

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

Thursday, December 13, 2007
MAG Office Building
Phoenix, Arizona

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Roger Klingler, Scottsdale, Chair	# Stephen Bontrager, Peoria
* Marilyn DeRosa, Avondale	Robert Hollander, Phoenix
Lucky Roberts, Buckeye	# Rich Williams Sr., Surprise
# Jacqueline Strong, Chandler	David McNeil, Tempe
# Dennis Teller, El Mirage	Dale Bodiya for Kevin Chadwick, Maricopa County
Mark Horn for Lonnie Frost, Gilbert	John Boyer, Pinnacle West Capital
Russell Fletcher for Chris Ochs, Glendale	Jim Kudlinski for Ray Hedrick, Salt River Project
Sandra Rode for David Iwanski, Goodyear	* Erin Taylor, U of A Cooperative Extension
# Bill Haney, Mesa	

*Those members neither present nor represented by proxy.

#Attended by telephone conference call.

OTHERS PRESENT

Tim Keenan, Montage Holdings	April Coleman, Arizona Department of Environmental Quality
Lori Brown, Town of Buckeye	Melissa Gonsalves, Atwood Reporting Services
Scott Lowe, Town of Buckeye	Nathan Pryor, Maricopa Association of Governments
Steve Borst, Town of Buckeye	Julie Hoffman, Maricopa Association of Governments
Ray Jones, Aricor Water Solutions	Patrisia Navarro, Maricopa Association of Governments
Sheila Logan, CMX	
Steve Todd, Wilson Engineers	
Christian Stumpf, Landry Creedon & Associates	
Edwina Vogan, Arizona Department of Environmental Quality	

1. Call to Order

A meeting of the MAG Water Quality Advisory Committee was conducted on Thursday, December 13, 2007. Roger Klingler, City of Scottsdale, Chair, called the meeting to order at approximately 4:03 p.m. Bill Haney, City of Mesa; Stephen Bontrager, City of Peoria; Jacqueline Strong, City of Chandler; Rich Williams, City of Surprise; and Dennis Teller, City of El Mirage, attended the meeting via telephone conference call.

2. Agenda Announcements

Chair Klingler provided an opportunity for member agencies to report on activities of interest in their agencies.

3. Call to the Audience

Chair Klingler 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. No members of the public indicated that they wished to address the Committee.

4. Approval of the October 22, 2007 Meeting Minutes

The Committee reviewed the minutes from the October 22, 2007 meeting. John Boyer, Pinnacle West Capital, requested a correction to the third full paragraph on page ten of the minutes. He stated that the minutes should indicate that it would not take much time to prepare a plant layout and choose a methodology. Mr. Boyer moved and Robert Hollander, City of Phoenix, seconded, and the motion to approve the October 22, 2007 meeting minutes as corrected carried unanimously.

5. Public Hearing - Draft MAG 208 Water Quality Management Plan Comprehensive Amendment for the Town of Buckeye

Chair Klingler opened the Public Hearing on the Draft MAG 208 Water Quality Management Plan Comprehensive Amendment for the Town of Buckeye. He indicated that the hearing would begin with a briefing on the project, followed by an opportunity for hearing participants to make comments on the draft 208 plan amendment for the public record. He added that a Court Reporter was present to provide an official record of the hearing and written comments were also welcome. Chair Klingler invited members of the public wishing to provide comments to fill out a yellow card and submit it to MAG staff. Chair Klingler asked Steve Borst, Town of Buckeye, to provide a briefing on the Draft MAG 208 Water Quality Management Plan Comprehensive Amendment for the Town of Buckeye.

