



COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE  
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TUCSON, ARIZONA 85701



CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE  
P.O. Box 27210  
TUCSON, ARIZONA 85726-7210

**CITY/COUNTY WATER AND WASTEWATER STUDY  
OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE**

**June 11, 2008**

**Meeting Summary**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Jim Barry called the June 11, 2008 meeting of the City/County Water and Wastewater Study Oversight Committee (Oversight Committee) to order at 6:00 p.m., at the Randolph Golf Course Club House, Copper Room, 600 South Alvernon Way, Tucson, Arizona.

Members Present:

Jim Barry, Chairman  
John Carlson  
Marcelino Flores  
Rob Kulakofsky  
Bruce Gungle  
Tina Lee  
Bonnie Poulos  
Sean Sullivan  
Daniel Sullivan  
James Watson  
Carol Zimmerman

Representing:

Citizens Water Advisory Committee (CWAC)  
Wastewater Management Advisory Committee (WMAC)  
WMAC  
WMAC  
County Planning and Zoning (P&Z) Commission  
CWAC  
County P&Z Commission  
City Planning Commission  
CWAC  
City Planning Commission  
CWAC

Alternate Present:

Bob Cook

Representing:

County P&Z Commission

Members Absent:

Mark Stratton

Representing:

WMAC

City/County Staff Present:

Nicole Ewing Gavin, City Manager's Office  
Sandy Elder, Tucson Water  
Chris Avery, Tucson Water  
Dennis Rule, Tucson Water  
John Thomas, Tucson Water  
Chris Kaselemis, City Planning Department  
Leslie Liberti, Director, City Office of Conservation & Sustainable Development  
Melaney Seacat, Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department  
Nicole Fyffe, Pima County Administrator's Office  
Ed Curley, Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department  
Harlan Agnew, Attorney, Pima County

A quorum of the Committee was established.

## **2. COMMITTEE ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Jim Barry read a letter to the Committee from Councilmember Karin Uhlich (letter attached).

Melaney Seacat provided an explanation of the notebooks that were given to the Committee. The notebook includes a schedule of upcoming presentations, the scope of work and each of the tabs will be for copies of the presentations, which will be provided to the Committee at each meeting.

Melaney Seacat mentioned that Channel 12 is here video taping the meeting. Meetings will be aired on Access Tucson each Tuesday from 8 – 11 p.m. and Fridays from 8 – 11 a.m. The video will be posted to the study website as well.

## **3. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES: May 21, 2008**

The May 21 meeting minutes had no changes. Motion to approve the minutes, duly seconded, passed by voice vote 11 to 0.

## **4. DISTRIBUTION OF DRAFT COMMITTEE PROCEDURES DOCUMENT**

Nicole Ewing Gavin distributed an updated Committee Procedures document incorporating additions suggested by the Committee at the May 12 meeting (posted to study website).

Melaney Seacat handed out an additional set of procedures related to handling public comments (posted to study website).

Jim Barry asked the Committee what they would like to do.

John Carlson suggested that there was no need for formal acceptance.

Jim Barry agreed suggesting the Committee would abide by these (procedures) as the need arises.

## **5. OVERVIEW: WATER / WASTEWATER SYSTEMS**

Nicole Ewing Gavin explained how the public question and comment portion of the presentations would be handled. The audience was asked to hold questions until after the speakers were finished and to fill out question/comment cards to be turned in at the end of the meeting. Flip charts will be used to record questions for response at the next meeting or during a future topic. All public comments will be transcribed and posted to the website. We will be keeping an issue and response tracking sheet for all questions to make sure all questions are recorded.

Jim Barry reminded the audience that if they wish to address the Committee, they should fill out a speaker card and speak during the call to the audience item.

### **History of Water and Wastewater in Tucson**

Chris Avery and Ed Curley made a presentation on the history of the water and wastewater systems. The presentation slides can be viewed on the study website.

Dan Sullivan asked if there is a story behind the 1979 IGA between the county and the city. Chris Avery responded that the issue can be addressed at a future meeting.

Margot Garcia asked about an organization called MUM from the 1970's. Chris Avery stated that this could be addressed at a future meeting.

### **Overview of the Water and Wastewater Systems**

Chris Avery and Ed Curley made a presentation on how the water and wastewater systems work. The presentation slides can be viewed on the study website.

Dan Sullivan asked if there are any other entities that recharge CAP water like Tucson does. Chris Avery responded that we are the only utility to go through the recharge process on such a large scale and mentioned that contaminants in surface water are eliminated in the recharge process.

John Carlson asked about the status of the aquifer. Are we letting the aquifer recover? Chris Avery stated that because we are using more CAP, the aquifer has started to recover.

John Carlson asked about incidental recharge related to irrigation outside the home. Chris Avery stated that 45 – 50% of all water customers' use is for outside watering.

Bruce Gungle asked what our CAP allotment is. Chris Avery stated that it is currently 144,000 AF.

Jim Barry asked for clarification on "currently" - can it change? Chris Avery stated that yes it potentially could.

Bruce Gungle requested clarification on the 45– 50% used outside and that only 4% is counted as a recharge credit. Chris Avery confirmed this stating that it is 4% of total water delivered.

