

COUNCIL SUBCOMMITTEE ON WATER ISSUES MEETING

REGULAR SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES TUESDAY, JUNE 1, 2021, 9:30 AM

201 S Cortez Street
Prescott, AZ 86303
Council Chambers

Steve Blair, Councilman - Chairman

Phil Goode, Councilman – Member

Steve Sischka, Councilman - Member

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING OF THE PRESCOTT COUNCIL SUBCOMMITTEE ON WATER ISSUES HELD ON JUNE 1, 2021, IN THE 201 S CORTEZ STREET PRESCOTT, AZ 86303 COUNCIL CHAMBERS.

The following Agenda will be considered by the Prescott Council Subcommittee on Water Issues at Regular Subcommittee Meeting pursuant to the Prescott City Charter, Article II, Section 13. Notice of the meeting is given pursuant to Arizona Revised Statutes, Section 38-431.02. One or more members of the Council may be attending the meeting through the use of a technological device.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Blair called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Chairman Steve Blair
Member Steve Sischka
Member Goode

3. DISCUSSION & ACTION ITEMS

Public Comment will be accepted following each agenda item and 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.

A. Approval of the April 6, 2021 Meeting Minutes.

MOTION BY MEMBER SISCHKA TO APPROVE ITEM 4.A; SECONDED BY MEMBER GOODE: PASSED [3-0].

B. Infrastructure Topic - Pumping vs. Recharge 2021 Update

Water Resource Project Manager Leslie Graser presented the Monthly Water Pumped in acre feet (AF) vs. Recharge Deliveries (AF) for calendar year (CY) 2021 data:

- April 2021 Pumping - 666.91 AF
- April 2021 Effluent Delivery - 109 AF
- April Surface Water Deliveries - 93 AF

Total Pumped:

- Total Pumped – 1,967.76 AF
- Total Delivered to Recharge – 1,132.33 AF of which 1,039.04 was reclaimed effluent, 93.29 was surface water.
- Percent Pumped vs. Delivered to Recharge – 61%

Ms. Graser noted that effluent is fairly constant but depends on what our direct users need, surface water recharge did not start early this year and is reflected in the chart.

Member Goode commented that he has calculated the numbers year to date and noted that in comparison to 2020 effluent deliveries are down 28.9%, surface water deliveries are down 90.9%, and water pumped is up 15.4%. Noted that we now have data to show trends.

Ms. Graser thanked Councilman Goode for running the numbers and stated that data has been tracked for years, and that data is used to predict the rough patch currently in.

Chairman Blair asked if pumping is up because people are using more water to keep their plants and trees alive.

Ms. Graser answered that is definitely part of it, and added that teaching people how to water correctly is part of outreach.

Member Sischka asked about the water levels in city's wells and previous discussions regarding providing those numbers once per quarter. He stated it is important that the subcommittee understands what is happening in the ground and would like the report on water levels as frequently as possible.

Ms. Graser stated that information is collected by the State and brought to the Subcommittee, will likely be available to the Subcommittee at the July meeting. She asked for confirmation on which wells the Subcommittee would like data on.

Member Sischka responded just the city's wells and asked if there is an estimate on how deep the aquifer is in the Little Chino, he would like to show the public that an aquifer is not one large pool of water.

Chairman Blair asked how the levels in the Chino fields are affected given the city is pulling one-third of its water from the airport rather than the Chino fields and asked if the State allows an individual family home to use their well to irrigate farm-fresh foods.

Ms. Graser responded that well levels are dependent on how much competition is out there, she will present static water level information, difference between the airport and Chino fields, and a review of area geology in a future Power Point. Ms. Graser noted if Chairman Blair is speaking of the Paulden area, is outside of the Active Management Area, so there is no regulation.

Chairman Blair expressed he would like the State to do more to manage those wells.

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

C. Focus Topic – Permanent Recharge

Ms. Graser introduced a presentation on the city's physical, accounting, and reporting practices for permanent recharge, and noted the city started reported and tracking this information in 2016.

Physical:

- Permanent Recharge is underground water storage that is non-recoverable, is a highly-encouraged practical and cost-effective means of storing excess water supplies so that they may be used in the future.
- At the request of the applicant, director may designate a water storage permit as storing non-recoverable water. If occurs in an active management area, may be designated non-recoverable only if consistent with the active management area's augmentation program.
- Water storage permit designated as storing non-recoverable water may not be recovered on an annual basis, may not be credited to a long-term storage account, and may not be used for replenishment purposes.
- Only Effluent Supplies are used for Permanent Recharge.