Mr. Borst stated that on October 22, 2007 an extensive presentation was given on the Draft Comprehensive Amendment for the Town of Buckeye Municipal Planning Area (MPA). He added that the Buckeye MPA is 590 square miles and will serve approximately 600,000 dwelling units and support approximately 2 million people. He stated that the Town is requesting that the Committee move the amendment forward to the MAG Management Committee. He mentioned that in August 2007, the Town of Buckeye gave individual presentations to many MAG member agencies on this plan as well as the Town of Buckeye Hassayampa Water Study. Mr. Borst indicated that this plan and the Hassayampa Study represent a very significant investment by the Town in its future. He commented on the documents being important planning tools for the Town of Buckeye as it seeks to manage the growth in the future in a responsible and predictable manner.

Mr. Borst presented the boundaries of the Town of Buckeye MPA. He also showed the areas annexed by the Town within the MPA. Mr. Borst provided the locations of the water reclamation facilities that are within the amendment. He stated that there are 19 plants discussed in the amendment, including the Lewis Prison Complex facility. Mr. Borst indicated that the Town would consider taking the Lewis Prison Complex facility out of service therefore making the amendment a total of 18 plants for the Buckeye MPA. He added that the amendment represents one water reclamation facility for each approximate 35 square miles of the Buckeye MPA. Mr. Borst also presented a map of the proposed discharge locations from the water reclamation facilities.

Mr. Hollander inquired if the boundary issue has been resolved between the Town of Buckeye and the City of Surprise. Mr. Borst responded that he was not familiar with any discussions other than the statements that were made at the October 22, 2007 Committee meeting. He added that those discussions are somewhat out of his purview. Rich Williams, City of Surprise, stated that Surprise management has talked with Buckeye management and have not been able to resolve the boundary dispute. He added that the City of Surprise would like to say on record as being opposed to this plan only due to the boundary issue.

Chair Klingler referred to the written public comment received from the law firm representing Pulte Home Corporation which requests that some maps be corrected. He inquired if the maps have been corrected. Mr. Borst replied that the Town of Buckeye had a discussion with Pulte Home Corporation. He stated that the issue is a service area matter and has to do with a commercial piece of property that is south of I-10 and west of Marana Way. Mr. Borst mentioned that the matter has been resolved to the satisfaction of Pulte Home Corporation. He added that Pulte Home Corporation indicated that it would not be sending a representative to the hearing to further elaborate on the letter.

Bill Haney, City of Mesa, inquired if 18 reclamation facilities is a little excessive when looking at regional planning. Mr. Borst responded that each facility would serve 35 square miles, which is not unusual for Maricopa County. He added that the service areas for some of the water reclamation facilities are a little smaller and some are a little larger. Mr. Borst indicated that the Town feels the number of water reclamation facilities is appropriate given the large planning area. Mr. Haney commented on a couple or several larger regional facilities being more cost effective. Mr. Borst discussed the direction of Maricopa County. He mentioned the regional approach by the Environmental Protection Agency and Clean Water Act in the grant program. Mr. Borst commented that the Valley is going to an approach whereby the facilities would be located in the areas where the water can be best used. He indicated that the Town of Buckeye has facilities where it can best take advantage of reuse and recharge.

Chair Klingler provided an opportunity for the Committee to ask further questions on the Draft 208 Plan Comprehensive Amendment for the Town of Buckeye while the public hearing was open. He also stated that members of the public wishing to speak should fill out a card and submit it to MAG staff. Chair Klingler noted that no public comment cards had been received. He closed the public hearing and requested that the Court Reporter end the transcription.

6. Draft MAG 208 Water Quality Management Plan Comprehensive Amendment for the Town of Buckeye

Chair Klingler indicated that the Committee is requested to recommend approval of the Draft MAG 208 Water Quality Management Plan Comprehensive Amendment for the Town of Buckeye. He provided an opportunity for discussion and consideration of public comments received.

Mr. Hollander inquired if the Town plans to regionalize solids treatment. He stated that the treatment plants will be generating sludge and inquired if the sludge would be handled at each facility or just a couple of the facilities. Sheila Logan, CMX, stated that the amendment does contemplate scalping plants where feasible and, depending on how the Town develops and the order of development, the Town will take that into consideration as planning continues.

