



WATER SERVICES DIVISION



WS Monthly Update June 2021

Quality and *Reliability* are standards we work by.

Recognitions

Mark Richardson received a 10-year service award. He began his career with the City as water production manager and is currently serving as Water Services Operations Section Director. One of his first assignments was oversight of the FEMA/DEMA Schultz fire rebuilding efforts for the Inner Basin pipeline. He has been instrumental in ensuring the viability of Red Gap Ranch and its resources. He acts as the Division's safety and training officer, managing American Water College certifications for staff.

Krista Snow received her five-year service award. Starting her career as an MSW in the drinking water lab, her thirst for knowledge and skills brought her to her current position as Water Lab Supervisor, Zone 2.

Patrick O'Connor, Water Distribution supervisor, was presented a WOW award, for his work in coordinating and revising the job descriptions for not only his crew, but all Water Services MSW positions. His tireless work to ensure equity for staff was rewarded with a WOW! and justly deserved.

Jim Huchel, Water Reclamation Manager, was given the Lifelong Learner Award by Lancaster Consulting, for his efforts in mentoring, cross-training and continuing education with his staff.

Certifications

The ability to competently manage a water system – production, distribution, collections, reclamation and stormwater - relies on a highly-trained staff, demonstrating technical skills required through state certifications. The following staff received their certifications in June:

Ladd Steele, MSW- Maintenance (Water Production) received ADEQ Grade 4 Water Treatment Certification

Laney Stevens, Lab Tech (Reg Compliance) received ADEQ Grade 4 Water Treatment and Grade 1 Water Distribution Certification

Randy Cody, MSW (Distribution) received ADEQ Grade 4 Water Distribution Certification

Water – Wastewater – Reclaimed Water – Stormwater

Administration Offices

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

Matt Anaya, MSW (Distribution) received ADEQ Grade 4 Water Distribution Certification

Chase Stoneberger (Distribution) received ADEQ Grade 4 Water Distribution Certification

Safety

With COVID threats subsiding, non-vaccinated staff are encouraged to wear masks. A committee is working on the re-entry plan for Water Services administrative staff – i.e. those not required to work at a water or reclamation plant, or in the field on our distribution or collections systems. The committee is evaluating the business and operational needs of staff working in the office or remote, comparing the business need before and after the pandemic.

The Rafael Fire has the potential to impact the City's water system. Water Production and kept in touch with the City's Wildland Fire team and Fire Chief regarding the proximity of the Woody Mountain wellfield with the fire. Water Services is prepared to shut down the wellfield and still provide water to the community. The Director will work with the Water Production Manager and the City Manager should the water system capacity be compromised, requiring the City to curtail community water use as per the City's Water Availability Strategies in City Code.

We're thankful for City Council approval of our back-up power plan initiated three years ago. All five trailer-mounted generators have been tested, topped off and ready for use at the groundwater wells or Lake Mary Treatment Plant, if needed.



Recruitments

Five positions have been posted for Water Services, including Lab Technician, MSW Stormwater Collections, MSW Wastewater Collections, Water Services Engineering Section Director, Water Services Stormwater Manager, Water Reclamation Lab Supervisor. Please encourage your friends, family, the community to apply!

HR Update

Jeannie Gallagher, HR Director, will be meeting with a committee led by Mark Richardson, to revamp the MSW pay scale into a step plan similar to the Police and Fire pay plan. We have ninety days to complete this project starting July 1.

Division Retreat – Action Items

One of the first next steps resulting from the Division Retreat from May 2021 is forming a committee to work with HR on the new step pay plan for MSW

positions. We're also investigating availability of online trainings and Lunch 'n Learn events. Staff is interested in raising awareness and working toward actionable items for the Strategic Plan. The all-employee meetings will be tri-annual, resuming in October 2021.

Water Commission Agenda

The June 17 meeting included:

- A Frances Short Pond Operation and Maintenance Plan, presented by Ed Schenk, Acting Stormwater Manager.
- Ed Schenk also provided updates on the status of:
 - WARF (Watershed Alliance for the Rio de Flag), a collaborative effort led by Friends of the Rio and Southwest Decision Resources.
 - A rain gauge surface hydrology report, containing local stream and drainage rain gauge data from 2008-2019, now posted on the website.
 - A update on the Museum Fire post-fire flooding mitigation efforts
- A presentation by Steve Camp and Krista Snow of the annual CCR (Consumer Confidence Report) also known as the Water Quality Report, which summarizes 2020 water quality data for the City's drinking water system. This is distributed to all customer-households and posted on the website.

The July meeting is often cancelled, and likely to be this year, to align with Council break.

