



WATER SERVICES DIVISION



WS Monthly Update May 2021

There is a lot going on in Water Services. Thanks to a dedicated and skilled staff, water quality and consistent service remains our standard.

Recruitments

We are working to fill critical, open positions to maintain our standard of service.

- Doug Slover will devote 25% of time as Stormwater Manager, and 50% time as Engineering Manager.
- Ed Schenk will serve 50% of his time as Water Resources manager, in addition to his Stormwater Project manager duties, with
- Janica Hakala will support the Water resource position in a 25% capacity, in addition to her work in the Regulatory Compliance Lab.
- Active recruitments: Stormwater Manager and Engineering Manager, with an expanded scope..
- Welcome to our new Water Conservaton Specialist, Mary Samar. Mary is taking on a new function, moving from Communications to this important place on the Water Service Team.

Safety

Safety came to the forefront with the pandemic, but the Division regularly demonstrates best safety practices during every work day.

- Standardizing our SOP protocols for basic safety practices raises our level of standards and quality within the Division
- Mark Richardson arranges Water College classes in safety protocols for all MSW – field and facility personnel. Trainings are aligned to the employees job-risk; such as confined space, trench safety, working with chemicals, electrical protocols. Many of our safety practices are required by OSHA or other federal/state agencies.
- A recent reminder was an intruder at the Lake Mary Plant, with staff acting quickly, safely and efficiently.

Water – Wastewater – Reclaimed Water – Stormwater

Administration Offices
2323 N. Walgreens St., Suite 1
Flagstaff, Arizona 86004

Division Retreat

Juie Lancaster is facilitating a two-part retreat for Water Services, with the goal of all 78 employees in attendance. Virtual meetings have come a long way, and we look forward to the next session, bringing us closer to a better unity.



Water Commission Agenda

The May 20 agenda will include:

- Discussion on policy recommendations related to improvements on the Switzer Canyon transmission main.
- Natural Channel Design will present the results of the reclaimed seepage study
- A sneak preview of the 2021 Report to the Water Commission, a comprehensive record of the Division's activity on calendar year 2020. Once completed, this will be posted on the website.

Section Updates (alpha-betically)

Admin – Budget & Communications

Budget and year end procedures

- We have a lot of active purchase orders. Managers are asked to review and close out any completed orders.
- Carry forwards were completed, a big task as we tried to fill all needs in the coming year. There will be one, requested adjustment to the Wastewater Capital Plan in FY 2022.
- The two, six-month strategic plan updates for 2020 are now posted to the website.
- Communications is completing the Report for the Water Commission, posted a public notice for a revision to FEMA flood plain maps, and is working on the May blog on Ft. Tuthill well drilling. Signs are ordered for the Ft. Tuthill project, and a video planned.

Customer Service/ Meter Services

- Staff is preparing to open in City Hall, from 8 am to 1 pm.
- Recruiting for a meter services technician and a customer service representative

- Computer software upgrades for load out stations is in its final vendor-selection process. Top two bids are over budget, so we're reviewing the best bid and funding options.
- Customer Service staff are navigating the new CIS site, and will be providing a training to staff on gathering consumption data from the system.
- Management Services is phasing back in planned disconnects for non-payment. This is not a large number of potential disconnects, as Customer Service has been proactive, guiding residents to social service options to remain current on bills.

Engineering

Doug Slover is taking on Engineering functions until a manager is hired. Capital projects:

- Lonetree overpass utility relocation discussions
- Phoenix bridge waterline replacement
- McAllister pumphouse is wrapping up, and paperwork has been submitted for final permits to bring it online and hand over to the Production staff and Compliance (Brian and Steve). They're looking at the sampling schedule to incorporate the new well.
- Spruce Wash at First St & Rte 66. Review and discussion on replacing a section of both sewer and water line, finishing work from development.
- Ft. Tuthill #2 well drilling gogin well Currently at a level of 1500 ft; hit water at 1300 ft, with 55 gpm flow.
- Reclaimed bottleneck project moving forward.



