



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

---

January 7, 2025 | 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**

Cathey Rusing, Chairperson  
Lois Fruhwirth, Member (Excused)  
Ted Gambogi, Member

**3. DISCUSSION & ACTION ITEMS**

- A. Approval of the November 12, 2024 Council Subcommittee on Water Issues Meeting Minutes.

**MOTION BY MEMBER GAMBOGI TO APPROVE THE NOVEMBER 12, 2024 MINUTES; SECONDED BY CHAIRPERSON RUSING: PASSED (2 - 0)**

- B. **WSA24-052:** A Water Service Application Submitted by Ikon.5 Architects, on Behalf of Owner, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. Location: APN 106-03-004, Comprising 240 Acres, Requesting 11.33 Acre-ft/Year.

Brian Ruiz Water Resources and Environmental Services Manager presented a water service application from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University for their proposed new Student Union building. The project will replace five existing buildings on campus. A demand analysis by Dible Engineering calculated the water usage for the new building and landscaping. The new building is expected to use 9 acre-feet of water per year, with an additional 1.55 acres of landscaping requiring 1.5 acre-feet per acre annually. The total estimated water usage for the project is 11.33 acre-feet per year. Embry Riddle confirmed they are working with a landscape architect to comply with the Arizona Department of Water Resources (ADWR) planting guidelines.

Chairperson Rusing asked what the usage amount was for the five buildings that the Student Union will replace and commented that the new building will be a wonderful asset to the campus.

Brad Sinn, Director of Facilities for Embry Riddle added that he believes the net water use will be less than the current usage amount. The new building will house food service, offices and restrooms.

**MOTION BY MEMBER GAMBOGI TO FORWARD WSA24-052 TO COUNCIL FOR APPROVAL; SECONDED BY CHAIRPERSON RUSING: PASSED (2 - 0)**

- C. Presentation & Discussion Regarding the Amended 2022 Water Management Policy - Current Residential & Non-Residential Water Budget Overview for July 1, 2024 through December 19, 2024.

Mr. Ruiz provided the presentation for the water budget allocation. Under the amended 2022 water policy guidelines, semi-annual water budgets are established for residential and non-residential projects. For the period from July 1, 2024, to December 31, 2024, the residential water budget was set at 50 AFY (acre-feet per year), and the non-residential budget at 25 AFY.

**Residential Projects:**

- Five projects were allocated water during this period:
  - Four were administratively approved as they were below the required threshold.
  - One project, the Lafferty Apartments (82-unit multifamily housing), was recommended by the Subcommittee and approved by the Council. This project may qualify as workforce housing.
- Total water usage for these residential projects: 11.49 acre-feet, leaving 38.51 acre-feet of unused water in the residential budget.
- Note: An Embry-Riddle student residence project, requiring 34 acre-feet of water, was delayed and will be addressed at the January 14th meeting. It would not have impacted the residential budget, as it qualifies for an appeal.

**Non-Residential Projects:**

- Five projects utilized water:
  - Three were administratively approved.
  - Two were reviewed by the Subcommittee and approved by the Council.
- Total water usage for these non-residential projects: 4.54 acre-feet, leaving 20.46 acre-feet in the non-residential budget.

This summary reflects a balanced water allocation, with substantial unused capacity in both categories during the specified period.

Chairperson Rusing thanked staff, Veterans Affairs (VA) and the county for working together on the project for homeless veterans to get them on the VA campus for proper care in a safe place.

- D. Presentation & Discussion Regarding an Overview of the 2024 Yearly Water Budget.

Mr. Ruiz provided a review of the water allocations granted to residential and non-residential projects within the city's water service area for the 2024 calendar year. 22.55 AFY was allocated to non-residential projects and 42.94 was allocated to residential projects for an annual total of 98 AFY. The residential water allocations consisted of 20.58 AFY over 73 single family residences and 22.36 AFY over 6 multi-family projects totaling 79 total requests. The non-

residential allocations consisted of hotel 3.6 AFY, restaurant/bar 7.53 AFY, retail/office 1.2 AFY, services .5 AFY, industrial 3.07 AFY and storage/other 6.65 AFY.

Chairperson Rusing asked what hotel was included in the 2024 non-residential water calculations.

Mr. Ruiz responded that it was the upcoming hotel located near the mall.

Chairperson Rusing commented that the city provides water to the tribe and asked where that water is shown.

Mr. Ruiz reiterated that the information is only referencing new water applications.

Chairperson Rusing commented that water allocation for new projects in 2024 is lower than in 2023, while maintaining commitments to existing contracts, which account for approximately 50% of the total water allocated. She highlighted that a significant portion of the water is supplied to areas outside city limits, mentioning projects like Stringfield Ranch, Mountain Club, Wildwood, Kingswood, and another subdivision along Iron Springs Road.

