



City of Prescott

Council Subcommittee on Water Issues

October 7, 2025 | 9:30 AM
201 N Montezuma Street
Council Chambers, 1st Floor
Prescott, AZ 86301

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. ROLL CALL

Phil Goode - Chair
Lois Fruhwirth - Member
Ted Gambogi - Member

3. DISCUSSION & ACTION ITEMS

- A. Approval of the September 2, 2025 Council Subcommittee on Water Issues Meeting Minutes.

MOTION BY CHAIR GOODE TO APPROVE THE SEPTEMBER 2, 2025 MINUTES; SECONDED BY MEMBER FRUHWIRTH: PASSED (3 - 0)

- B. 2022 Water Management Policy Discussion - Current Residential & Non-Residential Water Budget Overview for July 1, 2025 through September 24, 2025.

Water Resource Manager Brian Ruiz provided an update on the water budget process. He noted that under the amended 2022 water policy guidelines, the water budget is set on a semiannual basis for residential and non-residential projects. For the period July 1–December 31, 2025, both categories were allocated 25 acre-feet. He reported that three single-family residential projects were administratively approved between July 1 and September 24, 2025, using a total of 0.87 acre-feet, leaving 24.13 acre-feet available for the remainder of the period. For non-residential projects, four were approved in the same period, totaling 1.78 acre-feet, leaving 23.23 acre-feet available.

Member Fruhwirth asked for more details regarding the restroom project.

Water Resource Project Manager Tracie Beasley clarified that a restaurant is expanding and improving its restroom facilities for patrons.

Chair Goode stated that the amount of water requested for the restroom seems a little high.

Mr. Ruiz responded he will look into the details of the restroom project.

- C. Presentation & Discussion Regarding the Progress of the Automated Metering Infrastructure (AMI) Project.

Water Superintendent Nathan Graham provided a presentation on the water meter changeout program. Approximately 27,018 meters will be replaced throughout the project, have completed 10,266 replacements as of September 10, 2025. The project includes development of a customer-facing application, EyeOnWater, allowing users to monitor and adjust water usage, set alerts, and receive leak notifications. Currently, 1,223 customers—approximately 12%—are enrolled, which aligns with the national average. Mr. Graham explained the plan for meter replacement for each route throughout the water service areas.

Chair Goode asked if the meters have been purchased ahead of time or as needed and is there a contract with price protection.

Mr. Graham confirmed that meters are purchased as needed through the contract with price protection. Meter replacement is expected to continue through 2028 as they progress through the water service areas.

Member Fruhwirth asked if county residents with the City of Prescott water service area having their meters changed as well.

Mr. Graham confirmed those meters are being replaced as well.

Chair Goode commented that he has heard positive feedback regarding water savings with the new meters and associated app.

Member Fruhwirth added that she has used the app to find landscaping leaks that would otherwise have been undiscovered without the usage monitoring available in the app. She asked how long water is usually shut off due to the meter replacement at a home.

Mr. Graham responded that the average is about a 10-minute window where a residence would be without water due to the changeout.

Member Gambogi commented that usage on the app and the suggestions it provides to save water could be improved with benchmarks to work towards saving more water. The meter changeout is a positive change.

D. Presentation & Discussion Regarding ADEQ's PFAS Sampling & Mitigation Program.

Mr. Ruiz introduced Sara Konrad, Grant Project Manager with Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ).

Ms. Konrad discussed PFAS mitigation efforts for small and disadvantaged communities, highlighting available federal funding, ADEQ resources, and recent sampling work. She also provided background on PFAS and their widespread environmental presence.

Member Gambogi asked what is being done to reduce production of PFAS chemicals.

Ms. Konrad responded that new, shorter compounds are being produced that

stay in the body a shorter amount of time.

Ms. Konrad continued outlining recent EPA actions establishing maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) for five PFAS compounds in drinking water. These include limits of 4 parts per trillion (ppt) for PFOA and PFOS, and 10 ppt for PFHxS, PFNA, and GenX chemicals, with a hazard index applied when multiple compounds are present. Public water systems must complete initial monitoring within three years and achieve full compliance by April 2029. EPA is currently reviewing potential changes to these standards, including reconsideration of some compounds and possible extension of the compliance deadline to 2031, though legal challenges are anticipated due to federal “anti-backsliding” provisions.

ADEQ has been conducting PFAS sampling statewide for small public water systems serving 3,300 or fewer people—representing about 85% of Arizona’s systems—since late 2022. Sampling results are publicly available on ADEQ’s website, showing areas with no detection, detections below MCLs, and detections above MCLs.

Chair Gambogi asked why certain areas across the state are showing concentrations of PFAS detection.

Ms. Konrad responded that concentrations are found near Air Force bases, including Davis-Monthan in Tucson and Luke Air Force Base in the West Valley. Additional contamination has been detected along the Santa Cruz River—likely originating from Mexico—as well as in Gila and Yavapai counties, though the sources in those areas remain uncertain and may involve local fire training or spill events.

Member Fruhwirth asked for clarification on UCMR5.

Ms. Konrad responded that it stands for unregulated contaminant monitoring rule round 5, which is the EPA’s nationwide sampling of all public water systems of 3,300 people or more. Ms. Konrad continued explaining that they manage the Emerging Contaminants Grant Fund, which currently totals \$84 million following a recent \$20 million allocation on October 1. The funding, provided through the federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, supports PFAS mitigation projects for small (populations under 10,000) and disadvantaged communities. Prescott qualifies as a disadvantaged community and is therefore eligible for this funding. Most funds are designated for mitigation projects, with a portion used for training, outreach, and resource development.

Member Gambogi asked if mitigation efforts near the Air Force bases are paid for directly by the Federal Government and not from the grant funds.

Ms. Konrad confirmed.

Chair Goode asked about the Dry Gulch area and mitigation efforts there.

Ms. Konrad responded that ADEQ has been talking with EPA on how to work on the issue along with the county.

Member Gambogi asked for clarification if artificial turf contains PFAS and would it possibly leach into the ground and water.

Ms. Beasley responded that she has started researching the topic and will bring forward more details once she finds more concrete research.

Member Fruhwirth asked if ADEQ would be willing to pay to bring hard to reach neighborhoods into the city water system rather than private wells.

Ms. Konrad responded potentially, ADEQ would need to see a lot more details about the project. She continued to review eligible uses of grant funds from ADEQ and summarized a few PFAS solution projects.

Chair Goode asked how long it takes to get a water sample back.

Ms. Konrad responded that turnaround times have been 4 weeks in the past but are now around 2 weeks.

Chair Goode commented that he is really concerned about the areas affected in the City of Prescott.

4. GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM STAFF

Ms. Beasley provided updates and announcements.

- First EyeOnWater event was held on September 26, 2025
- Planning the next event at the library in early 2026
- Prescott Water Festival was held on October 2, 2025 for fourth grade students
- Radio PSAs going out on radio now for water rebates and also in the newspaper

5. ADJOURNMENT

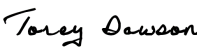
There being no further business to discuss, Chair Goode adjourned the meeting at 10:49 a.m.

Signed by:

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 Cathey Rusing, Chair

ATTEST:

Signed by:

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 Torey Dawson, Deputy City Clerk