



December 2022 Update



BOND NEWS!

Prop 441 passed with 75% approval. Thank you, Flagstaff!!



WATER COMMISSION

December Agenda:

- Frances Short Pond Dredging – Ed Schenk
- Wastewater Update on Projects – Jim Huchel
- Project/Issues Tracking Dashboard – Brad Hill, Lisa Deem, Erin Young

RETIREMENT

A fond farewell to Debby Valencia, who retired on December 2 after 25 years with the City. Thank you for a job well done, and good luck as you embark on your new chapter of life in Colorado!



RECRUITMENTS

- Recruitment has begun for an Administration Specialist to replace Debby Valencia.
- Three people applied for Regulatory Compliance Manager; interviews will be held this month.
- The SCADA OT Specialist position is now open to applicants.
- Wastewater Collections had two candidates decline job offers due to low pay.
- Wastewater Collection hired Jeremiah Magana to fill one of their two vacant Water Services Operator positions. He will officially start on January 9, 2023.
- Water Distribution hired Chavez Nakai Jr. to fill one of our three open vacancies for a Water Services Operator. He will officially start on December 27, 2022.

ENGINEERING

- The code revision for Recapture Agreements with Coconino County is coming before City Council.
- We are investigating applying for a Forest Service permit to install a new water storage tank at an old inert pit site. There is a NEPA process and submittal of design plans needed.
- The US Forest Service general permit expires in two years. Renewal will include potential revisions to Waterline Road to Inner Basin and Red Gap Ranch.
- Capital plans for FY24 are currently in development.
- Staff are working on a solicitation for a Facility Master Plan and Water Master Plan.

REGULATORY COMPLIANCE

- Jolene Montoya presented a workshop on fats, oils, and grease at an event hosted by AZ Water Association, bringing together around 100 professionals from across the state to learn from each other and network.
- Staff is wrapping up sampling and inspections for the year.
- Our new Wastewater lab techs Rachel Torrey and Aidan James Stills passed their WWT grade 1 operator exam.
- Krista Snow, Water lab supervisor, passed her WWT grade 3 operator exam.
- The follow up from Lake Mary Water Treatment Plant's sanitary survey is complete and submitted to ADEQ. Brian and his crew did an excellent job of fixing and documenting the minor issues that were found.



SCADA INFORMATION SYSTEMS

- The SCADA GIS team received an award from Cityworks at the Innovate Conference for Excellence in Departmental Practice. Congrats!!
- The Cityworks contract is under renewal. This is our asset management system.
- SCADA equipment for Lake Mary II tower has come in. We're now waiting for foundation to cure before continuing work. Warehouse tower equipment is also due.
- Shawn McKee is moving to SCADA from Wastewater as our electrician. Staff is working with Troy to keep migration smooth.



GO TEAM
FLAGSTAFF!



STORMWATER

- Proposition 441 passed by a wide margin! A portion of this bond is for \$26M of stormwater and flood control improvements in the Spruce Wash watershed (2019 Museum Fire burn area). Design is underway in coordination with Public Works and Water Services Engineering.
- Stormwater rate discussions will continue in January, with extensive public outreach underway.
- The Schultz Creek Flood and Sediment Detention Basins are complete, including safety rail. Much gratitude to our partners including Public Works, Grants and Contracts Management, NRCS, and DFFM.



- Staff is ramping up for grant opportunities with state and federal agencies in 2023.
- Projects in progress: Stormwater design manual, Stevanna Way detention design, Shadow Mountain detention basin design (currently at 30%).
- A bathymetric study has been completed for Frances Short Pond. After recent storm flows, it will need dredging. Staff are analyzing fill to determine best disposal of dredged material.
- The Stormwater Strategic Plan is in progress, modeled after the Strategic Plan 2025 brochure layout. Ralph Schmid and Creative Services are working on this.
- The Stormwater Credit Manual was updated by Resolution on November 15. This updates the 2015 version to increase opportunities for rate credits.
- Chase McLeod passed his Certified Floodplain Manager (CFM) test and will join Ed and Doug as a CFM for the City's FEMA floodplain management program.

