



City of Prescott

Mayor's Commission on Water Policy Review & Monitoring

October 17, 2023 | 11:00 AM
201 N. Montezuma Street
Council Chambers, 3rd Floor
Prescott, AZ 86301

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. ROLL CALL

James (Jim) Lamerson – Chairman
Robert (Bob) Roecker – Vice Chair
Gary Beverly – Member
Gillian Haley-Meierbachtol – Member
Peter Kroopnick – Member
Michael Taylor – Member

3. DISCUSSION & ACTION ITEMS

A. Approval of Minutes from the July 18, 2023 Mayor's Commission on Water Policy Review & Monitoring Meeting.

MOTION BY MEMBER TAYLOR TO APPROVE THE OCTOBER 17, 2023 MEETING MINUTES; MOTION SECONDED BY HALEY-MEIERBACHTOL; PASSED (6-0)

B. Presentation, Discussion and Possible Action Regarding the Proposed 2024 Water Management Policy.

Staff liaison, Leslie Graser, introduced the item for review and discussion, and reminded the Commission that at the Council Study Session on August 8, 2023, staff reviewed the timeline for the development of an amended Water Management Policy, including review by the commission at its October 17, 2024 meeting. The purpose of today's meeting is to finalize the proposed 2024 Water Management Policy draft.

Ms. Graser inquired of the commission how the members would prefer to proceed today with the draft version of the proposed 2024 Water Management Policy. The commission was given the option to start by reviewing Policies 1-22, or start at the beginning of the document, moving quickly through the changes in each section, with discussion on the Policies to follow. The commission opted for the latter.

Each section was reviewed, and a brief update on each was provided by Ms. Graser. She explained that Council was vested in this policy, there would be limited changes, however, the changes would help with the bridging of the policy.

- Section 1: Introduction
No changes from the 2022 Policy.
- Section 2: State and City Water Management
The last sentence was removed.
- Section 2a: State Water Management Requirements
No significant changes, however, the reference to the ADWR Fifth Management Plan was updated and language about safe-yield was removed.
- Section 2b: City Water Management Requirements
No changes.
- Section 3 (and all subsections): Physical Water Supplies
No changes.
- Section 4: Water Management – Integrating Supplies within the Framework of State Law and other Legal Obligations
No changes.
- Section 4a: Water Management and the City of Prescott General Plan
The language was removed regarding the Water Resource Management Model (WRMM) and a new section, Section 4b: Water Resource Management Model, was added.
- Section 4c: Water Management and Conservation Planning
No changes.
- Section 4c1: Integrity of the City Water System
No changes.
- Figure 4: Water System Losses
Updated with 2021 data.
- Section 4c2: Conservation Tools
Updated with the information on the new conservation website.
- Figure 5: Rebate Program-Water Savings
Updated with 2021 and 2022 data.
- Section 4c3: Water Usage
No changes.
- Figure 6: Groundwater Pumping and Population Served
No changes.
- Section 4c4: Gallons Per Capita per Day (GPCD)
No changes.
- Figure 7: Gallons Per Capita per Day
Updated with 2021 data.
- Section 4c5: Safe-Yield
Minor updates.
- Section 4d: Water Management and Drought Planning
No changes.

- Section 4e: Assured Water Supply and Infrastructure Planning
No changes.
- Section 4f: ADWR regulations and City's Ongoing Efforts
This section is new.
- Figure 8: Water Resource Management Model Demands
No updates, however, this figure will need to be updated with revisions underway to the City's DAWS application.
- Section 5: Available Water Supplies and City Policies
No changes.

Ms. Graser provided a recap of the commission Policy recommendations, and a discussion took place regarding Policies 1-10.

Member Michael Taylor commented on "architect" in the language for Policy 4, about civil engineers possibly being more appropriate. Vice Chairman Roecker also inquired about the language.

Per Mr. Ruiz, the permit center recommended the "architect" language addition based on current standards. In the event an architect was already on board it may prove to be beneficial.