Chair Klingler inquired about the number of existing plants. Ms. Logan replied that there are six existing plants. Chair Klingler asked about the sludge handling plan for those facilities. Ms. Logan responded that given the spatial distribution of the existing facilities, each has independent solids handling facilities.

Lucky Roberts, Town of Buckeye, moved that the Committee recommend approval of the Draft MAG 208 Water Quality Management Plan Comprehensive Amendment for the Town of Buckeye. Russell Fletcher, City of Glendale, seconded and, with no further discussion, the motion passed through a roll call vote with Mr. Williams voting no.

7. Draft MAG 208 Water Quality Management Plan Amendment for the City of Goodyear Sonoran Valley Planning Area

Steve Todd, Wilson Engineers, gave a briefing on the Draft MAG 208 Water Quality Management Plan Amendment for the City of Goodyear Sonoran Valley Planning Area. Mr. Todd presented an overview of the Municipal Planning Area for the City of Goodyear. He added that Goodyear has extended its MPA to the south to include an area which is being referred to as the Sonoran Valley Planning Area. He indicated that the purpose of this 208 amendment is to provide the regional wastewater planning for that area. Mr. Todd stated that the Sonoran Valley Planning Area is separated into two different areas for planning purposes due to a significant portion of land in the middle that is designated as open space. He added that the two development areas are referred to as the Northern Area and the Southern Area.

Mr. Todd presented the Northern Area including the land use plan. He stated that the Northern Area consists of 17 square miles for 15,100 housing units and 40,500 people. The master plan includes the State Land Water Reclamation Facility (WRF) that would serve the entire Northern Area with a capacity of 4.75 million gallons per day (mgd). He added that the treatment plant would utilize gravity sewers with one lift station at the facility. He indicated that all effluent from the facility would be reused within the area or recharged at a facility planned to be nearby the plant. Mr. Todd stated that the plan is to also obtain an Arizona Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (AZPDES) Permit discharge as a backup to the other planned uses of the effluent. He presented the location of the State Land WRF.

Mr. Todd presented the Southern Area and the land use plan. He indicated that the Southern Area encompasses 52 square miles and is planned to have 70,800 housing units with 189,800 people. Mr. Todd stated that the plan is for three water reclamation facilities in the Southern Area. He added that the Section 23 WRF and the Section 28 WRF are planned to be scalping plants with a capacity limited to 0.6 mgd each. He commented that the 24 mgd Southern Region WRF would be sized to serve the entire Southern Area. Mr. Todd stated that the plan would utilize a gravity sewer collection system and two lift stations would be needed. He added that all the effluent from the facilities is planned to be reused and recharged. However, each facility may also obtain an AZPDES discharge permit.

Mr. Todd presented the layout of the sewer collection system planned for the Southern Area and showed the location of the facilities. He indicated that the Section 23 WRF and Section 28 WRF would be the initial facilities constructed, and as the development occurs, the Southern Region WRF would be built. Once the Southern Region WRF is built, the initial facilities would become scalping facilities. He stated that the scalping plants would divert what they need out of the sewers to treat and produce effluent for the local uses. The gravity sewers would then take the effluent that is not needed to the Southern Region WRF. Mr. Todd indicated that the solids from the scalping plants would be discharged back into the sewers; therefore, the Southern Region WRF would handle all of the residuals from the Southern Area.

Mr. Todd stated that the whole area is planned to have a nonpotable water distribution system that will take the effluent from the treatment plants and distribute it to reclaimed water users. He added that the planning for reuse includes all parks, schools, and large common areas. Mr. Todd stated that there is a one and one-half square mile area where the development is currently being designed called the Amaranth Area 1. He commented that within this area, 16 nonpotable water users have been identified. Mr. Todd indicated that the plan is to continue to utilize nonpotable water as the area develops. He mentioned that four groundwater recharge facilities have also been identified, each with an anticipated capacity of 6 mgd to achieve the ultimate 24 mgd capacity that is planned for the Southern Region WRF. Mr. Todd stated that the plan is to be able to do 100 percent recharge during the winter or heavy rainfall events. He added that the majority of the water will be used for irrigation purposes in the summer. Mr. Todd presented the nonpotable water distribution system piping network, the location of the currently identified nonpotable water use locations, and planned recharge facilities.

