

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS
METROPOLITAN DOMESTIC WATER IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT
PIMA COUNTY, ARIZONA**

September 25, 2006

**** Fruchthendler Elementary School Cafeteria **
7470 E Cloud Road
Tucson, AZ**

MINUTES

Board Members Present: Dan M. Offret, Chair
Judy Scrivener, Vice Chair
Jim Doyle, Member

Board Members Not Present: Suzanne Downing, Member
James Tripp, Member

District Staff: Mark Stratton, General Manager
Warren Tenney, Clerk of the Board
Alice Stults, Recorder

Study Session

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

Dan M. Offret, Chair of the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Domestic Water Improvement District (District), called the Board Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Dan M. Offret, Judy Scrivener, and Jim Doyle were present. Suzanne Downing and James Tripp were not present.

II. Overview of Completed projects for Metro-Hub Service Area

Christopher Hill, Deputy Manager, and Steve Shepard, Utility Superintendent, provided an overview of projects completed in the Metro-Hub service area. They gave a power point presentation detailing improvements that had been made since the District's purchase of the Hub service area in 1999. Included in the major improvements was the construction of a new reservoir, enhanced security, auxiliary power at key well sites, telemetry, mainline replacement with larger pipe, and an arsenic treatment facility.

Mr. Hill explained that a new well had also been drilled; however, the new well did not produce the anticipated amount of water and was not put into service. Staffs are currently conducting hydrological studies in the area to determine a new location for a possible well site. It is anticipated

that two of the existing wells in the Hub service area will need to be replaced within the next 10 years. The average life of a well is 45 years.

Mr. Hill said that the arsenic levels in two of the Hub service area wells are above the allowed 10 parts per billion. Therefore, a treatment facility was constructed to blend and treat the water to bring the arsenic levels within acceptable standards. He noted that the water in this service area is of exceptional quality in comparison with some of the surrounding areas.

A member of the Hub service area audience in attendance asked if the District had cameras to enable staff to look into wells and water lines to check their condition. Mr. Shepard replied no. It was noted that whenever line breaks occur staff are able to examine the condition of those lines and make note of whether the entire section of that line may need replacing. He said that staffs are also able to determine the condition of water lines according to frequency of breaks in same sections. Mr. Shepard said the District does have a maintenance schedule in place for Metro-Hub.

Mr. Hill explained that in the past the District did not have a reliable map of the entire Metro-Hub system. However, staff is constantly updating the map as lines and connections are properly located and/or repaired. The Metro-Hub and Metro-Main lines are not interconnected.

Mr. Hill noted that wells in Metro-Hub are not dropping as quickly as those in the surrounding Tucson area. The wells are only dropping an estimated ½ foot to 1 foot per year. Mr. Stratton said that in the Metro-Hub service area Arizona Department of Water Resources (ADWR) has recorded a 100 year assured water supply beginning in 1995. He explained that this means it is anticipated that the water levels will not drop more than 1,000 feet during that 100 year period. The deepest well currently in the Hub service area is approximately 600 feet deep with the water level beginning at 75 feet.

III. Overview of Planned Improvements for Metro-Hub Service Area

Charlie Maish, District Engineer, provided information on the planned improvements for Metro-Hub. He explained that in the past private water developers were not required to meet state standards and codes for water systems. This meant that undersized pipe was often used, and fire hydrants were not required. Improvements for Metro-Hub include the installation of fire hydrants, and pipe sized accordingly to provide fire flow protection. It is the goal of the District to ensure that the Metro-Hub service area has a safe and reliable system. Mr. Maish explained that the Board of Directors recently reallocated funds to spend on relocating outdated and damaged water lines from funds in the new Capital Improvement Program (CIP). This CIP was approved by voters in 2005. The second major improvement planned for Metro-Hub out of this CIP is the drilling of a new well.

Mr. Maish explained that the proposed mainline replacement in the Sabino Vista area is necessary due to failing older pipe, ease in reading and accessing meters, and to increase fire flow protection.

During the past year, there have been five mainline breaks in this area. Currently the pipes and meters are located in the alleyways and it is anticipated to move both the pipes and the meters to the right-of-way in front of the homes. Mr. Maish noted that there is approximately \$1 million allocated for this project.

Hub service area customers present at the meeting were concerned about the roadway being torn up. Mr. Maish assured them that the roadway would be returned to a better than before condition and that traffic would still flow while the construction work is being accomplished. Also, any landscaping that is affected by the work will be returned to its original condition. The project will take approximately six months to complete, after a six month period of design work is done. It is anticipated that customers will only be without water for a few hours while the transfer of pipes occurs. Mr. Maish explained that with voter approval of the new CIP, rates for Metro-Main and Metro-Hub customers will increase 4% for a period of five years.

IV. General Comments from the Public

Andrew DeCraene, Metro-Hub customer, addressed the Board noting that for two years in a row he and his wife were on vacation for approximately two weeks. During that time, their water usage increased approximately 10%. A data logger was placed on the meter after the first incident and nothing out of the ordinary was noticed. After the second incident of high water usage occurred, again while he was on vacation, the meter was replaced. Mr. DeCraene said his water bill was adjusted, but he felt it should have been adjusted more. He explained that his caretaker and neighbors did not notice anything out of the ordinary while he was away.

Mr. Offret explained that the Board could not take any action on this item at this meeting since the item was not on the agenda. He noted that at Mr. DeCraene's request the item could be added to a Board of Director's meeting agenda at a future date.

V. General Manager's Report

Mr. Stratton said he did not have anything further to report at this time.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

Dan M. Offret, Chair of the Board

Warren Tenney, Clerk of the Board