



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

**REGULAR SUBCOMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES**

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2020, 9:30 AM

201 S. Cortez Street
Prescott, AZ 86303
Council Chambers

Steve Blair, Councilman

Billie Orr, Councilwoman

Steve Sischka, Councilman

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING OF THE PRESCOTT COUNCIL SUBCOMMITTEE ON WATER ISSUES HELD ON DECEMBER 1, 2020, IN THE 201 S. CORTEZ STREET PRESCOTT, AZ 86303 COUNCIL CHAMBERS.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Blair called the meeting to order at 9:45 a.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Chairman Steve Blair

Member Billie Orr

Member Steve Sischka

(Excused)

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 November 3, 2020 Meeting Minutes.

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

B. Infrastructure Topic - Pumping vs. Recharge January to October 2020 Update

Water Resource Project Manager Leslie Graser provided a presentation to the Subcommittee with updates to the pumping vs recharge through October 2020. She noted that surface water moves in April through November, unless there are conditions outlined in a legal document for movement to begin in March, and that the recharge window closed yesterday.

Chairman Blair commented that it seems the numbers have been holding stable and added that it is beneficial to understand the restrictions related to pumping with SRP as well as the self imposed restrictions for recharging during particular months of the year.

Ms. Graser confirmed and added that it is important to continue to keep an eye on our long term records and goals.

Member Orr asked staff to confirm if water use is still at approximately only half of what is allotted.

Chairman Blair commented that a total of 16,500 acre feet is available and year to date the city has pumped 6,534.

Ms. Graser responded that this question has come up frequently, she added that the city has pumping and committed demands so it is important to compare correctly and we don't have all of that information for this meeting but will report back when the total numbers have been confirmed.

Member of the public Russel Pilcher commented that the difference between effluent recharge in the months of January, February and March is greater than remaining months and asked why that number

isn't more consistent.

Ms. Graser responded that when the summer months begin more water is sent out for existing contracts, such as golf courses, and therefore less is available for recharge.

Public Works Director Craig Dotseth added that water during those months effluent is being reused rather than recharged.

Chairman Blair reiterated that the city is following state guidelines for water use.

Staff confirmed.

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

C. Focus Topic – Subcommittee Year in Review and Discussion of Forecasted Topics for 2021

Water Resource Project Manager Leslie Graser provided a presentation to the Subcommittee with a review of the 2020 topics discussed. During 2020, roughly six Water Service Agreement Applications went through the Subcommittee to Council, and they reviewed topics being focused on by the Governors Water Group and others.

Chairman Blair thanked staff for the well done recap and added that things will be interesting for water resources in 2021 and moving forward. He added that recently he has heard a lot of clamor about giving away the city's water and he doesn't see it that way. Research shows back to the late 40s-early 50s many areas outside the core of Prescott received water prior to and following annexation through contracts. We are a regional water provider and need to be able to control areas surrounding us with water as a leverage and that is part of the purpose of this Subcommittee, doing so gives Prescott a unique opportunity and heightened responsibility in the AMA.

Member Orr echoed Chairman Blair's comments, the city has moved in all the right directions. It is easier to conserve if we can control and need to get people on our system.

Ms. Graser continued with a discussion on the forecasted topics for 2021 including, memberships, and ADWR workgroups which will be similar to how they have been reviewed topics in the past. She added that topics can be added in the future should the Subcommittee desire to do so.

Member Orr commented that she would like to see a regular update regarding the Mayor's Commission on Sewer & Water Issues and the topics they are looking into.

Chairman Blair concurred. He stated that the Commission is working on things and digesting a lot of information that staff has provided and things have come a long way from the past. Additionally, he

asked staff to provide the number of septic systems where the city serves potable water and how much water is used versus how much could be saved.

Public Works Director Craig Dotseth responded that approximately 3100 parcels are served potable water but still on septic and this would equate to approximately 356 acre feet of water that could be recharged but is being lost at this time.

Chairman Blair said this proves what a difference a centralized sewer and water system would make for the community and environment. It is an expensive endeavor, but should really be looked at.

Mr. Dotseth added that through the effort and focus put into conservation programs the city has seen an uptick for applications being submitted for toilet replacements particularly in the unsewered areas so it is clear that residents are participating.

Chairman Blair said that we must continue down that path.

Ms. Graser commented that staff will provide an update in January on this program, and advised that there will be some upcoming Water Service Agreement Applications and the Decision and Order (D&O) update in February. In March and April staff plans to provide the annual use report.

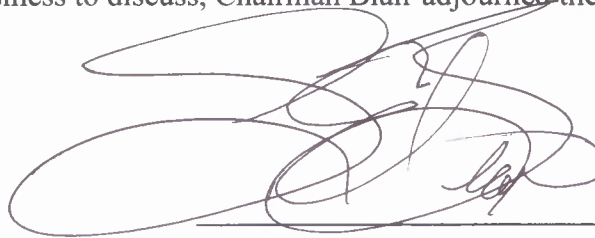
Chairman Blair thanked staff and Councilwoman Orr for their contributions and added that he would like to be able to discuss the ongoing drought and how that might be addressed because it is important to recognize that when we don't get the amount of water we anticipate it impacts our water.

Staff will look into this and return with updated numbers.

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 10:20 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 December 1, 2020. I further certify the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Dated this 12 day of January, 2020¹.

AFFIX
CITY
SEAL





Sarah M. Siep, City Clerk