



Meeting Minutes

Water Conservation Committee

Tuesday, August 16, 2016

6:00 PM

Goodyear City Hall
190 N. Litchfield Rd.
Goodyear, AZ 85338

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Columbia called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

1.1 Welcome and Opening Comments

1.2 Member and Staff Introductions

Committee members and alternate members who were unable to attend the July meeting introduced themselves and provided a brief description of their interest in serving on the committee.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: 13 - Chairman Columbia, Vice Chairman Barber, Committee Member Booth, Committee Member Faiello, Committee Member Gilmore, Committee Member Kagan, Committee Member Kaino, Committee Member Minarik, Committee Member Moll, Committee Member Smith, Committee Member Teiche, Alternate Lagunas and Alternate Neith

Staff Present: Water Resources Manager Mark Holmes, Water Conservation Specialist Sandra Rode, Water Resources Planning Advisor Gretchen Erwin and Public Works Administrative Assistant Vanessa Enriquez

Others Present: Facilitator Teresa Makinen and Assistant Rebecca Schulte

3. APPROVE MINUTES

3.1 [MINUTES](#) [60-2016](#) Approve draft minutes of the Water Conservation Committee meeting held on July 19, 2016.

Committee Member Minarik commented that he could not access the minutes for viewing. Committee Member Moll stated there was a link available to review them. Chairman Columbia requested the next email include directions on how to access the minutes.

Alternate Lagunas joined the meeting at 6:05 p.m.

MOTION BY Committee Member Faiello, SECONDED BY Committee Member Booth, to APPROVE draft minutes of the Water Conservation Committee meeting held on July

19, 2016. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: 11 - Chairman Columbia, Vice Chairman Barber, Committee Member Booth, Committee Member Faiello, Committee Member Gilmore, Committee Member Kagan, Committee Member Kaino, Committee Member Minarik, Committee Member Moll, Committee Member Smith and Committee Member Teiche

4. CITIZENS COMMENTS/ APPEARANCES FROM THE FLOOR

None.

5. OLD BUSINESS

5.1 Revised Meeting Schedule Agenda Topics

Facilitator Makinen reviewed the revised monthly meeting schedule based on committee member input at the July meeting. The monthly meeting schedule revision was approved by all committee members by a round table query.

Facilitator Makinen provided the available dates for the upcoming facility tours in October, and it was determined that all committee members were available for either a morning tour on October 12th or an afternoon tour on October 26th. It was clarified that it is the same tour on two different days. Facilitator Makinen will send notices with these dates.

6. NEW BUSINESS

6.1 Staff Presentations

6.1.1 Goodyear's Water Supplies and Anticipated Growth - Mark Holmes, Water Resources Manager

Presentation by Water Resources Manager Mark Holmes on Goodyear's Water Supplies and Anticipated Growth. (Note: the slides may be reviewed at www.goodyearaz.gov/h2o365. Select Water Conservation Committee.) The following is an overview of the questions and answer segments of the presentation.

Committee Member Minarik asked if California has done anything regarding water conservation. Holmes replied we are way ahead of California. We are using the same volume of water as recorded in 1957 and California cannot say the same. California is an agriculture-driven state, an industry that drives state policies. Minarik followed up asking if California had done the same water conservation planning as Arizona, would the impact on CAP been as extreme? Holmes replied that if they had, California would be more drought resistant. Minarik then asked for a recap on the recent speech from the Governor to the U. S. Department of the Interior, to which Holmes said that he has heard many speeches, but believes the speech Minarik is referencing is where it was stated that if California had done as Arizona has done, they would be okay. California has enacted massive conservation programs lately, having come a long way in a short time, but they still have a long way to go. Arizona is the most junior lower basin water rights holder within the watershed, and California has many

more water rights, but only a tiny portion of the state is within the watershed.

Committee Member Smith asked if California's watershed management was equal to zero. Holmes stated yes, California has a crisis-based water conservation effort. Folks (everywhere) believe that after heavy rains, everything is okay and they revert back to their regular practices. Arizona doesn't want to ever be in a crisis and is taking measures to prevent that.

Committee Member Kaino mentioned the San Joaquin Valley water depletion raids. Holmes stated that Arizona owns all the groundwater in the AMA's excepting those associated with grandfathered and service area rights, and spoke to the pumping allowances, various exemptions leading to water depletions, and limited water rights.

Committee Member Kagan asked if the Goodyear has any say in development when it comes to the area for Liberty Utilities (Liberty). Holmes stated that the city does have some say, and Liberty is regulated by the five commissioners of the Arizona Corporation Commission in regards to water rates, etc. Liberty has no water replenishment except by the Central Arizona Groundwater Replenishment District (CAGR) and is a member of the CAGR so customers pay assessed fees by yearly usages in their property taxes. The city and Liberty partner, with Liberty giving the city water during its highest demands. Kaino followed up asking if Liberty has a commitment to conservation. Holmes said they do follow the laws, goals and plans of the AMA.

Committee Member Faiello asked how many acre-feet (AF) of water per year is used sustainably for the aquifer in Goodyear? Holmes stated that we are ahead with 75,000-80,000 AF put in and stored for use by banking reclaimed and Central Arizona Project (CAP) water.

Committee Member Teiche asked for clarification on why with the groundwater levels dropping, it is being replenished 45 miles away. Holmes stated that is correct. In regards to pumping vs. recharging volume, there are areas of agriculture that use as much as 4-6 acre-feet per acre: our urbanized areas use less. The demands and process of evaporation by agriculture make demands much higher. We are pumping the volume we recharge and recovering water being raised by main storage facilities.