Section Updates (alphabetically)

Admin – Budget & Communications

- Budget and year end procedures
 - Admin is working with Finance to close out, invoice and complete all activity for the fiscal year
 - Asset inventory is underway.
- Communications
 - Stay tuned for June's blog on the CMMS, asset management system. This is a proactive maintenance management system that tracks infrastructure conditions in the field. The TEAM loves this tool; we think you will, too.
 - Report to the Water Commission will be released by the end of the month. There is a lot of data to collect and verify. This is a detail snapshot on the status of Water in Flagstaff.
 - Erin Young joined the broadcast *Coffee with Coral* on June 23 speaking on various water topics for the City of Flagstaff and rural Arizona, in general.

Customer Service/ Meter Services

- Jessica Huleatt provided training to Communications and Conservation staff on using the CIS system to extract water consumption data, during the monthly Communications team meeting.
- Billing is moving forward with disconnects and collections efforts, using a soft and flexible approach, by directing customers to available utility assistance programs, and providing a 48-hour disconnect notice.

Engineering

Doug Slover is the Interim Engineering Manager until a manager is hired. Capital projects:

- McAllister Well ready to bring online, as we submit to ADEQ for the permit
- Plan reviews for building permits increase, as construction ramps up
- Released a P.O. to work on design for 8" reclaimed water bottleneck, upsizing pipe and connecting to storage tanks. We'll work with IT/SCADA to include laying fiber conduit as we trench out the pipeline, filling a gap for two needs within the city.
- Ft. Tuthill #2 well drilling is completed. The project is now turned over to Water Production for the testing. Pumphouse design will follow in FY22.
- Phoenix Bridge repair and waterline replacement is moving forward. Met with ADOT systems engineer on June 15 to review data.

Operations

- Mark Richardson is leading the MSW step pay plan revisions and reviewing the policy-side of compensation.
- Bar-T-Bar was awarded the grazing contract at Red Gap Ranch and will be bringing cattle on July 1. Crews opened the sunshine well, had the earthen tanks re-formed and ready to fill, serving two pastures.

Regulatory Compliance

With two positions open, Reg Compliance is looking for a few good lab techs!

- Lab Services contracts are for Council approval on 6/29/2021 and will be processed for FY22 allocation. This locks in a price for budgeting.
- An NOV has been issued to a local Significant Industrial User (SIU); no response on action items, as yet
- Krista Snow, our Water Lab Supervisor, turned in her first wastewater reporting for Wildcat Hill to ADEQ, filling in for the WW Lab Supervisor position. Go Krista!
- The Annual Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) or Water Quality Report was released, distributed to all customers, and posted on the website.
- ADEQ is asking for follow up samples for Frances Short Pond following notification of high-chlorine levels. The problem has been resolved, and the issue closed.

- An ADEQ consultant performed a site inspection at Wildcat Hill, with no deficiencies.

SCADA Information Systems (IS)

- Corryn Smith has updated the internal City Arc GIS maps to include current fire data, keeping an eye on any new developments
- The Master Switch at Devil's head has been changed out, with Mt. Elden change-out next. It took only 20 minutes of downtime, and we allowed for two hours. These switches route all SCADA and City web traffic.
- There is a big push to add all valves at Rio de Flag WRP to the collector app, getting them logged into the maintenance program. This will generate inspections in Cityworks, and automatically create work orders to keep not only valves, but pumps, motors and VFD's in optimal operating condition.
- Meeting with IT to phase out SCADA's use of CityNet to the new WaterNet, a 3-5 year plan.
- **IS** is working out the bugs with Collection's TV van, while Collections initializes their manhole tracking app.
- We're verifying field devices, comparing electronic reads to actual measurements, with the help of Collections.
- The City's new cyber-security hire was in town, wrapping up planning for network protections with IT and SCADA.
- Working on the first round of interviews for the open SCADA Analyst position, and second round of interviews for the GIS position. Also, updating job descriptions for the HR compensation re-boot.

Stormwater

- Stormwater and Water Services staff collaborated with County to conduct four *Meet in the Streets* meetings in Sunnyside to answer post- Museum Fire flooding questions.
- APS took down a pine tree along Spruce Ave wash, in preparation of dredging the channel.
- Spot improvements – The LeRoux and Benton puddle will be fixed, with back water valves installed to prevent backflow into the street.
- The Dortha channel design is complete. This will improve Spruce Wash between Cedar and Dortha. We're drafting the Invitation to Bid.
- SW Collections staff worked on West wash near Hal Jensen, improving the channel to alleviate stagnant water. We suspect broken irrigation or overwatering at Coconino High may be the cause, and Conservation will be reaching out to the District to resolve the problem.
- The Fanning Wash fence is going up. It's an 8 ft chain link fence around the concrete section of the wash, intended to keep people and trash out to alleviate consistent trash blocking the drainage.

