

MINUTES OF THE
MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
WATER QUALITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, December 18, 2014
MAG Office Building
Phoenix, Arizona

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Randy Gottler, Phoenix, Chair	* Suzanne Grendahl, Scottsdale
Maria Hinajos for Barbara Chappell, Avondale, Vice Chair	# David McNeil, Tempe
# Roger Klingler for Arnold Coronado, Buckeye	Mark Berrelez, Tolleson
Anupa Jain, Chandler	Kevin Chadwick, Maricopa County
* Larry Dobrosky, El Mirage	Henry Day, Arizona Public Service Company
Mark Horn, Gilbert	* Jim Kudlinski, Salt River Project
Javier Setovich, Glendale	# Kaitlin Poe-Orsburn for Summer Waters, University of Arizona Cooperative Extension
Mark Seamans, Goodyear	# Michael Byrd, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community
* Daniel Cleavenger, Mesa	* Carole Coe Klopatek, Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation
Michael Weber, Peoria	Elisabeth Kahn for Glenn Stark, Gila River Indian Community
Greg Homol, Queen Creek	
Terry Lowe, Surprise	

*Those members neither present nor represented by proxy.

#Attended by telephone conference call.

OTHERS PRESENT

Julie Hoffman, Maricopa Association of Governments	Bhaskar Kolluri, Liberty Utilities
Kara Johnson, Maricopa Association of Governments	Steve Carlson, Liberty Utilities
	Ray Jones, Aricor Water Solutions
	Heather Finden, City of Phoenix

1. Call to Order

A meeting of the MAG Water Quality Advisory Committee (WQAC) was conducted on Thursday, December 18, 2014. Randy Gottler, City of Phoenix, Chair, called the meeting to order at approximately 10:00 a.m. Roger Klingler, City of Buckeye; David McNeil, City of Tempe; Michael Byrd, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community; and Kaitlin Poe-Orsburn, University of Arizona Cooperative Extension, attended the meeting via telephone conference call.

2. Call to the Audience

Chair Gottler provided an opportunity for members of the public to address the Committee on items not scheduled on the agenda that fall under the jurisdiction of MAG or items on the agenda for discussion, but not for action. According to the MAG public comment process, members of the audience who wish to speak are requested to fill out comment cards, which are available on the tables adjacent to the doorways inside the meeting room. Citizens are asked not to exceed a three minute time period for their comments. Chair Gottler noted that no public comment cards had been received.

3. Approval of the October 21, 2014 Meeting Minutes

The Committee reviewed the minutes from the October 21, 2014 meeting. Henry Day, Arizona Public Service, moved and Anupa Jain, City of Chandler, seconded, and the motion to approve the October 21, 2014 meeting minutes carried unanimously.

4. Draft MAG 208 Water Quality Management Plan Amendment for the Liberty Utilities Palm Valley and Sarival Water Reclamation Facilities Service Area Expansion 2014

Richard Humphreys, Carollo Engineers, presented the Draft MAG 208 Water Quality Management Plan Amendment for the Liberty Utilities Palm Valley and Sarival Water Reclamation Facilities Service Area Expansion 2014. He stated that the amendment is sponsored by the City of Glendale and Maricopa County. The service area expansion proposed in the amendment is located entirely within the City of Glendale planning boundary and includes Maricopa County islands. The Liberty Utilities facilities are located in the City of Goodyear planning boundary.

Mr. Humphreys discussed the two purposes of the amendment. He indicated that developers in the land areas immediately north of the current Liberty Utilities service area boundary have asked Liberty Utilities to serve their developments. Secondly, the service area expansion provides a way for lands currently served by septic systems to be connected to wastewater collection systems in the future.

Mr. Humphreys provided a map of the current Liberty Utilities service area. The map also displayed the Liberty Utilities current Certificate of Convenience and Necessity (CC&N) boundary. He then presented a map of the service area expansion proposed in the 208 amendment. Mr. Humphreys indicated that since the document was mailed out to the Committee, an update was requested to the Draft MAG 208 Water Quality Management Plan Amendment to include 20 acres of land into the proposed service area expansion. The letter requesting the change was provided at each place. Mr. Humphreys showed the location of the parcel on the map and indicated that the amendment document will be revised so that moving forward the 20 acre parcel is included in the service area expansion. He showed the location of a future recharge site that Liberty Utilities is looking to develop for recharge of reclaimed water from facilities. The recharge site would expand on the Liberty Utilities current reclaimed water methods of irrigation or canal.

