

**WATER & SEWER COMMISSION  
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD MARCH 4, 2024  
THOMAS F. ALLT UTILITIES TRAINING ROOM  
270 WEST 13<sup>th</sup> STREET  
YUMA, AZ 85364**

**Chairman Lorna Brooks** called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**      Lorna Brooks                      Cecil Boelts  
                                 Mike Wicks                         Carrie Scott  
                                 Walt Schumacher

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**      Vinod Mohindra      Tim Eisenmann

**STAFF PRESENT:**      Jeremy McCall, Utilities Director  
                                 Kervina Landry, Administrative Specialist  
                                 Chris Grant, Water Quality and Compliance Manager

**PUBLIC PRESENT:**  
  
                                 Thomas MaCintyre

**Administrative Items**

- **Approval of Minutes from February 5, 2024**  
Mike Wicks made a motion to approve the minutes and was seconded by Walt Schumacher.

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

Nays: Commission Members

## **Presentation – ALLO Fiber**

Allo Fiber will be sharing their Yuma internet operations and community goals, followed by questions and/or discussion by Water and Sewer Commission

### o **Who is ALLO**

- o Competitive Fiber-to-the-Premise Provider
- o Ubiquitous City-Wide Fiber Networks
- o Founded in 2003
- o Founded in 2003
- o Pass 1 million+ Population.
  - Our Core Values
    - Honest
      - o Customers, Vendors, Associates
      - o Fair, No Pricing Gimmicks
    - Local
      - o Close Relationship with Communities
      - o Local Employees and Presence
    - Exceptional
      - o Service Platform
      - o Implementation of Technology
      - o Net Promoter Score = 70+
    - Hassle – Free
      - o Efficient Construction Interval
      - o Easy to do business.
    - Employees
      - o 1,550 and growing (85 in Yuma Co.)
    - Customers
      - o 155,000+ (weekly adds 700)
    - Current Communities
      - o 1,500 to 290,000 in population
    - Recognition/Awards
      - o 2023 - #1 ISP Midwest (Opensignal)
      - o 2022 - #5 Fastest ISP (PCMag)
      - o 2022 - #2 Fastest ISP Regional (PCMag)

- **Arizona Locations include:**
  - Kingman
  - Lake Havasu City
  - San Luis
  - Sierra Vista
  - Somerton
  - Yuma
- **Residential Solutions**
  - ALLO Fiber Internet
    - Wi-Fi 6 Wireless Router Included
    - 500 Mbps, 1 GIG, 2.5 GIG Download and Upload Options (10 GIG to Home)
    - Eliminate Buffering
    - Connect 250+ Devices Simultaneously
  - ALLO Fiber TV
    - Full Channel Lineup
    - Local Stations
    - Wireless Set-Top Boxes
    - Award-Winning User Interface
  - ALLO Fiber Phone
    - Keep Existing Number
    - Unlimited Long Distance
    - Voicemail
    - Call Waiting
- **Business Solutions**
  - Business Internet and MetroEthernet
    - Synchronous Internet  
Speeds of 500 Mbps to 1 GIG+
    - Dependable, Redundant Connections Minimize Latency and Jitter
    - Layer 2 Connections Up to 100 GIG
    - NextGen Firewalls
    - Remote Work Solutions
  - Business Phone and Hosted PBX
    - SIP, PRI, POTs, and Full Features at Competitive Prices
    - Hosted PBX systems with Feature- Rich Solutions
    - Teams Voice
  - Business TV
    - Tangerine Global with 200+ Channels
    - Customizable Packages
- **ALLO Customer Resolution**
  - 4 Ways to get in touch:

- Come in and see us -  
320 W 32nd St B, Yuma, AZ 85364
- Call in-  
866-481-2556  
928-459-3650
- Go online-  
<https://www.allocommunications.com/construction/>
- Allo tracks all incoming concerns using a common database.
  - To include concerns via non-conventional means, employee mention, social media post, email, etc.
- Concern status is tracked, and notifications are sent out to appropriate parties to ensure a timely response.
- As concerns are resolved, steps are logged in our database for future review if needed.
- Allo is committed to resolving all concerns in a timely manner, and to the satisfaction of the resident. Resident satisfaction is our #1 priority.
- Questions
  - Commission Member Schumacher – Sunset Mesa neighborhood had lots of irrigation line concerns. How is that going?
    - Company is working with landscaper and last checked going well.
  - Jeremy McCall – Allo Fiber you have multiple contractors and expectation on how many miles to finish by certain years. How long will it take to install project and how many contractors do you have.
    - There are 8 contractors that work under 2 major contractor companies. Want to have Yuma wrapped up by 2026. If you go to [allofiber.com](http://allofiber.com), there's a residential tab and you can select Yuma. It will tell you what is under construction and what is live.

**ALLO Fiber**

- Water and Sewer Commission discussion regarding ALLO Fiber
  - No discussion

## Hydro Cells

- Water and Sewer Commission discussion regarding Hydro Cells and the Hydro Cell Presentation from February 5, 2024.
  - Commission Member Walt Schumacher was provided a shortened version of the presentation by Source Global.
    - City of Yuma Facilities
      - PROJECT
        - City of Yuma is seeking a solution to provide high-quality, sustainable, and off grid drinking water to visitors at the West Wetlands Park, Crossroads Mission, and Arizona Western College as part of the organization's sustainability and innovation initiatives.
      - PROPOSED SOLUTION
        - SOURCE hydroponels will achieve a long-term, climate resilient and renewable drinking water solution for visitors and employees at the
        - selected facilities. By localizing water production, City of Yuma reduces both the extractive water footprint and carbon footprint associated with bottled delivery.
      - Working Assumptions (Roof+ Ground mounted)
        - Employees: up to -100 visitors/site
        - Sites: 3 sites (West Wetlands Park, Crossroads Mission, and Arizona Western College)
        - Solution: Hydro panels + dispensers
        - Installation: ground-mounted + roof mounted
        - Output: -600 -800 gallons/ month
        - Lifespan: 15 years
        - Access: direct access via reusable water bottles
        - Package: pressurized storage tanks, installation, shipping, warranty, service
        - Commercial: capital expenditures
      - Proposed Project Details (per site)
        - 150 L – 40 Gallons
        - 150 m2 -850-1,100 sq ft
        - Ground + roof
        - Free Standing
      - Proposed Project Outcomes (20 hydro panels)
        - 547,500 Liters delivered over 15 years
        - 1,095,000 PET Bottles Avoided
        - 91 Tons of CO2 Emissions Offset

