



CITIZENS ADVISORY PANEL
April 17, 2018
Meeting Minutes

Attended	Excused	Absent
Marcy Andrade		
	Al Arreola, Jr.	
Carolyn Beverly		
	Adam Flores Boffa	
Rachel Cywinski		
	Steven Dean	
	Suzanne de Leon	
Mary M. Dennis		
	Charlotte Forney	
	Javier Garcia	
Yongli Gao		
	Ayda Gonzalez	
Cullen Jones		
	Melinda Lechuga	
Anita Ledbetter		
Gloria S. Martinez		
Yulanee McKnight		
Eddie Meza		
Denise Ojeda		
William Ramos II		
	Garland Scott	
Matthew Scott		
Erica Solis		
Robert Sheldon		
Robert Werner		
Guest	Staff	Staff
Jack M. Finger	Daniel J. Vargas	Darren Thompson
	Lilliana Gonzalez	Steven Siebert
	Marty Jones	

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Chair Andrade at 6:03 p.m.

Presentation and Briefing: Thumb's Up: Using Social Media to Tell the @MySAWS Story
- Mr. Daniel J. Vargas & Ms. Lilliana Gonzalez

The presentation was provided.

Ms. Martinez asked how does the communications department quantify trends.

Mr. Vargas answered if communications staff see an uptick in stories on desalination as an example.

Ms. Ojeda complimented SAWS use of social media and social messaging.

Ms. Cywinski asked if other utilities were similar sized utilities in comparing SAWS Twitter follows to other utilities number of Twitter follows.

Mr. Vargas and Ms. Gonzalez answered yes and provided Fort Worth as an example.

Ms. Cywinski stated a lot of neighborhood associations have banned the use of NextDoor because it's insecure as far personal information and it can get stolen.

Ms. Gonzalez stated SAWS does not put customers at risk because SAWS does not put any customer information out there. It's one of the social media channels SAWS uses to communicate.

Mr. Jones asked out of the resources SAWS communications department has, how much go to social media platforms and how many go to traditional communication methods.

Mr. Vargas answered the majority of the resources go to traditional communication methods.

Mr. Jones followed up by stating many residents of his neighborhood association do not use social media.

Ms. Ojeda stated CAP members come to meetings and learn a lot of things but it should not stay here. As members learn and observe, they can then amplify the message out into the community.

Presentation and Briefing: Vista Ridge Regional Supply Project Construction Update: Mr. Marty Jones, P.E.

The presentation was provided.

Ms. Martinez asked when the pipe goes through various municipalities they currently don't have any participation in what SAWS is doing.

Mr. Thompson answered there are wholesale opportunities for communities close to the pipeline.

Mr. Ramos asked what are the different shades of the counties on slide 11.

Mr. Thompson replied it is the rate of population growth in those counties.

Ms. Cywinski asked what happens to the partnership by selling water to utilities along the pipeline route. What happens to that partnership when SAWS says SAWS needs that water?

Mr. Thompson stated that has changed. Originally SAWS talked about shorter-term wholesale water supply. Now the opportunities are long-term.

Mr. Jones asked if there was some sort of liner in the pipe.

Mr. Jones answered yes. It is a steel cylinder. The steel cylinder is encased in concrete and then wrapped in high tension wire to give it more strength. It is lined with an epoxy coating. It is very smooth.

Mr. Sheldon asked if the water that SAWS might wholesale to some intervening county along the way, would SAWS be able to sell that water at a higher price than what it costs.

Mr. Thompson replied that is still being determined but the wholesale cost will be no less than what SAWS pays.

Mayor Werner inquired how much will Vista Ridge reduce reliance on the Edwards Aquifer. Is there a percentage estimate?

Mr. Thompson answered about 20 percent.

Mr. Jones replied it is about 20 percent of the water we use now.

Mr. Thompson continued by stating SAWS will reduce production from the Edwards Aquifer on the first day of Vista Ridge production by up to approximately 45mgd.

Mr. Sheldon asked if on day one of Vista Ridge production, the Edwards Aquifer draw will go down, does that mean the J-17 index well will be higher.

Mr. Thompson replied in theory, we should see levels higher than what they would be. Obviously because SAWS would be producing less from the Edwards Aquifer. The day we turn on Vista Ridge, we would expect to see a rise in the Edwards Aquifer level.

