

NOTES
Mayor Swisstack's Transition Team
Infrastructure Team Meeting
Wednesday, April 9, 2008
4:00 p.m. – City Hall 3rd Floor Fiscal Services

Chair Lawrence Rael was unable to attend. JR Allison headed the meeting. Due to scheduling conflicts, the meeting ended at 5:00 p.m.. Eight of the ten team members attended. Larry Velasquez attended for Secretary Rhonda Faught.

Steve Gallegos, Utilities System Engineer presented a brief overview of the city's water management and purchase practices.

- due to budget shortfalls and RFP was submitted to review rates and impact fees
- wells used to cost ~\$1M, now cost ~\$12M
- upgrading existing wells to treat water to current standards impacts the budget
- ~142,000 residents can be served with existing water rights
- if water isn't pumped to state mandated capacity, cutbacks are enacted
- city is using less water than estimated even though there are more residents than estimated
- can't use same types of treatment on all water in Rio Rancho; water types differ throughout the city
- ~12,000 acre feet of water is left on previous permit; quarterly reports are submitted
- water quality is not as good on newer, larger wells
- "green building" plan accepted as a draft it was never enacted
- water usage has declined per household because of mandates for low flow toilets, etc.
- 6 wastewater treatment plants in Rio Rancho; 2 will be shut down because two newer plants are better equipped and more "high tech" water treatment
- Corps of Engineers created plan {30 years ago}; currently the pueblos are not willing to talk about water rights due to pending litigation in federal court

JR Allison recapped the conversation he, Lawrence Rael and Al Sena had with Jim Payne.

- city is working on a process manual
- city doesn't have a strategic plan
- existing transportation plan needs to be reviewed
- city is bonding to capacity

The team reviewed its top priorities for the report to the Mayor. These are listed in the order of discussion, not importance.

1. water resource management
2. transportation
3. growth and systems in place to handle it
4. power and gas {energy}

Public Comment

- 579 acre feet of water must be purchased every 5 years for 55 years
- schools and city go after same money {i.e. mill levy, etc.} for bond issues; does this create competition for the city?

For the next meeting:

- The team will have ideas for recommendations on the four items listed in the notes.

Next meeting:

April 14th at 4:00p.m. at City Hall