

CITIZENS' WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
(CWAC)

Wednesday, September 6, 2023, 8:00 a.m.

Virtual Meeting – Microsoft Teams

**Legal Action Report and Meeting Minutes**

**1) Call to Order / Opening Statement:**

CWAC Chair Rory Juneman called the meeting to order at 8:02 a.m.

**2) Roll Call:**

Those present and absent were:

**Present:**

Rory Juneman, Chair	Representative, City Manager
Alison Jones, Vice Chair	Representative, Ward 6
Ed Hendel	Representative, Mayor
Juliet McKenna	Representative, City Manager
Val Little	Representative, City Manager
Andrea Gerlak*	Representative, City Manager
Raul Ramirez*	Representative, Ward 1
Lisa Shipek*	Representative, Ward 3
Robert Jaramillo	Representative, Ward 5
Melissa Lal	Representative, Ward 4
James Doyle	Ex-Officio (Non-Voting) Pima County Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department
John Kmiec	Ex-Officio (non-Voting) City of Tucson Water Department Director

**Absent:**

Roxanna Valenzuela	Representative, Ward 2
Steven Washburn	Representative, City Manager

**3) Announcements** – Chair Rory Juneman announced that Raye Winch resigned from the committee on Tuesday, September 5, 2023.

**4) Review and approval of June 7, 2023, Legal Action Report and Meeting Minutes– Motion:** Member Jones moved to approve the Legal Action Report & Meeting Minutes. Member McKenna duly seconded the motion. **Discussion:** None. The **motion passed** on a roll-call vote of 8 – 0.

**5) Director's Report** – Tucson Water Director John Kmiec provided brief updates as follows:

a) Potable and Reclaim Demand

\* Raul Ramirez left the meeting at 09:12a

Lisa Shipek arrived at 8:04a

Andrea Gerlak arrived at 8:07a

- i) Seven-day rolling average
- b) Mayor and Council items:
  - i) August 8:
    - Approved: IGAs with Arizona Valley Cities for Storage, Exchange, and Recovery
    - SS: PFAS Quarterly Update
    - Notice of Intent to adjust commercial and industrial water rates
  - ii) September 6
    - SS: 1W2100 Draft Plan, Water Resources Update, 2024 CAP Order, and Colorado River Update
- c) PFAS Update
- d) Colorado River Update
- e) **Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP)** - Silvia Amparano, Tucson Water Deputy Director, provided an update on the program.

Members asked questions; Director Kmiec fielded questions throughout his report to clarify information for the committee and provide important information on water matters.

- 6) **\*\*Proposed Commercial & Industrial Rate Changes** – Amber Kerwin, Tucson Water Rate Manager, provided the committee with an overview of the proposed changes; the items reviewed and presented were:
  - a) Mayor and Council Direction
  - b) Current Structure Overview
    - i) Review of sample accounts
  - c) Proposed Changes
    - i) Rate Impact changes
    - ii) Customer Impacts
    - iii) Sample account reviews
    - iv) Rate Comparisons
  - d) Outcomes

The committee held an open discussion. Staff's recommendation: "The committee may vote on which proposed commercial and industrial rate structure change they support, 1A or 1B."

**Motion:** Member Hendel moved to support option 1B. Member Shipek duly seconded the motion. Discussion: Member Jones had concerns about the effects of hospitals and unintended consequences; her preference is to support option 1A. Member Mckenna did not support option 1B based on impacts to schools and possible reductions in funding and understanding of the impacts or the extremity of the impacts. Member Shipek wanted to ensure any recommendations offered enhancements to conservation programs. Chair Juneman did not have enough information to support 1B. The motion failed on a roll-call vote of 2 – 6.

Chair Juneman called for the pleasure of the committee, reminding the committee this item is the request of the Mayor and Council for feedback.

**Motion:** Member Lal motioned to support option 1A. Member Shipek duly seconded the motion. Discussion: Member Jones felt the motion was more palatable and remains concerned with impacts. Chair Juneman acknowledged the concerns and comments from the Finance subcommittee regarding the tiered changes. Member Gerlak spoke to the concerns of a vote without knowing who would be impacted. Member Juneman reiterated the changes for option 1A, which seemed to be a smaller change to customers. Member Little does not support 1A, based on a series of rate increases impacting customers. Member Little also encouraged Member Shipek to make another motion exploring conservation programs for commercial and industrial users. The motion passed on a roll-call vote of 7 – 1.

Chair Juneman advised he would draft a memorandum supporting Option 1A and add comments supporting the exploration of Conservation Programs for Commercial and Industrial Users. A review of the memorandum can be included in the October agenda.

- 7) **Tucson Water Staffing Update** -Ashley Tellez, City of Tucson Human Resources Manager, provided an update from her March presentation. The items reviewed and presented were:
  - a) National Trends
    - i) Job Market
    - ii) The Great Unknown - Office Occupancy rates
      - (1) Why return to the office?
  - b) Tucson Water trends (five years)
    - i) Separations 66
      - (1) Separations due to retirement 29 % at 32
    - ii) Promotions 45
    - iii) New Hires 77
  - c) Retention
    - i) Compensation Plan
    - ii) Recruitment Changes
  - d) Employee experience
    - i) Objectives
      - (1) Business Support
      - (2) Knowledge
      - (3) Performance
      - (4) Culture & Connection
- 8) **Call to Audience** – None
- 9) **Future Meeting / Agenda Items** – Maintain PFAS within the Directors Office Report to receive continued updates.
- 10) **Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 10:04 a.m.