

WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
September 16, 2004

Committee Members Present:

John Carlson Bill Carnes Brad DeSpain Mark Stratton
Kathleen Chavez

Committee Members Absent:

Steve Halverson Armando Membrila Ann Marie Wolf

Wastewater Management Department Staff Members Present:

Ed Curley Paul Bennett Jim Doyle Frank Gall
Roy Garcia Roderick Gary Suzy Hunt Jackson Jenkins
Jerry Stratton

- I. CALL TO ORDER.** Chairman Mark Stratton called the meeting of the Wastewater Management Advisory Committee (WMAC) to order at 7:50 AM.
- II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES.** As there was not a quorum, approval of the meeting minutes of the July 15, 2004 WMAC meeting was continued until the next meeting.
- III. STAFF REPORT.** Jerry Stratton reported on the following items:
- **End of FY 2003-04 Activities.** Department staff are continuing with end-of-fiscal-year activities. In addition, the County Finance Department is compiling Wastewater Management's (WWM's) June 30, 2004 financial statements. Preliminary financial statements indicate WWM may have a positive cash balance at year-end.
 - **Comprehensive Management Audit.** The consulting firm, Black and Veatch, is continuing with their Comprehensive Management Audit of the Department, which was authorized by the Board of Supervisors.
 - **Process Improvement Teams.** The Department has established two significant Process Improvement Teams, one in Treatment and one in Engineering. The Treatment Team is focused on the internal process at the Roger Road Treatment Plant. They have recommended changes that have helped to reduce turbidity and maintain the Plant's permit compliance. The Engineering Division Team is developing a Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Projects Manual for use by managers of CIP projects.
 - **Randolph Park Water Reclamation Facility (WRF).** Kennedy Jenks is the consultant for the repairs/rehabilitation at the Randolph WRF, which was damaged by the May 2, 2004 flooding event. The target date for the WRF to be operational is June 2005.
 - **New Federal Prison, Tucson, Arizona.** The new Federal Prison in Tucson is now temporarily connected to an on-site pump station at the existing Federal Prison Facility, until a separate off-site gravity sewer is built. The anticipated start date for construction of the off-site sewer is July of 2006.

- **Honea Heights Colonia Sewer Project.** Pima County, in cooperation with the Town of Marana and Rural Development, U.S. Department of Agriculture, is the lead agency to construct a new sewerage system for the residents of the Honea Heights Colonia, who currently are served by individual septic systems. In addition, the Town of Marana will make the individual house connections to the new sewer system once it is constructed. The Town of Marana and Rural Development are funding the Project, which is scheduled to begin in Spring 2005 and is expected to be completed by Fall 2005.
- **Capital Improvement Projects:**
 - **Ina Road Water Pollution Control Facility 12.5 mgd Expansion Project.** This project, to expand the treatment capacity of the Ina Road Facility, is 90% complete. The Project is scheduled for completion by December 2004.
 - **Avra Valley Wastewater Treatment Facility Expansion.** The Department received recommendations for increasing the Avra Valley Treatment Facility's treatment capacity from 1.2 million gallons per day (mgd) from Kennedy Jenks Consultants. WWM staff are preparing an application to seek approval of the capacity increase from the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ).
- **Field Operations Division:**
 - **Vector (Roach) Control.** The Division purchased a new brand of chemical for vector control. Since August 20, 2004, Division crews have used the new insecticide for customer-requested vector control.
- **Staffing.** The Department has hired Michael Bunch as the new Deputy Director for the Department's Engineering and Operations Division. Mr. Bunch will start work on September 24, 2004. Subhash Raval, who has served as Interim Deputy Director for the Division, will return to the Development Services Department.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS.

- A. **Citizen's Water Advisory Committee (CWAC) Update.** No report was given. The WMAC Coordinator, Suzy Hunt, reported that she spoke with the CWAC Coordinator and learned that CWAC has not yet nominated one of its members to replace Vernon Watwood as its representative to the WMAC.

At this point in the meeting, Mr. Stratton asked the Committee members to contact their appointing Supervisors regarding the Committee's recommendation that the Board of Supervisors (BOS) increase the size of the Committee's membership from eight to nine members. He reminded the members that the benefit of this would be to establish an additional representative, increase community representation, facilitate a quorum, and eliminate the potential for a tie vote. He added that, now, the WMAC has seven active members, but establishing quorums, by State statute, must be based on the WMAC's membership, which consists of eight members. Mr. Stratton said he would contact County Administration regarding this matter.

V. DISCUSSION

A. Old Items/Updates

1. WMAC Administrative Items

- a. **WMAC Annual Report to the Board of Supervisors (BOS).** Mr. Stratton noted that Committee members had received, in their meeting packets, the final draft of the WMAC's FY03-04 Annual Report to the Board of Supervisors, with changes recommended by members at the July 15, 2004 WMAC meeting. Mr. Stratton commended staff for the quality of the Report, and directed staff to submit the Report to the BOS.