Sean Sullivan asked about how expansion of the wastewater system is funded. Ed Curley stated that connection fees and user fees are used and that projects are financed primarily using bonds.

Marcelino Flores asked that flood control be discussed in a later presentation.

John Carlson asked about the location of treatment plants to avoid carrying the water so far. Ed Curley stated that more plants would likely be developed in the future but they are expensive and must be timed with population growth in an area.

Jim Barry asked about the overlap between the City and County service areas and customers including residential and commercial customers. Staff stated that we would follow up with this information.

Tina Lee asked for clarification on the 65 million gallons per day; is it raw sewage or effluent produced after treatment? Ed Curley stated that this is the effluent produced.

**6. DEVELOPMENT AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORK**

Harlan Agnew made a presentation on the regulatory framework governing wastewater. The presentation slides can be viewed on the study website.

Rob Kulakofsky asked if EDCs can be removed. Harlan Agnew responded that right now those standards are not identified yet.

John Carlson asked for clarification on whether regulations come from the state or federal level. Harlan Agnew responded that the majority are federal requirements which are implemented by the state.

Marcelino Flores asked about authority and regulations governing recharge and the role of the courts. Harlan Agnew stated that the Safe Drinking Water Act and the Aquifer Protection Permit govern recharge from a water quality perspective. The courts interpret the law. The regulatory agencies handle the administrative enforcement of the law.

Rob Kulakofsky asked about the TCE problem we had recently. Chris Avery clarified that this was the issue from the mid-1980's and stated that the pumping we do helps control the contamination plume. The program is successful. We are going to go through an extensive water quality discussion in the next presentation. Rob requested that staff provide information on what percentage of groundwater we're using now that comes from wells that need to be treated.

Dan Sullivan mentioned the Marana court decision and asked that we cover the regulatory framework for the 208 plan amendment process.

Jim Barry requested that Steve Leal's letter regarding contaminants get a written response.

**7. BREAK**

The meeting reconvened at 7:50 p.m.

**8. HISTORY OF CENTRAL ARIZONA PROJECT**

Larry Dozier, Deputy General Manager of the Central Arizona Water Conservation District spoke on the history of the Central Arizona Project. A transcript of the presentation can be found on the study website.

John Carlson asked whether Nevada has priority over Arizona for CAP rights. Larry Dozier stated no. John asked if they are storing water here underground. Larry stated yes, that we have almost 600,000 AF stored here for Nevada.

John Carlson asked if we get credits to our allotment based on return flow. Larry Dozier stated no because our return flow does not reach the Colorado River.

**9. CLOSING REMARKS**

None.

**10. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS WITH PRESENTERS**

No further questions.

**11. CALL TO THE AUDIENCE**

Charles Cole spoke to the Committee about being completely off the water grid with his rain harvest system. He asked the Committee to study options of rainfall collection. His cisterns (~26,000 gallon capacity) provide 100% of his household water. He invited people to visit and see his rain harvest system after July 1, 2008. People are also welcome to call. His telephone is 520-743-3402.

Dorothy O'Brien, Assistant Utilities Director, Town of Marana spoke to the Committee about the importance of regional planning. Judge Hoffman has ruled in favor of the Town of Marana on the wastewater system. The Town of Marana would like to be not just a stakeholder in this study, but also have a seat at the Committee table.

Tracy Williams raised the concern that our water supply is uncertain. Climate change makes water resources in the southwest unreliable. Just because we have an allocation of CAP water doesn't mean there will be wet water available. Climate change means more risks and vulnerabilities such as the fires we've seen on Mt. Lemmon, floods like in San Manuel, Winkelman, and the Pantano Wash, loss of endangered species (owls, bats, snakes, and cactus), and in general reduced water supplies. As Larry Dozier talked about the ADD process, there is not a comprehensive strategy to acquire and deliver enough water to meet these demands. How much water is needed? When is the water needed? Who will acquire, develop and deliver the water? Where will the water be shared? And, how will the water be paid for? These questions come right off the Water website and I think we deserve some answers.

Laura Mays representing Feldman's Neighborhood Association mentioned that the neighborhood will be starting its own rainwater harvesting plan. If we all start using rainwater harvesting, we will not have to use our aquifers.

Bob Cook, representing Sustainable Tucson read a statement from Madeline Kiser (statement attached). Bob also discussed the first major study by the U.S. climate science change program that was released. This is our A Team of scientists in the U.S. who are studying the national and regional impacts of climate change. And the title of the study is: *The Effects of Climate Change on Agriculture, Land Resources, Water Resources, and Biodiversity in the United States*. This document should be part of our resource bank. Take this seriously because most climate modeling has been on a global basis and this study gets to regional modeling, which has been very expensive to date. This is the first report that we've seen as citizens of this country regarding what the possible impacts are.

**12. OVERVIEW OF UPCOMING PRESENTATIONS**

Next meeting will be June 25, 2008 at 6:00 p.m.

