WATER & SEWER COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD February 5, 2024
THOMAS F. ALLT UTILITIES TRAINING ROOM
270 WEST 13th STREET
YUMA, AZ 85364

Chairman Vinod Mohindra called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Vinod Mohindra	Cecil Boelts
Mike Wicks	Carrie Scott
Lorna Brooks	Walt Schumacher

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Tim Eisenmann

STAFF PRESENT:

Jeremy McCall, Utilities Director
Kervina Landry, Administrative Specialist
Charles Hotetz, Water Conservation Program Coordinator

PUBLIC PRESENT:

Chris Grant, City of Yuma

Administrative Items

- **Approval of Minutes from October 2, 2023**

The minutes were approved with an amendment made to the address of meeting place and correction made under the Status of Current Events.

Ayes: Commission Members Chairman Mohindra, Vice-Chairman Brooks, Scott, Boelts, Wicks, Schumacher

Nays: Commission Members

- **Approval of Minutes from January 16, 2024**

The minutes were approved with an amendment made to the address of meeting place and corrected Cecil Boelts from Cecil Brooks under the Members Absent.

Ayes: Commission Members Chairman Mohindra, Vice-Chairman Brooks, Scott, Boelts, Wicks, Schumacher

Nays: Commission Members

- **Officer Appointments**
  - Current Officers are Chairman Vinod Mohindra and Vice-Chairman Lorna Brooks
    - Lorna recommended Vinod Mohindra for the Chairman position. Seconded by Mike Wicks

Ayes: Commission Members Chairman Mohindra, Vice-Chairman Brooks, Scott, Boelts, Wicks, Schumacher

Nays: Commission Members

- Cecil Boelts recommended Lorna Brooks for the Vice-Chairman position, seconded by Mike Wicks.

Ayes: Commission Members Chairman Mohindra, Vice-Chairman Brooks, Scott, Boelts, Wicks, Schumacher

Nays: Commission Members

Presentation – Water Conservation Program Coordinator, Charles Hotetz

- **Current Drought Situation**

Drought is a normal, recurrent feature of climate. It occurs almost everywhere, although its features vary from region to region. Drought originates from a deficiency of precipitation over an extended period, resulting in a water shortage.
The Southwestern region of the United States is prone to periodic drought. Current research confirms the Southwest is in the midst of a historic multi-year drought placing a tremendous strain on Yuma's primary water supply, the Colorado River.

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In August 2023, The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation reset to a Tier 1 shortage.

Tier 1 signifies an improvement over the previous Tier 2 shortage, and it's a step toward managing water resources more effectively in the region.

- **City of Yuma Current Drought Plan**

The City of Yuma was put into a Stage 1 Trigger- Water Warning and have remained in a Stage 1 Trigger to date.
Yuma is very concerned about the drought conditions on the Colorado River, we are very mindful of our responsibility to protect the Colorado River and are continuing to work with our local partners and the State to solve this problem.

- **Drought Preparedness and Response Plan**
  - Stage 1 – Water Warning
    - Supply Management
      - City Declare a Stage One – Water Warning
      - Convene the City Drought Management Team
      - Monitor available surface water supplies
      - Monitor groundwater well levels

        - Prioritize CIP projects related to water conservation and alternative sources
    - City Reduction Measures
        - Request employees to conserve water
        - Request City departments to identify possible reductions (1%-5%) of water
        - Initiate Public Information/Awareness campaign
        - Water in the street: Request City Inspectors and Customer Service Representative to identify and counsel customers on water waste
    - Residential, Commercial, and Industrial Reduction Measures
        - Promote conservation measures
        - Educate customers on indoor/outdoor water saving techniques
        - Suggest potable water lawn and landscape watering between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.
- **Water Conservation – Easier Done Than Said**

- **Water Conservation Program Coordinator**
    - Essential Duties:
        - Providing technical expertise and assistance in the development and implementation of the water conservation program
        - Coordinate water conservation program activities to secure necessary administrative and policy approvals
        - Evaluate and researches policies on water resources including, "Water Conservation Plan" and "Drought Preparedness and Response Plan"
        - Assists with preparation of annual Water Quality Report and monthly Drought Status Reports
        - Creates opportunities for public participation, outreach, and education on water conservation goals
        - Seeks out grant opportunities to be forwarded to city grant writer.
    - Short Term Goals:
        - Review and update Water Conservation Plan and Drought Preparedness and Response Plan
        - Provide monthly Drought Status Reports
        - Prepare 2023 Water Quality Report
        - Attend "Water Use it Wisely" Regional Partnership Meetings
        - Assist and attend Water Week 2024 Events

- Plan and coordinate 2024 Water Festival
- Grants being applied for:
  - WIFA Grant to help us update and replace current water meters with Advanced Metering Infrastructure Plan
  - WaterSMART's Water and Energy Efficiency Grants (WEEG) to install Smart Lid Manhole Covers
  - WaterSMART's Water and Energy Efficiency Grants (WEEG) to purchase a EVOS Microscope for education and outreach
  - Arizona Sewer Overflow and Stormwater Reuse Municipal Grant (OSG) Program for sewer overflow and stormwater reuse pilot projects to purchase a Bypass pump and piping to help prevent sewer overflow incidents

Presentation – Hydro Panels, Walt Schumacher

Colin Goddard with Source Global, PBC used a power point presentation to present the information to the commission.