Chairman Blair expressed his frustration that the city is putting all Prop 400 water into permanent recharge where the water can be used by anyone with no controls on the other side.

Ms. Graser commented that from the State's point of view, the city was not forced to choose a non-recoverable permit.

Accounting:

- When annexed areas meet the requirement of 250 acres or more, and begin development, placement of a return flow meter is required and metered data collection begins.
- Metered data is subsequently available for review and incorporated into the city's Annual Water Withdrawal and Use Report.
- A total number of permanent recharge is not available until the end of the calendar year.
- There are two areas in the city that are monitored by a return flow meter, Granite Dells Estates and Deep Well Ranch.

Member Goode asked how many homes were contributing to the permanent recharge in Granite Dells Estates and Deep Well Ranch.

Ms. Graser responded she does not have that information and will email to Member Goode.

Member Sischka commented that he asked Public Works Director Craig Dotseth about the percentage of return from the new developments and was told the meters are showing more recharge than what is being sent to the development, finds this somewhat hard to believe and feels is important to know what percentage the city is getting back from the Prop 400 developments.

Ms. Graser responded that meters fail, but she and Mr. Dotseth have a back-up plan to report as closely as possible in the case of meter failure.

Reporting:

- City files an Annual Water Withdrawal and Use Report annually
 - 38.3 AF of reclaimed water permanently recharged in CY 2020
 - Numbers are provisional through the year, final number available at end of year
 - Evaporation losses have to be considered in final report

Member Sischka commented the Subcommittee is not so much interested in specific numbers as trends. He would like a quarterly report regarding approximate numbers and the trend they indicate.

Ms. Graser responded that unless there is a reason staff cannot put that information together, but they will work on getting that to the Subcommittee quarterly.

Member of the public Howard Mechanic commented that there is a lot of confusion about what permanent recharge is. Almost everyone believes that this water won't be pumped in the future and that this is part of our area's plan to become sustainable. Both beliefs are incorrect, he does not believe the water will be used for the purpose of reaching safe yield.

Member Goode commented on outdoor watering, stating he does not want to advocate more outdoor watering, rather how to water more effectively, may need another public service announcement addressing how to water efficiently.

Chairman Blair asked Ms. Graser how to go about publishing a public service announcement and suggested putting an announcement in the water bill.

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

D. Focus Topic – Decision & Order No. 86-401501.0001 Modification Presentation

Ms. Graser stated that the city is actively working on the application for its Modification of Decision and Order (MDO). Herb Dishlip of Herb Dishlip Consulting presented the demand aspect of the MDO.

Mr. Dishlip discussed the method of applying for Designation and introduced part of the work taking place on the modification of the Assured Water Supply. The Assured Water Supply is not the city's water plan but a big piece of it; it captures what is allowed for water use and how the city can grow. Arizona Department of Water Resources is looking for more supply than demand. Mr. Dishlip stated he plans on providing 20 years of data rather than the standard 10 and asking ADWR for a Designation of at least 20 years before subject to another review.

Member Sischka asked if this means the city needs to prove a 100-year supply in each of those 20 years. Is problematic that people think a 100-year water supply means we only have 100 years of water available.

Mr. Dishlip responded no, the city is only required to monitor and report progress. The city has to file an annual report that has a section on Assured Water Supply where amount of water used, especially ground water, is listed. If at any point in time city exceeds the allowance, Assured Water Supply will be terminated. As a designated provider the city must be in compliance with safe yield; has to prove a perpetual supply, not a 100-year water supply. Designation streamlines development and puts city in

control of how growth occurs; as designated provider city plans the water supply, allocates the water supply, and monitors the water supply.

Demand Categories Reviewed by ADWR:

- Current Demand: total water production for the most recent calendar year, includes potable and non-potable water sources, and water that is lost or unaccounted for.
- Committed Demand: The estimated demand for recorded, unbuilt lots within the water service area.
- Projected Demand: demand at build-out of lots to be recorded, and additional customers added during the designation term.

Mr. Dishlip presented the Water Resources Management Model (WRMM), a tool developed by Herb Dishlip Consulting that houses multiple water resource management data sets, runs various scenarios related to supply, growth, changes in use, etc. and the Hydro-geological Model being developed by Matrix, which will determine physical availability of water supplies.

Current Demand Summary:

- Potable – 7,513 AF
- Non-Potable – 1,819 AF
- Total Current Demand – 9,332 AF

Current Potable Demand based on 2020 Utility Billing Records and Annual Report, data and analysis added to WRMM, is showing an upward trend.

