



Meeting Minutes

Water Conservation Committee

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Tuesday, September 20, 2016

6:00 PM

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

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1. **CALL TO ORDER**

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

2. **ROLL CALL**

**Present:** 12 - Chairman Columbia, Vice Chairman Barber, 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

**Absent:** 1 - Committee Member Booth

**MOTION BY Committee Member Teiche, SECONDED BY Committee Member Faiello, to EXCUSE Committee Member Booth from the meeting. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** 10 - Chairman Columbia, Vice Chairman Barber, 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

**Absent:** 1 - Committee Member Booth

Committee Member Booth joined the meeting at 6:03 p.m.

3. **APPROVE MINUTES**

**MOTION BY Committee Member Kagan, SECONDED BY Committee Member Faiello to APPROVE the draft minutes from the Water Conservation Committee meeting held on August 16, 2016. The motion carried by the following vote:**

- 3.1 [MINUTES](#) Approve draft minutes of the Water Conservation Committee Meeting held on August 16, 2016.  
[68-2016](#)

**MOTION BY Committee Member Kagan, SECONDED BY Committee Member Faiello to APPROVE the draft minutes of the Water Conservation Committee meeting held on August 16, 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 Review of Purpose and Objectives of the Committee

Facilitator Makinen stated that she had received feedback from some committee members who felt tension regarding the committee roles and protocols. Makinen then reminded the committee of Robert's Rules and urged the committee members to think of meeting format as similar to a council study session. Makinen encouraged everyone to be more open and to think of the meetings as a mechanism for decision making, making it a common goal to listen to the information presented, so that the committee can make recommendations and priorities regarding water conservation. Chairman Columbia said that Water Planning Committee was similar and suggested a moment at each meeting dedicated to dealings between the committee members if everyone thinks it would be helpful. Makinen asked the members to not be shy.

##### 5.2 Review Meeting Schedule and Discuss Administration Items

Facilitator Makinen reviewed the dates for the upcoming facility tours, which are October 12th at 9:00 a.m. and October 26th at 1:00 p.m. and will last approximately 2.5 hours. Makinen stated that the tours will begin at the Water Reclamation Facility and from there go to the remaining stops on the tour, finishing with the tour of the Water Reclamation Facility itself. The intention is to try to cover every piece of water resources in the allotted 2.5-hour time frame. Makinen suggested that participants wear hats and closed toe shoes. The following lists the dates that the individual committee members selected to attend.

- > October 12th; Committee Members Kaino, Lagunas, Minarik, Neith, and Smith.
- > October 26th; Committee Members Barber, Booth, Columbia, Faiello, Kagan, Moll, Teiche and Gilmore.

Makinen stated that due to the facility tours, there will be no October formal meeting. The next formal meeting here will be November 15 and it will include presentations from several City of Goodyear departments, to include Parks and Recreation, Development Services, and Engineering and their roles as they pertain to water.

Committee Member Minarik stated that in regards to the tours, the Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station uses an extraordinary amount of water and that it might be worthwhile to visit the plant. Committee Member Kaino said it was a great idea and that she would love to go. Alternate Lagunas stated that she has been on that tour and she loved it. Makinen asked if

Committee Member Minarik would help coordinate an unofficial tour, to which he replied that he would send an email and help coordinate. Makinen asked if any members would like to voice their desire to attend this tour now and all replied they would like to go. Water Resources Manager Mark Holmes offered to connect with the Arizona Public Services Company (APS) water resources representatives to see if they would be available to discuss what water supply they are using and how. This unofficial tour should ideally take place before Thanksgiving, early November ideally.

Water Conservation Specialist Sandra Rode inquired when the December meeting was scheduled. It was agreed that the December meeting date would remain on December 20th.

