

Approved August 20, 2020



**AUSTIN WATER OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING
May 13, 2020**

The Austin Water Oversight Committee convened in a regular meeting on Wednesday, May 13, 2020 via videoconference.

Chair Paige Ellis called the committee meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.

Committee Members in Attendance:

Council Member Paige Ellis, Chair, Council Member Leslie Pool, Vice Chair, Council Member Ann Kitchen and Council Member Alison Alter

Committee Members Absent:

None

CITIZEN COMMUNICATION:

There were no speakers.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Approve the minutes of the March 5, 2020 Austin Water Oversight Committee

The minutes of the March 5, 2020 meeting were approved on Council Member Pool's motion, and Council Member Kitchen's second, on a 3-0 vote with Council Member Alter off the dais.

BRIEFINGS

2. Director's Report

- Upcoming recommendations for Council action
- Innovations and events at Austin Water
- Water Forward Report

Austin Water Director Greg Meszaros reported that Austin Water's operations are stable and staff are working effectively and safely during COVID-19 conditions. He introduced new Assistant Director of Engineering Services, Shay Roalson. Director Meszaros reported that a renegotiation of a 30-year wholesale water contract with Water Control Improvement District No. 10 will come before the Council within the next several months. Water Forward milestones include the recently signed AMI (advanced metering infrastructure) contracts with the pilot installations to start this summer. Engineering services procurement is underway for the long-term aquifer storage and recovery project for drinking water storage. Discussion occurred on the stakeholder engagement process for Austin Water's code revisions and guidance for on-site water reuse.

3. COVID-19 Update

- **Customer Assistance Update**
- **Financial Impact on Utility's Forecasts and Budget**

Assistant Director of Financial Services David Anders recapped that Council approved a 10% residential rate decrease on April 9th that was effective immediately and will remain through the end of October. Austin Water contributed \$5 million to the Plus 1 Program to further assist qualifying households. The program application process and eligibility were discussed. Austin Water can manage through the COVID-19 event with cost containment and reserves.

4. Brushy Creek Regional Wastewater System Overview

Assistant Director of Water Resources Management Kevin Critendon gave a presentation on Austin Water's involvement in the Brushy Creek Regional Wastewater System. This regional partnership with the cities of Round Rock, Cedar Park, and Leander provides wastewater service to each city's customers. Planned expansion construction is expected to begin in the coming months and should be completed by 2024. Each partner city will pay their pro rata share of the expansion cost based on their needs. The City of Round Rock currently manages day to day operations and will oversee expansion construction.

FUTURE ITEMS

5. Identify Items for Future Discussion

- Director's Report
- COVID-19 Customer Assistance Update
- Water Forward Dashboard
- Water Leak Detection

ADJOURN

Chair Ellis adjourned the meeting at 2:25 p.m. without objection.

These minutes were approved at the August 20, 2020 meeting on Council Member Alter's motion, Council Member Pool's second, on a 4-0 vote.