Mr. Meza asked how much permitted Edwards Aquifer water does SAWS own.

Mr. Thompson answered we own approximately 276,000 acre-feet of production per year with approximately 28,000 acre-feet leased. The Edwards Aquifer is SAWS base supply but it is also SAWS' peaking supply.

Dr. Gao asked if the Vista Ridge well field is going to be monitored.

Mr. Thompson replied the Post Oak Savannah Groundwater District monitors the well field. The groundwater district is updating the groundwater availability model (GAM) right now.

Mayor Werner stated SAWS will be receiving 45mgd which goes someplace regardless of time of day when Vista Ridge production starts. What does SAWS do with all the water when no one turns on the taps?

Mr. Jones replied SAWS will during the day, drop the water tank levels at all of SAWS drop off sites so there is room to receive the water at night. The pump stations are primary pump stations that feed other pump stations.

Mr. Thompson stated SAWS is considered one of the most complicated systems in the country according to multiple sources.

Ms. Solis stated SAWS uses the Edwards Aquifer as a measure for drought restrictions. Ms. Solis then asked if SAWS will continue to use the J-17 Edwards Aquifer index well as the measure for drought restrictions.

Mr. Thompson replied as of today that is not going to change.

Ms. McKnight asked what if there is a break on the Vista Ridge pipeline.
Mr. Jones answered by stating SAWS would not pay for the water while it is off.
Ms. McKnight continued stating she was more concerned about having a flow of water.
Mr. Thompson noted if there is an issue, SAWS would turn on additional Edwards Aquifer water and push water back into the system.

Approval of Minutes:

Chair Andrade asked if there were any questions, changes, or motions to the March 2018 meeting minutes.
Mr. Sheldon motioned to approve the minutes as corrected.
The motion was seconded by Ms. Ojeda.
The minutes were approved.

Water Resources Report (Steven Siebert):

Edwards Aquifer Level J-17 Index Well

- The J-17 index well is at 664.3'.
- The 10-day average is 666.3'
- The monthly April average is 667.1'; this is 2.8' below the historical average
- Stage 1 drought restrictions starts at 660'.
- With the late March rainfall, the earliest drought restrictions would go into effect would be mid-May
- SAWS customers are now in year-round watering restrictions
 - Landscape watering with an irrigation system or sprinkler is permitted any day of the week before 11am or after 7pm
 - Stage 1 drought restrictions are possible by mid-April without significant rainfall

Aquifer Storage and Recovery Facility – H2Oaks

- ASR storage was 161,547 acre-feet as of April 3rd
- SAWS continues to store Edwards Aquifer water with a projection of 170,000 acre-feet in storage by the end of the year

2018 Precipitation Totals

- San Antonio received 0.01 inches of rain month to date through April 18th
- This is 0.96" below normal month-to-date
- San Antonio's year to date rainfall is 6.22"
- Year to date, precipitation is 0.61 inches below normal
- Average rainfall in San Antonio is 32.27 inches

Year	Total Annual Precipitation (Inches)
2017	27.33
2016	43.92
2015	44.22

2018 Production Report

- SAWS produced 53,004 acre-feet of water as of March 31st
 - Total production this year is approximately 2,700 acre-feet ahead of last year due to the dry weather
 - The Buckhorn well field in Gonzales County is producing at a rate of 14mgd with 8 out of 9 wells currently in production
 - Buckhorn has produced 528 acre-feet this month as of April 16th
 - With surplus water from Schertz-Seguin Local Government Corporation (SSLGC), SAWS is receiving approximately 15mgd from the Regional Carrizo project

Upcoming Events

- Through May 31st, SAWS residential customers can apply for up to four \$100 WaterSaver coupons in order to replace part of your thirsty lawn with lush, drought-tolerant garden beds and/or permeable patios. That's a whopping \$400 in savings!
- MedDrop SA
Saturday May 19th
8:00am to 1:00pm
Brooks City Base

Citizens to be Heard:

Mr. Jack M. Finger

Next Meeting:

Tuesday, May 15, 2018

Adjournment:

With no further business to discuss, the Citizens Advisory Panel Meeting was adjourned at 7:41pm.