



City of Prescott Council Subcommittee on Water Issues

October 3, 2023 | 9:30 a.m.
201 N Montezuma Street
Council Chambers, 3rd Floor
Prescott, AZ 86301

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Rusing called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Chairperson Rusing
Member Montoya
Member Sischka

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 August 1, 2023 Water Issues Subcommittee Meeting Minutes.

Chairperson Rusing requested the following changes to the August 1, 2023 Water Issues Meeting minutes:

Item 4C - add stormwater and phase two comments regarding accessibility and approval of phase one.

MOTION BY MEMBER SISCHKA TO APPROVE THE AUGUST 1, 2023 MEETING MINUTES WITH THE NOTED CHANGES; SECONDED BY MEMBER MONTOYA: PASSED (3-0).

B. Presentation & Discussion Regarding the Current Residential & Non-Residential Water Budget Overview for July 1, 2023, through September 19, 2023.

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

Residential

Between July 1, 2023, and September 19, 2023, four (4) residential projects were approved, totaling 2.16 acre-feet (AF). Three (3) projects were administratively approved, and one (1) was Council approved.

Total AF Budgeted – 25 AF
Total AF Approved – 2.16 AF
Total AF Remaining – 22.84 AF

Non-Residential

Between July 1, 2023, and September 19, 2023, five (5) non-residential projects were approved, totaling 1.97 AF. All the projects were administratively approved.

Total AF Budgeted – 25 AF
Total AF Approved – 2.21 AF
Total AF Remaining – 23.03 AF

Projects Under Existing Contracts

Between July 1, 2023, and September 19, 2023, there were 13 projects currently under existing contracts totaling 2.29 AF. All were single-family residences.

C. Presentation & Discussion Regarding the Surface Water and Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Program.

Public Works Environmental Coordinator Matt Killeen provided a presentation to the Subcommittee regarding the Surface Water and Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) program, stating that the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) is required to provide a listing to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) every two to three years on their recommended actions for additional listings or delisting of water bodies due to impairments. Currently, there are 16 impairments on 14 creeks, with Granite Creek counted multiple times; every water body upstream of Watson Lake and Willow Lake has an associated impairment. Mr. Killeen noted that ADEQ has proposed Willow Lake for delisting of its impairment due to a decrease in ammonia levels and is awaiting EPA approval. No other impairments have been requested for delisting. Mr. Killeen continued, explaining that Lynx Creek has newly listed impairments due to mining at its headwaters; ADEQ is working with the Forest Service to address some of those concerns.

Member Montoya asked about a timeline for the EPA approval.

Mr. Killeen responded that there is no timeline; it has been highly variable in the last few years, but more recently, the EPA has responded promptly, so unless there are any significant challenges, he expects approval within a year.

Chairperson Rusing asked about the danger of drinking water contamination from surface or stormwater runoff.

Mr. Killeen stated that the pollutant of concern for the creeks is E. coli; however, he is not concerned that it would become an aquifer issue, and he is unaware of any cases of detection in groundwater samples. Of more concern are the lakes, and staff is taking strides to address those concerns.

Mr. Killeen reviewed the city's surface water permit and FY23 lake and creek water quality statistics. There are six (6) core areas referred to as minimum control measures (MCM) that are considered when staff plans any activity:

1. Education
2. Public Involvement
3. Pollution
4. Construction
5. Post Construction
6. Good Housekeeping

Mr. Killeen continued with the FY Statistics:

1. 140 Drainage Calls
2. 287 Plan Reviews
3. 57 Outfall Inspections
4. 113 Site Inspections
5. 33 Pollution Cases
6. 287 Surface Water Quality Samples
7. 630 Total Inspections/ Investigations

Mr. Killeen stated that complete updates to the Council are upcoming, and staff is moving forward with lake health issues and has treatment processes in development to include aeration, herbivorous fish, and the application of phosphorous binding,

Chairperson Rusing asked if there were any future projects.

Mr. Killeen responded that the Green Stormwater Infrastructure will have shovel-ready projects, adding that the funds just became available.

Member of the public Peter Kroopnick addressed the Subcommittee, asking about the swimming ban at the lakes.

Mr. Killeen replied that this is one of his personal goals and that his part is to ensure the water is safe to swim in; from there, it is the prerogative of the Recreation staff and the Legal team to decide if and when swimming will be reinstated.

Member of the public Dorian Bruffett asked how young people can help with the water quality.

Mr. Killeen responded that public involvement opportunities are available, such as creek cleanups, which are posted on social media. Another way is to report pollution; there is a pollution reporting form, and the public can call the city to report pollution.

D. Presentation & Discussion Regarding Comprehensive Agreement No. 1 Updates.

Water Resources Project Manager Leslie Graser provided a presentation to the Subcommittee regarding Comprehensive Agreement No.1 updates, focusing on the groundwater modeling contract.

Ms. Graser began with an overview of the abbreviated timeline for CA1 Groundwater Flow model that covered actions from 2012-2023 and continued with the path forward, tasks, and timelines, stating that biggest

challenge was the recharge side. However, task was completed on schedule. Ms. Graser noted that the next step is to run scenarios on the model.

Chairperson Rusing asked if it would be beneficial to test for arsenic or PFOS.

Ms. Graser responded that she has a report available and will make that accessible. Spending more money on quality testing would be ideal closer to when there are plans to use the water supplies as a potable resource; now, the wells are used only for irrigation.

Mr. Ruiz added that staff is working on the Big Chino Water Ranch cost updates, and the components for arsenic testing and treatment procedures are included in the cost estimate.

Member Montoya asked if the scenarios being run through the model include precipitation variances and how many scenarios there will be.

Ms. Graser stated that previously there are three (3) different scenarios, and while precipitation variances could be part of the scenario package, previously scenarios were looking at how pumping will impact the Verde as the primary focus.

Mr. Ruiz also added that another vital component of pumping is that these scenarios will look at pumping from all sources, not just the Big Chino Water Ranch.

Member Montoya asked if pumping and immediate recharge would be considered.

Mr. Ruiz replied that it was definitely on the table.

Member of the public Peter Kroopnick addressed the Subcommittee on behalf of the Citizens Water Advocacy Group (CWAG), stating that he hopes that as reports and documents are completed, they are made available to the public.

5. GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM STAFF

Water Resources Project Manager Kay Sydow provided General Announcements to the Subcommittee:

- AZ Project WET – Arizona Water Festival on 10/5/23 7-2:30 p.m. at Kuebler Park
- Ningaloo: Australia's other great reef 10/20/23 from 6–7 p.m. and 10/21 from 2-3 p.m. at Embry Riddle Aeronautical University

Chairperson Rusing commented that teaching the younger generation about water awareness is critical.

Mr. Ruiz provided the Water Resources Monthly Recap stating that both committees have a directive to provide recommendations to the Governor by 12/23:

- Groundwater User Advisory Council - met 09/25/23
- Governors' Water Policy Council
 - The Rural Groundwater Committee met on 09/14/23

- Assured Water Supply Committee met on 09/27/23

6. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, Chair Rusing adjourned the meeting at 10:21 a.m.

ATTEST:



for
Jennifer Wiita, Deputy City Clerk



for
Cathey Rusing, Chairperson