

# **PORA WATER COMMITTEE**

Minutes - February 23, 2011

Attendees

Committee Members: Howard Jones, Tom Cook, Duane Robinson, Jack Kurrle, James West, Jo-Anne Jones

Guests: Mike Whiting, RCSCW; Marie McDermott, PORA; Marilyn Sage, Creekwood HOA; Nik Brown, Blue Ballad HOA; Marshall Oaks, Ruth Bell

Due to illness Bob Jones was unable to chair the committee. Jo-Anne Jones, Secretary, was chair pro tem in his place.

## ***I. Approval of Minutes.***

The minutes of the January 26 meeting were approved as amended.

## ***II. Mike Whiting, RCSCW***

Mike reported that not much has changed for the centers. Because of the recent rain, the irrigation system has been turned off for the rest of the week. Jo-Anne asked whether Todd Patty was still a representative of the RCSCW on this committee. Mike said to leave Todd's name in place. He is very busy, but he will be able to attend some of the meetings. It is good for the committee to hear about the conservation measures planned for the golf courses and the irrigation use over the months.

## ***III. Ian Crooks, Arizona-American***

No representative was present from AZ American.

## ***IV. Fugitive Water***

Jack Kurrle reported that irrigation problems seem to taper off in the winter. He has noticed only a few leaks and has notified the homeowners.

## ***V. Old Business***

Tom Cook reported on his meeting with Ian Crooks regarding the water meters. There is still some discrepancy in the way the meters are reporting. Someone from AZ American will be coming to Tom's HOA to do a "High/Low" check on the meters. In response to a question, Tom stated that all meters in SCW will be replaced. You can call the company to see when your area is scheduled for the change.

Tom also reported that he has had contact with resident Vern Johnson, from Edmunton, Canada. Vern speaks very highly of the water utility and the services received from his Edmunton company. They will be taking over Arizona American when the sale is approved by the ACC. Mr. Johnson also told

Tom that there are specialists who can be hired that can show owners how to cut down water usage for grass lawns in Arizona. Mr. Johnson's HOA is looking into this service. Switching to desert landscaping has a 7-8 year payback. It may be worthwhile to study the grass option. Tom still prefers artificial grass.

Tom stated that if an HOA has one or two residents who use considerably more water than the average, there is a company which will install individual meters for the HOA, so each resident would pay for his/her own water. However, it would be a sizable expense for the HOA to switch to a different metering system.

There were many questions from the committee and public regarding the new meters and their reliability. More information is needed from the water company. Jo-Anne will contact Ian and request that a specialist on meters attend our March 30 meeting. Some questions to be asked: Who manufactures the meters that are being installed? What is the "allowable variation" in measuring? How are they read? Can we expect that by being more accurate the measurement of water used will be higher reflecting in higher bills? What about HOA's and the meters? The committee believes that it is important to have confidence in the meters and the maintenance of these meters.

## ***VI. New Business***

Howard Jones mentioned that some areas of SCW have higher water pressure than others. Citizens can have a pressure reducer put on their lines so they can adjust the pressure. Pressure can be measured at the outside spigot. A plumber can perform this work.

## ***VII: Call to Public***

Marshall Oaks asked whether there is a minimum waste water charge and if everyone pays the same minimum. We will check with Ian Crooks on that and get back to Marshall.

Jim West asked again about the low income discount that was promised to SCW low income residents several years ago which has never materialized. Again, this will go to Ian.

## ***VII: Adjournment***

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, March 30, at 9:00 AM, at PORA.