Makinen said that during these monthly meetings, there are various items that are either recurring comments/ideas or will be addressed in future meetings; however, it is important that these topics not be forgotten. Moving forward, a “Parking Lot” of ideas will be added to a flip chart to ensure the topics are addressed at some point. To start, the ideas surfaced in previous meetings are as follows:

- Capturing water on site for recharge
- Rainwater harvesting
- Recycling water from hydrant and/or construction flushing
- Leak detection to reduce loss
- Effect of climate change
- Water conservation for pool owners

## **6. NEW BUSINESS**

### **6.1 Staff Presentations and Discussion**

Water Conservation Specialist Sandra Rode provided a presentation on Goodyear’s 2016 Water Conservation Status.

The following represents the first question and answer segment of the presentation. Committee Member Kaino asked if the water usage in the presentation includes farming and agriculture or is it just commercial or other output; and does it include Liberty Utilities service area? Rode answered that it doesn’t include agricultural usage. Rode said that specifically regarding usage, the numbers only represent Goodyear’s service area; however, some planning and management requirements are implemented in the whole city. Kaino stated she had seen information from Public Works regarding water conservation classes. She suggested that they offer additional days of the week to permit more attendance. Rode reviewed the current offerings and said other dates are added for flexibility.

Vice Chairman Barber asked that regarding the one high usage day in September, 2015 what was the trigger? Rode answered that it is unknown. They haven’t matched weather trends but there is nothing to say that it was particularly dry or hot that day. Barber said that there was a committee in 2013 called H2OwnIt. There were so many great ideas that maybe this committee should look at suggestions from that in the future. Rode replied that some are included in future meetings. Barber suggested that the deterrents be included as well. Lastly, Barber suggested

that the water conservation classes be taken out to the communities to encourage participation. Or, as Committee Member Smith suggested, they could be recorded and streamed online.

Committee Member Teiche asked whether the Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) program that is being piloted at CantaMia was working. Rode answered that she doesn't know if it is working because there have been difficulties retrieving data. They had the wrong transponders and other issues. Pilots are set up to identify glitches and possible fixes.

Chairman Columbia asked regarding the 19% reduction (in Gallons per Capita Per Day (GPCD)), is the 8% water loss correlated? Rode answered if unaccounted for water is reduced, then the loss would drop the GPCD. GPCD could go up if there is growth in non-residential use when population is not growing. Columbia stated that the summer is hot, do we know what loss could be from evaporation from pools? Rode answered that she will address that later as some things are known.

Columbia said that regarding the AMI program at CantaMia, it's embarrassing that it was due to having the wrong transmitters. Why wasn't this caught? Rode answered that the vendor installed the pilot and thought initially the issue was caused by the City's firewall. They conducted trouble shooting and identified the issue. Columbia stated he finds that alarming. Rode replied it is part of a pilot. Water Resources Manager Mark Holmes stated it is a learning experience with brand new meters that were retrofitted, a very small quantity of meters, and it's a very long process. It's not just new meters, it required set up for the data the City wanted to derive.

Columbia stated that they never talked about aquifer levels. What is the status with those levels and is that another gauge of water usage? Holmes asked if they recalled the map of the Phoenix Active Management Area from his previous presentation. Within the City of Goodyear there are yellow dots that showed aquifer declined between 0-5' - which is a miniscule decline. There are impacts the City can't control, for example, Liberty Utilities. Columbia asked if we reduce usage of water how will that impact the level of aquifer? Holmes answered reduction of GPCD doesn't necessarily tie to aquifer level. Columbia said his understanding is that once they reach a certain level, drilling stops. Holmes answered that the State of Arizona does not allow the water level to be drawn below 1000 feet below the surface. Columbia asked whether it is at 400 feet now. Holmes answered that depth to water varies across the Valley but it has been modeled.

Committee Member Moll stated that it seems that congratulations are due regarding the reduction in use. He then asked if there is a target we are working toward? Rode answered that it could be 1% per year as in the Integrated Water Master Plan or the Committee might recommend something more aggressive.

Smith stated that the proposed Arizona Department of Water Resources (ADWR) goal was 182 GPCD and we're already below that, so we're doing well. Rode stated that the City wants more businesses and they all use water so we could see that GPCD go up.

