

**CLARK COUNTY WATER RECLAMATION DISTRICT WASTEWATER RATES AND CHARGES CITIZENS
ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

MINUTES

March 30, 2022, 11:00 a.m.

Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams

Committee Members Present:

Paul Moradkhan
Gene Houston
Jennifer Lewis
Virginia Valentine

Warren Hardy
John Restrepo
Georgie Rucker

Staff Present:

Tom Minwegen
Shawn Mollus
Charles Ocansey
Brett Borek
Mike Pierson
Jasmine Cook

David Stoft
Dan Fischer
Brenda Pappas
Corey Synagogue
Kim Adler
Jolene Bradley

Others Present:

Terry Murphy

Guy Hobbs

Absent Committee Members:

Julie Cleaver
Cliff Marshall

Andres Estrada
Lisa Ortega

Call to Order, and Roll Call – The meeting was called to order by Terry Murphy at 11:07am. Followed by roll call.

Opening Remarks – Terry Murphy noted the members were provided additional information regarding development agreements for review and consideration by their respective industries. Also noted, members were provided a brief summation of the emerging issues that would be discussed during the meeting.

Public Comment – There were no persons wishing to speak.

Approval of Last Meeting Minutes -

Approval of Agenda – Gene Houston made a motion to approve the agenda. The agenda was unanimously approved by the committee.

Review Proposed Service Rules Changes –

- **Reclaimed Water Sales**

David Stoft invited any questions. There were no questions.

- **Administrative Fee for Alternative Sanitary Sewer Application**

David Stoft noted supplemental documents were distributed to the entire committee to include context and talking points as requested by John Restrepo.

Georgie Rucker asked if the \$1,000 administrative fee is sufficient to cover the next several years or if we anticipate an increase. David Stoft stated the District does not anticipate rising costs associated with the fee will be significant enough to revisit the fee in the immediate future.

John Restrepo stated he had no questions and was satisfied with the information provided in the supplemental documents. He circulated them to NAIOP to be discussed at the next Government Affairs meeting. John does not see any major challenges at this point.

Emerging Issues –

- **Septic Conversion**

David Stoft noted supplemental documents were provided to the entire committee to include additional context. Nothing specific was presented to the members other than putting the emerging issue on their radar as something that might be discussed at a later time.

- **Land Use Change Impacts to Sewer Capacity**

David Stoft provided a recap of what was discussed during the last meeting.

- **Affordable Housing Connection Charges**

David Stoft provided a recap of what was discussed during the last meeting.

Virginia Valentine asked if the reduced connection charge is a formal policy of the Clark County Water Reclamation Board of Trustees or if it's something the District is doing on a case-by-case basis. David Stoft advised it was introduced by a County ordinance.

Virginia Valentine asked how the reduction is determined. Tom Minwegen stated the County program has eligibility rules and they determine who is eligible. Two (2) projects totaling approximately 265 apartments have been approved. Resulting in approximately a \$350,000 discount in connection fees.

- **Potential Supplemental Airport**

David Stoft explained the District is trying to figure out what is required of the organization relative to the development of the airport and its surrounding area. Discussions are underway to figure out what funding sources might be available and which portion of infrastructure the District will be responsible for.

- **Cooling and Water Treatment Equipment**

David Stoft advised the committee that the District has not accounted for such flows in the past and traditionally has not charged those that discharge it. The District is now in the process of developing a program to account for the volume of water that gets discharged by cooling and water treatment equipment and charging within its ERU system an appropriate amount for the discharge. As the program develops, the District will present it to the appropriate industries for their comment and bring the committee back together.

Virginia Valentine sought to clarify whether the water evaporates or discharges. David Stoft confirmed both to be true. Some of the water evaporates and some of the water, once used, discharges.

David Stoft noted supplemental documents were provided to the entire committee to include additional context.

- **Temporary Reserve ERUs**

David Stoft gave a brief explanation of a Temporary Reserve ERU. He further explained that accounting for the reserve ERUs and allocating capacity in the pipes becomes somewhat of a challenge because some of the reserve ERUs sit dormant for decades. The process is not helpful to the development community and has created a bit of a challenge for the organization to track, and account for them coming in and out of service. The District is developing a process to better manage the reserve ERUs. Also noted, supplemental documents were provided to the entire committee to include additional context.

Terry Murphy emphasized that as the program develops, they will reach back out to the affected industries to share the data and bring the committee back together.

David Stoft also pointed out the costs associated with reserve ERUs. The District must maintain the capacity level both in the collection system and at the plant as if every ERU is running through it.

Virginia Valentine asked if there is a policy in place that addresses this problem going forward. Tom Minwegen stated it isn't a policy, but it's been a practice. The majority of temporary ERUs are in the resort corridor. As an example, as a hotel comes down all of its ERUs go into reserve until something else is built in its place. That can take years.

Virginia Valentine asked if the District is continuing to give reserve ERUs. Tom Minwegen explained that once ERUs come out of use, they go into reserve. Gene Houston asked if customers have to pay reconnection fees when they go back in use. Tom Minwegen replied, no.

John Restrepo asked if the District is considering a "use it or lose it" policy in its revisions. Tom Minwegen acknowledged that to be one option as a possible solution.

Terry Murphy posed the question, should a landowner be allowed to hold on to reserve ERUs in perpetuity or should they be available to someone who wants to build next door, or should they be paying a service rate.

- **PFAS**

David Stoft explained PFAS as a regulatory issue facing the organization and noted it's a national problem. The District was active in the last state legislature to deal with some initiatives.

Dan Fischer described PFAS as the fluorinated compounds found in items such as Teflon, firefighting foam, plastics, clothing, furniture, etc. The legislature asked the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) to form a working group to look at these compounds. If PFAS were to be regulated in Nevada as they are in other states, the District would need to build additional treatment facilities to treat them.

Warren Hardy asked if science has shown that PFAS needs to be treated. Dan Fischer stated some states are struggling with drinking water limits. When PFAS is in drinking water at high levels it becomes a public health concern. As far as he can tell, Nevada does not have concentrations in its water bodies and its effluents that are approaching any limits that you're seeing in other parts of the country.

Virginia Valentine asked if a standard has already been set for drinking water. Dan Fischer advised there is not a federal standard yet but some of the states have set standards.

- **Talent Recruitment and Retention**

Recruitment and retention continue to be an issue for the District. Other agencies can offer more, and the District can't compete.

Public Comment - There were no persons wishing to speak.

Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 12:14 P.M.