

PORA WATER COMMITTEE

Minutes - September 22, 2010 Attendees

Attendees

Committee Members: Bob Jones, Howard Jones, Jo-Anne Jones, Jerry Alton, David Hunter, James West, Mike Whiting, Tom Cook

Guests: Ian Crooks, AZ American; Roland R. Schroder, Marshall Oaks, Thomas Woolard

I. Approval of Minutes. The minutes of the May 26 meeting were approved as written.

II. Ian Crooks, Arizona-American

Ian Crooks reported on the status of the Consolidation Rate Case. At this point, the testimony has been turned over to the judge who will evaluate the facts and the pertinent legal issues. She will make a recommendation to the ACC. The judge's report is due in October; the ACC public hearing regarding the recommendations will most likely be held in December. Howard Jones asked what exactly was being evaluated. Ian responded that all the various scenarios for consolidation of rates, including the one excluding the Sun Cities, were under consideration by the judge.

Jim West asked what happened to the low income senior discount for SCW residents that was to be initiated after the last rate hikes. Ian will check into that program and let the committee know at the next meeting.

Jerry Alton asked about the insurance program that covers water pipes. Does it include damage from broken pipes within the home? Ian pointed out that AZ American does not sell that insurance. It is from another company. However, the damage covered is only from the premises to the water meter.

Tom Cook discussed an issue relating to the replacement of water meters at his condo assoc. AZ American began the replacements on June 25, and the HOA was told that any broken pipes had to be fixed by the assoc. before the new meters could be completely installed. His group believes that removing the old meters seems to have caused the leaks. They do not think they should have to pay for the repairs, that they are the responsibility of the water company. Ian will look into this matter. Tom also asked why some HOA's in Surprise have had limits set to their water use by ADWR. Ian suggested it might be that they have been using more water than was specified in the original agreement the developer established when the homes were approved. If the limit is exceeded, the HOA's can be penalized.

Tom Woolard brought his water bill to the meeting to question a quadrupling of his bill that occurred one month after they changed the meter. Ian will research the matter. Jim West suggested that SCW residents check their own meters to make sure they are working correctly.

III. Mike Whiting - RCSCW

Mike reported that despite the hot summer, water use is down due to the wet winter and spring. The RCSCW was aware that a water line was present and would be under the new 303/El Mirage road construction. They contacted the county to insure that the line would remain intact. If the community ever needed to use effluent for irrigation, this line would be essential, even though a new pump and delivery system would have to be constructed. Mike added that this was an unlikely scenario because of all the water rights the RCSCW have purchased. If the water laws should change, however, the community would have effluent available for future use.

David Hunter said that Briarwood has only one well. They have always seen use of effluent as a fall back position. There is a loop of piping that could carry effluent water to all the golf courses in SCW. Mike pointed out that this is a very old system put in by Del Webb. If effluent were to be used, the community would have to put in a new system, the water company would have to agree not to recharge the effluent water (worth a great deal to them in recycling credits) and there would be problems with the grass due to the extreme saltiness of the effluent water. So use of effluent is not a perfect solution.

There was discussion about the availability of CAP water and groundwater. Tom asked what would happen if CAP water had to be rationed because of the low level of Lake Meade. Ian said, should such an event occur, although it seems unlikely that we would suffer due to our good groundwater levels, water would be restricted in tiers. Water used for public consumption would be the last to be affected. Mike commented that if ADWR were to ask golf course communities to restrict water use, SCW does have a surplus of 200 ac ft which would act as a cushion.

IV. New Business

Tom Cook spoke to the committee about a dual flush toilet adapter that has been installed in 22 of the units of his HOA. There has been a noticeable drop in water use. The committee recommends that the PORA Board consider publicizing this product and others like it as a significant water conservation measure for our homeowners. The one Tom is using is a HydroRight Dual Flush. It can be installed easily, and it costs about \$25.

Bob distributed a letter from Dess Chappelle, former member of the PORA Water Committee, with information about the CAWCD election.

V. Call to the Public

No public comments.

VI. Adjournment The meeting was adjourned at 9:55 AM.

NEXT MEETING: October 27, 2010, 9:00 AM, PORA