Committee Member Faiello stated that in the last meeting the push was for cleaning and

reusing flushed construction water. I believe it is worthwhile to look into “NO DES” which are filters for water from one hydrant to the next. He said they should look into that and Rode said they would discuss that with their water distribution people. Faiello said that commercial or industrial users could tilt the GPCD. He asked if it is required now for them to use the best available technology for water conservation in their business? Faiello doesn’t want to discourage businesses, but new businesses and for those upgrading, should be required to upgrade to the best available technology. Rode stated that if they are a very large user, the State has requirements they have to adhere to; however, the City could adopt them too. Arizona Municipal Water Users Association (AMWUA) has a study group working on that too for commercial and industrial users, who outside of the primary water use target for the committee.

Committee Member Kagan said she is surprised hearing that the City doesn’t currently have specific codes or regulations written to cover these things for business coming in or in existing businesses. Rode said they don’t have regulations that heavily specify that certain levels of efficiency are maintained or for a water conservation plan to be submitted to the City.

Kagan stated that she sees all the wonderful medians and sides of streets that are landscaped with plants. It looks to her that individually they would be low water use plants, but together this has to be a huge amount of water use and they should reduce more. Rode stated that it is true the collective water use adds up and that there are landscape guidelines for rights-of-way, parks, commercial, institutional use and others. In combination, commercial landscapes and streetscapes currently use 28% of all water in the City and need to reduce. Kagan stated that she saw a project in a neighboring city that includes hundreds of trees. She hopes they never do that in Goodyear. When businesses or communities are told to plant more to fit someone’s vision of what City should look like, it’s troubling to her. Rode answered that they will hear from Development Services regarding landscape guidelines in the future; however, it is an ongoing discussion between the City, builders, developers, etc. because residents want comfort and shade but the city needs to balance water use and shade provision.

Committee Member Minarik said he wanted to make sure he understood that there are no industrial or commercial water conservation plans required by the City. Rode confirmed that this is correct. Minarik said that “Testing use of limited rainwater harvesting” was mentioned in the presentation. What was done? Rode said they looked at sites where it is safe to collect water off buildings to recycle and installed plants in a way that they could use that water. Minarik confirmed that Rode said that 1% residential users are extraordinarily high in consumption. Rode confirmed that the highest 1% of users in the City’s use far exceeds that of average customers (starting at three times the average). The City contacts those users annually.

Teiche asked if the State conservation requirements that Rode referenced during her presentation were related to potable or non-potable water. Rode replied that they are related to groundwater or non-groundwater. If there is any groundwater used, then the user is required to be in the program and report to the State. Columbia asked if the burden is on the owner of the property and Rode answered yes, to conserve water.

Barber told the others of an experience she had where she contacted the City because a neighbor had water gushing into the street but they were away for the summer. She was made

aware at that time that the City cannot turn off water to home without prior owner notification. While the City can usually get in contact with the owner, if they are unable to, the City will take action at some point and turn off water but there is a process. Holmes stated if the water were turned off for several days, the impact could be expensive, for example by harming landscaping. Barber suggested that it would be great if there could be a program that you could opt into allowing the City to turn off the water in the event they needed to. Holmes agreed that it was a great idea.

Minarik asked whether there a real fine for draining pool water to the street. Rode answered that they don't usually fine someone, but there is one established of approximately \$1,000 per occurrence. Minarik replied that he thinks \$2,500 it would be a better deterrent. Rode stated that it's potentially a civil misdemeanor. In extreme water shortages it would be considered criminal water theft. The first visit is always educational. Alternate Lagunas asked how the City educates the people of Goodyear about proper ways to drain pools. Rode said there are Infocus articles once a year, a web page, and bill inserts. However, if more communication is needed, they could do it. Barber asked if there is a phone number to report people draining them improperly and Rode answered that people can call Goodyear's Public Works department or use the application "Public Stuff" which funnels the concern to the correct department. Barber suggested putting the phone number on the sides of the trash trucks as well. Columbia stated that would be good information in a new home purchase package. Columbia stated that he doesn't believe any of the participants knew there was a number to call and said that marketing is important and needs improvement. Holmes stated it could have a word phone number, for example, 623-water-off. Rode stated they have had campaigns in the past. Holmes stated police have the application software too, and are encouraged to report waste they spot.

