

PORA WATER COMMITTEE
Minutes - March 30, 2011

Attendees

Committee Members: Howard Jones, Tom Cook, Duane Robinson, Bob Jones, James West, Jo-Anne Jones, David Hunter

Guests: Ian Crooks, Frank Myers, Arizona American;
Dusty Bowenkamp, Marie McDermott, PORA;
Marilyn Sage, Creekwood HOA; Nik Brown, Blue Ballad HOA;
Jocelyn Audley, Cavalcade HOA; John Radke, Michael Bannon

Chairman Bob Jones introduced Dusty Bowenkamp, PORA Board President. Either Dusty or Merlyn Carlson will be taking over the Water Committee beginning in April. Bob's term of office has expired. Dusty asked whether the meeting day could be changed to Thursday. It was agreed that the PORA Water Committee will begin meeting on the **last Thursday of the month**, at 9:00 AM at PORA. This new meeting day will begin with the April 28 meeting.

I. Approval of Minutes. The minutes of the February 23 meeting were approved as written.

II. Ian Crooks, Arizona American Water. Ian reported that the commercial meters at the HOA's (as noted by Tom Cook) have been replaced with residential meters. He invited the community to an Arizona American Open House on April 9, from 8-11, at the water plant on Meeker Boulevard. Next, Ian introduced Frank Myers, a meter specialist for the water company.

Frank gave a very thorough presentation on water meters. There had been several questions about the replacement meters at the last meeting. Frank explained that there is a 15 year plan to replace meters in SCW with the new AMR meters that can be read by a handheld device. The meters are very accurate and the signal can be read from quite a distance. The replacement program began about 3 years ago. The older meters must be read individually at the meter. This is very inefficient. It will be easier to determine leaks because the new meters can read a tenth of a gallon per minute. Residents who think they have a leak or who question their meter reading can call AZ American and someone can come out and check.

James West asked about the older meters which have the covers over the dials that have been left open or are missing. Frank says the readers are supposed to re-cover the dials after reading. If a cover is missing, the homeowner should report that to the water company.

Nik Brown asked if meters can run slow. Frank replied that over time, wear can affect the function of a meter and cause a malfunction. When new meters are installed, sometimes there is an increase in a water bill because the newer meter is reading the water use more accurately.

John Radke said that his HOA has to replace some piping and wondered if the meter changes can be done at the same time. Michael Bannon of Desert Star Condos stated that his HOA had the same situation and was able to coordinate the work. Frank said it can be difficult to do because the company schedules meter changes only a few days in advance. However, if John contacts him, he will try to coordinate the work.

Jocelyn Audley asked about high water pressure. Frank said that although 80 psi is reasonable, higher pressures should not cause problems. Most plumbing is rated for 170 psi.

After registering on the website, rate-payers can check their water bills online at www.amwater.com.

Jo-Anne Jones asked Ian about the low income program that has been under discussion for several meetings. The program was instituted by the ACC for Sun City, not yet for SCW. It involves a \$4 discount per bill for those who qualify. Only so many can be accepted into the program. No one knows if it will be extended to SCW.

V. Old Business - it was covered under the presentation from AZ American

IV: New Business -- Tom Cook

A. Tom recommended that residents check their water meters occasionally. It involves turning off the water in the house and for irrigation, then checking to see if the meter shows any water flow. A flow can indicate a problem, for example, a deep irrigation leak that can't be detected on the surface.

B. Tom attended a meeting with a group of duplex owners where a rotational sprinkler was discussed. This type of sprinkler has a low water stream and doesn't shoot high into the air, preventing evaporation. Those who shifted to this sprinkler saved about 1/3 on their water bills. The sprinkler uses water pressure to turn and has 4 different heads and is very adjustable. Nik Brown reported that his HOA has switched to this system and there is better coverage with fewer heads. It did increase efficiency by 30%. Tom said the system had special easy to replace parts for problem solving. He recommended checking www.sprinklerwarehouse.com.

Tom said the next meeting of this duplex owners' group will be devoted to removing grass and other options for water conservation. It will be on April 21 at Tom's home.

VII: Call to Public - no comments

VII: Adjournment

The next meeting will be on Thursday, April 28, at 9:00 AM, at PORA.