



April-June 2023



## WATER COMMISSION

### April

New Business:

- Ed Schenk provided an update to current Flood Mitigation and Response efforts

Informational Items To/From the Chair, Commission, or Staff:

- Shannon Jones gave an update on Upper & Lower Lake Mary water levels, and the impact of snowmelt flows on the water collection and reclamation systems.
- Shannon highlighted job recruitment successes. Troy Dagenhart accepted the Water Reclamation Manager position, and an offer for Pre-Treatment Supervisor is in process. Water Services staffed a booth at a job fair on April 14.

### May

New Business:

- Fifth Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR5) Overview – Jolene Montoya & Krista Snow
- Lead & Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR) Overview – Jolene Montoya & Krista Snow



Krista Snow collects water samples from McAllister Well for testing under UCMR5

### June

New Business:

- Watershed Alliance for the Rio de Flag Resolution – Sharon Masek Lopez
- Wildcat Digester Project – Mac McNamara
- 2022 Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) – Jolene Montoya

Old Business

- Water Awareness Month effectiveness – Tamara Lawless

## ADMINISTRATION

- The communications team is developing scripts for a video series addressing common myths about water availability in Flagstaff, in partnership with Public Affairs. Staff filmed high seasonal flows from several local springs.
- Staff submitted an article discussing flood mitigation infrastructure projects for the Arizona Daily Sun's annual Progress Report, which was published April 30.

## ENGINEERING

- Design efforts are active for several Water Reclamation Projects, including:
  - Wildcat Hill Digesters (bond-funded project)
  - Rio de Flag Digesters
  - Co-Generation unit at Wildcat Hill (bond-funded project)
  - PEPS at Wildcat Hill (bond-funded project)
  - Electrical Study at Wildcat Hill (part of master planning)
  - PRV station at Rio de Flag
- This year's water vault and meter upgrade project at Cameo Mobile Park is moving quickly and should be completed by early summer. Significant improvements to fire and system.
- It's time for Flood Director scheduling, with an early monsoon season brewing.

## REGULATORY COMPLIANCE

- Laney Stevens accepted the Industrial Pretreatment Supervisor position, effective this May. Congrats, Laney!
- The Consumer Confidence Report / Annual Water Quality Report will be distributed to customers and available online by June 30. A big thanks to MacKenzie Chase in Communications for the layout!
- Staff began sampling to the new EPA rule for Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring, UCMR5. This reporting series goes through 2025.
- One of our Pretreatment Inspectors, Kurt Novy, retired in May, after serving the City for 16 years. Conrad Berkompas was hired as our new Pretreatment Inspector. Thank you, Kurt, and welcome, Conrad!
- Both Reclaim labs completed semi-annual testing with good results.
- The lead and copper sampling to be conducted in June will be the final sampling under the old rule. Our last sampling was in 2020.
- Operator testing at Rio in May sold out. Jolene is working on setting up more testing in fall, and additional trainings in June, hosted by the Rio de Flag atrium. We hope to include other northern Arizona municipalities.
- Jolene Montoya presented to NAU civil & environmental engineering classes (440-540) about the City's roles and responsibilities under the NPDES program.
- ADEQ is scheduling a site visit to assist with Significant Industrial users (SIU) compliance.



### CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT

FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2022

ESTE INFORME CONTIENE INFORMACIÓN MUY IMPORTANTE SOBRE EL AGUA  
USTED BEBE. TRADÚSCALO O HABLE CON ALGUIEN QUE LO ENTIENDA BIEN.

CITY OF FLAGSTAFF

PUBLIC WATER SYSTEM ID #AZ-04-0

## SCADA INFORMATION SYSTEMS

- The GIS Specialist position has just been filled internally, while we prepare to advertise the new OT Specialist position.
- Our expanded Cityworks license agreement was approved in May and has unlimited seats and more functionality, allowing other divisions to use this versatile tool.
- Projects include:
  - Reviewing the 60% specs for Rio Digesters.
  - Trenching conduit at both reclamation plants, bringing technology into remote locations, and gate repairs at both facilities.
  - Fiber is installed at the City warehouse tower, one more step in separating the OT system from IT.
  - Collecting data on North Reservoir plant turbidity for needs assessment.
  - CenturyLink at WCH to bring Citect back in – new message, modem.
  - Implementing remote-access cameras at Rio de Flag WRP, East Side Shop, Septage at Wildcat Hill, and Bonito load out station, following city-wide security standards.
  - Lidar flight is scheduled for early July.
  - Corryn worked with WCH staff on the valve work orders system.
  - We have a possible internship project for fall, verifying GIS meter locations to municipal city billing system.
  - IIOT (flow monitoring) device data in wastewater collections system is being summarized to determine next steps in avoiding infiltration in sewer system.

