

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

Tuesday, April 1, 2014
MAG Office Building
Phoenix, Arizona

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Randy Gottler, Phoenix, Chair	David McNeil, Tempe
Barbara Chappell, Avondale, Vice Chair	Kevin Chadwick, Maricopa County
* Arnold Coronado, Buckeye	# Michele Robertson for Pinnacle West Capital
Anupa Jain, Chandler	# Jim Kudlinski, Salt River Project
Larry Dobrosky, El Mirage	# Summer Waters, University of Arizona Cooperative Extension
* Mark Horn, Gilbert	# Michael Byrd, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community
Javier Setovich, Glendale	* Carole Coe Klopatek, Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation
Mark Seamans, Goodyear	Elisabeth Kahn for Glenn Stark, Gila River Indian Community
Carlos Padilla for Mesa	
Michael Weber for Peoria	
Greg Homol, Queen Creek	
Terry Lowe, Surprise	
Richard Sacks for Suzanne Grendahl, Scottsdale	

*Those members neither present nor represented by proxy.

#Attended by telephone conference call.

OTHERS PRESENT

Julie Hoffman, Maricopa Association of
Governments

Kara Johnson, Maricopa Association of
Governments

1. Call to Order

A meeting of the MAG Water Quality Advisory Committee (WQAC) was conducted on Tuesday, April 1, 2014. Randy Gottler, City of Phoenix, Chair, called the meeting to order at approximately 1:30 p.m. Michele Robertson, Arizona Public Service; Jim Kudlinski, Salt River Project; Summer Waters, University of Arizona Cooperative Extension; and Michael Byrd, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, 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 December 13, 2012 Meeting Minutes

The Committee reviewed the minutes from the December 13, 2012 meeting. Barbara Chappell, City of Avondale, moved and Michael Weber, City of Peoria, seconded, and the motion to approve the December 13, 2012 meeting minutes carried unanimously.

4. Draft MAG 208 Water Quality Management Plan Point Source Update

Julie Hoffman, Maricopa Association of Governments, provided an overview of the Draft MAG 208 Water Quality Management Plan Point Source Update. She stated that the update describes the desired wastewater treatment configuration in the region for the 20 year planning period.

Ms. Hoffman provided background information on the 208 Program. In 1974, the Governor designated MAG as the Regional Water Quality Management Planning Agency for Maricopa County in accordance with Section 208 of the Clean Water Act. Ms. Hoffman indicated that in 1979, the initial MAG 208 Water Quality Management Plan was prepared with subsequent revisions in 1982, 1993, and 2002. She stated that there are two major elements to the MAG 208 Plan: the Point Source and the Nonpoint Source sections. The Point Source section describes the preferred wastewater treatment system to serve the wastewater treatment needs of the area over a twenty year time period. Ms. Hoffman noted that for this element, each community provides their plans for wastewater treatment over the planning period. She added that the community descriptions include information on the planning area, population and wastewater flow projections, existing wastewater collection and treatment systems, wastewater disposal and/or reuse and recharge, sludge management, and planned improvements. Ms. Hoffman commented that it is the Point Source element that is being updated. The Nonpoint Source element primarily describes regional surface and groundwater quality, and the federal and state program activities designed to control nonpoint source pollution. This information is located in the 2002 MAG 208 Plan.

Ms. Hoffman went on to discuss that the Point Source section. It is important that this document reflect the wastewater treatment needs of the jurisdictions over the 20 year planning period since the MAG 208 Plan is the key guiding document used by the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) and Maricopa County in granting permits for wastewater treatment facilities in the MAG region. Ms. Hoffman stated that consistency with the 208 Plan is required for Aquifer Protection Permits (APP) and Arizona Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (AZPDES) permits issued by ADEQ and the Approval to Construct issued by Maricopa County Environmental Services Department. She noted that if a facility is not consistent with the 208 Water Quality Management Plan, it would be unable to acquire these approvals. MAG has worked closely with the MAG member agencies to ensure the descriptions reflect the wastewater treatment needs for the planning period.

