



Watershed Planning Subcommittee

Minutes of August 31, 2009, Meeting

Public/Agencies

Alison Jones, Clear Creek Assoc.
Bev Hester, City of Tucson
Candice Rupprecht, UA WRRRC
David Parker, Town of Oro Valley
Dorothy O'Brien, Town of Marana
Ed Curley, PC Wastewater
Frank Cassidy, Town of Marana
Fritz Laos, Town of Oro Valley
Grant McCormick, UA Campus Planning
Jennifer Christelman, Town of Marana
Jim DuBois, PC RWRD
Joanne Hershenhorn, COT Planning and
Development Services

Kristine Uhlman, UA WRRRC NEMO
Melaney Seacat, PC RWRD
Michael Block, Metro Water
Mitch Basefsky, CAP
Paul Baughman, Town of Marana
Ries Lindley, COT Tucson Water
Roxanne Linsley, ADEQ
Sheila Bowen, Town of Sahuarita
Thom Martinez, Westland Resources Inc.

PAG Staff

Claire Zucker, Watershed Planning Manager
Mead Mier, Watershed Planner

1. Call to Order and Introductions

Kristine Uhlman, Watershed Planning Subcommittee Chair, called the meeting to order and introductions were made at 1:30 p.m.

2. In-Kind Form

An in-kind form was routed among attendees.

3. Approval of Minutes of May 18, 2009

A motion to approve the May 18, 2009, minutes was moved by Ed Curley and seconded by David Parker. The minutes were approved unanimously by the Subcommittee.

4. Announcements/Comments

Announcements were made by PAG staff and the Subcommittee members about upcoming events and deadlines for several agencies: the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Central Arizona Project, Arizona Department of Environmental Quality, Oro Valley and the Stormwater Management Working Group.

5. Water and Wastewater Infrastructure, Supply, and Planning Study – 20 min.

Melaney Seacat presented the progress of the joint City/ County Water and Wastewater Study. The Scope of Work for Phase 2 of the Water Study calls for “a common set of water resource development and conservation goals.” Since December 2008, interdisciplinary teams of City and County staff have been developing a series of technical papers related to such topics as reclaimed water, water conservation, stormwater harvesting, riparian protection, environmental restoration, population growth distribution, infrastructure costs, urban form, integrated land use and water resources planning, water quality and new water resources. Ten out of the 13 technical papers planned for Phase 2 have been completed. Ms. Seacat provided an overview of the key themes and recommendations from this body of work. Common themes include sustaining long-term supplies, respect for the environment and integrated planning.

The Subcommittee briefly discussed recommendations that were regional in scope. They also discussed the timeline for completing Phase 2 and opportunities for public input. The study is currently in a public comment period, with reports available online. A meeting will be held on Sept. 17, 2009. After reports are finalized, a final committee meeting will be held on Nov. 19, 2009. In December, the study will be presented to the City of Tucson’s Mayor and Council.

6. Town of Marana Water Quality Management Plan (208) Amendment - 30 min.

The Town of Marana’s plan to become a Designated Management Agency (DMA) was presented by Dorothy O’Brien, Town of Marana Utilities Director, and Thom Martinez, P.E., Westland Resources Inc. Information about the Town’s 208 Plan Amendment has been under review by the PAG Scope of Work Committee during 14 meetings thus far. As the DMA, the Town will provide wastewater collection and treatment to customers within its planning area. This goal was approved in 2007 in the General Plan by the Town of Marana’s Mayor and Council.

Ms. O’Brien reviewed the geography of the area, through which 2.4 million gallons of wastewater flows each day (mgd) through 210 miles of sewer mains. Marana expects up to 7.4 mgd, based on population growth projections concluded at PAG’s Population Technical Advisory Committee (PopTAC) meetings. The Amendment proposes several new gravity fed facilities. A benefit to the Town is reclaimed water credits primarily through constructed recharge. The speakers explained that they are in their second draft of the Amendment and are resolving legal issues, such as ownership. Mr. Martinez reviewed the potential facility types, treatment standards and the financing and permitting necessary to become a DMA. Claire Zucker, Pima Association of Governments, reviewed the Amendment timeline which includes the following future steps: PAG Management Committee, Regional Council, the Statewide Water Quality Working Group, ADEQ and the EPA.

7. Pharmaceutical Take-Back Survey – 20 min.

Claire Zucker, PAG, discussed how the region is moving forward on pharmaceutical disposal and presented results from a recently conducted PAG survey of long-term health care facilities. The survey was organized by a PAG intern from the WRRRC, Renee Johns. The survey helped to determine interest in participation in a pharmaceutical take-back program and how facilities are currently disposing of unused pharmaceuticals. Ms. Zucker explained that illegal use of the drugs by our youth and the potential hazard to our water quality if the drugs are improperly flushed down the drain are both reasons for creating pharmaceutical take-back programs. The concern is that recharged wastewater would introduce pharmaceuticals into the groundwater and thereafter, the drinking water. Improved equipment can detect more minute contaminants and utilities may become required to mitigate this to meet new standards. PAG chose to investigate long-term care facilities because large slugs of pharmaceuticals have been detected and are believed to be associated with large disposers. Options for best management practices for proper disposal include reverse distribution, education/ outreach, drop-off centers, take-backs, and pick-ups. The survey found that 89 percent of the facilities preferred the pick-up option and six percent stated they were currently flushing pharmaceuticals. Many facilities showed an interest in participating in a focus group to create future programs.

8. Future Agenda Items / Call to the Audience

Ms. Mier reviewed upcoming meeting agenda items. Topics for the Sept. 28 and Oct. 26, 2009, meetings may include the Laboratory for Emerging Contaminants, The Lower Santa Cruz River Recharge Project, the Drought Impact Group, the Pima County Regional General Permit to the Army Corps and the report on Best Practices with Rural Waste Water.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:53 p.m.