CITY OF PRESCOTT

COUNCIL SUBCOMMITTEE ON WATER ISSUES MEETING

REGULAR SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, JUNE 7, 2022, 9:30 a.m.

201 S Cortez Street
Prescott, AZ 86303
Council Chambers

Cathey Rusing, Mayor Pro Tem - Chairperson
Brandon Montoya, Councilman – Member **Steve Sischka, Councilman - Member**

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING OF THE PRESCOTT COUNCIL SUBCOMMITTEE ON WATER ISSUES HELD ON JUNE 7, 2022 IN THE 201 S CORTEZ STREET PRESCOTT, AZ 86303 COUNCIL CHAMBERS.

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
   Member Montoya called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

2. **ROLL CALL**

Cathey Rusing	Chairperson – attended via Zoom
Brandon Montoya	Member
Steve Sischka	Member

3. **PUBLIC COMMENT**
   Public comment will be accepted following each agenda item and are limited to three (3) minutes. Please complete a comment card and return it to the City Clerk, speakers will be called in the order received.

4. **DISCUSSION & ACTION ITEMS**

   A. Approval of the April 5, 2022, Subcommittee on Water Issues Meeting Minutes

MOTION BY MEMBER SISCHKA TO APPROVE THE APRIL 5, 2022 MEETING MINUTES; SECONDED BY MEMBER MONTOYA: PASSED [3 – 0].

B. Recommendation for Approval of a Revision to Prescott City Code 3-10-8: Water Conservation Code, Incentive Program to Add an Additional Rebate Tier for a Hot Water Recirculation System.

Water Resource Project Manager Kay Sydow provided a presentation to the Subcommittee regarding consideration of revision of Prescott City Code 3-10-8. The proposed revision will add a hot water recirculation system to the current rebate program. The program could save as much as 10,000 gallons of water per year, per installation, based on an average family unit of four. This program was in effect in 2006 but was removed in 2010 due to lack of participation. Ms. Sydow conferred with Elissa Klein, the Water Conservation Program Supervisor in Scottsdale, AZ who stated that Scottsdale discontinued their hot water recirculation system rebate program because water savings for this rebate were not statistically significant. Ms. Sydow added that further research indicates that there are no other Arizona cities or communities that have hot water recirculating systems in their rebate program.

Member of the public and Executive Director of the Yavapai County Contractors Association (YCCA), Sandy Griffis, addressed the Subcommittee via email, stating that the expense of adding a hot water recirculating system to an existing home is great and that the city would do better to increase the rebates for toilets, irrigation systems, dishwashers, high efficiency washing machines, rainwater harvesting installation units, and the replacement of concrete for permeable pavers.

Member Sischka asked if there is a rebate program for replacing concrete with permeable pavers.

Ms. Sydow responded there is not.

Public Works Director Ashley Couch addressed the Subcommittee stating that decomposed granite and low water use plants are typically used in place of turf, however there is such a thing as permeable concrete that can be used in place of concrete.

Ms. Sydow presented the pros and cons of the hot water recirculating system adding that if Council approves the item, a $150 rebate is suitable.

<u>Pros</u>

- Can save 1-3 minutes waiting for hot water at a faucet
- Can save 10,000 gallons of water per year
    - On average, 1-3 gallons of water is wasted waiting for hot water
- Can save money over the long term

<u>Cons</u>

- Initial cost can be high
- Water can be lukewarm water to start
- Changing the sensor valve may be required every two years
    - Is an additional cost
    - May have to replace the entire pump if sensor valve is housed in it
- Needs an electrical outlet
    - May be an additional cost to hire an electrician
    - The outlet needs to be within 30 inches of the pump

    - An extension cord is not recommended
- Damage to the unit after a water outage is probable
    - Can result in claims for damage against the City of Prescott

Mr. Couch stated that in Scottsdale, where he previously worked, the program was discontinued primarily because of water outage damage to the units and the resulting significant cost to the city.

Chair Rusing commented that during a water outage, the pump must be turned off. Suggested the public be made aware and agree to hold the city harmless. Feels this rebate is worthwhile if it can save water and should be considered.

Member Sischka asked how much the rebate will be and stated that he finds it hard to believe that 10,000 gallons of water can be saved using a hot water recirculation system.

Ms. Sydow replied that staff is suggesting a $150 rebate.

Member Montoya asked Mr. Couch how much of a rebate Scottsdale was offering, adding that he would like to see some data showing that the $150 rebate is incentive enough given the total cost to install could reach $900. Suggested reaching out to YCCA and the Citizens Water Advocacy Group (CWAG) for assistance on gathering supporting data. Asked how much money is available in the rebate program.

Ms. Sydow responded that $40,000 is budgeted each fiscal year but staff will exceed that amount if necessary, adding that they have not exceeded the budgeted amount this fiscal year.

Member Sischka commented that since more people use dishwashers, incentivizing water efficient dishwashers seems to be a more useful than forcing people to spend extra money on a hot water recirculation system.

