Conservation Topic - Mid Fiscal Year Update on Water Rebate Program

Water Resources Project Manager Kay Sydow provided a presentation to the Subcommittee regarding the nearly \$15,000 in rebates issued during the current fiscal year which accounts for 37% of the funds allocated and reviewed the dollar amounts for each savings.

Member Sischka asked for staff to clarify some of the issues that have come up regarding toilet rebates and qualifying products not being available locally. He feels it would be good to make clear to the public what the standard is for the rebate.

Public Works Director Craig Dotseth commented that there has indeed been confusion and staff is looking into the issues. They will be bringing forward something for Council to address this and clarify it all in the future.

Chairman Blair asked why we aren't having the stores conform to what is included in our conservation program.

Mr. Dotseth commented that staff has spoken with the local stores about this but they have not been receptive to stocking based on that. They are also looking into modifying the type of toilets that would qualify for the rebate and added that the October and November spike in conservation savings which they believe is a result of the postcard mailer.

Chairman Blair asked if there is follow up with the customers that are denied the toilet rebate to help direct them in the correct way.

Ms. Sydow commented that from the time the program began in 2006 there has been a great deal of savings in water and rebates given and 2009 was the highest with 19 million gallons.

Member Sischka commented that if people do not have availability to get the materials we are including in the rebates we are remiss if that isn't fixed, and when that is fixed the denied applications need to be re-examined.

Mr. Dotseth responded that this is exactly why staff is looking at the current program and bringing it back to Council.

Member of the Public Gary Beverly asked how the water savings is calculated for each device and if a document could be made available to the public, he also commented that the refusals are a problem and indicates to him that the city needs to work more closely with the retailers to make the information available to the public for what is acceptable and what is not.

Member of the Public Leslie Hoy asked if other municipalities that are offering the same rebates have stores locally providing the necessary products and commented that it might be beneficial if the Council members speak with the store managers to get that taken care of or if CWAG could write a letter to the stores to encourage them.

Ms. Sydow responded that local retailers in other communities do carry the models for the rebates, and added that she has contacted the retailers here and has not received positive responses from them.

Member Sischka added that it is important to be as customer friendly as possible and do whatever we can for our customers.

Chairman Blair stated that the bottom line is retailers are myopic in what they think and so we need to ensure they are meeting our standards.

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

5. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, Chairman Blair adjourned the meeting at 10:46 a.m.



STEVE BLAIR, Chairman

ATTEST:



SARAH M. SIEP, City Clerk

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the

Regular Subcommittee Meeting of the Council Subcommittee on Water Issues of the City of Prescott, Arizona held on January 12, 2021. I further certify the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Dated this 2 day of February, 202~~0~~¹.

AFFIX
CITY
SEAL





Sarah M. Siep, City Clerk