Mr. Humphreys discussed that letters were received from jurisdictions within three miles of the service area expansion. He indicated that the letters of no objection were received from the following communities: City of Avondale; City of El Mirage; City of Goodyear; City of Litchfield Park; City of Peoria; City of Phoenix; City of Surprise; Town of Youngtown; and Luke Air Force Base. Mr. Humphreys stated that the Section 208 of the Clean Water Act Checklist has been completed and is available in Appendix D of the amendment.

Mr. Humphreys reported that Liberty Utilities currently operates the Palm Valley Water Reclamation Facility, however as development continues Liberty Utilities has the option for a future facility, the Sarival Water Reclamation Facility. He displayed a map of the areas to be served by the Palm Valley Water Reclamation Facility and future Sarival Water Reclamation Facility. The future facility would be located at the current Sarival lift station.

Mr. Humphreys stated that the 208 amendment does not require any change to the previously approved capacity of the Palm Valley and Sarival Water Reclamation Plants. The approved buildout capacity for each facility is 8.2 million gallons per day (mgd). Mr. Humphreys displayed a table that

indicates the reserve capacity in the facilities following previous MAG 208 Amendments to expand the area to be served by Liberty Utilities. He noted that there is 1.19 mgd in reserve capacity available. Liberty Utilities may expand capacities at each of the facilities depending on development and efficiency.

Mr. Humphreys discussed the land use in the service area expansion. He presented the land use classifications from the 2009 City of Glendale Land Use Plan. The land use in the service area expansion is comprised of: low density residential; medium density residential; medium-high density residential; high density residential; planned commercial; business park; light industrial; heavy industrial; and Luke compatible land use areas.

Mr. Humphreys displayed the anticipated wastewater flows for the existing and future development in the Liberty Utilities service area. The average daily flow for the service area expansion is 1.96 mgd. Mr. Humphreys also presented a map of the capital improvement projects that would provide wastewater flow to the service area expansion.

Mr. Humphreys mentioned conditions for the proposed Draft MAG 208 Plan Amendment. First, the land areas included in the proposed amendment are outside of the Luke Air Force Base flight path and will not pose any risk to Luke Air Force Base flight operations. Secondly, officials at Luke Air Force Base request the opportunity to review development plans to ensure that there is no negative impact to Luke Air Force Base. Mr. Humphreys stated that Liberty Utilities has agreed to comply with this request. In addition, the Desert Gardens apartment complex has the option to connect to the Liberty Utilities collection system upon payment of connection fees. He noted that Desert Gardens currently has its own package wastewater treatment plant. Finally, the expansion will not affect any existing facilities and certificated areas.

Michael Weber, City of Peoria, asked if the service area expansion is within the Liberty Utilities CC&N. Mr. Humphreys replied that the CC&N will follow; none of the service area expansion is currently within the Liberty Utilities CC&N. Mr. Weber inquired about the resolution between Liberty Utilities and EPCOR Water on the location of recharge sites. Steve Carlson, Liberty Utilities, responded that Liberty Utilities has met with EPCOR Water regarding the recharge site locations. He stated that EPCOR Water and Liberty Utilities have both filed their recharge sites with the Arizona Department of Water Resources (ADWR). Mr. Carlson indicated that Liberty Utilities is waiting to hear back from ADWR on the recharge capacity in the area. He noted that Liberty Utilities and EPCOR Water have had discussions and are working together.

Javier Setovich, City of Glendale, referred to previous discussions on the Liberty Utilities and EPCOR Water recharge site locations. He indicated that the organizations came together and developed an understanding of how to move forward on both projects. Mr. Setovich stated that the discussions were documented in letters between the agencies. He added that Central Arizona Project was also included in the discussions. Mr. Setovich commented that for the City of Glendale, any issues with regard to the recharge sites were resolved.

Chair Gottler requested a motion to authorize a public hearing on the Draft MAG 208 Water Quality Management Plan Amendment for the Liberty Utilities Palm Valley and Sarival Water Reclamation Facilities Service Area Expansion 2014. Mr. Weber moved, and Mark Seamans, City of Goodyear, seconded, and the motion to authorize a public hearing on the Draft MAG 208 Water Quality Management Plan Amendment for the Draft Liberty Utilities Palm Valley and Sarival Water Reclamation Facilities Service Area Expansion 2014 carried unanimously.

5. Update on the Streamlining of the 208 Water Quality Management Plan Process

Julie Hoffman, Maricopa Association of Governments, provided an update on efforts by the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) to streamline the 208 Water Quality Management Plan Process. She stated that ADEQ has proposed a streamlining approach that would result in the issuance of permits for wastewater treatment facilities without first going through the MAG 208 Process and receiving Regional Council approval. Ms. Hoffman indicated that the MAG member agencies have expressed concern on the ADEQ streamlining approach.