Operations

- Safety analysis – Working with Risk Management to complete a safety/risk analysis
- Lake Mary Land Acquisition – taking on some report requirements to move the project along.
- Grazing Lease at Red Gap Ranch – working with successful bidder to complete the lease.
- New Meter Installs – met with reps with Itron 500, transmitter technology for the new Mach 10 meters. Supplies are limited, as factories are getting back to manufacturing.

Regulatory Compliance

With Lisa Adams retired, and another position open, Reg Compliance is looking for a few good lab techs!

- Krista Snow and Jolene Montoya are splitting the duties of the Wildcat Hill compliance lab duties, until a replacement is hired.
- Pre-treatment staff has been repairing backflow preventers at Rio and WCH plants.
- Violation issued to local Significant Industrial User (SIU), with an annual inspection next week.
- Meeting with ADEQ schedule, to review copper limits, which is very low.
- Draft CCR- Annual water quality report- ready for final approval and distribution.
- Water labs has test kits ready to bring McAllister Well online when ready.
- MS4 Stormwater outreach training back to Reg Compliance umbrella, with Stormwater Manager position open.
- ADEQ Audit at Wildcat Hill WRP in late May

SCADA Information Systems

- SCADA is working on upgrading North Reservoir Plant controllers, providing digital access for Lake Mary plant and communication with storage tanks.
- SCADA video taped closing another shallow well
- Adding a server to GeoEvent, moving radios and master PLCs out of police communications.
- IS (Corryn) has developed asset management dashboards for the plants, starting with Wildcat Hill Valve training , then Rio, then Lake Mary.
- IS developed stormwater apps to create and track work orders in the field
- IS updated the Conservation Enforcement appt, with 2019 data
- IS is GIS scouting manholes for WW Collections manhole rehab project.
- SCADA is updating keyscan security, for Water Services buildings
- IT Security is teaming up to analyze lap top hard drives to develop an SOP, should a cyber security issue happen.

Stormwater

- Stormwater staff presented to City-County meeting on stormwater issues and the Museum fire updates. Future outreach by City-County includes five *Meet in the Streets* meetings in Sunnyside to answer questions,



- Senator Mark Kelly toured the Museum Fire impact area
- A report on rain gauge data is now posted on the website.
- Stormwater issued a public FEMA Letter of Map Revision (LOMR) for Trilside Apartment project.
- Dredging in the Rio drainage has begun, downstream of Navajo ahead of Coconino Estate project.
- Airport grading certs for new parking lot reviewed.
- The Watershed Alliance for the Rio de Flag is completing a watershed plan, with BOR grant funds.
- Ed and Corryn gave three (virtual) presentations for industry conferences: American Water Works Associations, Association of Flood Plain Managers, and ESRI (software vendor) on the Computerized Asset Management System currently being implemented by Staff for stormwater asset management.
- Increased materials costs are delaying spot improvement projects, such as the Fanning Wash fencing, awarded to Tiffany Construction.
- Stormwater discussing a regional detention facility as part of NAH campus development at Ft. Tuthill.

Wastewater Collections

- Thirty manhole inspections slated, with GeoCreek scheduled for refurbishment, used cured in place technology
- One combo truck is down, being repaired under warranty.
- TV van working on reaches from Ft. Tuthill to University Heights, completed 19 reaches on one week.
- Moving one employee from WW collections to Stormwater Truck.

Water Distribution

- Two main breaks , one involving a contractor hitting an 8" main. Another 8" main break toppled a tree across Rte 66 at the Railroad Café. This was repaired and broke again, hours later- suspect a manufacturer's defect in the pipeline. Crews had it back in service within hours.
- A 16" valve at Clay Ave and Blackbird Roost was removed and repaired, with road restriction notices posted on NextDoor and Facebook. During the repair, crews found another leak in a nearby 8" valve, which was subsequently repaired, requiring 400 ft



Clay Ave pipeline repairs



of above ground temporary main pipeline run as a “jumper” to keep customers in water.