Committee Member Gilmore stated that while listening to NPR, ADWR claimed that CAP was protected until 2018 when all bets were off. Who is impacted by that? Holmes explained the process for declaring shortages and indicated he would have more to say about this at a later point.

Committee Member Moll asked about the conversion of agricultural land to industrial or subdivisions, does ADWR recognize that change in volume of use? Holmes stated that ADWR has formulas and calculations to determine the different usages, noting that the rights for agricultural use must be surrendered to the developers and eventually the water provider through several processes.

Alternate Lagunas asked if the city has plans for a treatment facility. Holmes stated that there have been discussions regarding this in the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) plans with

future funding options to consider; however, it is very costly at roughly \$30 million dollars not including the cost of transporting the water to the treatment plant.

Kaino stated that she had heard the term “armpit of the valley” referencing the Goodyear for water, and asked does our geography hurt us? Holmes stated that when you look at the future growth of the Phoenix Metro area, the West Valley has experienced growth, especially with accessibility to freeways, etc. that makes it geared to live, work and play much better than the East Valley, as long as we use water wisely, and rise above the challenges water supplies present.

Smith asked regarding agriculture and the 1980 groundwater management act law, does that affect just the AMA or outside the AMA? Holmes stated there are no new agricultural land expansions allowed, they are locked and are not expandable which stops agriculture. There are also some areas of the state outside AMAs where agricultural expansion is not allowed. Pumping water outside these areas is by permit only.

Kaino asked where Liberty effluent goes? Holmes stated that it is provided to the irrigation districts for their canals, for agricultural use. They are currently building a recharge site.

Vice-Chairman Barber asked if the purple pipes are marked by the purple signs (in Estrella). Holmes answered yes, that is direct delivered reclaimed water and is required by law to be marked for safety and is not treated to drinking water standards. Barber followed up asking if future golf courses are planned. Holmes said that according to the Associated Press, our area has too many golf courses and not as many golfers. New home buyers increasingly prefer activities such as biking and hiking. Committee Member Moll agreed, stating that the desired amenities include open space, walking paths and hiking trails and that there have actually been discussions in Ahwatukee to convert existing golf courses into residential areas.

Gilmore asked if retention basins that all cities require are effective in recharging rainwater they collect? Holmes stated the process of storing rainwater in large basins after a large amount of rain activity is not effective due to evaporation. Underground tanks are costly and have a long time to achieve return on investment. Recharge really occurs in the winter from mountain fronts that go into the aquifer and almost nothing recharges in the summer.

Moll stated that he heard about the Arizona Department of Water Resources (ADWR) negotiating the agreement with California which would reallocate CAP water. Holmes stated there is a 2007 shortage sharing agreement that impacts the Lower Basin states. Lake Mead is the water level indicator and there is work happening to resolve these complex issues. California is proactively working on it, along with Arizona and the other lower basin states.

Kagan asked if the projected build-out population is realistic. Holmes stated that these numbers reflect the General Plan population projections, based on data from the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) and is fine-tuned by historical statistical growth rates and will be reassessed periodically. The population is realistic if the city overcomes the groundwater challenges and has the wherewithal to do so.

Columbia asked about leak detection at single family homes, and the development of leak-detecting technology. Holmes stated there is a pilot program in Estrella testing Advanced Metering Instrumentation (AMI) which is collecting informative data on current water usage, and radios back this information for assessment. Any changes will raise red flags that could be used to prompt an email system to notify the owners. There are many challenges to implementing such a system for effective leak management, including: expense, water shutdowns if no contact can be made with owners, potential dead landscapes and the need for partnerships between the water suppliers and residents. Columbia shared personal details regarding his property leak and different engineering aspects.

Columbia asked whether the city is requiring building to reduce leaks. Holmes stated that Engineering Guidelines would be a future topic.

Teiche stated that there are 200 square miles in the Goodyear and asked if the current rules and regulations will hit the demand for water without conservation. Holmes stated the water we save now offsets new water purchases in the future: conservation is essential.

Moll stated that the presentation by Holmes was excellent. He asked when it comes to the undeveloped available land, what types of lands are available and would there be dramatic water usage on these areas? Holmes stated that there is agricultural land that will convert over to development which will occasion the loss of irrigation water rights; Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and State Trust lands which will be released; and private land holdings including industrial areas and airport industrial parks. There are some areas that will not be developed including the Sonoran Desert Monument, Flood Control District of Maricopa County areas and the Gila River area.

Faiello asked about hydrant flushing accounting and if construction water is reused. Holmes stated that operators try to flush to the sanitary sewer system without overburdening it. Flushing doesn't have enough head power to go to potable water lines. Construction must use potable water: potable water will be treated with a more conservative attitude because of the greater cost involved to use it. Faiello noted that he is familiar with trucks used to collect this water for later construction use.

Smith asked about the depth requirement of future injection wells, and Holmes said it will be approximately 100-120 feet, dependent on water table levels.

Kagan inquired about the oldest pipe infrastructure, and Holmes stated there are two 50-year-old wells that are due for replacement, but we have an asset management plan to help stay ahead of replacements.

7. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

None.

8. INFORMATION ITEMS

Chairman Columbia announced the next meeting is September 20, 2016 at 6:00 p.m.

9. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, Chairman Columbia adjourned the meeting at 8:02 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Mario Columbia, Chairman

Date: _____