David McNeil, City of Tempe, inquired about why AZPDES Permits would be needed for the two scalping plants since the effluent not needed for local uses would be diverted to the Southern Region WRF. Mr. Todd replied that the AZPDES Permits would be needed because of the timing of the facilities. He stated that the Section 23 WRF and Section 28 WRF would be the first facilities constructed and would be operating as end of the line plants. Mr. Todd indicated that the facilities would not become scalping plants until the Southern Region WRF is built. He added that once the Southern Region WRF is online, there would not be a need for the AZPDES Permits for the Section 23 WRF and Section 28 WRF.

Mr. Fletcher inquired about the combined average flow per capita for the Northern and Southern Areas. Mr. Todd replied that a summary table for each facility is included in the 208 amendment.

He added that the planned average flow is approximately 100 gallons per person per day. In addition, there are other components for nonresidential land uses. Mr. Todd indicated that the numbers are conservative for planning purposes.

Mr. Hollander inquired about the order of the disposal methods. Mr. Todd responded that the primary method would be direct irrigation for nonpotable use and any other nonpotable uses that are identified. He stated that the current plan includes irrigation of the initial facilities. Mr. Todd added that there is also a landfill in the area and the hope is to provide nonpotable water for dust control, compaction and operation when the system reaches that point. He commented that reclaimed water that would not be reused would be recharged.

Chair Klingler referred to a figure in the presentation and inquired about the location of the Northern Area and Southern Area. Mr. Todd responded that the area shown in bold in the figure is the Sonoran Valley Planning Area which includes both the Northern Area and Southern Area. Chair Klingler asked if Mobile is in the Southern Area. Mr. Todd responded that is correct. Chair Klingler inquired if the plans for the Southern Area includes the plans for Mobile. Mr. Todd replied that Mobile was annexed by the City of Goodyear.

Tim Keenan, Montage Holdings, stated that Montage Holdings owns the majority of the private land in the Sonoran Valley Planning Area. He stated that Mobile was annexed by Goodyear in March 2007. He showed the land that may possibly be annexed by Goodyear in the future. Chair Klingler noted that Mr. Keenan submitted a card requesting to comment on this agenda item. He asked if Mr. Keenan would like to provide additional comments. Mr. Keenan stated that Montage Holdings is a majority landholder in the area and is in support of the 208 amendment.

Mr. Hollander stated that five out of the six jurisdictions within three miles provided letters of no objection. He inquired about the Gila River Indian Community. Mr. Keenan responded that they have had numerous conversations with Chuck Allen from the Gila River Indian Community. He added that the Gila River Indian Community has no objection to the amendment. Mr. Keenan commented that they have been unable to get an audience with the Community Governor to have the letter signed. He indicated that he can provide emails from Mr. Allen indicating that the Gila River Indian Community has no objection to the amendment.

Chair Klingler requested a motion to authorize that a public hearing be conducted on the Draft MAG 208 Water Quality Management Plan Amendment for the City of Goodyear Sonoran Valley Planning Area. Mr. Hollander moved and Mr. McNeil seconded and the motion was unanimously passed through a roll call vote by the Committee.

8. Call for Future Agenda Items

Chair Klingler asked for any suggestions for future agenda items. He mentioned that the Draft Small Plant Review and Approval for the Preserve at Goldfield Ranch Water Reclamation Facility was continued for 60 days at the October 22, 2007 Committee meeting. Chair Klingler noted that December 21, 2007 would be the end of the 60 day period. He indicated that it appears there will be a quorum for a meeting on December 21, 2007. With no further comments, Chair Klingler thanked the Committee for participating and called for adjournment of the meeting.