Kagan asked if they provide the same service to those in the Liberty Utilities service area. Rode confirmed that the Water Conservation Specialist does.

At 8:03 p.m., Kristy Lagunas, Thomas Neith and Marlon Booth leave the meeting.

Committee Member Gilmore mentioned that commercial and industrial projects use a separate meter for landscaping but it's not typically done for residential due to the expense. Since the cost is high, is it possible to scale down or have a dual meter to make feasible? Gilmore thinks it would probably be an effective way to measure actual use and conservation. This idea was placed in the Parking Lot for investigation.

Gilmore said that he understands that it is a different kind of supply but for a while Goodyear was planning for a secondary water line for reclaimed water but that seems to have slowed down now. Rode stated that Holmes had reviewed this in his presentation and that now the reclaimed water is being put towards recharge. Columbia suggested it be mentioned in the Water Conservation classes and Rode said it could be.

Rode announced a water festival October 24 and 25 and invited committee members to volunteer. There are opportunities to teach 4th graders to conserve water, after free training. There will be about 1,000 kids from the Litchfield Elementary School District. It is targeted toward 4th graders since it is included in their science content.

Columbia said that resourcing is important for the City's water conservation efforts since the City currently only has one person dedicated. Columbia asked how does Goodyear compare to other cities our size? Holmes reminded participants that Goodyear serves 40,000 residents and Liberty does the rest. Comparison of staffing levels to water service area size and demand among area cities was placed on Parking Lot.

Columbia asked who handles the Home Irrigation Check-ups that Rode referred to in her presentation. Rode replied that she alone handles these on a request basis; however, they have stopped until January 2017 due to staffing. Rode stated it could be expanded, based on interest. It is highly effective but they don't have the resources currently. This year, Public Works also didn't send the 1% letters out.

Minarik asked if they have cut back on the Irrigation Tune-ups too. Rode answered that they are requested so infrequently that they haven't cut that program. Columbia asked why the City doesn't call the HOA's to schedule or offer to schedule. Rode answered they had several years back and this summer a few of the newer smaller HOAs requested this type of assistance when contacted about conserving.

Kagan stated it looks like it is hard to unify Goodyear when Liberty seems to walk to a different beat. Rode answered that the private water providers are subject to different requirements, however we can influence them and do partner on some projects.

Faiello stated that in the past (when he lived elsewhere) he participated in a program to get more buy in where the bill showed your usage vs last year as well as your neighbor's. It encouraged competition and worked well. Faiello also suggested a smart irrigation controller incentive. These controllers keep the irrigation from turning on if it rains for instance. Faiello also suggested for owners of pools that there be an ordinance or code that requires any new pool filters to be of the cartridge type and not sand filters that require backwashing. Rode stated that these fit some of the Parking Lot items.

Teiche stated that the individual who manages the Estrella Mountain facilities could come talk to the group. He does a lot with water conservation on their property. Teiche will connect with him regarding his availability for the December meeting.

Due to the hour, final slides were held until the November meeting.

6.1.1 2008 Conservation Plan and Implementation, Current Conservation Programs (Sandra Rode)

This item was held until the November meeting.

6.1.2 Overview of Water Use Trends (Sandra Rode)

This item was held until the November meeting.

**7. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

None.

**8. INFORMATION ITEMS**

Committee Member Faiello asked if there is a building code that requires or could require pervious pavement. Water Conservation Specialist Rode stated that is a good question for when the Engineering department presents at a future meeting.

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to discuss, Chairman Columbia adjourned the meeting at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:

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Mario Columbia, Chairman

Date: \_\_\_\_\_