Committed Demand Summary:

- Potable – 1,289 AF
- Non-Potable – 125 AF
- CVID unrecorded – 542 AF
- Total Committed Demand – 1,956 AF

Committed Demand based on balance of demand for partial-year use or dormant use for 2020, and approximately 3890 undeveloped lots within the 26650 recorded plats in service area.

Projected Demand- Long Term Summary:

- Estimated 13,227 additional projected accounts
 - SF – 12,104
 - MF – 672
 - NR – 451
- Estimated additional projected demand
 - SF- 2,064 AF
 - MF – 393 AF
 - NR – 702 AF
 - System Losses (8%) – 275 AF
 - Total Estimated Additional Project Demand – 3,434 AF

Projected Demand based on lots within the city or county that are not part of subdivisions, YPIT water settlement, IGA's with Town of Chino Valley, and Stringfield Ranch DWID, approved preliminary plats, pre-annexation agreements, and water service agreements.

Total Potential Demand:

- Potable
 - Current – 7,513 AF
 - Committed – 1,831 AF
 - Projected – 3,417 AF
 - Total – 12,373 AF
- Non-potable
 - Current – 1,819 AF
 - Committed - 125 AF
 - Total – 1,944 AF
- Total Potential Demand = approximately 14373 AF

Prior D&O stated 16,000 AF available, still in range however a higher number than seen before due to Granite Dells Deep Well ranch and AED potential developments.

20-year Projected Demand:

- Growth Rate
 - Dependent on market conditions and competition
 - Current rates reflect more sustained growth
 - Community Development suggests limitations likely based on construction labor availability
 - CD suggests new 450 SF units/year
 - CD estimates to add an additional component of MF (3%), and NR (9%)
 - Newer subdivisions where home builders are available, not custom lots, will dominate 20-year projection

Mr. Dishlip stated he will propose to use new accounts rather than population projections as population forecasts won't cover Chino Valley or the county. Needs 2020 Census data to complete Table B, the sum of current, committed and projected demand for the water service area for the next twenty (20) years.

Estimated Projected Demand in twentieth year is 12,040 AF.

Member Sischka asked if the study will account for market conditions at some point. He knows that the projected market controls development, and wonders how potential loss of population factors into the twenty (20) year analysis.

Mr. Dishlip responded that when creating a water plan can prepare as if there are vacancies or not; planning as if there are none is planning for a factor of safety. City plan has an added 207 AF as committed demand which is basically stating no vacancies.

Member Goode asked if he owns the WRMM and how well database is protected.

Mr. Dishlip answered the city owns WRMM and added it is comprised of data that the city already owns; basis of model is Utility Billing records.

Ms. Graser added that it is treated like the city's water and waste water model; does not go out to the public for use, has private information in it.

Member Goode asked if the twenty (20) year D&O is based upon our ability to annually report our projections and will our authority continue to be granted if are within a reasonable range.

Mr. Dishlip responded the only trigger to lose designation is using more ground water than allowed.

Member Sischka asked how the Matrix study will interface with the WRMM. Feels is important to public to know the physical availability of water.

Mr. Dishlip replied that the Matrix study is critical component independent of the WRRM, gives you a feel of physical availability for pumping, is the key component to assured supply.

Member of public Leslie Hoy asked if anyone addressed the overdraft, would like to know how overdraft fits into all of this.

Mr. Dishlip responded there are two sides, demand and supply, overdraft is a result of lack of supply. Today's presentation is just on the demand side, will address supply at a later meeting.

Chairman Blair asked when this will be defined, he feels it needs to be presented to Council.

Ms. Graser responded timeline is pre-application in August with State followed by approximately two months to make adjustments. Can present to Council the status, or wait until after pre-application in November.

Member Sischka asked if overdraft is an AMA situation.

Ms. Graser answered it is an aquifer situation, AMA looks at overdraft of an aquifer.

General Announcements from Staff

Ms. Graser presented links available on ASU website morrisoninstitute.asu.edu regarding preservation of groundwater for Subcommittee to view if interested.

Member Sischka asked how the Central AZ Partnership (CAP) relates to this area and if ground water in the CAP areas that do have physical access just a supplement to their total water needs.

Ms. Graser answered that city does not have a physical supply coming in, but there is a correlation; if they are having challenges with their reservoir water supply, city's reservoirs have gone down as well.

CAP had a presentation last week on water rights policy and management, lead speaker was Michael J. Peirce who is a part of city's D&O project.

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

4. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, Chairman Blair adjourned the meeting at 11:39 a.m.



Steve Blair, Chairman

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 January 12, 2021. I further certify the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Dated this 6th day of July, 2021

AFFIX
CITY SEAL


Jennifer Wiita, Deputy City Clerk