

## **PORA Water Committees Minutes April 19, 2012**

Attendees: Merlyn Carlson , David Hunter, Briarwood Golf Course, Tom Cook, Chuck Long, James West, Howard Jones Shawn Bradford EPCOR.

1. Meeting called to order at 9:05am
2. Minutes of March 15, 2012 were approved as corrected.

### **2. Reports:**

**Shawn Bradford EPCOR:** The EPCOR name branding change is almost complete on equipment, trucks, uniforms, and paperwork; this month's water billing should have read EPCOR Water. With summer coming we have been changing out some pumps and motors. Also upgrading how the pumps handle high and low demand times. We are trying to keep the large pumps from turning on and off as much, to save power.

**Mike Whiting SCW Rec Centers: none**

**David Hunter Briarwood Golf Course:** The course is in good shape and we are doing some spot watering of areas instead of running the big sprinklers all the time. Our well is running more efficiently after being refurbished earlier this year. We are saving on electricity by not running the large motors as much. With little rain we are over our normal water allotment and have reduced our water usage as much as possible.

### **3. Old Business**

Committee Reports:

**Howard Jones:** We have decided to continue to look for abnormally high water bills past the April 18 date. The committee is still in the process of reviewing.

### **4. New Business**

**Q: James West** regarding the EPCOR Water statement stating the 12-cents fee being raised up to \$1.19 this month is the ground water savings fee. Is this an EPCOR fee or CAP fee?

**A: Shawn Bradford:** This fee goes directly to CAP (Central Arizona Project) as taker pay. This water comes from the Colorado River; AZ is one of seven states that are allocated to get water from that river. The CAP brings water down to Phoenix, and on to Tucson. SC, SCW and the Agua Fria districts all have allocations. The CAP board decides the rate to be charged, that cost is passed onto the rate payer. EPCOR takes the surface water and re-charges it into the ground to replenish and offset the ground water pumped from its wells located in SCW.

**Howard Jones:** As power rates increase in the future water rates will go up.

**Tom Cook:** APS is going to the ACC to get a rate increase. If it goes up, that will directly impact water rates. The EPA has shut down several power plants due to stricter air quality standards. Power cost is the largest cost of water as it is needed to run lifting pumps etc.

We did not have allocation to pump ground water for three of our golf course and Briarwood. The only way we could get water to those golf courses was to bring water down from CAP canal. The pipeline was proposed to come down and SCW was part of the deal. Some residents filed a lawsuit that dragged on for five years. After the suit was dropped the cost of the pipeline had gone so high it was cancelled. Mike Whiting was able to find water rights to pump ground water to satisfy our golf course needs. When we bought the water rights we sold some to Briarwood.

**Q: Francis Setrick:** I just received a letter from a company offering water service line coverage for homeowners. Is this good to get?

**A: Howard Jones:** This is a separate company selling insurance for the water line from the meter to the house only. You can buy the insurance or not it is up to the homeowner.

## **5. Adjournment**

**Next Meeting: May 17, 2012**