2. Overview of Outlying Facilities.

Jackson Jenkins presented a report on Outlying Wastewater Treatment Facilities:

- **Corona de Tucson Facility.** This Facility is permitted to treat 84,000 gallons per day (gpd), and is nearing treatment capacity. Department staff determined that the Facility's permitted capacity could be increased without any changes to the treatment process to 117,000 gpd. In addition, WWM has submitted an application to have the Facility's permitted capacity increased to 117,000 gpd to ADEQ. ADEQ has accepted the permit request, which will be noticed for public comment in October 2004.

In addition, ADEQ is currently evaluating the Department's permit application to expand, through the addition of aerators, the Facility's internal treatment capacity to 300,000 gpd. Subsequent to this phase, the Department's plans for Corona de Tucson include increasing its treatment capacity (in two phases) to 1 mgd.

- **Avra Valley Treatment Facility.** The Avra Valley Facility is permitted to treat 1.2 mgd, and is nearing capacity. WWM has determined the Facility's treatment capacity could be increased through modifications to the treatment process. On September 15, 2004, Department staff met with ADEQ to discuss this possibility. The Department's long-range plans for increasing capacity include building an additional oxidation ditch at the Avra Valley Facility.
- **Green Valley Treatment Facility.** The Green Valley Facility is currently treating 1.4-1.7 mgd depending on the time of year. The Quail Creek Development is purchasing the Facility's reclaimed water for use on its golf course.
- **Mt. Lemmon Treatment Plant.** Kathleen Chavez said WWM staff are preparing revisions to the Mt. Lemmon Sewer Connections Ordinance that, if approved, would allow 30 new residential connections to the County's sewerage system, on a first-come, first-served basis.
- **Marana Treatment Plants.** Mr. Jenkins reported the Marana Facility consists of three package plants, two of which currently are in operation. Short-term

plans for the Marana Facility include increasing the treatment capacity of each package plant. Currently, staff are evaluating two technologies that might be used, including a new plastic media, which would increase biological activity in the treatment process, thus increasing treatment capacity. By regulation, WWM must construct any new treatment process with the best available demonstrated control technology (BADCT). ADEQ does not currently recognize this technology as meeting BADCT; however, WWM staff will meet with ADEQ to discuss the possibility of the Agency designating/permitting this process as meeting BADCT. The second technology being evaluated by staff (which currently does meet ADEQ's BADCT requirements) is the membrane treatment process in use at the new Randolph Park WRF. In addition, Mr. Jenkins said, of these two technologies, the plastic media technology is the least expensive.

Mr. Jenkins noted that WWM's long-range goal for the Marana Facility includes using the \$10 million in 2004 Voter Bond Authorization and the remainder of the 1997 Bond Authorization for construction of oxidation ditches. Plans include building two oxidation ditches, each with a capacity of 500,000-750,000 mgd for a total treatment capacity of 1.0-1.5 mgd. He added that in light of Marana's rapid population growth, WWM is evaluating the feasibility of starting this project as early as 2006. Discussion followed.

Mr. DeSpain commented it might help to speed up ADEQ's permitting process for the Marana Facility, if the Agency knew the rapid rate at which building permits were being approved. Ms. Chavez responded that a meeting is being coordinated with the Town of Marana to discuss WWM's plans for adding additional treatment capacity to meet the demands of Marana's increasing population.

In addition, Mr. Stratton noted that he had attended a meeting of the Arizona Water and Pollution Control Association (AWPCA), where Maricopa County representatives reported a working group was being formed to meet with higher-level ADEQ officials to resolve permitting issues, which they feel the Agency has handled with a "heavy-handed approach." He also asked about WWM's experience with ADEQ and the Agency's permitting process. Mr. Jenkins responded it appears that ADEQ staff are making policy as they go, and taking longer to issue permits. Discussion followed.

B. New Business

1. **Tour of Ina Road Water Pollution Control Facility.** Immediately following adjournment of the regular meeting, Committee members toured the Ina Road Facility.

VI. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS. Solid Waste Update; 2004-05 Financial Plan; State/Federal Legislative Update; Arid West Water Quality Research Project Update.

At this point in the meeting, Mark Stratton and Ed Curley noted the upcoming Western States Coalition of Arid States (WESTCAS) meeting was being held in Tucson on October 20-22, 2004, and invited WMAC members to contact staff if they were interested in attending a

session at this conference. Staff was directed to distribute the WESTCAS agenda to Committee members. In addition, staff was directed to poll members regarding their availability for a rescheduled WMAC meeting. (Note: On September 17, 2004 staff forwarded the WESTCAS agenda by electronic mail, and also inquired of WMAC members their preferences for a rescheduled Committee meeting. Committee members chose to reschedule the next WMAC meeting to Thursday, October 28, 2004 at 7:45 AM.)

VII. ADJOURNMENT. The regular meeting adjourned at 8:42 AM and was followed with Committee members touring the Ina Road Facility.