Ms. Hoffman reviewed that the purpose of the Point Source Update is to incorporate the 22 MAG 208 Plan Amendments and six Small Plant Review and Approvals that have been approved by the MAG Regional Council since 2002. The latest socioeconomic projections and Municipal Planning Area boundaries have also included in the update. Ms. Hoffman discussed that the region has experienced tremendous growth since 2002. Despite the recent recession, growth is expected to continue in the region. Ms. Hoffman mentioned that the population estimates for 2013 indicate a Maricopa County population of approximately 3.9 million. She stated that a resident population of over six million is projected by 2040. The socioeconomic projections for resident population and Municipal Planning Area boundaries approved by the MAG Regional Council in June 2013 have been incorporated into the Point Source Update. Since wastewater capacity is needed to serve

nonresident populations, these projections have been included as well, which is consistent with previous 208 Plan revisions. Ms. Hoffman indicated that draft descriptions were sent out to the jurisdictions for review. She commented that the MAG member agencies provided update to their sections to reflect the desired wastewater treatment configuration for the planning period. The Draft MAG 208 Water Quality Management Plan Point Source Update document was then sent out to the jurisdictions on March 17, 2014 for review. Ms. Hoffman noted that an errata sheet is provided at each place to show the minor changes made to the document to since it was provided to the jurisdictions on March 17, 2014.

Ms. Hoffman provided highlights of the Draft Point Source Update. With the changes requested by the MAG member agencies, a total of 31 existing treatment facilities greater than 2 million gallons per day (mgd) and 55 small plants are identified in the 208 Plan, 86 total existing facilities. Ultimately, there will be a 120 facilities, 68 large facilities and 52 small plants needed to serve the region. Ms. Hoffman stated that 35 new facilities were added since 2002 through 208 amendments and Small Plant Review and Approvals. As part of this update, two additional future facilities have been included: Special Planning Area (SPA) 6 in the City of Surprise and the Pecos Water Reclamation Facility in the City of Goodyear. Ms. Hoffman noted that there have also been a number of facilities removed as part of the Point Source Update, both existing facilities that have since been decommissioned and future facilities that the communities no longer plans to build. She stated that wastewater treatment capacities have also been adjusted to reflect anticipated growth and conservation efforts.

Ms. Hoffman presented a map from the Draft Point Source Update Executive Summary that illustrates all of the wastewater treatment facilities, planned and existing, identified in the MAG 208 Plan Point Source Update for Maricopa County. The figure shows that a majority of the future facilities are planned in the West Valley; this is where a majority of the amendments occurred.

Ms. Hoffman provided a tentative schedule for the Point Source Update. With authorization of a public hearing by the Committee today, the public hearing would be scheduled for late May. It is a requirement that a public hearing be advertised 45 days in advance. Following the public hearing, the Committee would be asked to make a recommendation to the MAG Management Committee. It is anticipated that the MAG Management Committee would review the recommendation on June 11, 2014 and make a recommendation to the MAG Regional Council. On June 25, 2014, it is anticipated that the MAG Regional Council, as the decision making body of MAG, will take action on the MAG 208 Water Quality Management Plan Point Source Update. Ms. Hoffman indicated that the State Water Quality Management Working Group would meet on August 12, 2014, to make a recommendation to ADEQ. She stated that following the State Water Quality Management Working Group recommendation, MAG would submit the document to ADEQ. Ms. Hoffman stated that ADEQ would then review the Point Source Update and certify that it is consistent with the Arizona Water Quality Management Plan and submit the revision to the Environmental Protection Agency for approval. She thanked the Committee for their time and commitment to the Point Source Update. She commented on having an up-to-date description of the wastewater treatment needs for the region.

Chair Gottler requested a motion to authorize a public hearing on the Draft MAG 208 Water Quality Management Plan Point Source Update. Carlos Padilla, City of Mesa, commented that Mesa will have modifications to the Point Source Update. Ms. Hoffman requested that comments be provided within a week, the document will need to go out for public review. Richard Sacks, City of Scottsdale, stated that the City of Scottsdale may make some modifications to the Point Source Update. Mr. Weber, moved and Ms. Chappell, seconded, and the motion to authorize a public

hearing on the Draft MAG 208 Water Quality Management Plan Point Source Update carried unanimously.

5. Water and Wastewater Discussion

Chair Gottler provided an opportunity for members of the Committee to share current water and wastewater projects or programs occurring within their jurisdictions. Chair Gottler shared that the Cave Creek Water Reclamation Facility remains mothballed for at least another five years. He discussed the proposed draft AZPDES permit for the 23rd Avenue Facility. Chair Gottler also commented on the AZPDES permit for the 91st Avenue Facility.