Member of the public, Howard Mechanic addressed the Subcommittee stating that he would be willing to help with the requested supporting data. He asked what the savings per gallon would be for homeowners and how much water will the city save based on money invested. Also, he noted that the electricity usage required to run these units is as much as running two refrigerators, and that this extra electricity usage will result in carbon pollution.

Member of the public, Leslie Hoy addressed the Subcommittee stating that she installed a recirculating hot water pump years ago and noticed a difference in their water use immediately. She stated that there isn't any harm from offering the rebate and increasing people's awareness of hot water recirculating systems. Also, she added that she feels it is a good idea to review all possible rebates and to increase the rebate budget since that has not been done under the new administration.

Deputy Public Works Director Gwen Rowitsch addressed the Subcommittee stating that to date, just over $29,000 has been rebated.

Member Montoya asked what item the city gives rebates on most frequently.

Ms. Rowitsch responded that the most popular rebates in terms of quantity are toilets and washing machines. In terms of reduction of water usage, the most cost-effective rebate is turf. A summary of the annual rebates for FY2022 will be provided in July.

Member Sischka commented that he agrees with Member Montoya's suggestion to confer with the YCCA and others who are interested in bettering the rebate program and increasing the budgeted amount for rebates.

Chair Rusing suggested a Study Session on the rebate program to raise awareness and investigate improvements, adding that the recirculating pumps would not be mandated, only suggested.

MOTION BY MEMBER MONTOYA TO FORWARD ITEM 4.B. TO COUNCIL FOR APPROVAL; SECONDED BY CHAIRPERSON RUSING: PASSED [3 – 0].

C. Focus Topic: Water Resource Management Model.

Water Resource Project Manager Leslie Graser provided a presentation to the Subcommittee regarding the Water Resources Management Model (WRMM). Ms. Graser reviewed the WRMM and its intended uses, how data is used in the model and how a "what-if" scenario is used for projection planning.

Member Sischka asked if the WRMM looks at actual use and what the .17 depicted in the presentation reflects.

Ms. Graser responded that it does, and the 0.17 depicts all single-family accounts. She continued with a presentation of an overlay of the three municipalities in the General Plan area: Prescott, Prescott Valley and Chino Valley, and the city's water service area. Ms. Graser noted that it is important to realize that there are three versions of the WRMM, the General Plan Boundary, Water Service Area, and the customized version prepared for the Decision and Order (D&O).

Member Montoya asked if the WRMM is collecting data from Prescott Valley and Chino Valley water usage.

Ms. Graser responded that the city entered into a mutual aid agreement with Chino Valley, so they are receiving assistance entering their information into the WRMM and in the future that information will be entered into the WRMM data sets.

This item was for discussion only, no formal action was taken.

5. GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM STAFF

Ms. Graser provided the general announcements to the Subcommittee:

NAMWUA Board Meeting held on April 15, 2022

- Action Item – Election of a Board Chair, Roger Kinsinger (Prescott Valley Councilman) former Councilman Blair stepped down. Also new board leadership positions.
- Non-Action Item - Direct Potable Reuse Presentation by Erin Young (City of Flagstaff Water Resource Manager and AZ Water Reuse VP)
- Informational Items
    - Governor's Water Group (GWAICC) met November 30, 2021; next meeting scheduled in June
    - Arizona Water Authority Legislation – now the Arizona Augmentation Authority, no legislation has been introduced yet, may be handled in a Special Session
    - Arizona Water Awareness Month
    - Financial Reports – current total assets are $21,511.23
- Next Meeting is July 15, 2022, 10 a.m. in Flagstaff

Coalition Board meeting held on April 27, 2022

- Councilman Montoya has been appointed to the Board as the Vice Chair
- TAC Membership had a member retire, Ms. Graser will assist with Chair responsibilities
- Grant topics discussed
    - Rainwater Harvesting – first deliverable due June 30th
    - USDA NRCS Grant Agreement – 2.7 million grant with an add-on of 3 million
    - Other Grant Project updates – dues from Yavapai County will be $40,000

ADWR Fifth Management Plan

- Hearing and Public comments – May 31, 2022
- Findings and Adoption – TBD, but within 30 days of hearing
- Notice of Conservation Requirements – TBD
- Plan is effective January 1, 2025 and remains in effect until state legislation determines otherwise.

Highland Center for Natural History – Water Awareness Festival

- Date was changed to Saturday, June 25th due to the Crooks Fire
- Will be held 9 a.m. to noon
- Event is free to the public however they request you register in advance
- Event is sponsored by City of Prescott WaterSmart

Ms. Rowitsch detailed the new water management policy location on the city's website and briefly discussed how to access the policy and the approved projects from the webpage.

This item was for discussion only, no formal action was taken.

6. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, Member Montoya adjourned the meeting at 10:38 a.m.

Cathey Rusing, Chairperson

ATTEST:

Jennifer Wiita, Deputy City Clerk

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Regular Subcommittee Meeting of the Council Subcommittee on Water Issues of the City of Prescott, Arizona held on June 7, 2022. I further certify the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Dated this 8th day of July, 2022.

AFFIX CITY SEAL

Jennifer Wiita, Deputy City Clerk