COLLECTIONS - WASTEWATER AND STORMWATER

- The TV van is getting some much-needed new software.
- Staff conducted a final walk-through for Coconino Estates Improvements - Phase 1.
- The chain link fence protecting basins near Siler homes has been vandalized; we're looking for a contractor for repairs.
- Stormwater crews are in the process of cleaning catch basins and open channels.

WATER DISTRIBUTION

- Service calls remain steady and mostly consist of turn ons and turn offs, and a few minor leaks. No main breaks in the past two weeks. The last one was at 101 S. Park St, with a '60s-era cast iron pipe.
- Meter supply shortages are impacting our order from last June with an expected March 31 delivery date. Our current supplies are low.
- Reclaimed water was turned on for Snowbowl at midnight on November 1.
- Trimble pressure sensing units received some much-needed attention recently. A big thank you to Corryn Smith, Information Systems Administrator. Alerts have been set up for pressure variances in the Continental, University Highlands, and Linda Vista pressure zones.
- Staff completed a Sunday night double saddle replacement on W. Mountain Dr. in Cheshire. A higher number of saddles on Mountain between Fremont and Peakview have been replaced over the years.
- There were multiple days of Pipeline Fire/Flood related work, including picking up pallets of sandbags from the Coconino Estates neighborhood. We also removed barricades, sandbags, and Tiger Dams from the Northwoods Apartments on Fort Valley Road. Slightly warmer nighttime temps allowed the ice in the Tiger Dams to melt so that we could pump them down. The residual water left after pumping adds significantly to weight, making this hard, strenuous, and dirty work.
- Lucas Staires and Jared Bohn passed their ADEQ Grade 4 Water Distribution.
- Jesse McKerracher passed his ADEQ Grade 1 Water Treatment certification.

WATER PRODUCTION

- Water consumption across the city is around 6 million gallons per day. Upper Lake Mary is at 21% capacity, hitting our target for this time of year.
- Sedimentation Basin Project is ready to be advertised. This was the number one priority identified in the 2014 facilities assessment. Higher cost considerations stalled the project for a few years, but we are now hopefully ready to move forward with this critical infrastructure rehab.
- Backwash Tower Painting project has been pushed out to spring of 2023.
- ADEQ dam inspection went well. The Upper Lake Mary Dam investigation report noted there were no cracks found in the earthen part of the dam.



- Thanks to the efforts of Water Production Maintenance and SCADA staff, our Woody Mountain #7 well now has a new flow meter, new human machine interface (HMI), controls, and communication.
- The task force working on the Inner Basin Waterline and Road project damaged in the Pipeline Fire will be meeting weekly, after a successful kickoff meeting with partners – USFS, Jacobs, DEMA, FEMA. USFS personnel are siting for a materials storage location in Schultz Pass. DEMA is talking about pipe upgrades, as the original concrete pipe is not available due to supply issues. Drone footage was reviewed, and consultant contracts will come in front of council in January, with David Pederson as project manager.



WATER RECLAMATION PLANTS

- Staff is meeting with the consultant for reclaimed flow modeling.
- Jim Huchel, Water Reclamation Manager, is on the ADEQ committee to determine licensing and testing criteria for Direct Potable Reuse (DPR). Staff is considering participating in the pilot, which will count toward credit for certification.
- Winter GEO bag operations have begun, as a means of transferring reclamation solids to the landfill.
- Arizona Snowbowl is taking reclaimed water for snow making as of November 1, in accordance with their contract.
- Conduit is being laid for gate controls and fiber runs at both reclamation facilities.
- Reclamation plants are still waiting on anoxic mixer equipment; anoxic mixers won't ship until January.
- Staff is in the process of refitting the facility tool rooms.

WATER RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION

- A vendor has been selected for the Rate Study, to be paid for with Water/Wastewater and Reclaimed Water funds.
- A drilling site has been selected for the next water well; staff is reviewing options for bid proposals.
- Staff is working with local groups to move forward with an advanced treatment pilot project for reclaimed water re-use.
- Staff performing consultations with businesses to incorporate energy efficiency fixtures.
- Staff is in discussions with local retailer to promote the sale of low-water plants.
- Home Energy Efficiency 101 Workshops, in partnership with Sustainability, are scheduled through March.
- Staff talked to 337 people about water conservation practices while tabling at the Sleigh Holiday Market at City Hall.

