

Citizens' Water Advisory Committee (CWAC) Minutes
July 12, 2022, 6:00 p.m.
Hybrid - via Microsoft Teams

Members Present: Angie Binder – Chair, Dick Eason - Vice Chair, Tom Coker, Dave Patterson, Janet Marlow, Daniel Widrich Dennis Dechant, Jay Campbell

Absent: William Gondrez

Staff Present: Greg Baker, Rory Franklin, Jo Ann Giddings, Fernando Aranda, Tim York, Paula Sullivan, Sherry Scaggiari, Marshall Brown, Melina Bourdeau, Adam Waters, Zach Vernon, Gail Thrasher, Sonya Gonzalez, Alex Davis

Visitors Present: None

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m.

1. Approval of May 10, 2022 Minutes

The May 2022 minutes will be reviewed next month as they weren't not included in the packet.

2. Introductions/Public Invited to be Heard

None

3. New/Old Business

T. Coker asked, do we have the notes from Water Resources regarding the Prairie Waters Tour in June? G. Baker replied, I'll email to the committee.

4. Communications Update

- Water Conservation Ordinance is going to Study Session July 18.
 - PFAS will be addressed in a future meeting, and are waiting to see what the impacts of the latest CDPHE requirements will be.
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5. Water Conservation Annual Report

T. York presented on the Water Conservation Annual Report that included: Program History and Team, Conservation Programs, Program Performance review, Conservation Innovations, and planned future efforts.

6. 2023 Proposed Budget

G. Thrasher presented on the 2023 Proposed Budget that reflects Aurora Water's 2023 proposed operating and 2023-2027 capital improvement budgets. The budget is a planning tool used to project what activities will be performed and what capital projects will be completed during the year, and their impact on the financial status of the enterprise funds. The 2023 revenue

assumptions, 2023 service fees, 2023 proposed operating costs, 2023-2027 Capital Improvement Program, and changes in funds available for the Water and Wastewater Funds. All figures are preliminary pending final budget recommendations from City Management. D. Patterson asked, As we look at funds and operating costs what is being done to ensure the highest level of efficiency? G. Thrasher replied, we always do our best to be as efficient as possible when it comes to overhead, admin cost, increasing the rates and the percentage that we do. We review all the operating costs and the FTEs that are added are needed to maintain our efficiency and to do all the projects that are out there. There are also equipment needs as well and costs are rising. J. Giddings added, they put money in for lead replacement and we've seen increases in our credit card fees. M. Brown added, the operating budget staffing is about 35% of the operating budget. There are cost increases. An example is the chemical costs have gone up almost 100% and the utility costs have gone up in excess of 30% in some cases that are outside of our control. D. Patterson expressed concern over the impact of rate increases on a large section of the population. M. Brown offered to go through the budget proposals with anyone interested. A. Binder asked, are there any federal dollars for the lead pipe project and PFAS? J. Giddings replied, we are applying for federal and state grants to assist with the projects.

7. 2023 Water Rates and Fees

F. Aranda presented on the 2023 Water Rates and Fees that summarizes the proposed changes to rates and fees for 2023. Aurora Water's Financial Administration Division continually monitors and evaluates the fees and rates for adequacy to fund the capital and operating needs in the water, sanitary sewer, and storm drainage system. T. Coker asked, are we penalizing those in higher rate brackets? G. Baker replied, the intent with the new tier structure in 2021 was to promote conservation. M. Brown added, the cost of water delivery for peak seasonal use has an impact on costs. F. Aranda added, about 90% of bills use under 20,000 gallons per month and only a small percentage of customers are paying higher rates. D. Widrich asked, Do all funds for conservation get used on an annual basis? T. York replied, they have been and in recent years we've exceeded our initial budgeted amount.

8. Review Follow-Up Questions Generated at this meeting

D. Patterson's budget questions will be addressed at the August meeting.

9. Confirm Next Meeting – Tuesday August 9, 2022

10. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Angie Binder

Angie Binder (Aug 10, 2022 10:12 AM)

Angie Binder, Chair
Citizens' Water Advisory Committee

Adopted: Aug 10, 2022