- The Valve testing program has begun, with WACHS water testing all 469 16” and larger valves in a three year rotation. WACHS crews completed testing on 157 valves in one week. Our own crew is testing 14” and smaller valves, with only one failure out of 357 valves tested.
- Hydrant inspections continue, with 2600 completed to date. There are 500 left to do for the year.
- Two services were replaced, one repaired, and 12 new meter sets installed.
- Blue stake completed 138 tickets.
- Three water services techs taking ADEQ exams at Rio WRP.



Valve testing near McAllister Well

Water Production

- Wells – All wells are in full operation, after Woody Mountain #7 motor’s soft-start was replaced. Woody Mountain #7 is one of our largest producing wells.
- Red Gap Ranch
 - Staff spent a week grading the roads at Red Gap Ranch, keeping access open and travel to wellsites and tanks as smooth as possible, as we implement our new grazing lease with Bar- T-Bar .
 - The Water tanks for wildlife were filled this month, as part of our agreement with AZ Game and Fish to support the migrating wildlife population.



Wildlife tanks at Red Gap Ranch

- Lake Mary Raw Water Pipeline Protection - The USFS is preparing to contract out thinning operations just south of Lake Mary Water Treatment Plant crossing the raw water line that feeds the plant from Upper Lake Mary in multiple locations. Water Production has had non-invasive potholing performed to locate and identify the specific depth and location of the 27” raw water pipeline, and surveys underway of major pipeline crossings. A local engineering firm will complete mitigations to protect the pipeline from truck-transport damage during thinning operations.

- Continental Well Upgrades – The bluestaking has begun, with contractor up prepping the site and getting materials delivered. Flagstaff Athletic Club has generously allowed the use of a small portion of their land for storage.
- Railroad Spring Tank – the RR Springs water tank was cleaned out, as part of a rotating schedule. It's been about a decade since it was last cleaned, though it only had minor sediment loading and took less than a day to clean..
- North Reservoir Filtration Plant Water Production staff previously replaced the Zone B pump drive, along with all four plant turbidimeters and controllers. SCADA team has been working through replacing communications and programmable logic controllers (PLC's), allowing the first digital communication of the plant with greatly increased data acquisition through SCADA.
- Lake Mary Sedimentation Basins – Will be reviewing options to make the rehab project fall within budgetary needs.
- Kristian Heckard, MSW- Operations, passed ADEQ Water Treatment Grade 2 exam/certification.

Water Reclamation Plants

Plants are running well!

- The Wildcat Hill muffin monster is wearing out; this machine grinds large debris into small debris.
- We're almost through procurement for the Rio Clarifier project – part one, refurbishing primary and secondary clarifier #1.
- The motor control center headworks is an electrical project, replacing the original 1971 installation.
- We're prepping for safety measures before construction of clarifiers and Motor Control Center headworks construction.
- The sludge storage basin is being dredged this year. with good quality sludge testing out. It's been over five years since its last dredging.
- Replacing carbon for odor control mechanisms at both plants.
- We're soliciting paving quotes for WCH, from N El Paso to the plant, including a staff parking lot.
- Tours will be able to resume, with 25 person limit and masking required.
- WRP staff working with consultant to scope for reclaimed water modeling to assist with interface to pumphouse and storage tanks.
- Just in! Roofing at the Wildcat Hill Water Reclamation facility blew off over this past windy weekend. Repairs should begin this week.



Wind damage to Wildcat Hill roof

Water Resources and Conservation

Ed Schenk, Stormwater Project Mnager, is transitioning to 50% Water Resource Manager duties, with Janice Hakala taking on 25%.

- The Walnut Creek Technical Advisory board, spearheaded by NPS, is funding three new gaugues in the watershed. Working on forest service clearances, for both upper and lower Lake Mary.

Water Conservation

- Enforcement discovered a water leak at Thorpe Park and reported it to Parks, who are fixing it.
- The Wyland Foundation National Mayor's Challenge will send out final standings in a month or so, but we were in the top 10 over the last few days!
- Water Awareness Month in April was a virtual success, with 50 water check up kits sent out and 24 customers completing the check up and receiving a \$10 credit on their water bill.
- Staff completed three residential low water landscape assessments.
- Conservation staff is planning a plumber's (virtual) workshop to promote Watersense products on May 25th.
- The non-revenue water audit contract is close to finalized.