**13. ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned by Jim Barry at 8:45 p.m.



**City/County Water & Wastewater Study Oversight  
Committee Meeting- 6/11/2008 Attendees**



	Last Name	First Name	Organization	6/11/2008
1	Colette	Altaffer		x
2	Baker	Beryl		x
3	Becker	Adam	CBRE	x
4	Bowser	Colby	BOS	x
5	Braithwaite	Jim		x
6	Branch-Gilby	Donna	Candidate BOS	x
7	Brooks	Chris		x
8	Cachora	Phyllis	Tohono O'odham Nation	x
9	Cole	Charles J.		x
10	Crockett	Dave	FWID	x
11	Crosby	William	ECCO	x
12	Detwiler	Andrew	KE&G Construction	x
13	Dickerson	Dennis		x
14	Elder	Sandy	Tucson Water	x
15	Evans	Jane		x
16	Evilsizor	Lew	North Dodge NA	x
17	Fox	Tedra	Pima County	x
18	Freeman	Nancy		x
19	Freitas	Chuck		x
20	Garcia	Margot		x
21	Heller	Carol		x
22	Hudson	Mac	Ward 1	x
23	Jacobs	Kathy		x
24	Kaselemis	Chris	City Planning	x
25	Kempton	Larry	FICO/FWC	x
26	Kiser	Jim	SALC	x
27	Kostrzewski	Michael	PCWRD	x
28	Kroesen	Kendall		x
29	Liberti	Leslie	City - Conservation & Sustainable Dev.	x
30	Little	Val	Water CASA	x
31	Marikos	Mark	University of Arizona -- Facilities Management	x
32	Mays	Laura	FNA	x
33	Meyer	Judith	Tucson Mtns. Assoc.	x
34	O'Brien	Dorothy	Town of Marana	x
35	Ogata	Irene	Resident/COT	x
36	Pashos	Tom		x
37	Pierce	Les	Arroyo Chico Neighborhood Association	x
38	Proctor	Ron	Sustainable Tucson	x
39	Roe	Alice		x
40	Rule	Dennis	Tucson Water	x
41	Seifert	Dave	League of Women Voters	x
42	Somers	Carol	SAHBA	x
43	Tannler	Jeff	ADWR	x
44	Thomas	John	Tucson Water	x
45	Thomure	Timothy	HDR Engineering	x
46	Vasquez	Vince	DVI	x
47	Ward	Chris	Avra Valley Water Coop	x
48	Ward	Kathy	Town of Sahuarita	x
49	Williams	Tracy		x
50	Yiannakakis	Alex	AMEC	x
51	Zimmerman	Colin	TAR	x
52	Zucker	Claire	PAG	x

6/11/08

Dear Jim,

I want to extend my gratitude to you and the entire committee for your good work. I also want to express appreciation to the staff involved in this important collaboration, Nicole Ewing Gavin with the City and Melaney Seacat with the County.

Members of the City Council and the Board of Supervisors received your Committee's May Progress Report. Chairman Elias and I are both planning to request further updates at meetings of our respective elected bodies in August. I want to note that I am particularly grateful for your concerted effort to notify and involve the public. The considerable turnout at Committee meetings and the steady public input being offered will prove invaluable to the process. I know we all appreciate the many people across all segments of the community and region who are devoting their time and good thinking to the issue of water and waste water planning.

I am proud to have played a part in the initiation of this cooperative effort, and am indebted to you and the members of the Committee for offering the kind of investment and leadership it will take over the long term to make meaningful progress.

Sincerely,

Karin Uhlich

Statement from Madeline Kiser, Sustainable Tucson

June 11, 2008

Dear Committee Members:

As we've been discussing these past three weeks, the decisions you reach and the recommendations that you make will be greatly influenced by the data you examine and by the expert witness and testimony you choose to turn to. In particular, for some of us, the effects of climate change on both surface and groundwater remain a concern as does the question of how much these affects are or are not are entering into your decisions. In August, the California Groundwater Resources Association will hold a symposium, Climate Change, Implications for California Groundwater Management. Some of the subjects it will include the potential changes in overall groundwater supply due to climate change and the need to include scenarios in climate change in groundwater modeling. Moreover, the tone of the conference which suggests that this is a unique time; an urgent time, this is a time of potential crisis. The conference flyer includes a quote from Governor Schwarzenegger, "I say the debate is over. We know the science. We see the threat. We know that the time for action is now." The policy recommendations that result from this basic understanding of climate change will ultimately differ, likely significantly, from those made by experts who see climate change and its affects in a more neutral light. So much of our discussion these weeks about data has to do with how audible to the public is this range of scenarios we might face, worst to best, and what kind of preparations we might need to make if in fact we will face harsher versus milder scenarios. So far in our cities, regions, and states, public debate over water as presented by experts, what is audible is that the times we are facing don't seem to be exceptional, or potentially dangerous that through a combination of new high tech solutions, such as desalinization, and cloud seeding, we will basically be able to bring you your current way of life. But how true is this? Once again I would like to recommend that all underlying data and the paradigm which ties it together be subjected to third party review by a range of experts from outside our state including those who training in expertise is in holistic adaptive water management and to compliment more traditional engineering and economic management approaches in this state.