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Subject: Water Questions
Date: Sat, 18 Jul 2009 11:52:34 -0500
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X-MS-TNEF-Correlator:
Thread-Topic: Water Questions
Thread-Index: AcoHxshYtorJ78DBT/C9jbHceW7fyg==
From: "Morrison, Laura" <Laura.Morrison@ci.austin.tx.us>
To: <spelman@[REDACTED]>
Cc: "Riley, Chris" <Chris.Riley@ci.austin.tx.us>,
"Gerbracht, Heidi" <Heidi.Gerbracht@ci.austin.tx.us>,
"Ballas, Marisa" <Marisa.Ballas@ci.austin.tx.us>,
"Rush, Barbara" <Barbara.Rush@ci.austin.tx.us>
X-OriginalArrivalTime: 18 Jul 2009 16:52:34.0487 (UTC)
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engine=5.0.0-0811170000 definitions=main-0907180083 Subject=<Water Questions>

Bill (and Heidi) -

Thanks for drafting the questions on water for staff. The structure and organization is very effective and really helps to frame the issues. Attached are my detailed comments.

Laura

Laura Morrison
Austin City Council, Place 4
(512) 974-2258



[Water Questions - Cmts.doc](#)

Water Questions – Cmts.doc

Para 1, 2nd sentence: change “my” to “our”

Para 2, “treat more potable water” ... we’re generating more potable water by treating rather than treating the potable water. Do you know if usage is vernacular here or if adjustment to language is needed?

1a. Need some clarification on the question. Are we asking for current *and* potential conservation programs and cost effectiveness of each? (I think we are) As stated, the question could result in an answer that is too general and 1b suggests it is only future.

1f. Yesterday’s report that SA June 2009 usage declined 23% from last year is rather amazing. I would like to ask specifically if AWU knows what measures led to this steep decline.

The Second 1e – Relabel 1g. (The item after 1f is mislabeled)

1g. First item: I think AE is not yet doing demand pricing, and smart meters are being installed and have much more potential than their current use. To reflect this, I would reword first item to state “Austin Energy is rolling out smart meters and exploring demand pricing...”

3. Plz add “(reclamation)” at the end of the heading (I’m familiar with our reclamation plans but not with the term “purple pipe” and assume others might be in my situation)

In my understanding of reclamation, I see it being divided into 2 types – the city wide program that we already have plans for and are moving on with the first water tower in Windsor Park, and subdivision-specific reclamation systems that we could make mandatory in new subdivisions. These 2 are implicit in the questions – I gather 3e asks about the potential for accelerating our current water tower plan, and St. Petersburg has aggressive subdivision reclamation in place. One specific question to ask on the later might be out much of our growth projections for water could be reduced if we imposed reclamation ordinances for new subdivisions. (This is an idea that I know at least Mike M and I have tossed around.)

4a. Suggest replacing “immediately” with “under the current plan”

5c. Either add question or make a new section regarding AE projection revisions. “Does the recently revised AE projection include a decreased projection of AWU energy usage?” “Has AWU revised projections under the same assumptions for growth that AE used?”

5h. Remove. It is a repeat of 5b.

Only one other topic I saw that we had discussed and isn’t here regarding Lake Travis levels dropping and potential for long term drought.

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Thread-Index: AcoHAw6F3X4eYx5wTcy5m6g7Mm8p3ABrj+yB
From: "Morrison, Laura" <Laura.Morrison@ci.austin.tx.us>
To: "Gerbracht, Heidi" <Heidi.Gerbracht@ci.austin.tx.us>
Cc: <spelman@[REDACTED]>
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engine=5.0.0-0811170000 definitions=main-0907190140 Subject=<FW: Water
Conservation/Drought Management success story>

Here's a ref to the SA report.

From: Jennifer Walker [mailto:[REDACTED]]
Sent: Fri 7/17/2009 12:21 PM
To: Riley, Chris; Morrison, Laura; Shade, Randi; bill.spellman@ci.austin.tx.us; Cole, Sheryl;
Martinez, Mike [Council Member]; Leffingwell, Lee; Ott, Marc
Cc: Ballas, Marisa; Rush, Barbara; Coleman, Glen; 'Amy Everhart'
Subject: Water Conservation/Drought Management success story

Hello,
Here is a short/interesting article from KSAT in San Antonio yesterday. It really demonstrates what can be accomplished with a good water conservation/drought management program in place. I always like to have real world examples to back up what we are working for here in Austin and thought that I would share this. Our water supply situation is inherently different than what San Antonio faces (for now), but a successful and robust water conservation program is what every city should to have in place to support growth and to be environmentally and fiscally responsible. I am pleased to be working with any of you to keep moving Austin towards that goal.

Thanks,
Jennifer Walker

SAWS Says Conservation Efforts Helping
By Trevor Zickgraf | KSAT.com

POSTED: Thursday, July 16, 2009
UPDATED: 7:20 pm CDT July 16, 2009

SAN ANTONIO -- San Antonio Water System officials announced Thursday that water conservation efforts helped San Antonio use 23 percent less water this June than they did in June of 2008.

The announcement came even as the Edwards Aquifer remains dangerously close to stage three conservation levels. The water company also reported that the conservation efforts have worked especially well on the weekends, when SAWS customers are only allowed to water lawns by hands. SAWS official Anne Hayden said the dip in water usage shows that residents understand the dire straights San Antonio is in when it comes to the drought.

"There is enough water for businesses and residents in San Antonio," Hayden said. "But we have to use what we have wisely."

Hayden added that the water conservation has also yielded positive results in attempts to conserve energy since reduced pumping has led to reduced energy usage. San Antonio entered stage one water restrictions April 10 and moved to stage two restrictions last month. Since that time, the aquifer has been close to stage three levels several times this month.

