

City of Prescott  
**Council Subcommittee on  
Water Issues**



August 1, 2023 | 9:30 AM  
201 N Montezuma Street  
Council Chambers, 3rd Floor  
Prescott, AZ 86301

**MINUTES**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson Rusing called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m.

**2. ROLL CALL**

Chairperson Rusing  
Member Montoya  
Member Sischka - Excused

**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 June 6, 2023 Meeting Minutes.

**MOTION BY MEMBER MONTOYA TO APPROVE THE JUNE 6, 2023  
MEETING MINUTES; SECONDED BY CHAIRPERSON RUSING: PASSED  
(2 - 0)**

B. Current Residential & Non-Residential Water Budget Overview for July 1, 2023 through July 24, 2023

Water Resources Manager Brian Ruiz provided a presentation to the Subcommittee regarding the current residential and non-residential water budget.

Residential

Between July 1 and July 24, 2023, one (1) residential project was administratively approved, totaling 0.17 acre-feet (AF).

Total AF Budgeted – 25 AF

Total AF Approved – 0.17 AF

Total AF Remaining – 24.83 AF

Non-Residential

Between July 1 and July 24, 2023, no non-residential projects were approved.

Total AF Budgeted – 25 AF  
Total AF Approved – 0  
Total Remaining – 25 AF

Projects Under Existing Contracts

Between July 1 and July 24, 2023, one (1) single-family residential project under existing contracts was approved at 0.17 AF and did not affect the water budget.

Chairperson Rusing commented that this is an unusually low number of applications and asked what the reason is for that.

Mr. Ruiz replied that it could be a sign of a general slowdown or an anomaly for this period.

- C. Water Service Application No. WSA23-014; Submitted by Distinctive Homes and Architecture, on Behalf of Owner Dinh Tran

Chairperson Rusing noted that she had a lot of questions for the applicant, and since the applicant was not present, she preferred to table this item.

**MOTION BY CHAIRPERSON RUSING TO TABLE ITEM 4.C.; SECONDED BY MEMBER MONTOYA: PASSED (2 - 0)**

Applicant Tom Terry arrived at the meeting, and the Item was reconsidered following discussion on Items 4.D. and 4.E.

**MOTION BY MEMBER MONTOYA TO RECONSIDER ITEM 4.C.; SECONDED BY CHAIRPERSON RUSING: PASSED (2 - 0)**

Mr. Ruiz provided a presentation to the Subcommittee regarding WSA23-014, a twelve-unit apartment building situated on approximately 2.14 acres. Utilizing the Water Resources Management Model (WRMM) multiplier of 0.12, the estimated demand is 1.44 AF per year. Staff used the Arizona Department of Water Resources (ADWR) multiplier of 1.5 AF per acre to determine the anticipated landscape usage of 0.21 AF. The total anticipated water use for this project is 1.65 AF/year. Planning and Zoning approved this project on July 13, 2023.

Chairperson Rusing asked Mr. Terry if there would be sprinklers and if a structural engineer would build the retaining wall.

Mr. Terry confirmed that the property would have sprinklers and that structural engineering had been done and submitted.

Member Montoya asked what the project's square footage is and if the second phase would be similar.

Mr. Terry replied that the second phase would be similar, adding that the two-bedroom apartments are approximately 800 square feet, and the three-bedroom apartments are about 1,000 square feet.

Chairperson Rusing asked how phase two would be accessed, if there are plans to improve Bradshaw, and how tall the apartments would be.

Mr. Terry responded that there are plans to improve Bradshaw and the apartments would be three stories, and approximately 35 ft high.

Member of the public Gary Worob addressed the Subcommittee, asking if there are plans to capture rainwater from the rooftop.

Mr. Terry replied that this had not been considered but thanked Mr. Worob for the idea.

**MOTION BY MEMBER MONTOYA TO FORWARD WSA 23-014 TO COUNCIL FOR APPROVAL; SECONDED BY CHAIRPERSON RUSING: PASSED (2 - 0)**

**D. Presentation & Discussion Regarding the city's FY23 Water Conservation Rebate Program (July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023)**

Water Resources Project Manager Kay Sydow provided a presentation to the Subcommittee regarding the city's FY23 Water Conservation Rebate Program.