## STORMWATER

- Ed Schenk would like to extend his appreciation to Customer Service staff for taking on customer inquiries about the new Stormwater rate and ERU adjustments.
- Ed also attended the SEDHYD Federal Interagency Sedimentation and Hydrologic Monitoring Conference in St. Louis, where he presented two papers on post-wildfire management at the utility level. This puts our scientific data in a public forum for peer review.
- Spring runoff has been robust with several community complaints of localized flooding most were homes built before recent International Building Code standards, built below grade and a few from County residents on low water crossings.
- Projects:
  - NRCS EWP funding was secured for Schultz Creek channel stabilization, approximately \$630k. Staff are working on grant agreement and design procurement, as well as property acquisitions.
  - DFFM (state) is committing \$750,000 toward the purchase of a new front-end loader, skid steerer, and two diesel remote skid steers to complement the mini dozer. We are trying to get purchases in by the end of fiscal year.
  - Four new stream gauges are being installed by early June in Baderville (Rio de Flag), Chimney Springs/Freidlein Prairie, Schultz Creek, and Spruce Wash near Park Way. These are funded by DFFM and administered by Stormwater.
  - Highway 180 culvert project is an emergency procurement, with construction beginning in June. Mac McNamara is the Project Manager. Real estate is completing property acquisitions.

- Senator Mark Kelly’s office is championing the South Mount Elden Regional Detention Basin project as an earmark in next year’s fiscal budget with an ask of \$3.3M. This is a County-led project.
- Spruce Wash improvements (Prop 441-funded) are in final CMAR negotiations with design underway for all seven projects.
- Chase McLeod in floodplain management is:
  - Heading up the Flood Call Center which is now live at (928) 213-2102.
  - Finishing up a federal floodplain grant.
  - Working on short- and long-term mitigation for Stevanna Way, with an interim muscle Wall installed for flood mitigation.
- There are numerous state and federal funding applications underway including Community Direct Spending (“earmarks”), FEMA, and State resources, with Sharon Masek Lopez as our point person. Sharon’s active programs include:
  - Dry Floodproofing Grant Program, compiling concise menu of dry flood-proofing measures to be selected for funding.
  - Taking steps to adopt the WARF Rio de Flag Watershed Plan.
  - Coordinating Conservation Corps work crews and Stream Stewards for a series of open channel cleanup projects.
- Frances Short Pond dredging is on hold due to contractor availability.
- Doug Slover is assisting with the Inner Basin Waterline Project and bringing the Stormwater Design Manual to adoption, in addition to plan review duties.
- Our Stormwater Inspector, Chris Palmer, has left the City, with Chase McLeod and Sharon Masek Lopez sharing duties in the interim. The recruitment for this position closed on June 8.

## WATER PRODUCTION

- Upper Lake Mary overflowed through May, with the Lower Lake Mary extending to the dam. We are now ramping up surface water production to 40% and are stocking up on treatment chemicals.



Upper Lake Mary flowing into Lower Lake Mary

- The Water Production operator position has been filled, with the maintenance position still open. The seasonal maintenance positions have not yielded applicants.
- Lake Mary WTP staff conducted several tours to groups, including NAU's ENV 181 Environmental Sustainability, Leading Edge Academy, and Puente de Hozho classes.
- Maintenance:
  - The backwash tower painting project is finishing up, which replaces paint from 1965, allowing more surface water production. This tower is a critical filter washing step.
  - Foxglenn/Sinagua MIOX generator has been installed.
  - The airport booster station roof is getting replaced.
  - Staff is tracking down chlorine probe issues and various leaks at well sites.
- Projects:
  - We kicked off two studies/evaluations to complete Inner Basin water supply needs: (Lower) IB Pipeline conditional assessment — not in the burn scar — and North Reservoir Filtration Plant turbidity study with Brown & Caldwell Engineers.
  - IB Pipeline (FEMA/DEMA) repair is moving along with Hunter/Jacobs. Engineers were out for site visits and design concepts are under review, incorporating new alignments across drainages to remain outside wilderness boundaries.
  - Staff met with engineers at Fort Tuthill Well to look at pumphouse design. In the meantime, the booster pump will be replaced.