- Proposed Project Outcomes
  - Delivers safe, reliable, and high-quality water to ~ 100 visitors/ site every day
  - Project would offset up to \$400,000 of dollars in bottled water costs and decrease carbon emissions from transporting water.
  - Up to 36,500 liters (-9,600 gallons) of drinking water produced every year, on-site.
  - Over 1.1 million plastic bottle offsets over the 15-year lifetime of the project
  - Hands on experience for visitors on how innovative climate adaptation technologies decouple from the impacts of climate change.
- Next Steps
  - Finalize # of sites, drinking water volumes, and type + # of dispensers.
  - Refine Conceptual Proposal
  - Site visit to selected sites to confirm space availability, shading, panel locations etc.
- HYDROPANELS - A PIECE OF THE SOLUTION FOR THE WATER PROBLEM (like a solar panel but for water)

**Presentation – Wastewater Local Limits-Chris Grant**

Chris Grant, City of Yuma Water Quality and Compliance Manager, will share the findings of the recent wastewater Local Limit study and proposed implementation plan, followed by questions and/or discussion by Water and Sewer Commission

- **What's a Local Limit**
  - Local Limits are numerical discharge limitations for controlling pollutants discharged by industries.
  - Applies to commercial and industrial wastewater dischargers only.
    - Background
      - Clean Water Act-enacted in 1973 to make the waters in the US swimmable, fishable, and recreational use.
      - EPA with primacy to the State of Arizona
      - AZPDES
      - Approved Pretreatment Program
  - Pretreatment
    - What does a Pretreatment Program do?
      - Protects worker health and safety.
      - Ensures that the Environment doesn't become impacted by non-domestic wastewater (Pass-through)

- Protects collection system and wastewater facility (Interference)
  - How does a Pretreatment Program accomplish these goals?
    - Prevents prohibited discharges using local limits.
- Determining Local Limits
  - How are Local Limits determined
    - EPA guidance documents are used.
    - Site Specific Data which is: Technically Valid, Defensible, Enforceable and Fair
- Site Specific Study
  - Site Specific Data
    - Local limits set for Figueroa Water Pollution Control Facility
    - Used Influent and Final Effluent Samples
    - Used samples from domestic sources (for Background)
    - Used samples from Industrial Users
  - Specific Considerations
    - Biosolids Data
    - State Environmental Permit Requirements
    - The City of Yuma's Infrastructure (POTW)
- Local Limits are simply.....
  - ...wastewater limitations that apply to commercial and industrial facilities that discharge to a publicly owned treatment works (POTW).
- Local Limits are developed to meet:
  - Program objectives
  - Site-specific needs of the POTW
  - Needs of the receiving waters
- Local Limits allow us to.....
  - ...control the pollutants in the wastewater discharges from commercial and industrial facilities which apply at the "end-of-pipe" from the facility.
- Reason for new local limits
  - We have a new AZPDES Permit at Figueroa
  - Flows have changed over time.
  - Industrial Users have changed over time.
    - Previous Local Limits Study was done in October of 2009
      - Effects

- There are no Industrial Users impacted by these changes.

### **Local Limits - Endorsement**

Following the presentation for the proposed utility rate schedules staff is seeking Water and Sewer Commissions support and endorsement for the proposed Local Limits, which will be presented to City Council

Motion to support was made by Vice Chairman Lorna Brooks

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

Nays: Commission Members

### **Status of Current Events**

-Jeremy mentioned there's a proposition our representative Mr. Tim Dunn has made about water banking for Yuma County

-he has asked the State of Arizona to provide resources from DWR to explore the opportunity and possibility of creating a water bank for Yuma County.

- When they meet, and how they meet if we could follow the schedule of to see how it will turn out.

-Rates

- Jeremy thanked the Commission Members for their support and patience with the adoption of the Utility rates as it was a long process.

-Council Approved rates & fund

-go into effect on August 1, 2024

- they chose the current rate structure instead of the more aggressive one

### **Call to the Public**

o Thomas MaCintyre – what is the current practice of disposing of biosolids.

- Jeremy McCall-It is a liquid product, and we have a support contractor called AG Tech. They take it to south Yuma County and around County 19<sup>th</sup> Street and inject into the soil and grow crops on it. Not human consumption. There are a lot of rules involved, we have a permit, they must have a permit, we are all inspected. Not allowed to inject close to surface or well water.

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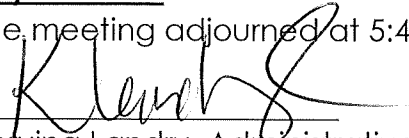


**Future Agenda Items**

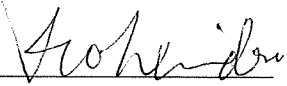
- o Update on Tim Dunn proposal – Jeremy will provide an email correspondence on what he knows.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 5:49 pm

  
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Kervina Landry, Administrative Specialist

APPROVED:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman & Date  
07/01/24