

MINUTES – WATER RECLAMATION FACILITY CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE (WRFCAC)
REGULAR MEETING – July 5, 2017
VETERAN’S MEMORIAL BUILDING – 3:00 to 5:00 P.M.

PRESENT: Valerie Levulett
Richard Sadowski
Mary (Ginny) Garelick
John Diodati
Steve Shively
Dale Guerra

ABSENT: Barbara Spagnola
Paul Donnelly

STAFF:	Rob Livick	Public Works Director
	Mike Nunley	WRF Program Manager
	John Rickenbach	WRF Deputy Program Manager
	Eileen Shields	Technical Engineer
	Joe Mueller	Utilities Division Manager
	Gina Gregory	Office Assistant

ESTABLISH QUORUM AND CALL TO ORDER
The meeting was called to order at 3:01 p.m. and a quorum was present.

MOMENT OF SILENCE/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIENCE
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ginny Garelick provided an update on EPA’s WIFFIA Program (funding from EPA for Water Infrastructure Projects), stating the program has received additional funding. She hopes Morro Bay has a good chance of receiving some funding and asked Rob Livick if he has heard back from the EPA. Ginny also mentioned the EPA website which has some additional information on Infrastructure Projects and compendium of funding resources for small and rural wastewater systems. Grants and funding information is all in one spot and encourages everyone to look at the website at <https://www.epa.gov/waterfinancecenter>.

Richard Sadowski encourages Citizens who are concerned with costs of the sewer project and to get educated and understand what is happening with this project and how its progressing. There is a Gmail address set up at citizensforaffordableliving@gmail.com to help citizens with the issues that are coming up.

Rob Livick responded to Ginny’s question.

PUBLIC COMMENT

The public comment period was opened; seeing none, the public comment period was closed.

A. CONSENT AGENDA
<https://youtu.be/dXt6NMhNieA?t=6m36s>

A-1 Approval of Minutes of April 4, 2017 Meeting

Richard Sadowski stated he wanted the minutes in the Public Comments section clarified on page 1 where he noted that “Waiver” should be added to follow 301H.

Carol Truesdale noted her husband’s last name was misspelled and would like it corrected.

The public comment period was opened, seeing none, the public comment period was closed.

MOTION: Dale Guerra moved to approve Item A-1 with the corrections made by Carol Truesdale and Richard Sadowski. The motion was seconded by Steve Shively and carried 7-0-0 unanimously.

B. BUSINESS ITEMS

B-1 Report on Public Works Cost Review Workshop

<https://youtu.be/dXt6NMhNieA?t=9m12s>

Rob Livick introduced the Public Works Cost Review Workshop and our new Interim City Manager, Marty Lomeli. John Rickenbach presented the outcome of the Report on Public Works Cost Review Workshop.

The public comment period was opened.

Diane Plan, resident of north Morro Bay, wanted to make everyone aware that in 2013 we requested Coastal Commission deny it. We were not just automatically denied. She also feels that the public should be informed that the infrastructure that is in need of repair throughout our town is included in this price. She feels that we have local engineers and do not need to go to outside companies and supports a new compact plant at or near our current water treatment plant and only do the sewer plant. She raised the question regarding the \$200 increase asking for clarification and thanked the committee.

Jim Pauley, Morro Bay, requested that the committee speak into their microphones as it is hard to hear out in the auditorium. His concern is over the 4.5% affordability index or the income nationwide recommended sewer and water combined percentage of gross income. He would like the City to put a cap on how much the City is willing to spend and figure out what the citizens can afford and go from there.

Jeff Heller suggested the City stop the project and questioned what happened to the money which was approved two years ago, and what type of work had already been done. Heller noted there was too many questions to be answered and stated the committee represents the community and should ask the City Council to prove whatever monies paid for years ago, had been used for the project. Heller doesn't want to hear threats of future increases until they could tell the public what the City has done with the money.

Carol Truesdale, north Morro Bay, resident since 1995. Her concern is where the money is coming from and where is the \$7.2 million the city has in reserves?

Homer Alexander, Morro Bay rate payer, suggested a 5th option, a basic NBR plant at or near the existing Atascadero Road site that produces tertiary treated water without any of the reclamation components.

Edward Sylvester mentioned that it is hard to hear the panel. He questioned where is the state money is for the state reclamation that is due in 6 years? He's concerned that the City is now operating out of the emergency fund. He is concerned about the water and sewer rates for retired citizens at the 3.5%

Meredith Bates appreciates all the hard work that has been done for many years, she feels people should be able to make comments whenever they can make it. She feels that wording be consistent in all notifications as it becomes confusing when words/wording is changed. She hopes that there are more forums coming up and structured as to have dialog back and forth.

Nancy Bast, long time rate payer, has concerns about the annexation of any property and personally thinks it should be kept within the City. She questioned why the Peer Review Committee did not come up before this and wants confirmation if this will be MBR technology. She would like decisions to be made after the holidays when more residents will be in town and informed. She appreciates the Board being neutral and hear what neighbors have to say.

Barry Brandon, citizen of Morro Bay, thanked the committee and recognizes the challenges they face. He also thanked the City Council for their pause and getting a Peer Review. He recommends using the location at Little Morro Road as it is in town.

John Minot, Morro Bay resident, would like the rate payers to have an analysis on the costs of one of the facilities on Highway 41 if the direction from the Coastal Commission is alternate to the plant site.

Anne Maire Schitzner raised questions concerning what is mandatory and what is optional to achieve on this project and would like it to be under \$60 million dollars. She questions whether we would be able to borrow money to cover the costs and wants the public to be listened to.

Steve Stevens voiced a concern that there has not been an active outreach program so that people are aware of what is going on and would like to see more of this.

Paula Radke stated her concern that there could be two (2) 218's running concurrently if another goes through. She asked wanted to know where the money is from that.

Dan Grossman, Morro Bay resident, is concerned about the residential impacts on our economy which is visitor serving. He would like to see the operating costs which would include pumping and maintenance.

Discussion, comments and questions continued amongst committee members, staff, and consultants.

Rob Livick clarified the information about the last Prop 218 rate increase.

The public comment period was closed.

Rob Livick, Mike Nunley and John Rickenbach responded to the comments.

Discussion, comments and questions continued amongst committee members, staff, and consultants.

MOTION: Dale Guerra moved to continue the meeting beyond 5:00 PM. Steve Shively seconded and the motion carried 7-0-0 unanimously.

MOTION: John Diodati recommends the City Council direct staff to take up to two (2) months to talk with California Coastal Commission about the feasibility of a project at or near the existing WWTP site. If it appears feasible, report to WRFCAC and City Council. If not, move forward with a project at South Bay Boulevard based on Alternative 2 in the Report (tertiary WRF with a deferral of recycled water).

The motion was seconded by Steve Shively. The motion carried 7-0-0 by roll call vote with Chairman Diodati, Commissioner's Fullerton, Garelick, Sadowski, Levulett, Shively and Guerra all voting yes.

C. COMMITTEE MEMBER CLOSING COMMENTS
<https://youtu.be/dXt6NMhNieA?t=2h26m43s>

Richard Sadowski provided a website address (www.morrobaywrf.info) for the public who is concerned with the project. There are recommended solutions and one of those talks about the Hanson site. He also mentioned that the public can get on the email list at citizensforaffordableliving@gmail.com to be more informed.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:29 p.m. The next Regular Meeting will be held on August 1, 2017 at 3:00p.m. at the Veteran's Memorial Building located at 209 Surf Street, Morro Bay, CA.