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Jennifer Walker
Water Resources Specialist
Sierra Club, Lone Star Chapter
Office: 512 [REDACTED]
Cell: 512 [REDACTED]
[http\\texas.sierraclub.org](http://texas.sierraclub.org)

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Thread-Topic: quick question
Thread-Index: Acobmq6cuW09ifH+Sse14jmmkmhRIAAe+EEQAAJ0TbAABP3psg==
From: "Leffingwell, Lee" <Lee.Leffingwell@ci.austin.tx.us>
To: "Gerbracht, Heidi" <Heidi.Gerbracht@ci.austin.tx.us>,
<spelman@[REDACTED]>
Cc: "Nathan, Mark" <Mark.Nathan@ci.austin.tx.us>
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Thanks. I thought it was.
LL

-----Original Message-----

From: Gerbracht, Heidi
Sent: Thu 8/13/2009 9:15 AM
To: 'spelman@[REDACTED]'; Leffingwell, Lee
Subject: FW: quick question

Per conversation yesterday. Admin authority is set by charter, and requires an election.

Thanks-
Heidi

From: Gilchrist, Jennifer
Sent: Thursday, August 13, 2009 8:07 AM
To: Gerbracht, Heidi
Subject: RE: quick question

Charter, Article VII, Section 15. Text below. If you need more information today, please call Cary Grace.
Thanks. JG

§ 15. PURCHASE PROCEDURE.

All purchases made and contracts executed by the city shall be pursuant to a written requisition from the head of the office, department or agency whose appropriation will be charged, and no contract or order shall be binding upon the city unless and until the director of finance certifies that there is to the credit of such office, department or agency a sufficient unencumbered appropriation balance to pay for the supplies, materials, equipment or contractual services for which the contract or order is to be issued. Before the city makes any purchase or contract for supplies, materials, equipment or contractual services, opportunity shall be given for competition unless exempted by state statute. The city manager shall have the authority to contract for expenditures without further approval of the council for an expenditure that does not exceed forty-three thousand dollars annually. A contract or an amendment to a contract, involving an expenditure of more than forty-three thousand dollars annually must be expressly approved by the council. All contracts or purchases involving more than five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00) shall be let to the bid deemed most advantageous to the city after there has been an opportunity for competitive bidding; provided, however, that the council shall have the right to reject any and all bids. Contracts for personal or professional services shall not be let on competitive bids and each such contract, or amendment to a contract, involving more than forty-three thousand dollars annually shall be approved by the council. The city manager may not contract for personal or professional services under the manager's authority if the manager knows or reasonably should know that the contractor's full scope of work will exceed the limit of the manager's authority. The amount of the forty-three thousand dollar annual limitation shall be modified each year with the adoption of the budget to increase or decrease in accordance with the most recently published federal government, Bureau of Labor Statistics Indicator, Consumer Price Index (CPI-W U.S. City Average) U.S. City Average. The most recently published Consumer Price Index on May 4, 2002, shall be used as a base of 100 and the adjustment thereafter will be to the nearest one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00).

Amendment note:

Section 15 appears as amended in the May 4, 2002 election. This section was previously amended on January 19, 1985, and May 7, 1994.

From: Gerbracht, Heidi
Sent: Wednesday, August 12, 2009 5:18 PM
To: Gilchrist, Jennifer
Subject: quick question

Hey Jenny-

Not sure who to ask, but thought you might know the answer:

Is the admin authority level for City Manager-authorized purchases set by ordinance or by the charter?

Thanks!

Heidi

Estrada, Deena

From: Bill Spelman [spelman@[REDACTED]]
Sent: Wednesday, June 08, 2011 10:07 AM
To: Estrada, Deena
Subject: FW: Council Member Laura Morrison - Water Conservation Study...

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>From: "Morrison, Laura" <Laura.Morrison@ci.austin.tx.us>
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>- Water Conservation Study...>
>
>
>
>-----Original Mes
>From: lukesires@[REDACTED] [mailto:lukesires@[REDACTED]]
>Sent: Thursday, August 06, 2009 3:10 PM
>To: Morrison, Laura
>Subject: Council Member Laura Morrison - Water Conservation Study...
>
>
>Date/Time Submitted: Thursday, 8/6/09, 1509 hours
>From: Luke Sires
>E-mail address: lukesires@[REDACTED]
>Subject: Water Conservation Study...
>Comments:
>Dear Laura Morrison,
> I'm a grad student at UT school of Architecture and Planning
>finishing my thesis on single-family residential water conservation
>programs at Austin Water. I understand that water conservation and
>water treatment plant #4 are important topics of concern for the city,
>and city council members. I wanted to contact your office to extend
>the invitation of sharing information regarding water conservation programs.
>
>
>My study includes a historic account of water infrastructure and
>conservation in Austin, interviews with water conservation
>professionals, an internet survey of local water users and program
>participants, and a quantitative study analyzing the success of six
>different SF residential conservation programs.

>
>Perhaps more important than any specific result from this study is the
>opportunity to engage in a more informed dialog with other's interested
>in this topic. I imagine that this could help guide the challenging
>policy decisions that lay ahead.

>
>Best,
>Luke Sires

> [REDACTED]

Estrada, Deena

From: Bill Spelman [spelman@██████████]
Sent: Wednesday, June 08, 2011 10:02 AM
To: Estrada, Deena
Subject: Fwd: lake travis levels
Attachments: ATT7357104.txt

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Thread-Index: AcoL2jODXw5dDur/QXaTu9gm6ZISeA==
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[Long-lost vehicles revealed in Lake Travis](#)

With lake levels declining because of drought, vehicles lost for years underwater have begun reappearing.