

PORA Water Committee Minutes

April 28, 2011

Attendees: Merlyn Carlson, Jerry Alton, Nik Brown, Dave Hunter, Tom Cook, Dolly Collins, Jack Kurrle

The meeting was called to order at 9:08. New Chairman Merlyn Carlson commended Bob and Jo-Anne Jones for their years of service on the Committee.

- I. Approval of March Minutes: Jerry Alton moved to approve, Dave Hunter seconded...minutes were approved as written.
- II. Reports
 - a. Arizona American – Dolly Collins
 - i. There will be an Open House on May 7 from 9am to 1pm at the AZ American facility by the White Tanks (on Citrus Road). This is a “state-of-the-art” recharge facility.
 - ii. Jerry Alton asked if the Committee could have an in-depth tour of a facility. This will be scheduled for fall and one of the engineers may conduct the tour.
 - iii. The Sun City West Open House was postponed due to rain...it will be rescheduled for Fall 2011.
 - iv. Nik Brown asked for an explanation for why water costs are different depending on whether you have a 5/8” vs 1” or 1 1/2 “ connection. He would like to know if they can change their meter configuration so that they have individual house meters and the irrigation system is on its own meter. Tom Cook said they can but would have to pay for their own meters. He cautioned that often water leaks don’t show on the surface. Water softeners were also cited as a possible cause of leakage and can be as much as 15 gal / hour.
 - v. Jerry asked if Arizona American could produce a monthly report for inclusion in the PORA newsletter. He also stated that the Arizona American engineers will come out and check meters if the owner suspects a faulty meter or a leak.
 - vi. Dolly mentioned that they are very excited to see the purchase by EPCOR and that this will mean local Customer Service (vs Alton IL) They expect the transition to be seamless.
 - b. Tom Cook

- i. Tom passed out a handout giving some cost figures for conversion of grass to stone, artificial grass, or changing to rotational sprinklers as conservation measures.
 - ii. Tom passed out a handout that was a copy of an e-mail sent to the Rec Centers Governing Board about replacing the grass at the softball park with artificial grass. During discussion, it was suggested that if the 3-5 year payback estimates are true, the Rec Centers should consider using it at Beardsley Park.
 - iii. There was a discussion about the considerable improvements in artificial turf in recent years, and that Sun City Grand is considering using it at their Dog Park.
 - c. Jack Kurrle – Fugitive Water: Jack stated that he is not finding many instances of fugitive water but that he is flagging the ones he does find.
- III. Old Business – there were some discussions about the benefits and problems of water softeners and solar hot water heaters. It was also mentioned that starting in 2012 the 4' florescent tubes commonly found in office lighting situations (including PORA) will no longer be available.
- IV. New Business –
 - a. Jerry Alton suggested the Committee consider looking into the long-term issues surrounding water availability in the Valley and Sun City West.
 - b. Time changes for the Water meeting were discussed...the new meeting time will be the second Thursday of the month at 9:00 am. The next Committee meeting will be on September 8, 2011.
- V. The meeting was adjourned.