Wastewater Collections

- Working on 14 manhole rehab proposals with GeoCreek, using cured in place technology. (See photos)
- Stormwater truck is still out for warranty repairs; a pin came out of the axle.
- TV Van camera is down. IS (Corryn) is working on it.
- Setting up interviews for open MSW- WW Collections position.
- Three service calls, two sewer taps



Water Distribution

Line breaks and repairs

- Repaired a water leak at Canyon Terrace/Switzer Canyon Road
- Notified residents and emergency services of an overnight road closure to repair a water line on Phoenix Ave, between Milton and Mike's Pike. Crews were finishing up by 5 am.
- Fire hydrant inspections are wrapping up for the year.
- Blue stake completed 176 tickets in one week, averaging 150-175 weekly.
- Crews completed back-to-back training on confined space and asbestos handling.

Water Production

- **Lake Mary**
Consumption is coming down to the mid- 9 MGD (million gallons per day) from the typical community peak of 10-11 MGD pre-monsoon, with Upper Lake Mary at about 33%. We're monitoring oxygen levels and started the aerator at the lake to increase dissolved oxygen levels. We're expecting Upper Lake Mary level to drop to a targeted 20% minimum lake level by the end of the year. The required minimum as per the City's agreement with the Forest Service is 14%.

A preliminary survey of the Lake Mary Raw Water Pipeline is underway to identify pipeline locations during USFS thinning operations.

Lake Mary dam inspection has been delayed. Repairs were performed on the rip rap.

Lake Mary Sedimentation Basins project is under review. We're planning to apply for grant funds to hopefully close the gap in funding needs.

- **Wells**

On June 2, the Ft. Tuthill #2 well-drilling effort reached “Total Depth” of 2,500 feet, a milestone accomplishment. Erin Young, Interim Director, facilitated tours for available Council and community members at the well-site, followed by an informal BBQ including drilling crew. This is the first well drilled in 12 years, and supports the 10-year Capital Plan, as well as our 100-year Adequate Water Supply Designation. Pump testing is the next step.



Tour at Ft. Tuthill Well

- The war on weeds is in full swing! ACE is pulling weeds at the North Reservoir plant, and Morning Dew treating McAllister Well and other well sites.

- The Continental Well Upgrade Project is underway, including the addition of a 20,000 gallon storage tank and booster pump.



Work begins at Continental Well

- A City shallow-well from the 1950’s in Coconino Estates was abandoned and accepted by ADWR. There could be 24 more shallow wells discovered under city streets during the aging waterline and sewerline replacement projects

- The Christmas Tree water storage tank is scheduled for periodic cleaning.

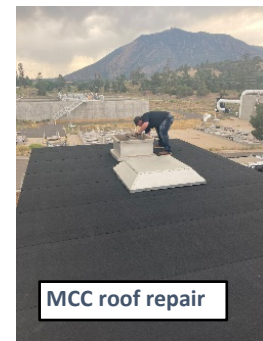
- The Sunshine Well at Red Gap Ranch was opened and re-equipped in preparation for Bar-T-Bar grazing needs.



Water Reclamation Plants

Plants are running well!

- Reclaimed usage is up with the dry months that precede monsoon season
- Powerline problems are dropping connectivity to tanks, with the SCADA team responding.
- Rio Clarifier project has begun, with refurbishing primary and secondary clarifier #1.
- The Digester RSOQ is out. A pre-procurement meeting is scheuled.
- The safety fall protection project at Rio will be starting up, prior to Motor Control Center headworks construction.
- Work has started on replacing carbon for odor control mechanisms at both plants.
- A recent windstorm took off most of the roof of the secondary Motor Control Center building at Wildcat Hill Water Reclamation Plant. Repairs were completed last week.
- Getting quotes for repair of cracked roof beams at Wildcat Hill Plant.



Water Conservation

- Water Conservation Enforcement staff are monitoring water use as per City Code within the City's Service Area, with updated collector app info from the IS team.
- We ranked 7th place nationally in our population category, for the Wyland Foundation's National Mayor's Challenge for Water Conservation
- Conservation left 30 home checkup kits with Customer Services team, ready for mailing upon customer's request.
- Staff is conducting a Water-Wise Gardening workshop on June 29 for NACA.
- Staff posted to social media reminders on overwatering, monsoon gardening and summer watershed cleanups.
- Total City Code watering violations for 2021: 58

Up Coming Events

- Mayor Deasy is providing opening remarks for the Arizona WaterReuse Annual conference held at Little America July 25-27.
- Vice-Mayor Deggett will be attending the Northern Arizona Municipal Water Users Association (NAMWUA) in Chino Valley on July 16.