Lee Williams talks to students from Leading Edge Academy about the water treatment process

## WASTEWATER COLLECTIONS

- Wastewater Collections responded to five Sanitary Sewer Overflows (SSOs) during rain/flood events in April, including a golf course and Foxglenn Park, which closed their playing fields and playground for a couple weeks during cleanup efforts.
- Crews are cross training and working in high demand areas, between Distribution, Collections, and Stormwater.
- Staff replaced a section of sewer line at Fanning and Route 66 that was damaged last summer.
- Collections crew worked on inlet control to Schultz creek basins.
- Collections did a main line repair at Mikes Pike near Sizzler.
- One combo truck is down, and the section is short four positions.
- The Stormwater truck is working through the open work orders for maintenance on closed channel system.

## WATER DISTRIBUTION

- Truck issues have been challenging, with three trucks out for repairs this past quarter. We are trying to move up delivery of the two new service trucks, which are currently having service beds installed. We are still down two trucks, and two operators.
- Bluestake ticket demand is up to 130 per week. Lacking a utility locator, this work is shared between the crews.
- With better weather, contractors are getting back to work, responding to weekly requests for hot taps and multiple service saddle replacements.
- A water quality issue was reported in Timber Sky, most likely caused by dirty construction. A significant amount of flushing (~100,000 gallons) was required to clear the system of cinders, which also damaged one of the hydrants used for flushing.
- Hydrant inspections have been a challenge. We are on track to complete all 3,400 inspections by June. We've also kept up on repairs, with only 7 hydrants down and needing service.
- Staff responded to multiple flood complaints this spring as snowmelt also revealed several natural springs which were thought to be pipe leaks.
- Staff is working with Eagle Mountain Construction for the Coconino Estates Phase 1 project. Dynamite exposed earlier was taken out and exploded by bomb squad, and excavations continued.
- We finally received the 997 water meters that were approved and ordered last June, so water meter changeouts have ramped up.
- Staff removed sandbags from Stevanna Way and installed new muscle wall barrier to replace Tiger Dams in preparation for summer monsoon season.
- The new vac trailer is getting heavy use, as it's great for tight areas.

## WATER RECLAMATION PLANTS

- Troy Dagenhart has accepted the position of Water Reclamation Manager, effective April 30, 2023. Congrats, Troy!
- Reclamation experienced high flows, treating up to 8.4 MGD. These flow events challenged both staff and equipment with clogged filters, pumps down, and high turbidity.
- Reclamation has lost three staff members this quarter, with four operator positions open.
- Projects:
  - The gates and fiber trenching projects at both plants has resumed.
  - The anoxic mixer installation at Rio de Flag was completed, after a warranty repair and installation error.
  - Odor control units were installed, with equipment training being scheduled.
  - CenturyLink is replacing the damaged phone line from a powerline mishap.
  - Repair equipment for Wildcat Hill IFAS mixers has arrived, with an NTP issued to the contractor to change out one in June, and the other two in July.



Staff inspect equipment impacted by high flows at Wildcat Hill Water Reclamation Plant

- Repair equipment for Wildcat Hill IFAS mixers has arrived, with an NTP issued to the contractor to change out one in June, and other two in July.
- Issued an NTP for the Rio bar screen project, with an 18-week lead time
- Wildcat Hill clarifier #3 is down, as well as primary pumps. We are working on emergency procurement for repairs now.
- City Council members toured Wildcat Hill for a behind-the-scenes look into how we treat our reclaimed water.

## WATER RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION

- AWDR Adequate Water Supply annual report was submitted on June 1.
- The watershed flows are epic this year. Staff are capturing field data, including recharge to the groundwater wells through SCADA.
- Water Conservation has received \$55,000 in CDBG funds for water efficiency retrofits and leak repairs for qualifying low-income homeowners in Flagstaff. This program will contract with plumbers to provide leak repairs and fixture retrofits such as WaterSense certified toilets, showerheads, faucets, and aerators.
- Staff hosted 21 events throughout Water Awareness Month, reaching approximately 1,500 people.
- Interns are gathering water level data and trends to be included in a groundwater flow model.
- The Water/Wastewater/Reclaimed Rate study is ramping up, with the first meeting on June 2. This will be a 16-month process. Public outreach is already being coordinated, with a recommendation by June 2024.
- Conservation is revising the plant list for new development contractors, working with Community Development, Arboretum, and landscapers in the area.
- It's time for end of year spending. Jay Lively Ice Arena is receiving WaterSense shower and sink retrofits, as well as looking into instant hot water fixtures to support water conservation. The hotel retrofit program has also expanded.
- Enforcement is ramping up, with staff reviewing meter data daily.
- WIFA is offering Water Conservation Grants, due June 30.