

PORA WATER COMMITTEE

Minutes - January 26, 2011

Attendees

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

Guests: Mike Whiting, RCSCW; Marie McDermott, PORA; Ken Weidner, Blue Sky Park Condo Assoc.; Ian Crooks, AZ American Water; Bob Baron, Marshall Oaks, Jim Garrett,

Tom Cook: Special Presentation

Tom reported that he and Ken Weidner had a meeting with Ian Crooks of AZ American regarding HOA's and water issues.

1. They discussed the issue of whether an HOA should be given a residential or commercial meter. The meters had been changed to commercial with a sizable increase in cost. Tom researched the ACC Commission Rules on Water and discovered that according to #26, HOA's should be residential. The water company has redesignated the meters and adjusted the accounts.

2. When the meters at his condo were switched to digital, Tom noticed that a much larger amount of water was shown as being used over the water use he had been tracking for months. Ian said he would send someone from the water company to check. Howard Jones commented that in his experience, the mechanical meters tend to be less accurate when older. The new digital meters would probably be giving the correct readings.

3. There is a difference in the number of dials on some of the meters for his condo. Ian couldn't explain the differences. The company will make corrections.

I. Approval of Minutes.

The minutes of the December 15 meeting were approved as amended.

II. Mike Whiting, RCSCW

Mike reported that not much has changed for the centers. They are under their water allotment by 1%. Excess water has been banked against future needs. Conservation plans are still underway to convert areas on some of the courses to xeriscaping. A question was asked about overseeding. Mike said that only a couple of the courses are suited to this process. However, it produces a great deal of dust, and that is a serious issue. Duane asked if there were plans in place in case of serious drought. Mike replied that because we use groundwater, and our wells are actually rising, that should not be a problem because of the water levels. In SCW ADWR does come out to test the wells.

III. Ian Crooks, Arizona-American

Ian announced that EPCOR has agreed to purchase AZ American Water in Arizona and New Mexico. It will take 12-18 months for the ACC to hold the proceedings and approve the sale. EPCOR is a Canadian company owned by the city of Edmonton. This sale represents their first real undertaking in the US. They were interested in the SC and SCW area because so many Canadians winter here. Phoenix will become the hub for their American business, and the call center will be here. Their objective is to provide better local service and decrease costs. They will retain most of the current employees.

Jim West asked again about the senior discount that was supposed to be enacted to help those low income residents in SCW. Ian will check on it. It has to be approved by the ACC. Jo-Anne commented that we had been told by Joni McGlothlin 1-2 years ago that the discounted rate had been approved for our community.

Jim Garrett asked about sewer rates. He feels it is unfair that the rate is based on the water use. Those who have more landscaping to irrigate are overcharged. Ian said that was the way it always had been figured. Bob Baron asked why those who use more water are not charged more to encourage water conservation. Ian said there are tiers for water use and rates, but they are very generous. If there ever were a serious need for conservation, this would probably be addressed and changed.

Tom Cook thanked Ian for his help. Since their meeting last month, his condos have been switched back to residential rates. The meter issues still need to be resolved. Ian said he would set another meeting.

V. Old Business-- none

IV: New Business -- none

VII: Call to Public -- none

VII: Adjournment

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, February 23, at 9:00 AM, at PORA.