

CITIZENS' WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE
(CWAC)

Wednesday, October 4, 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 8:00 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
Steven Washburn	Representative, City Manager
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

Absent:

John Kmiec Ex-Officio (non-Voting) City of Tucson Water Department Director

3) Announcements – Chair Rory Juneman announced that Roxana Valenzuela resigned from the committee on Tuesday, October 3, 2023. Central Arizona Project (CAP) will hold the annual Board Meeting in Pima County at the Arizona Inn. The meeting will begin at 10 a.m., and the Policy meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m.

4) Review and approval of September 6, 2023, Legal Action Report and Meeting Minutes – Motion: Member Jones moved to approve the Legal Action Report & Meeting Minutes. Member Washburn duly seconded the motion. **Discussion:** None. The **motion passed** on a roll-call vote of 9 – 0.

5) Director's Report – Tucson Water Deputy Director Silvia Amparano provided brief updates as follows:

a) Mayor and Council items:

* Raul Ramirez arrived at 08:11
Melissa Lal left the meeting at 09:15

- i) September 6
SS: 1W2100 Draft Plan, Water Resources Update, 2024 CAP Order, and Colorado River Update
- ii) September 19
SS: PFAS related Projects and recommended uses of the 2023-2025 Colorado River Conservation Funds
- iii) October 17
SS: Pilot of a Small Agriculture Rate
Public Hearing: Commercial Rate Structure changes
Regular Meeting: Adoption of the 1W2100 Plan
- b) Colorado River Update
- c) Potable and Reclaim Demand
- d) Human Resources Vacancy Report

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

- 6) **One Water 2100 update** – Jaimie Galayada, Tucson Water Lead Planner, provided an update to the plan before the October 17 Mayor and Council meeting. The items reviewed and discussed were:
- a) Common questions and public feedback on "How to grow a community with less water" and strategies for consideration.
 - b) New Resources page
 - i) Strategies for Direct Potable Reuse (DPR), Indirect potable reuse, and Advance Metering Infrastructure (AMI)
 - c) Cost Benefit Analysis
 - d) New Water Sources: Stormwater
 - e) Project Management- 1W2100 Strategic Implementation Plan
 - i) Project Manager with new processes and additional staff

The committee held an open discussion. No action was taken on this item.

- 7) **Small Farms Rate** - Amber Kerwin, City of Tucson Water Rates Manager, provided an informative presentation on the rate proposal and pilot program. The items reviewed and presented were:
- a) Mayor and Council Direction: October 18, 2022
 - i) expand the community garden water rate to include small-scale and local agriculture
 - b) Recommended Pilot Program
 - i) Expand Community Garden rate class to for-profit small agricultural producers.
 - ii) Amend eligibility criteria with requirements targeted towards small agricultural producers.

- iii) Provide the same irrigation and backflow device financing to approved applicants.
- iv) Partner with Pima County Food Alliance on applicant review, eligibility screening, recertifications, and audits.
- v) 3-year pilot to understand the financial impact and consumption.

c) Definition & Eligibility

d) Next Steps

The committee held an open discussion following the presentations. They discussed the value of water and the uses of water as a community. The committee's points of interest were:

- a) Local food production is a basic need with added value
- b) Reclaim Water and subsidy rates
- c) What are the conservation requirements?
- d) Sustainable food growth
- e) Small-scale food growers and local food markets
 - a. Necessary surveys
- f) Zoning regulations
- g) Historically, do pilot programs transition into policy and implement programs?
- h) Benefits provided to commercial, for-profit businesses
 - a. Pursue the complications before implementing
- i) Destabilizing Water Rates
- j) Data collection and analysis for reduced rates to a limited community
 - a. Equity for ratepayers
 - b. Subsidized study
 - c. Definition of specific scientific metrics
- k) What are the objectives for this pilot before rate implementation?
 - a. Conservation of resources
 - b. Assistance to small food growers
- l) Identification of the population impacted

No Action was taken on this item.

8) **2023-2025 Colorado River Compensated System Conservation Fund Projects** - Scott Schladweiler, Tucson Water Deputy Director, shared the request for direction from the Mayor and Council on using the Colorado River System Conservation funds.

- a) Three (3) year commitment to conserve up to 150,000 according to the Bureau of Reclamation agreement.
 - i) In 2023, 50,000 acre-feet was conserved at \$400 per acre-foot totaling \$20M
 - ii) Expected conservation in 2024: 30,000 acre-feet at \$400 per acre-foot totaling \$12M
 - iii) Expected conservation in 2025: 30,000 acre-feet at \$400 per acre-foot, totaling \$12M
- b) Compensated System Conservation Projects
 - i) \$23.4M Northwest Wells PFAS Project
 - ii) \$8.0M CAVSARP/SAVSARP Facility Upgrades
 - iii) \$10.0M Tres Rios Reclaimed Water System Project
 - iv) \$1.25M Shirley C. Scott Southeast Houghton Area Recharge Project (SHARP) Expansion Project (COT & Federal)

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- v) \$1.0M local match for AMI (Advanced Metering Infrastructure) Implementation Phase I project
 - vi) \$0.35M contingency
- 9) **Subcommittee Reports** - Each subcommittee chair reviewed agenda item discussions held at previous meetings and updated the committee on future subcommittee topics.
- 10) **Call to Audience** – None
- 11) **Future Meeting / Agenda Items** – Chair Juneman reviewed the current agenda list and requested members to send future items to Jessica Rodriguez.
- 12) **Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 10:01 a.m.