Ms. Hoffman stated that as reported at the last Committee meeting, MAG staff met with ADEQ on October 1, 2014 to convey that the MAG member agencies do not want to jeopardize the integrity of the 208 Water Quality Management Plan Process. ADEQ indicated that it has made a commitment to reduce permitting time by 50 percent. ADEQ is trying to be more responsive to its customers, the regulated community. Ms. Hoffman stated that common ground was also discussed at the meeting, such as the importance of economic development in the region. MAG staff agreed to work with ADEQ on streamlining options that do not jeopardize the integrity of the MAG 208 Process.

Ms. Hoffman noted that on November 7, 2014, ADEQ conducted a strategy meeting with MAG and brought in a representative from the Governor's Government Transformation Office, Rob Woods, to discuss using the Lean approach in streamlining the 208 Process. She explained that the State has been using Lean to streamlining various processes. Ms. Hoffman noted that MAG staff arrived at the meeting prepared to discuss streamlining of the MAG 208 Process. At the start of the meeting ADEQ acknowledged that this time they would be applying Lean to an organization other than its own. As a result, they had met with the facilitator from the Governor's Office the day before the strategy meeting to discuss it.

Ms. Hoffman noted that at the November 7, 2014, strategy meeting, ADEQ indicated that the whole process needs to be studied. She reported that ADEQ indicated that they want to look at the process, starting when the utility first decides that they want to build a plant, when the utility approaches the local government, to see what goes on at the city level. They would then go through the MAG process and ADEQ process. Ms. Hoffman noted that this was a departure from what was discussed previously, which was to streamline the MAG 208 Process, and MAG staff indicated that they would need to report back to the MAG Executive Director.

Ms. Hoffman noted that ADEQ also indicated at the meeting that they would like to see 208 pushed closer to planning and zoning since it is duplicative, which is not the case. She said that ADEQ indicated it would like to get a group of developers together to look at how the process is conducted in the cities. The technical people would get together and map out the entire process over the course of a day and a half, which would be a shortened version of the Lean process. Ms. Hoffman noted that leadership would be brought in at the end to review.

Ms. Hoffman stated that ADEQ indicated that they streamlined the Aquifer Protection Permit Process in 2012 and in the first year they met the five year goal of reducing permitting time by 50 percent.

Ms. Hoffman noted that MAG staff conducted additional research on how long the MAG 208 Process has taken for the twenty-two 208 Amendments that have been approved in the past 12 years. She stated that the MAG 208 Process, which begins with the first Water Quality Advisory Committee meeting and then to Regional Council approval, takes approximately three months. Ms.

Hoffman stated that this was communicated to ADEQ and the representative from the Governor's Office.

Ms. Hoffman stated that at the November 7th meeting, Rob Woods from the Government Transformation Office recognized that an agency is able to streamline without using Lean. In addition, he stated that Lean does not stress one size fits all. He also noted that Lean is a mechanical process and not suited to create policy.

Ms. Hoffman stated that following the November 7th meeting, MAG staff contacted ADEQ and indicated that given the discussion at the strategy meeting, MAG would be streamlining its 208 Process to make it more efficient. She said that MAG staff is envisioning a small group of cities and towns, Maricopa County, a private utility representative, a homebuilder representative, and ADEQ to assist with streamlining the process. Ms. Hoffman stated that MAG will also invite the representative from the Governor's Office to the meeting. She added that this process will begin after the first of the year. She noted that MAG staff provided an update on the streamlining of the 208 Process to the MAG Regional Council on December 3, 2014.

Mr. Weber inquired if ADEQ is receptive to MAG leading the streamlining. Ms. Hoffman responded yes ADEQ has been receptive. She added that MAG will be including ADEQ in the streamlining process. She mentioned that other Council of Governments in the State may be looking at streamlining options for their own 208 processes as well.

Mr. Day referred to the interest by ADEQ to include the developers in the streamlining group and asked if they would be a part of the process. Ms. Hoffman replied that ADEQ has included the regulated community in its process improvements efforts. She added that the homebuilders will be invited to participate in the MAG 208 streamlining process as well.

6. Call for Future Agenda Items

Chair Gottler asked the Committee for suggestions on future agenda items.

7. Comments from the Committee

Chair Gottler invited comments from the Committee members. Hearing none, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:30 a.m.