

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

Tuesday, November 17, 2015
MAG Office Building
Phoenix, Arizona

MEMBERS ATTENDING

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

*Those members neither present nor represented by proxy.

#Attended by telephone conference call.

OTHERS PRESENT

Julie Hoffman, Maricopa Association of Governments	Scott Miller, Arizona Public Service
Kara Johnson, Maricopa Association of Governments	Ron Whitler, Buckeye
	Debora Mitchell, Ottmar and Associates, Inc.

1. Call to Order

A meeting of the MAG Water Quality Advisory Committee (WQAC) was conducted on Tuesday, November 17, 2015. Randy Gottler, City of Phoenix, Chair, called the meeting to order at approximately 3:00 p.m. Javier Setovich, City of Goodyear; Terry Lowe, City of Surprise; 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 October 1, 2015 Meeting Minutes

The Committee reviewed the minutes from the October 1, 2015 meeting. Barbara Chappell, City of Avondale, moved, and Roger Klingler, City of Buckeye, seconded, and the motion to approve the October 1, 2015 meeting minutes carried unanimously.

4. Public Hearing - Draft MAG 208 Water Quality Management Plan Amendment for the Central Buckeye Wastewater Treatment Plant Arizona Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit Discharges to the Roosevelt Canal and Buckeye Canal

Chair Gottler opened the public hearing on the Draft MAG 208 Water Quality Management Plan Amendment for the Central Buckeye Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) Arizona Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (AZPDES) Permit Discharges to the Roosevelt Canal and Buckeye Canal. He stated that following a briefing on the amendment, hearing participants are invited to make comments for the public record. A court reporter is present to provide an official record of the hearing. Written comments are also welcome. He noted that comments received will be responded to by the City of Buckeye.

Ron Whitler, City of Buckeye, presented the Draft MAG 208 Water Quality Management Plan Amendment for the Central Buckeye Wastewater Treatment Plant Arizona Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit Discharges to the Roosevelt Canal and Buckeye Canal. He stated that the purpose of the amendment is to add two additional AZPDES discharge points for the Central Buckeye WWTP. The plant currently discharges Class A+ effluent to a lateral of the Buckeye Canal, which is located adjacent to the Central Buckeye WWTP. Mr. Whitler indicated that the amendment proposes two additional discharge points for Class A+ effluent to the Roosevelt Canal and a contingency discharge to the main Buckeye Canal. Therefore the Central Buckeye WWTP would have three options for discharge.

Mr. Whitler provided the location of the discharge points. He noted that the current discharge adjacent to the Central Buckeye WWTP is located between Miller Road on the west and Apache Road on the east with Beloit Road on the north and the Gila River on the south. The proposed discharge to the Roosevelt Canal is located adjacent to the Sundance Water Reclamation Facility (WRF), which is also owned and operated by the City of Buckeye. Mr. Whitler indicated that the Sundance WRF also produces Class A+ effluent. He added that the location of the discharge to the Roosevelt Canal will be north of Lower Buckeye Road and east of Dean Road. The proposed contingency discharge to the main Buckeye Canal will be located near Dean Road about a quarter mile south of Southern Avenue.

Mr. Whitler discussed the Central Buckeye WWTP. He stated that the Central Buckeye WWTP current design capacity is 4.5 million gallons per day (mgd). In 2014, the WWTP discharged a daily average of 1.1 mgd. Mr. Whitler indicated that the ultimate design buildout projection for the facility is 45.8 mgd.

Mr. Whitler stated that the project is located entirely within the Buckeye Municipal Planning Area (MPA) with portions in Buckeye's incorporated area. In addition, the project is entirely within the Buckeye sewer service areas. Mr. Whitler indicated that unincorporated Maricopa County is the only jurisdiction within three miles. He announced that a letter indicating no conflict was received from Maricopa County.

Mr. Whitler stated that the purpose of the amendment is to add two additional AZPDES discharge points for the Central Buckeye WWTP to the Roosevelt Canal and to the Buckeye Canal, which is a contingency discharge. He indicated that the amendment will not result in a change to the current 1.1 mgd flow. In addition, the amendment will not result in a change of treatment processes and Class A+ effluent will continue to be discharged.

Mr. Whitler reported that the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) recently evaluated total maximum daily loads for boron and selenium on the middle Gila River. He stated that boron and selenium concentrations from the Central Buckeye WWTP and Sundance WRF were considered during ADEQ's evaluation.

Mr. Whitler discussed the need for the draft amendment. He reported that currently 90 percent of the effluent from the Central Buckeye WWTP is discharged without benefit to the City. He stated that the plant is located within the Buckeye waterlogged area. In December 2011, the depth to groundwater at the WWTP was three feet and Buckeye has installed dewatering wells to keep the groundwater levels below manholes and electrical duct banks. Mr. Whitler commented that Buckeye is looking to convey the effluent out of the waterlogged area where it can be reused and eventually recharged. Buckeye cannot recharge near the plant due to the shallow groundwater levels.

