



COUNCIL SUBCOMMITTEE ON WATER ISSUES MEETING

REGULAR SUBCOMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, AUGUST 3, 2021, 9:30 AM

201 S Cortez Street
Prescott, AZ 86303
Council Chambers

Steve Blair, Councilman - Chairman

Phil Goode, Councilman – Member

Steve Sischka, Councilman - Member

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING OF THE PRESCOTT COUNCIL
SUBCOMMITTEE ON WATER ISSUES HELD ON AUGUST 3, 2021, IN THE 201 S CORTEZ STREET
PRESCOTT, AZ 86303 COUNCIL CHAMBERS.

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

Chairman Blair called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Chairman Steve Blair
Member Steve Sischka
Member Goode

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

4. DISCUSSION & ACTION ITEMS

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.

A. Approval of the July 6, 2021 Meeting Minutes.

**MOTION BY MEMBER SISCHKA TO APPROVE ITEM 4.A; SECONDED BY
MEMBER GOODE: PASSED [3-0].**

B. Infrastructure Topic – Pumping vs. Recharge 2021 Update

Water Resource Project Manager Leslie Graser presented the Monthly Water Pumped Report as well as the preliminary total pumped and the preliminary total delivered to the recharge facility in Calendar Year 2021 January 1 – June 30 in acre feet (AF):

- Effluent Deliveries for June, 2021 – 14.62 AF
- Surface Water Deliveries for June, 2021 – 48.83 AF
- Total Water Pumped for June, 2021 – 793.54 AF
- Preliminary Total Pumped in calendar year 2021 – 3,597.68 AF
- Preliminary Total Delivered to Recharge Facility in calendar year 2021 – 1,331.34 AF
 - Reclaimed Effluent – 1,100.09 AF
 - Surface Water – 231.52 AF
- Percent pumped in 2021 vs. Water Delivered to Recharge Facility – 8%

Member Sischka asked if the effluent deliveries are net of what is sent out to the golf courses and other sites in need of water this year.

Ms. Graser confirmed.

Member Goode commented that given the recent monsoons, it will be interesting to see July's numbers.

Ms. Graser replied that preliminarily surface water is about 63 AF, Willow Lake water level rose by approximately one foot and Watson water level rose about three feet, but are still below the conservation level the city would prefer.

Member Sischka asked if Willow Lake comes up more slowly than other lakes.

Ms. Graser confirmed.

Chairman Blair asked if Goldwater Lake is full.

Ms. Graser responded that Upper Goldwater Lake is full and spilling.

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

C. Water Production in the Chino Valley vs. Airport Areas

Ms. Graser provided a presentation on the groundwater pumping that occurs at the city's Chino Valley area wells and the Airport area wells, as well as an overview on the local groundwater system and pumping that has occurred since 2007. She requested that the Subcommittee comment on whether they would like this topic to remain as a standing item.

Chino Well Field:

- Has five (5) production wells within the Little Chino sub-basin aquifer
- Well depths range from 535' to 690'
- Pumping capacity ranges from 850 to 3,100 gallons per minute (gpm)
- Static Water Levels in 2020 ranged from 170' to 250' below land surface (bls)

Airport Well Field

- Has three (3) production wells within the Little Chino sub-basin aquifer
- Well depths range from 895' to 950'
- Pumping capacity ranges from 640 to 1,600 gpm
- Static Water Levels in 2020 ranged from 430' to 480' bls

Ms. Graser presented well drill logs from Chino Valley Well # 1 and Airport Well #3 that depict what types of materials have been found at what depth as well as the production data table for both wells from 2008 to 2020.

Member Goode inquired about the decrease in Chino production in the year 2019.

Ms. Graser replied that the decrease may be due to the fact that Airport production increased that year, however she is unsure and will get additional information to confirm.

Ms. Graser showed the 2020 Arizona Department of Water Resources (ADWR) Annual Report on total pumped from the Chino and Airport Wells:

- Airport Well #2 – 825.49 AF
- Airport Well #3 – 278.60 AF
- Chino Well #1 – 0 AF (was not being used due to repairs)
- Chino Well #2 – 1,314.57 AF
- Chino Well #3 – 1, 011.39 AF
- Chino Well #4 – 2,173.09 AF
- Chino Well #5 – 1,876.63 AF

Member Sischka noted that the production wells are fairly static despite population growth.

Ms. Graser commented that gains have been made through conservation measures and tightening up the system.

Chairman Blair asked if there is a number attributed to the amount of water saved by changing out water meters and water lines.

Public Works Director Craig Dotseth responded that the lost and unaccounted for number has dropped by 23-26% due to water conservation, maintenance and replacement of water lines and parts.

This item is for discussion only. No formal action will be taken.

D. Decision and Order No. 86-401501.0001 Modification Presentation

Ms. Graser provided an update to the ongoing Decision and Order Modification process which will be brought to the Subcommittee every couple of months. The city is in the process of preparing for a pre-application meeting with the State.

