CITY OF PRESCOTT
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MAYOR'S COMMISSION ON WATER POLICY REVIEW & MONITORING MINUTES

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TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2022
11:00AM – 12:00PM

City Hall, Council Chambers
201 S. Cortez St.
Prescott, Arizona 86303
928-777-1130

Minutes for the **Mayor's Commission on Water Policy Review & Monitoring** meeting held **November 15, 2022.**

1. **Call to Order**
   Chairman Jim Lamerson called the meeting to order at 11:01 a.m.

2. **Pledge of Allegiance**

3. **Roll Call**

Phil Goode	Mayor – Present
James (Jim) Lamerson	Chair – Present
Robert (Bob) Roecker	Vice Chair – Present
Gary Beverly	Member – Present
Gillian Haley-Meierbachtol	Member – Present (10:38 a.m.)
Peter Kroopnick	Member – Present
Michael Taylor	Member – Present
Gary Worob	Member – Present

4. **Discussion & Action Items**

   A. **Approval of Minutes from October 18, 2022**

   BOB ROECKER MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE OCTOBER 18, 2022 MEETING; GARY WOROB 2ND THE MOTION, - PASSED [6-0]

   B. **Review Member's feedback on Policies 1-22**

   Prior to reviewing member feedback, general housekeeping items were discussed, including:

   a) The option for virtual attendance will no longer be available starting in January 2023, per a recent press release, dated November 10, 2022:

   "Prescott City Council and Boards, Commissions & Committees (BCCs) began conducting "hybrid" meetings during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic due to city hall closures. As a courtesy, these hybrid options have continued over the past year, however, as all city operations and services have returned to normal, beginning in January 2023 Council and all BCCs will no longer offer hybrid meeting options.
   As has always been the case, City Council Meetings will continue to air live on the City website, Facebook page and on Channel 64 and be available on-demand. Planning & Zoning Commission and Council Subcommittee on Water Issues will also continue to air live, and other BCCs will return to their in-person participation model."

b) The next Quarterly Update to City Council will take place on January 24, 2023, during the Study Session.

c) Proposed Goal Setting:

January-March 2023 Commission Meetings – Policy Effectiveness Benchmarks

- How the 2022 policy compares to the 2019 policy
- How the 2022 policy compares to a long-term water resource planning document (using Tucson's long-term plan, or another plan as an example)
- How to determine the remaining supplies available for use by new or increased demands (excluding the city's portion of the Big Chino supplies)
- Policies 1-22 and how they are working, or any uncertainties for how they work
- Commission members' recommendations related to future water resource management or data needs

April 2023 – Council Quarterly Update

- Present the Commission's findings and track the City's second allocation timeframe (January – June 2023)

Staff Liaison Leslie Graser presented a review of member feedback on Policies 1-22, which included input ranking the policies as Effective (E), Not Effective (NE), or Uncertain (UC).

Chairman Lamerson inquired about safe yield, and the statement that the City is not able to attain safe yield without importing water. Per Ms. Graser, that is what staff has been told, yes.

Ms. Graser continued with the presentation, focusing on Policies 1-3, New Applications. Limited feedback comments were provided prior to the meeting, however, Ms. Graser invited members to submit comments after today's meeting.

Member Gary Worob inquired about the commission looking into solutions related to safe yield. Chairman Lamerson commented in response, that the goal of this committee is to forward recommendations for the Water Policy to Council, based on the material given. Mayor Goode added that the commission focus is to analyze the Water Policy to be sure it is working with the correct intention. The commission may, at a later date, move on to broader issues, however, it is best to start with the main focus.

Continuing the presentation, no in-person comments were received for Policies 4-10, New Applications, per Ms. Graser. The next section covered was Policies 11-14, Water Budget.

Chairman Lamerson inquired about what assurances the City has or what measures the City may employ to guarantee that the water used outside the City is being used in the same manner as City residents. Ms. Graser requested clarification, as far as equal practices being used? Per Chairman Lamerson, that is correct. Member Gary Beverly added that Chairman Lamerson's inquiry applies to Chino Valley as well, and inquired about what happens in a situation where another city connects to that water supply.

Public Works Director, Ashley Couch, addressed the commission, and spoke about water conservation incentives available, and how they apply to both inside and outside City limits.

Chairman Lamerson thanked him for the information, however, expressed that his inquiry was related more to the equitability of the landowners of Prescott and concerns with a tax base increase due to water being used for a commercial purpose outside of the City. He reiterated that the concern is based on fairness to City of Prescott residents.

Vice Chairman Bob Roecker inquired of Director Couch, whether or not the water conservation incentives were measurable. Per Director Couch, yes, they are.

