

CITY OF RIVERSIDE PUBLIC UTILITIES DEPARTMENT

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Minutes of: Agricultural Water Rates Task Force, Meeting #10
Date of meeting: January 31, 2019
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

Pledge of allegiance to the flag was given by Scott Andrews

Roll Call

Present: Seth Wilson (Chair)	David Crohn (Vice-chair)	Michele Sheehe
Barbara Croonquist	Jason Gless	Darleen De Mason
Scott Andrews	Tom Evans	Jason Hunter
Dale Sexton	Ed Adkison	Steven Robillard

Absent: Sharon Mateja, Rose Mayes, Gilberto Esquivel

1. Citizen Participation

Scott Simpson spoke about his appreciation for staff assisting him in getting his rate proposal into the framework of a rate sheet. He commented on how he feels the City operates not just one water Utility system, but instead three separate water systems: those being the Gage Canal system, the recycled water system, and the potable water system. He feels each of these systems requires their own separate rate setting process. He voiced concerns that the City could lose some of its surplus water rights if it doesn't utilize all its water for its originally stated purpose. He feels his rate proposal is fair, and addresses all of the issues while ensuring the City retains all of its water rights. Mr. Simpson brought copies of his WA-9 Flat Rate proposal v1.7.

2. Approval of meeting minutes for December 13, 2018 meeting

Chair Wilson and staff explained why the printed meeting packet had odd page numbering between pages 13 – 30. The published electronic materials had an error on page 20 of the electronic package that did not allow those pages to print. Staff resolved this by replacing pages 14-29 of the electronic package with pages 63-70, which were the exact same materials.

Motion: Andrews Second: Robillard

Ayes: All present.

Absent: Mateja, Mayes, Esquivel.

3. Chair Announcements

Chair Wilson reaffirmed the Task Force mission by re-reading it from Section 1.A of the Agricultural Water Rates Task Force Guidelines and Participation Rules ***“The mission of the Agricultural Water Rates Task Force is to develop WA-3 and WA-9 rate recommendations for the Board of Public Utilities and City Council consideration by July 1, 2019”***. He also reaffirmed how Task Force members should conduct themselves during meetings by reading Section 5.D of the Agricultural Water Rates Task Force Guidelines and Participation Rules. Chair Wilson announced that Ward 2 member, Patricia Lock-Dawson, had resigned from the Task Force and that Gurumantra Khalsa is being recommended to the Public Utilities’ Board as a replacement for the vacated Ward 2 seat. The Chair presented the Rate Proposal Milestones chart illustrating that the rate proposal completion status was close to 60%. Member De Mason requested that at 7:15pm of each meeting the Chair assess what can be done in the remaining 15 minutes of a meeting so the meeting can be adjourned on time.

Member Hunter made a motion that at 7:15pm the Chair calls a short recess to discuss what can be accomplished in the remaining 15 minutes of the meeting with the hope to adjourn the meeting at 7:30pm.

Motion: Hunter Second: Adkison

Ayes: All present.

Absent: Mateja, Mayes, Esquivel.

Motion passed.

4. Presentation of WA-Ag Hybrid v2.11 Rate Proposal

Vice-chair Crohn introduced and presented the Hybrid rate proposal approach to the Task Force. Substantial discussion followed with numerous questions being asked by the Task Force with answers provided by both Mr. Crohn and RPU staff.

Public Comment: Scott Simpson spoke about how the Hybrid proposal could be used as a tool for the Utility to use in calculating water budgets for agricultural customers. He asked what the price for the Hybrid rate would be.

Member Andrews made a motion to receive and file the presentation.

Motion: Andrews Second: Hunter

Ayes: All present.

Absent: Mateja, Mayes, Esquivel.

Motion passed.

Member Hunter made a motion that Item 6 of the agenda (Rate Proposal Comparison Matrix) be moved up before Item 5 on the agenda.

Motion: Hunter Second: Gless

Ayes: All present.

Absent: Mateja, Mayes, Esquivel.

Motion passed.

6. Rate Proposal Comparison Matrix

Chair Wilson presented, explained, and reviewed the Rate Proposal Comparison Matrix with the Task Force. Staff handed around copies of Mr. Simpson's WA-9 Flat Rate proposal v1.7. Member Hunter and Andrews requested that Mr. Simpson's proposal be heard. Member De Mason voiced concern that an outline and framework for the final report and rate recommendation should be developed.

Member Hunter made a motion to allow Scott Simpson to present his proposal at the beginning of the February 21 meeting.

Motion: Hunter Second: Andrews

Ayes: All present.

Absent: Mateja, Mayes, Esquivel.

Motion passed.

5. Open Discussion and Continued Review of WA-Ag v17

Item was not covered.

7. Discuss Schedule of Meetings

Item was not covered.

8. Emerging Ideas and Questions and Answers

Item was not covered.

9. Items for Future Consideration

Member Andrews requested the ability to utilize a live spreadsheet for rate calculations as well as access to a water lawyer to answer specific claims of water related legalities. Member Gless requested more information on how the Hybrid proposal would apply to nurseries. Members Evans and Adkison both are concerned about the remaining timeframe to get the mission accomplished with the potential changes on the Council coming in June. Member Evans suggested a potential additional meeting be added to the schedule.

Meeting was adjourned by Chair Wilson

By: _____



Richard Small, Secretary for Agricultural Water Rates Task Force

Attachments:

- (1) WA-9 Flat Rate v1.7 rate proposal.

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

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