Member Sischka asked what the purpose of the pre-application meeting is.

Ms. Graser responded that it is the start of the communication process; a chance to review expectations and ask questions.

Chairman Blair asked for an explanation of the Water Resource Model (WRMM).

Ms. Graser replied that the WRMM, originally termed the long-term management tool, was built many years ago with the expectation that Prescott would have to modify its assured water supply. The WRMM allows for cleaner, more organized data to provide to the State.

Ms. Graser continued with the Decision and Order Modification presentation reviewing the following topics:

Pre-Application Meeting

The city is scheduled for its first Pre-Application Meeting on August 25, 2021, and a second meeting approximately two weeks later. The first meeting will focus on the WRMM and its use for the Decision and Order demand estimates to be used in the groundwater model to meet physical availability requirements. It is important to convey to the State that the WRMM is the tool the city would prefer to use, otherwise will have to use the State's demand estimate model which projects a little higher than the WRMM.

Member Sischka asked if the Pre-Application meeting is only for designated assured water suppliers.

Ms. Graser responded that pre-application meetings are for certificates, or anything that is going to require the assured water supply program of the State.

Groundwater Allowance

Groundwater allowance consists of the highest groundwater withdrawn from service area from 1995-1998 multiplied by 100 years (resulting in 653,700 AF), replacement of wells in existence on or before August 21, 1998 to city water service (.5 AF per well), preliminary plats approved by the city on or before August 21, 1998, and extinguishment credits not previously pledged.

Chairman Blair asked if Yavapai Hills and Prescott Lakes are close to their allocated cap on water usage, and if the city will receive credit if they have used less than the allocated amount.

Ms. Graser responded that they are in the process of reviewing that information.

Demand Estimate

Current Demand is 7,512.71 AF and is based on the 2020 Annual Water Withdrawal and Use Report. Committed and Projected Demand is a projected 450 new connections per year, taking into account the newer Development Agreements. Growth is projected to be predominately to the North with some infill within the city.

Groundwater Model Update

The groundwater model is generally ready to run, however when the State released the new PrAMA model on June 23rd, the city's consultant found there were missing files as well as some necessary corrections. Once these fixes are made, the 100-year aspect will be added to the model and the city's

assured water supply model will be ran to ensure it meets the Assured Water Supply Program criteria for a 20-year projection.

Schedule

The city is on schedule to submit the application, however there is still some time if adjustments need to be made to the schedule.

- August 25th – first Pre-Application meeting with another to follow approximately two weeks later for the modeling team
- September 22nd – Application adjustments and/or additions
- October 27th – seek approval from Council to submit the application
- November 24th – submit the application

Member of the public Leslie Hoy asked about the presentation on the supplies requested at the July 6th Water Issues Meeting.

Ms. Graser stated that it is still a forthcoming discussion; they are waiting to see how the modeling team brings the information into the Groundwater Flow Model.

Member of the public Peter Krupnick asked if the pre-application meetings will be open to the public and asked about the population projection Ms. Graser mentioned.

Ms. Graser replied there is no open-meeting law requirement, and she will report outcomes at the next Subcommittee meeting. The population projection was changed to connections information as it provides more data. The connections data is provided by Utility Billing.

Member of the public Larry Meads asked if the projected 450 connections are all residential.

Ms. Graser responded it will be a mix of residential and non-residential.

This item is for discussion only. No formal action will be taken.

5. General Announcements from Staff

Public Works Water Resource Project Manager Kay Sydow announced that the city sponsored a plant sale through the Highland Center; \$4200 was given for spring and another \$4200 will be spent for fall. Approximately 2,000 plants were sold. Two new radio ads were created as a reminder of City Code time of day watering restrictions, as well as an available rebate for turf removal. City paid \$800 for a Water Smart ad in YCCA – Building Yavapai magazine.

Ms. Graser reviewed upcoming memberships that will require Council approval:

- FY22 dues payment to the Upper Verde Watershed Coalition in the amount of \$60,000
- FY22 NAMWUA Board and Chair positions to be filled

Chairman Blair asked about the necessity of membership to each group and asked for an update on the Upper Verde Watershed Coalition projects.

Ms. Graser responded that the groups are different in their purpose but both are important to secure grants and to help follow policy at the State level. Ms. Graser agreed to bring a presentation forward to the Subcommittee on current UVWC projects.

Ms. Graser reviewed the latest water funding legislative session highlights and provided a link to amwua.org to view those.

Member of the public Leslie Hoy commented that more citizen education on water, rain gardens and terrain would be useful and is important.

6. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, Chairman Blair adjourned the meeting at 10:51 a.m.



Steve Blair, Chairman

ATTEST:



Jennifer Wiita, Deputy 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 August 3, 2021. I further certify the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Dated this 7th day of September, 2021

AFFIX

CITY SEAL



Jennifer Wiita, Deputy City Clerk