Mr. Whitler provided the benefits of this project. The project will convey Class A+ effluent to the Roosevelt Canal. Mr. Whitler stated that the Roosevelt Canal was permitted as a groundwater savings facility. By sending effluent to the Roosevelt Canal Groundwater Savings Facility, the effluent may be used for nonedible crops and landscape irrigation. In turn, the City would be able to receive long-term storage credits that are needed to maintain an assured water supply. Mr. Whitler indicated that the project also involves the construction of a 12-inch diameter effluent pipeline that will convey flows to the Roosevelt Canal where the effluent may be used for turf irrigation at Sundance Park.

Mr. Whitler discussed that in the future Buckeye would like to build a recharge facility north of the Roosevelt Canal. He stated that the City has met with the Arizona Department of Water Resources (ADWR) on a recharge facility. Mr. Whitler commented that ADWR does not recommend building a recharge facility south of Roosevelt Canal due to the proximity to the waterlogged area. However, ADWR has a level of comfort with a location north of the Roosevelt Canal. Mr. Whitler commented that the goal of the project is to convey effluent to a location where effluent may be reused, long-term storage credits may be attained, and recharge may occur. Mr. Whitler commented that another benefit of the project is that the increase in effluent reuse will lessen the effluent that would be discharged to the Gila River.

Mr. Whitler stated that the project is being financed through a Water Infrastructure Finance Authority loan. He indicated that sewer and reclaimed water rates and fees would constitute the repayment.

Mr. Whitler presented maps of the project area. The first map displayed the Buckeye MPA in which the project is located entirely within Buckeye's MPA. An asterisk marks the Central Buckeye WWTP and the Sundance WRF which is located on the Roosevelt Canal. Mr. Whitler noted the main Buckeye Canal. He stated that the Gila River is just south of the Central Buckeye WWTP. The second map also displayed the Buckeye MPA in a red boundary with the sewer service areas for the Central Buckeye WWTP and the Sundance WRF. Asterisks mark the proposed contingency discharge point along the main Buckeye Canal and the primary discharge point on the Roosevelt Canal.

Mr. Whitler displayed an exhibit of the effluent pipeline noted in purple. The pipeline will cross under the Roosevelt Canal, which would then travel north to the Sundance WRF. Mr. Whitler added that portion of the pipeline is already constructed. He noted an asterisk on the proposed discharge point at the Roosevelt Canal. The City has yet to build a pipeline across to the discharge point. Mr. Whitler commented that Buckeye hopes to accomplish that soon.

Mr. Whitler displayed a figure that presents the entire pipeline in which the portion in blue is newly constructed. He mentioned that the existing pipeline in red is in place due to discharges to the main Buckeye Canal from the Sundance WRF. The City built a portion of new pipeline in which the effluent will be conveyed north to the Roosevelt Canal. The Central Buckeye WWTP and the Sundance WRF are circled on the figure. Mr. Whitler noted the Buckeye waterlogged area.

Mr. Whitler presented a schematic that displays the current reuse locations. He stated that the proposed pipeline route is dashed and the purple lines are existing pipelines. Mr. Whitler indicated that currently a small amount of effluent from the Central Buckeye WWTP is conveyed to Earl Edgar Park. Additionally, some effluent is utilized at a fire training facility adjacent to the plant. However, 90 percent of the effluent is currently discharged without benefit to the City. The pipeline for the contingency discharge point to the Buckeye Canal will travel east along Beloit Road and then north along Dean Road. Mr. Whitler noted that the line will continue north to the Sundance WRF where effluent will be discharged to the Roosevelt Canal. He added that effluent may be reused at Sundance Park. In addition, effluent can also be reused at the Sundance Golf Course where effluent from the Sundance WRF is currently reused.

Chair Gottler called for public comments. He stated that for those wishing to speak on the draft 208 amendment, please fill out a public hearing card which are available on the tables inside the meeting room. He noted that the Committee members will have an opportunity for questions and discussion on the draft amendment under the next agenda item. Hearing none, Chair Gottler closed the public hearing and requested that the Court Reporter end the transcription.

5. Draft MAG 208 Water Quality Management Plan Amendment for the Central Buckeye Wastewater Treatment Plant Arizona Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit Discharges to the Roosevelt Canal and Buckeye Canal

Chair Gottler provided an opportunity for the Committee to discuss the Draft MAG 208 Water Quality Management Plan Amendment for the Central Buckeye Wastewater Treatment Plant Arizona Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit Discharges to the Roosevelt Canal and Buckeye Canal. No discussion was noted.

Chair Gottler indicated that the Committee is requested to recommend approval of the draft amendment. Mr. Klingler moved and Ms. Chappell seconded, and the motion to recommend approval of the Draft MAG 208 Water Quality Management Plan Amendment for the Central Buckeye Wastewater Treatment Plant Arizona Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit Discharges to the Roosevelt Canal and Buckeye Canal carried unanimously.

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, Chair Gottler adjourned the meeting at approximately 3:20 p.m.