



City of Prescott
**Mayor's Commission on Water Policy
Review & Monitoring**

May 16, 2023 | 11:00 AM
201 N. Montezuma Street
Council Chambers, 3rd Floor
Prescott, AZ 86301

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Jim Lamerson called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. ROLL CALL

Phil Goode	Mayor	Present
James (Jim) Lamerson	Chairman	Present
Robert (Bob) Roecker	Vice Chairman	Present
Gary Beverly	Member	Present
Gillian Haley-Meierbachtol	Member	Absent
Peter Kroopnick	Member	Present
Michael Taylor	Member	Present
Gary Worob	Member	Present

4. DISCUSSION & ACTION ITEMS

A. Approval of April 18, 2023 Meeting Minutes

**MOTION BY MEMBER TAYLOR TO APPROVE THE APRIL 18, 2023
MEETING MINUTES; SECONDED BY VICE CHAIRMAN ROECKER: PASSED
(6 - 0)**

B. Commission's Text and Other Comments on the 2022 Policy

Staff Liaison, Leslie Graser, opened discussion with a brief recap of documents and resources sent to members via email for review. Recommendations were discussed in the commission's prior meeting, with three key points in the synopsis document. The goal for this meeting was to review the text portion at the beginning of the current 2022 Water Policy document. Ms. Graser encouraged commission members to ask questions and provide feedback as the items below were discussed.

Section 1 - Introduction

Commission Concerns: None at this time.

No additional member comments or inquiries.

Section 2 - State and City Water Management

Commission Concerns: None at this time.

Member Peter Kroopnick inquired about adding water quality language to the goals of the commission; noted per Ms. Graser.

Section 2.a - State Water Management Requirements

Commission Concerns: Water remaining in the portfolio, dependency on groundwater, and request for monthly reports of the data included in the annual report to the Arizona Department of Water Resources (ADWR).

Per Ms. Graser, referring to the commission's concerns, some of the data analysis does not necessarily fall under the Water Policy.

Member Gary Worob inquired about page four of the Water Policy and whether or not the 65% figure included surface water harvesting, as well as long-term plan verbiage was being considered; inquiries noted per Ms. Graser.

Vice Chairman Rocker inquired about relation to the General Plan, and commented that he views the General Plan as a type of umbrella over the Water Policy. There are items that do need to be linked again, according to Ms. Graser, as there is a water resource element within the General Plan.

Section 2.b - Water Management Requirements

Commission Concerns: Budgeting and managing cause and effect relationship with growth, and requests for monthly water allocation totals and remaining balance.

Per Ms. Graser, the information requested is listed on the City website with a current running total.

Member Gary Beverly questioned where effluent was discussed in the section, pertaining to development, and commented that the City's terminology doesn't match with the ADWR water supply dialogue. Per Ms. Graser, staff has been monitoring permanent recharge. The state issued the City a second long-term storage account dedicated to tracking this permanent recharge.

Member Michael Taylor inquired about the section containing information on Proposition 400 annexation. This was a voter initiative approved by citizens that became a topic placed in the City charter, per Ms. Graser. Return flows from annexed acres of 250 or more are now placed into permanent recharge.

Section 3 - Physical Water Supplies

Commission concerns: Water quality tracking, permanent recharge water volumes by annexed area, and wastewater return by month for each development.

Chairman Lamerson referred to a recent radio comment about the City of Prescott being a water management role model for the state of Arizona.

Section 4 - Water Management - Integrating Supplies within the Framework of State Law and other Legal Obligations

Commission Concerns: None at this time.

No additional member comments or inquiries.

Section 4.a - Water Management and the City of Prescott General Plan

Commission Concerns: Adherence to the General Plan and a language correction suggestion.

No additional member comments or inquiries.

Section 4.b - Water Management and Conservation Planning

Commission concerns: Average Daily Water Usage or Gallons Per Capita per Day (GPCD) goal the City is striving to achieve in relation to ADWR, monthly incentive payments and education outreach, and landscape water use analyses.

Per Ms. Graser, there are many considerations and details within the broad picture. For landscape water usage concerns, it is important to review the relation with any revisions to the Water Policy and how it affects Land Development Code and vice versa.

Chairman Lamerson inquired about the GPCD being driven by the community, and demographically using less. Per Ms. Graser, details include both economics and demographics, as well as geography. Chairman Lamerson also commented that in developing a water management strategy, it is important to acknowledge to the public that there are many components to consider. Ms. Graser added that some sectors are weighed more heavily upon than others (i.e. residential).

Member Beverly commented on water law adoption of high GPCD limits, and how the City can do better and be more realistic overall. Per Ms. Graser, the community GPCD was driven down predominantly by the City's tiered rate structure.

Member Gary Worob commented on having a well-informed public regarding landscaping water use, as it helps to encourage and provide opportunity, while maintaining Prescott's natural environment.

Member Taylor commented on landscape ordinance and the importance of engaging with the City's Planning and Zoning staff prior to any recommendations. Ms. Graser agreed.

Section 4.c - Water Management and Drought Planning

Commission concerns: Back-up supply inquiry.

No additional member comments or inquiries.

Section 4.d - Assured Water Supply and Infrastructure Planning

Commission Concerns: None at this time.

Ms. Graser noted that the City is modifying the current Decision and Order (D&O), briefly explained the process, and how this is another aspect of the policy that is a foundation for the water policy and long-term water planning.

Section 5 - Available Water Supplies and City Policies

Commission concerns: Sufficient acre foot balance to meet the proposed 2025 general plan, appeal processes, 100-year D&O, and updates to the Water Resource Management Model (WRMM).

Member Worob inquired about a process for a developer to attend a sit-down meeting to discuss details regarding what can be done to better the future of water supply in reference to specific parcels. Per Ms. Graser, there is a pre-application process currently, for review by all departments for all new developments.

Member Gary Beverly about stormwater collection management and recharge. It is not a supply that can be allocated and included in the D&O, per Ms. Graser.

Vice Chairman Rucker inquired about parameters and the accuracy of the WRMM. Per Ms. Graser, the longer additional billing data is input into the WRMM, the more accurate it becomes. Currently, it is being updated with the 2022 billing data.

Member Kroopnick inquired about the WRMM being used in other communities. Yes, similar are being used, per Ms. Graser, however, the version of the WRMM being utilized has been tailored for the City of Prescott. For instance, if the City were a 100,000 population, a different type of model may be utilized.

5. GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Graser provided a brief announcement regarding the new City Manager, Katie Gregory.

Regarding the recent Council Study Session, Ms. Graser informed the committee that staff is working on a presentation for this commission's June 20, 2023 meeting.


6. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, Chairman Lamerson adjourned the meeting at 12:05pm.



JIM LAMERSON, Chairman

ATTEST:



MARIKAY WHISENAND, Administrative Specialist

6/20/2023
Date