Ms. Chappell stated that the City of Avondale does not have plans to expand the Avondale Water Reclamation Facility. She stated that the City, like many communities in the West Valley, have been experiencing challenges with nitrates in the groundwater. Avondale is preparing to begin a pilot through a tailored collaboration project with the Water Research Foundation. Ms. Chappell stated that the pilot will test ion exchange media for removal and a biological nitrate removal process for drinking water. She commented that one community in California is using the fairly new technology of biological nitrate removal. Ms. Chappell reported that biological processes are often used in wastewater treatment, but rarely for drinking water. She noted that the pilot will take place in the next few months.

Mr. Padilla indicated that the City of Mesa, Town of Gilbert, and the Town of Queen Creek are planning an expansion of the Greenfield Water Reclamation Plant. He noted that the expansion will be 16 mgd and is anticipated to be online in 2018.

Anupa Jain, City of Chandler, explained that Chandler is in the process of updating the Reverse Osmosis Plant from 2.8 to 5.6 mgd. She added that a brine reduction process will also be added, which will change the name of the facility to Ocotillo Brine Reduction Facility. Ms. Jain stated that the facility is scheduled to be completed soon.

Elisabeth Kahn, Gila River Indian Community, commented that there are no updates at this time.

Terry Lowe, City of Surprise, indicated that Surprise has completed 20 vadose zone wells at the SPA 1 Water Reclamation Facility. He added that Surprise is in the process of updating the APP to include the new vadose zone wells.

Javier Setovich, City of Glendale, stated that Glendale is not expanding any facility, however a significant rehabilitation project is underway at the Arrowhead Ranch Water Reclamation Facility. He indicated that Glendale is interested in technologies that other communities have found successful.

Mr. Weber discussed that Peoria has a planned expansion for the Jomax Water Reclamation Facility. Design is scheduled around 2018 and construction is anticipated by 2020.

Mark Seamans, City of Goodyear, indicated that Goodyear is investigating sites for vadose zone injection of effluent from the 157th Water Reclamation Facility. Additionally, the City of Goodyear is looking to update the Water Master Plan that was last updated in 2007. Mr. Seamans added that the 157th Water Reclamation Facility is being upgraded.

Mr. Sacks stated that Scottsdale is completing construction on the Advanced Water Treatment Plant which will have the same capacity as the Water Reclamation Plant at 20 mgd. He also mentioned

that the five members of the Sub-Regional Operating Group (SROG) are completing an Interceptor Capacity Evaluation through a contract with Black & Veatch. The evaluation measures the amount of wastewater entering the system in the present, but also to year 2040. Mr. Sack added that this evaluation parallels the Point Source Update. The evaluation will help depict the wastewater demands that will be faced in the future. Mr. Sacks stated that currently the wastewater demand is flat-lined.

Kevin Chadwick, Maricopa County, discussed a draft MAG 208 amendment with EPCOR Water on an area west of Luke Air Force Base. He indicated that the amendment is not ready to be presented to the Committee or included in the Point Source Update, but is in the works.

Larry Dobrosky, City of El Mirage, indicated that El Mirage is addressing aging infrastructure in the northern part of the City, as well as, upgrading water meters to a fixed base technology. He stated that the City will no longer need to do meter reads. Mr. Dobrosky noted that the West Valley Central Arizona Project Subcontractors (WESTCAPS) is working with the West Valley communities to create a regional, long-term strategic plan on how to serve the West Valley given the limited water resources. He stated that a WESTCAPS meeting with elected officials is scheduled in May to discuss water challenges in the West Valley.

Greg Homol, Town of Queen Creek, commented that Queen Creek is working with the City of Mesa and the Town of Gilbert on the expansion of the Greenfield Water Reclamation Facility. The Town is in the process of extending two to three miles of 24 inch sewer lines within the Town that will help to expand growth into the northeast region. Mr. Homol stated that Queen Creek is also in the process of creating a Water Master Plan. He noted that the Town recently purchased H2O Inc. Water Company. Mr. Homol added that Queen Creek will also be updating the Wastewater Master Plan that was completed in July 2011.