MOTION BY CHAIRMAN LAMERSON TO LEAVE THE POLICY 4 LANGUAGE AS PRESENTED AS-IS; MOTION SECONDED BY VICE CHAIRMAN ROECKER; PASSED (6-0)

Member Taylor inquired about Policy 6, and the specifics as the process could take more than a year. He added that a blanket one-year WSA to building permit potentially hampers large projects. Chairman Lamerson, in response to Member Taylor's comment, inquired about language being added to eliminate larger projects.

Per Mr. Ruiz, the language portion referring to "as long as moving forward" covers that issue. He added that as the D&O modification gets approved, we will have new allocation set.

In the meantime, long term and general plans are being worked on, and being included as part of a driving force within the water policy moving forward. The Water Resource Management Model (WRMM) data will also be beneficial in the process.

Member Beverly commented on Policy 10 in relation to tracking commercial wastewater, and opposes removing the language. He added that the larger concern is no current reference to a long term management plan within the document. Member Beverly suggested that a provision should be added to indicate a commitment to proceed with a plan in a specific way.

Ms. Graser commented that the question is whether or not to keep that language in policy now, or move it into a long term management plan. The hesitation is to have it written in when it has not been tracked thus far. Mr. Ruiz added that to even get close to understanding as far as 75% return, meters for wastewater would need to be installed. Without the infrastructure in place, the thought process is why keep that in the policy at this time.

Member Beverly inquired about a recharge-credit balance, as an effective way to reduce landscape water use. He commented that there is little reference within the policy, and could have used a more direct approach.

Member Taylor commented on submetering for landscape, in comparison to submetering sewer lines. The sewer lines option is often far more expensive. Chairman Lamerson agreed with Member Taylor's comments.

Mr. Ruiz explained to the commission that detailed language for a long term management plan being added to the policy includes too many variables that need to be further defined. He added that today's discussion included valid points that will be taken into consideration to make recommendations to implement.

Mayor Goode commented that not being able to measure expectations is not reasonable in a policy. A good policy needs to be based on good data. He added that when technology is available, the policy could reference such, so that in the future when technology is available and able to be implemented it can be referenced back to this policy.

Vice Chairman Roecker commented that it may be misleading to leave the 75% in the policy language. He also inquired about a long term management plan in general, as it is confusing having the topic discussed then tabled. Ms. Graser provided clarification, and referenced the matrix presentation. The goal is not to connect the General Plan and a long term management plan today, but rather to address the inquiry of a member.

Chairman Lamerson inquired of the commission, if there was a motion regarding the proposed 2024 Water Management Policy.

MOTION BY VICE CHAIRMAN ROECKER TO TABLE THE RECOMENDATION OF THE PROPOSED 2024 WATER MANAGEMENT POLICY ; MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER TAYLOR; PASSED (6-0)

4. GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Graser referenced the schedule in the General Announcements presentation, and commented that it appears the commission is requesting a November meeting and possibly a December meeting. She noted that this would result in pushing back the schedule for a 2024 Water Management Policy review by Council.

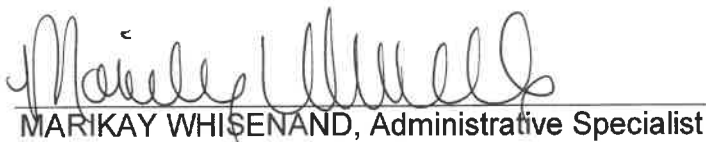
Mayor Goode commented that it would have been nice to conclude before the new Councilmembers take their seats, however, having an agreed upon and refined water management policy for Council is more important.

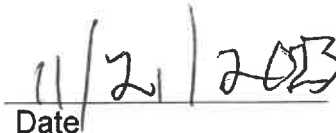
5. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, Chairman Lamerson adjourned the meeting at 12:06 p.m.


JIM LAMERSON, Chairman

ATTEST:


MARIKAY WHISENAND, Administrative Specialist


Date