Ms. Graser continued the presentation, and opened discussion up for any feedback for Policies 15-16, Existing Contracts.

Member Michael Taylor inquired about Policy 15, and the steps involved if a subdivision requests additional lots. Per Ms. Graser, developers are being held to their current contracts. Should a request for additional lots be received, it would go through the same process as a new water service application. Member Worob commented about property owned by Michael Fann, and a situation with large lots being changed to smaller lots. Per Ms. Graser, that particular contract has had multiple revisions, and sometimes when the market changes the developer then needs to make changes accordingly as well. Community Development Planner, Tammy Dewitt, commented that there is currently one application under review, for a subdivision that has requested seven additional lots. Chairman Lamerson asked if these responses answered Member Taylor's inquiry; Member Taylor replied yes.

Member Gillian Haley-Meierbachtol inquired about tracking methods for existing contracts prior to the adoption of the 2022 Water Policy. The City does continue to track, per Ms. Graser. She explained that examples are needed, which can be brought to a future meeting, to illustrate how they are being tracked for water usage prior to the 2022 policy and how they are tracked now. Member Haley-Meierbachtol inquired about water that had not been used yet by the developers per their contracts. Per Ms. Graser, some of the water not yet used is due to some of the development areas not having been fully built out yet. She further explained that there is quite a wide range of development types, anywhere from a duplex to a master planned community. Every proposed development goes through the review process, per Director Couch, including existing contracts.

Chairman Lamerson inquired about a mechanism in place to build into the current Water Policy, and a set of standards that holds accountable the residents outside of city limits, in the same way as the residents within, as far as water usage. Per Director Couch, this would be more of a legal question. Chairman Lamerson responded and commented that the goal of such standards would be related to a detriment of developers outside of the city still utilizing water as though they were inside of city limits.

Vice Chairman Roecker inquired about dispensing limits for the EZ Street Bulk Water Dispensing Station, and a ballpark idea of how many acre feet per year gets dispensed. Per Director Couch, there currently is no limit to the amount that can be dispensed per user. He briefly explained a project in the works for a new card reader which would provide better tracking and possible account billing. Per Ms. Graser, about 17 acre feet is dispensed per year.

Member Peter Kroopnick inquired about variable rates and consequences if more water is used than allocated. Director Couch responded with an explanation on the tiered rate billing structure, and summarized that the more water used the higher the billing will be. The consequence is the higher rate; however, a new rate study is currently being reviewed.

Member Beverly expressed concern about the EZ Street Bulk Water Dispensing Station, and commented that there is a responsibility to residents on the edge of the aquifer area and how the Dispensing Station is vital to them.

Ms. Graser continued the presentation, and commented that overall, the City needs a plan for water management. Although these questions may take time to discuss, feedback is important for implementation of such a plan. Feedback review for Policies 17-18, Water Outside City Limits, and Policies 19-21, Water Portfolio, were discussed next.

Member Kroopnick inquired, prior to leaving the meeting, about water retained in the Water Resource Management Model (WRMM). Per Ms. Graser, the WRMM isn't necessarily set up to hold or bank water in separate pools or sections. Member Haley-Meierbachtol and Member Taylor both inquired about water being returned to the portfolio. Ms. Graser explained that the amount not used is retuned to a general pool in the water budget, and referred to Section 5 of the Water Policy, Available Water Supplies and City Policies. An example was provided in the presentation as well, by Ms. Graser.

C. Review and Discuss the Water Resources Management Model and the Policy

A brief review of the WRMM calculations, and the AMA maps were provided by Ms. Graser, and she explained how areas not yet platted are calculated in. The WRMM program was shared as part of the presentation by Ms. Graser, and she explained how the various sections work. She added that further review of the WRMM more in depth at a future meeting may prove beneficial.

Chairman Lamerson shared a final comment, about a past reservation of water with a prevailing wage scale for billing. He added that it may be worth discussion in the near future, as it relates to workforce in the area and affordability.

D. Next Meeting's Materials

The December meeting was cancelled, and the commission will reconvene in January 2023.

Prior to the January meeting, members were requested to:

a) Review and compare the 2019 and 2022 Water Policies and provide feedback
b) Compare the 2022 Water Policy to a long term plan and provide general feedback

The next meeting will take place on January 17, 2022, at 11:00 a.m.

5. Adjournment

There being no further items to discuss, Mr. Lamerson adjourned the meeting at 12:05 p.m.

Marikay Whisenand, Administrative Specialist

Jim Lamerson, Chairman

Date: 1/17/2023