David McNeil, City of Tempe, discussed the management of fats, oils, and grease (FOG). He stated that Tempe has implemented a program called the Tempe Grease Cooperative that manages FOG by working with restaurants and food service establishments. Pamphlets on the Tempe Grease Cooperative were made available. Mr. McNeil indicated that after years of research and development, a program was created in which Tempe has contracted with several hauling vendors that can provide services approximately 15 percent below retail rates, which is able to be passed to restaurants that participate in the program. Tempe partners with the restaurants through a Retail Cooperative. Mr. McNeil added that the City is able to regulate the haulers under contract as opposed to the restaurants under an inspection program, which is much more manageable. He mentioned that the City began enrolling restaurants in March and is now providing service to restaurants. Mr. McNeil mentioned that the focus of the Tempe Grease Cooperative within the next year is on the downtown area restaurants. He added that bench-scale research will also be conducted with Arizona State University and consultants to evaluate the energy potential of the FOG collected through the Program for the possible use in anaerobic digesters at wastewater treatment facilities or food and FOG anaerobic digesters in or near Tempe. Additional information and a video on the Tempe Grease Cooperative can be found at www.tempe.gov/grease.

Ms. Chappell inquired how many restaurants have enrolled. Mr. McNeil replied that enrollment began around March 1, 2014 and less than ten restaurants are currently enrolled. He stated that the Program is focusing on the downtown area that includes approximately 90 restaurants and 12-15 percent of the total restaurants in Tempe. He noted that flyers were sent to the restaurants and additional outreach is planned. Mr. McNeil commented that a couple of vendors exist outside of the Program that provide a lower service rate, however problems have been experienced. He indicated

that Tempe conducted a lengthy, in-depth Request for Proposals (RFP) process in which two vendors were selected for interceptors, one vendor for traps, and one vendor for line jetting. Mr. McNeil discussed that the Program can offer trap services at \$55-\$60 depending on trap size, which is approximately \$10-\$15 less than vendors on the retail scale. He mentioned cases where restaurants used one of these vendors outside the Cooperative, and are now leaving and becoming part of the Program since they can now use the same vendor for less. He noted that the City is just beginning to enroll restaurants, but the response is coming quickly. Mr. McNeil announced that an article featuring the Tempe Grease Cooperative will appear in the AZ Water Kachina News.

Mr. Homol asked if the contract utilizes regionally cooperative language. Mr. McNeil responded that the City went through an informal bid process due to the total service provided in one year being less than \$50,000. He indicated that a notice of award notified the vendors instead of a formal contract. Mr. McNeil commented that the vendor may serve areas outside of Tempe. He indicated that the Program is focusing on the downtown area, however they will enroll restaurants outside of downtown.

Jim Kudlinski, Salt River Project, reported no updates.

Michael Byrd, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, indicated no updates.

Summer Waters, University of Arizona Cooperative Extension, stated that she has no comments.

Mr. Chadwick indicated that Maricopa County Environmental Services has been delegated the on-site wastewater program from ADEQ for the approval of these facilities. According to the APP Rules, there are three reasons where a new on-site wastewater treatment facility or the replacement of treatment works or disposal works of an existing on-site facility, would not be approved. The three reasons include: the treatment works is in a Nitrogen Management Area; an ordinance requires connection to a community sewer line; and the on-site facility is located in an area identified for connection to a sewer system in the 208 Water Quality Management Plan. Before an on-site facility can be approved, applicants are required to acquire approval from municipalities in which they are located. He stated that the City of Mesa has a plan to extend the community sewer throughout Mesa, however there are many unincorporated areas within the Mesa planning area. Mr. Chadwick commented that an issue arose with unincorporated areas connecting to the sewer system because the area was within the Mesa planning area identified in the Water Quality Management Plan. ADEQ and Mesa had discussions on the interpretation of that requirement in the APP Rules. ADEQ indicated that hook up is not required. Mesa requested that ADEQ formalize their interpretation in writing. ADEQ has come forth with written clarification on the APP requirement. Mr. Chadwick stated that Maricopa County is working cooperatively with Mesa on the issue. Mr. Chadwick stated that he can provide the letter from ADEQ to any municipality interested.

Ms. Chappell referred to a Senate Bill regarding on-site sewage systems on county islands. Mr. Chadwick replied that it was the Senate Bill that moved ADEQ to formalize language on the matter. He stated that ADEQ was concerned about legislation that would require changes to the Rules.

6. Call for Future Agenda Items

Chair Gottler asked the Committee for suggestions on future agenda items. With no further comments, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:05 p.m.