- Toilets - the 1.28 gallon single-flush rebate increased to \$100, the dual-flush rebate increased to \$125, and the 1.0 gallon single-flush rebate increased to \$150. The total amount rebated was \$18,175, and the total gallons of water saved was 1,219,410. For customers on septic systems, there is an additional credit of \$50.
- Ultra Efficient Washing Machines – the rebate for washing machines on the Consortium for Energy Efficiency (CEE) list is \$200. The total amount rebated was \$9,950, and the total gallons of water saved was 195,400. For customers on septic systems, there is an additional credit of \$50.
- Turf Removal – the turf rebate increased to \$1.00 per square foot. The total amount rebated was \$11, 242.50 and the total gallons of water saved was 397,788.
- Rainwater Harvesting – a 50–65-gallon capacity storage tank remains at \$.50 per gallon, while a 75-gallon capacity storage tank rebate increased to \$1.00. The total amount rebated was \$3,615, and the estimated total gallons of water saved was 83,925.

Chairperson Rusing asked if an HOA can prohibit the use of rainwater barrels.

Ms. Sydow responded that she is currently working with an HOA that would like to go to zero-scaping and install rainwater barrels.

- Rain Gardens – the current rebate amount is \$3.00 per square foot. A minimum of 50 square feet must be installed, with a minimum of 400 square feet of stormwater redirected from the roof. Only native flora can be

planted in the rain garden, which can be rock-lined. The total amount rebated was \$500, and the total gallons saved was 16,500.

Member Montoya asked if there has been outreach to landscape companies regarding the city's water conservation program.

Ms. Sydow responded that she sent rebate program flyers to several landscaping companies over a year ago. Additionally, she sends a list of landscapers to anyone who inquires, and currently, Manzanita Landscapers is the most utilized company.

Mr. Ruiz commented that they would make it an annual or semi-annual practice to send the information to landscaping companies.

- Smart Irrigation Timers – the rebate amount for a drip installation system remains at \$75, and as of 2019, the device must be approved by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The total amount rebated was \$1,425, and the total gallons of water saved was 167,200.

Chairperson Rusing asked if the source of the rebates was the water fund.

Ms. Sydow confirmed, adding that the budgeted amount is \$40,000, which is flexible – an application is not rejected just because the budgeted amount has been reached.

- Hot Water Recirculation Systems – the rebate amount for hot water recirculation systems is \$150. The total amount rebated was \$5,550, and the total gallons of water saved was 61,050.

Ms. Sydow concluded with a recap of the FY23 totals:

- Total amount rebated to city water customers - \$50,582.50.
- Total gallons saved – 2,148,473.

Chairperson Rusing asked for clarification on who is eligible for the rebates and confirmation that the rebates are given as a credit on the water bills.

Ms. Sydow confirmed and explained that any City of Prescott water customer is eligible.

Member Montoya commented that he would like to see this rebate program promoted more.

E. Discussion Regarding the Monthly PFAS Update.

Utilities Manager Steve Olfers provided a presentation to the Subcommittee regarding a PFAS update. He stated that there is limited new information and staff is continuing sample collection. The last sample collected on April 11 indicates that current blending techniques continue to produce non-detect levels of PFAS at the Chino Wellfield, and the Airport Wellfield continues to produce non-detect PFAS levels.

Chairperson Rusing asked for an update on a filtration system.

Mr. Olfers responded that a study is underway. The intention is to review treatment ideas in the fall and put together a PFAS mitigation plan.

5. **GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM STAFF**

Ms. Sydow provided an update to the Subcommittee regarding the task completion status and final payment from the ADWR for the Water Resources website. She reviewed task completion, stating that tasks 1-3 have been completed. Staff submitted the last task to the ADWR on June 30, 2023. The final check to the web designer Sadie Sarti, will be sent by the City and reimbursed by the ADWR.

Mr. Olfers stated that the annual Water Quality Report for the city's water system is now available online and in print in many different locations throughout Prescott.

6. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to discuss, Chairperson Rusing adjourned the meeting at 10:30 a.m.

  
Cathey Rusing, Chairperson

ATTEST:

  
Jennifer Wiita, Deputy City Clerk