E. Presentation & Review Regarding the Calendar Year 2024 Water Conservation Rebate Program.

Tracie Beasley, Water Resources Project Manager, provided an overview of the results from calendar year 2024 of the water conservation rebate program available to citizens. Rebates that were offered in 2024 were for: toilets/commercial urinals, ultra-efficient washing machines, turf removal, rainwater cisterns, rain gardens, WaterSense smart irrigation timers, hot water recirculation systems and septic system incentive. She reviewed that each rebate option provided water savings, except the rain gardens since no one has taken advantage of that option.

Member Gambogi asked for a description of a rain garden.

Ms. Beasley explained that rain gardens are designed to capture rainwater, often directed from buildings to the ground. These gardens temporarily hold water, allowing it to absorb into the soil, which helps prevent runoff and replenish groundwater systems. They are particularly useful in areas without infrastructure and during heavy rains, such as the monsoon season. In desert regions, rain gardens may resemble dry landscaping with native plants but can also feature lush vegetation that enhances their aesthetic appeal.

Chairperson Rusing added that she has a hot water recirculation pump at her home and it is wonderful and she saves a lot of water with it.

Ms. Beasley continued that as of December 19, 217 applications for 285 rebates were received, \$49,920 was rebated to citizens and 2,107,825 gallons of water saved annually. She added that 20 more applications were received in the last few weeks of 2024.

Chairperson Rusing asked how the citizens are responding to the rebate opportunities.

Ms. Beasley responded that she has had a handful of conversations since she started in October and feels the citizens are excited and curious for the opportunities.

Chairperson Rusing added that she did some quick calculations, and the total gallons translated to 6.5 AFY of water saved.

Ms. Beasley added that there are plans in the works to improve the water conservation and education efforts in 2025 and shared some of the preliminary details.

F. Presentation & Discussion Regarding the Automated Metering Infrastructure (AMI) Project.

Steve Olfers, Utilities Manager, introduced the item and added that they are nine months into the project.

Nathan Graham, Water Operations Superintendent, continued the presentation and provided details on the progress of the program.

Goal is to replace all water meters with Badger meters-

- Approximately 25,800 total meters
- Replace drive-by read endpoints with Orion Cellular endpoints
- Using cellular system to communicate and read meters
- Develop front-facing application for customers (EyeOnWater)
- To view and adjust their usage
- Set up alarms in case of a leak or other unexpected usage
- 427 customers currently registered

Progression of Installation-

- Official project kickoff: March 15, 2024
- Started in the Chino Valley service area
- Currently in Route 4 Thumb Butte area
- 4,498 meters to be replaced
- Approx. 50% complete
- A total of 4739 have been replaced (Dec 12)
- Replacing at a rate of 600 meters per month
- Planning to be complete in 2028

Chairperson Rusing asked what happens if a citizen does not want the new meter.

Mr. Graham explained the water meters are city property and they have some educational literature that can be provided to the water user.

Ms. Beasley stated she is available to help the public set up their EyeOnWater app

and learn how to use the information to save water.

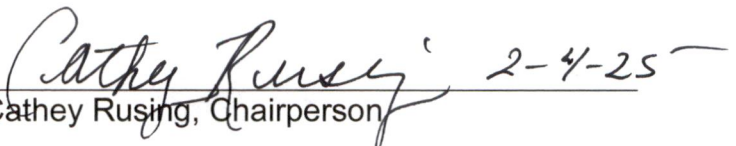
Ms. Beasley shared plans to collaborate with the water team to educate the public on how to use smart meter information for water conservation. The goal is to make it easier for people to access resources, ask questions about water usage, and learn about conservation strategies, such as landscape rebates and home water audits. She is establishing "water conservation office hours," where she will meet with the public at different locations to provide assistance. The initiative will also involve helping people set up smart meter apps and alerts. Additionally, Ms. Beasley plans to work with the library and water team to offer educational presentations once there are enough smart meter users.

**4. GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM STAFF**

Chairperson Rusing announced there is a CWAG (Citizens Water Advisory Group) meeting coming up and to visit their website. Also, she encouraged attendance at a letter-writing workshop to oppose mining near the Hassayampa River Headwaters. She stressed the importance of watershed protection, the Bradshaw Mountains' role in aquifer recharge, and ongoing drought conditions and urged water conservation and fire awareness during the unusually dry winter.

**5. ADJOURNMENT**

Chairperson Rusing adjourned the meeting at 10:39 a.m.

 2-4-25  
Cathy Rusing, Chairperson

ATTEST:

  
Torey Dawson, Deputy City Clerk