



**CITIZENS ADVISORY PANEL
October 18, 2016
Meeting Minutes**

Attended	Excused	Absent
Marcy Andrade		
	Christopher Ashcraft	
	Evelyn Brown-resign	
Rachel Cywinski		
Roxane Faz		
Michael Ferguson		
Yongli Gao		
Javier Garcia		
Ayda Gonzalez		
Sonia Imperial		
	Olga Garza Kauffman	
Kay Kutchins		
	Briana Lyssy	
Bianca Maldonado		
Gloria S. Martinez		
Yulanee McKnight		
Eddie Meza		
Brice Moczygemba		
Denise Ojeda		
Robert Sheldon		
Bradley Stroud		
	Lisa Tatum	
Guest	Staff	Staff
Garland Scott	Hope Wells	
Jack M. Finger	Gregg Eckhardt	
	Darren Thompson	
	Steven Siebert	

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Chairwoman Kutchins at 6:02 p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

Chairwoman Kutchins asked if there were any questions, changes, or motions to the September minutes. Chairwoman Kutchins requested approval of the minutes.

Mr. Sheldon motioned to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Ms. Maldonado.

Water Resources Report (Steven Siebert):

The J-17 index well is at 675.4'. The monthly October average is 660.3', this is 12.3' feet above the historical average. SAWS is not anticipating the EAA to declare drought stages this year based on current and forecasted National Weather Service climate conditions. SAWS customers are in year round water restrictions. Landscape watering with an irrigation system or sprinkler is permitted any day of the week before 11am or after 7pm. SAWS has not had its Edwards production permit cutback so far this year due to Edwards Aquifer levels above the drought triggers.

ASR storage was 121,767 acre-feet as of October 17th. SAWS is currently storing water into the ASR at a rate of 30mgd while operationally testing the Western Integration Pipeline.

San Antonio received 0.05 inches of rain month to date through October 17th. This is 2.24" below normal month-to-date. San Antonio's year to date rainfall is 35.80". San Antonio is 9.54" above normal. Average rainfall in San Antonio is 32.27 inches.

2016 Production year-to-date as of October 15th is 189,282 acre-feet.

2017 CAP selection is underway. There are eight vacancies on the CAP for 2017. The CAP candidate suggestion forms are due Friday October 28th. This evening is the final CAP meeting for Roxane, Sonia, Bradley, and Chris. Staff is appreciative of their service to the committee.

Upcoming Events

Remaining Rate Adjustment Meetings

- Wednesday October 19. 6-7:30pm Forest Hills Library
- Tuesday October 25 at SAWS headquarters 6-7:30pm livestream will be available at saws.org
- Saturday October 29th, 9am-2pm, Hoot & Harvest Festival at Mitchell Lake Audubon Center
- Tuesday November 1, 5-8pm, 2016 San Antonio Sustainability Summit at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center, learn more about the SA Tomorrow Sustainability Plan

Steven reminded the CAP members of the November 12th brackish groundwater desalination plant tour and that everyone is required to wear closed toe shoes as the plant may still be designated an active construction site.

Comments & Responses:

Ms. Ojeda asked what council districts were being recruited seeking new CAP members for 2017.

Mr. Siebert replied he reached out to council districts, 2, 4, 5, and 10.

Presentation: Preview of the Upcoming 85th Legislative Session: Ms. Hope Wells

Presentation Provided

Comments & Responses:

Ms. Cywinski asked why Val Verde GCD (Groundwater Conservation District) did not get approved in the previous five sessions.

Ms. Wells replied there are concerns with the endangered species in the Devils River and concern with landowners over how a groundwater district would manage regulation.

Mr. Sheldon asked on slide 8 with the House Natural Resources Committee, it states prevention of freshwater loss. Is that evaporative loss from reservoirs?

Mr. Wells replied yes, that was one of the topics.

Mr. Sheldon continued asking about rainwater capture. Is that one of the innovative technologies being considered?

Ms. Wells replied she was unable to attend that particular hearing but asked Mr. Eckhardt since he was available to attend. Mr. Eckhardt replied yes, rainwater capture came up for discussion.

Mr. Sheldon then asked about brackish groundwater. Is brackish groundwater production being encouraged or studied in the state?

Ms. Wells replied there has been discussion during the hearing on brackish but not a lot of detail. The Texas Water Development Board is looking at the designation of brackish zones. Mr. wells expects brackish production to continue to be a discussion point.

Dr. Gao asked if the legislature has looked at the interaction between the Trinity Aquifer and the Edwards Aquifer.

Ms. Wells stated not at the legislature. Mr. Thompson stated the Edwards Aquifer Authority (EAA) is conducting several multi-year studies.

Ms. Wells stated science informs the policy decisions with the legislature.

Presentation: Update: SAWS Bed and Banks Application to TCEQ: Mr. Gregg Eckhardt

Presentation Provided

Comments & Responses:

Mr. Sheldon asked how much of storm water run-off ends up in the sewer system.

Mr. Eckhardt replied 8-12 percent.....

Mr. Cywinski asked is there increased liability with keeping ownership of the water.

Mr. Eckhardt replied no.

Mr. Ojeda questioned does that process then end or can some entity says “I want my water back.”

Mr. Eckhardt replied that is the huge question and no one will know that answer until it happens. Mr. Eckhardt stated his fear is that someone will appropriate SAWS flows and it would be very difficult to ever get them back.

Ms. Ojeda followed up questions why we care about our flows.

Mr. Eckhardt answered by stating: Why do we care? The water coming from the plants is a hugely valuable resource today. That was not the case 10-15 years ago. SAWS ratepayers have paid for this.

Mr. Sheldon asked is SAWS the only entity putting flow...water into the stream?

Mr. Eckhardt stated on the San Antonio, SAWS is the only entity of any significance as the flow from other entities is a fraction of what SAWS contributes.

Ms. Gonzales inquired is we put 50,000 acre-feet every year, can we get back 100,000 acre-feet that we now own or do we get back 50,000 acre-feet.

Mr. Eckhardt answered the way we got all this support is by telling the state what we are going to do with this water when we filed the bed and banks application. The way we got our support was by asking the state to authorize the 50,000 acre-feet for instream use only. We asked the state to authorize SAWS for any legal use for additional flows in the future as we see growth. SAWS needs to maintain ownership.

Mr. Moczygamba asked if SAWS would need to amend the permit to account for future flows.

Mr. Eckhardt answered stating future flows are all covered. We need to do this only once. The future flows up to the capacity of SAWS plants are covered up to 260,000 acre-feet per year.

Review and Action on Regional Carrizo Project Benchmarking: Committee

The draft Regional Carrizo Project benchmarking document was provided.

The committee reviewed the executive summary and the conclusion.

Ms. Rachel Cywinski motioned to adopt the Regional Carrizo Project benchmarking document.

The motion was seconded by Ms. Denise Ojeda.

The Regional Carrizo Project Benchmarking document was unanimously adopted by the committee present.

Chairwoman’s Report:

The Chair extended her appreciation to the members for attending meetings and extending what the CAP does to the greater community. Ms. Kutchins stated “at least if we have information that we understand and can share with other that helps to build a greater understand of water resources and water issues.”

Ms. Kutchins encouraged her fellow members to sign up for one of the dates available for the 2017 Rain-to-Drain tour.

Citizens to be Heard:

Mr. Jack M. Finger

Next Meeting:

Tuesday, January 17, 2017

Adjournment:

With no further business to discuss, the Citizens Advisory Panel Meeting was adjourned at 7:58pm.