- Our Mission
  - Make clean drinking water and unlimited and renewable resource
- Major Barrier to drinking water in Arizona
  - Access - Major water supplies are threatened by drought
  - Contamination - Microplastics, PFAS, lead, arsenic E.coli, coliform, and other pollutants compromise water safety
  - Reliability - 97% of water systems in AZ with violations are small (>10K) where economics are challenging
  - Cost & Waste - Over 2.5 billion water bottles were sold in AZ in 2020; 91% of all plastic is not recycled
- Augment the high – quality drinking water supply for City of Yuma residents by tapping into the abundance of water in the air
- Meet the Hydropanel
  - Makes, stores and dispenses clean, mineralized water
    - Drinking water from sunlight and air
    - Self-contained, elegant design
    - Delivers water directly to tap or faucet
    - Cloud-connected for monitoring & optimization
- SOURCE provides water resiliency in 52 countries around the world
- Solving Water Challenges: Commercial to Community
  - Sustainable CPG
  - Scaled Residential
  - Hospitality

- Remote Workers
- Remote Distressed Communities
- Schools

- Case Studies
  - Serving Homes Where Safe Water is Out of Reach
    - The Navajo Nation
      - Challenge
      - More than 40 percent of the homes on Navajo Nation have no running water, and unregulated drinking water is the greatest public health risk to the community. But with 175,000 people spread across more than 27,000 square acres, traditional piped water infrastructure isn't a realistic or affordable solution
      - Solution
      - To date, Navajo Nation leaders have installed Hydropanels at 547 homes across the Nation, giving residents access to clean, safe drinking water, often for the first time in generations. These families no longer travel miles, and sometimes hours for clean water, and many say SOURCE ® water is a dream come true.
  - Creating Safe Drinking Water for Los Colonias
    - La Presa & Santa Teresita, Texas
      - Challenge
      - There are more than a thousand "colonias," or small, unincorporated towns along the U.S.-Mexico border, many of them without basic services – including, clean, safe drinking water. In Santa Teresita and La Presa, there is little running water at all, and residents were traveling nearly 20 miles to buy bottled water, a heavy financial burden and one that kept them from other pursuits.
      - Solution
      - Today, SOURCE ® Hydropanels installed at two community centers are giving these town's 2,000 people access reliable, and safe water produced in their own community and with no need for traditional infrastructure.
  - Solving A Century – Old Water Quality Issue by Tapping the Sky
    - Tulare County, Central Valley
      - Challenge
      - Allensworth has been plagued by arsenic in its water for more than 100 years, with contamination sometimes

rising 60 percent above safe levels. New infrastructure is out of reach for this disadvantaged community, forcing residents to travel to the next county to buy drinking water in single-use plastic bottles.

- Solution
- SOURCE® Hydropanels located at a community center are giving the people of Allensworth safe, high-quality drinking water for the first time in decades, and SOURCE technology is now part of the local school's STEM education curriculum.

- AZ RURAL RENEWABLE DRINKING WATER PROGRAM
  - About the Program
    - The Arizona Renewable Drinking Water Program is funded by a generous grant from the state that will provide 800 Hydropanel drinking water systems for rural and tribal areas. Two local organizations – Local First Arizona and SOURCE® Global – are bringing these systems to eligible areas.
      - Founded in 2003, Local First Arizona is the largest local business coalition in the U.S. with more than 3,000 members. Local First works to strengthen independently owned businesses and entrepreneurs, rural and urban communities, racial equity, environmental action and food access. Visit www.localfirstaz.com for more information
      - About SOURCE®: A public benefit corporation based n Arizona, SOURCE® Global, PBC is the creator of patented Hydropanel technology. Hydropanels create a clean, safe, resilient source of drinking water free of infrastructure in 52 countries around the world
- Who Can Participate
  - To receive a renewable drinking water system at no cost as part of this program, recipients must:
    - Live in a rural community, community outside of the Active Management Areas, in a colonia, or on Tribal land
    - Experience challenges accessing clean drinking water at home
    - Have a sunny place outside to install the Hydropanels on the ground

- How Does Source Work
  - Using solar PV, SOURCE takes in ambient air via fans & collects water vapor from that air onto a hygroscopic material
  - With heat from the sun, SOURCE converts water vapor collected into liquid water, made pure
  - The pure water is mineralized with magnesium &
  - calcium to achieve an ideal taste profile
  - Sensors in each Hydropanel array monitor & optimize the water to maintain quality

Status of Current Events

-Utility rates will present a resolution on the February 21st agenda
-Will like to have a delayed implementation to August 1st.
-Desert Dunes-under contract with PCL
-waiting for the notice to proceed and certificates of insurance
-the team is Carollo is the engineering company and PCL is the contractor and consulting construction manager is CEI which will be the oversight of construction services

Call to the Public

- None

Future Agenda Items

- ADEQ-Local Limits
- Consider status of HOA based on the Allo install (destroying pipes in the ground)
- Changing pipe water to hydro
-

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:01 pm

Kervina Landry, Administrative Specialist

APPROVED:

Connie Brooks 3-4-2024
Chairman & Date