

CITY OF RIVERSIDE PUBLIC UTILITIES DEPARTMENT

1 of 4

Minutes of: Agricultural Water Rates Task Force, Meeting #9
Date of meeting: December 13, 2018
Time of meeting: 5:30 pm
Place of meeting: Mayors Ceremonial Room, 7th Floor City Hall
3900 Orange St., Riverside, CA 92501

Meeting was called to order by Chair Wilson

Mr. Wilson acknowledged alternate Brian Sheehe and reminded everyone to use their microphones.

Pledge of allegiance to the flag was given by Brian Sheehe

Roll Call

Present:	Seth Wilson (Chair)	David Crohn (Vice-chair)	Gilberto Esquivel
	Barbara Croonquist	Jason Gless	Darleen De Mason
	Scott Andrews	Tom Evans	Jason Hunter
	Dale Sexton	Patricia Lock Dawson	Sharon Mateja
	Ed Adkison	Brian Sheehe (Alternate for Michele Sheehe)	
Absent:	Steven Robillard		

1. Citizen Participation

Rick Moslenko spoke about concerns regarding conflicts of interest, transparency, how the WA-Ag proposal v17 is being forced upon the Task Force, and that other proposals should be brought forth. He voiced concern about the biennial inspection charge, costs for a second meter, and the potential backflow device. Mary Humbolt spoke in regards to how many trees were in place as a result of the implementation of the WA-3 rate schedule, and as customers were transitioned off that rate how many trees began being cut down since customers could no longer afford to irrigate them. She discussed the advantages that trees bring to the City.

2. Approval of meeting minutes for November 14, 2018 meeting

Motion: Evans Second: Hunter

Ayes: Evans, Hunter, Wilson, Crohn, Esquivel, Croonquist, Gless, De Mason, Sexton, Sheehe

Absent: Mateja.

Abstain: Lock-Dawson, Adkison, Mayes, Andrews

3. Open Discussion

Chair Wilson reminded everyone of the Mission of the Task Force, to develop WA-3 and WA-9 rate recommendations for RPU Board and Council by July 1, 2019. Chair Wilson opened up discussion by going through the powerpoint page turn of the WA-Ag proposal v17 terms and conditions. Significant discussions followed as Chair Wilson walked through Slides 1 thru 9.

All of the following actions were taken on the WA-Ag v17 rate proposal.

Task Force agreed that:

- The explicit biennial inspection charge should be removed from the proposal.
- Regular inspections can primarily be done remotely using aerial photography and GIS applications.
- Staff should rework language regarding inspection timeframes.

Member Hunter made a motion to combine parts A & B of the RATES section of the proposal and to drop part C of the RATES section of the proposal.

Motion: Hunter Second: Adkison

Ayes: Hunter, Adkison, Andrews, Gless, Mayes, Lock-Dawson, Crohn, Sheehe, Croonquist, Mateja, Esquivel

Noes: Wilson, De Mason, Sexton

Absent: Robillard, Evans

Motion passed.

Task Force discussed the Qualifying Criteria and: (Absent: Robillard, Evans, Gless)

- Agreed to Criteria a and b.
- Tabled Criteria c.
- Agreed to modify Criteria d to be "Property is inside City limits".
- Agreed to Criteria f.
- Agreed to have staff re-word Criteria g.
- Member Adkison passed out a picture of a property that he felt should be able to qualify for the Ag rate and numerous members concurred.

Member Hunter made a motion to eliminate Qualifying Criteria e from the proposal.

Motion: Hunter Second: Andrews

Ayes: Hunter, Adkison, Andrews, Mayes, Sheehe, Esquivel, Sexton, De Mason

Noes: Wilson, Crohn, Croonquist, Mateja

Absent: Robillard, Evans, Gless, Lock-Dawson

Motion passed.

Task Force discussed the 2nd meter options on slide 7 and: (Absent: Robillard, Evans, Gless, Lock-Dawson)

-Agreed it was okay.

-Staff clarified 2nd meter connection charges.

Task Force discussed slide 8 and: (Absent: Robillard, Evans, Gless, Lock-Dawson)

-Agreed it was okay.

Task Force discussed slide 9 and: (Absent: Robillard, Evans, Gless, Lock-Dawson)

-Agreed to drop reference to nominal ornamental landscaping.

Scott Simpson spoke about concerns of mission creep and how much of what had been discussed was concerning matters outside the boundaries of the Water Department's mission and purpose.

Member Hunter made a motion to continue discussion at the next meeting.

Motion: Hunter Second: Andrews

No official vote was taken.

4. Discuss Schedule of Meetings

Item was not covered.

5. Emerging Ideas and Questions and Answers

Item was not covered.

6. Items for Future Consideration

None.

Meeting was adjourned by Chair Wilson

By: 

Richard Small, Secretary for Agricultural Water Rates Task Force

Attachments:

- (1) Picture handout from member Adkison.
- (2) WA-Ag v17 rate proposal.
- (3) Wa-Ag v17 terms and conditions presentation.

Reminder that all Ag Task Force meetings are videotaped and available for viewing at:

<https://riversideca.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>