

**CITY OF DENTON SUSTAINABILITY
FRAMEWORK ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES
April 28, 2023**

After determining that a quorum was present, the Sustainability Framework Advisory Committee of the City of Denton, Texas convened in a Regular Meeting on Friday, April 28, 2023, at 1:00 p.m. in the City Council Work Session Room at 215 E. McKinney St, Denton, Texas.

PRESENT: Chair Keely Briggs, Vice Chair Meltzer and Members Brand Richter, Ed Soph, Wendell Stevens, and Adam Briggie

LEGAL REPRESENTATION: Marcella Lunn

ABSENT: None.

REGULAR MEETING

1. ITEMS FOR INDIVIDUAL CONSIDERATION

A. SFAC23- 016 Consider approval of the March 24, 2023, minutes.

Member Meltzer moved to approve the amended minutes with the following change:

Incentivize solar battery walls, plan to incorporate solar rebate grandfathering, discuss meeting two times a month to make more progress.

Richter seconded. Motion carried.

AYES (6): Chair Briggs, Vice Chair Meltzer, and Members Richter, Soph, Briggie and Stevens
NAYS (0): None

B. SFAC23-018 Receive a report and hold a discussion on the Denton Water Utilities long range plans addressing sustainability measures that also account for future growth.

The item was presented by Stephen Gay, Director of Water Utilities and discussion followed.

Gay talked about the master plans that will be coming forward. He discussed the wastewater master plan, comprehensive plan, updating the 2018 water master plan, comprehensive water supply plan, reclaimed water plan, conservation plan, and drought management plan. Gay discussed how the master plans intersect with Sustainability.

The presentation included additional conservation to lower the per capita daily usage over the next 50 years including plumbing code reductions, reduce water loss, and incentivizing low water demand landscape and ordinances.

Gay continued to discuss expanding the reuse water system to add more public customers, commercial and mixed use as well as ordinances to require any new development within a certain proximity to use the system. He talked about Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) and how this stores water in aquifers during low demand period to pull water out during high demand periods.

Gay talked about direct potable reuse and how it is treated and how wastewater flows directly to the water treatment plant for further treatment, and indirect potable reuse is treated and wastewater flows to a natural buffer to then pull water back.

Meltzer asked about the state of the projected demand - are we facing a pinch point? Gay responded that we are not, we are going to add an additional treatment facility plant to help manage the growth and additional flows coming into the system. There were additional questions regarding the new plant and the cost associated. Gay stated he expected the numbers to escalate due to supply chain and labor issues. Gay stated that 75-80 percent is irrigation.

Meltzer mentioned Dr. Thompson (Rudy) education with a green school education on water conservation.

Briggle asked about the goals, per capita what is it now and how has it changed over the years. Gay talked about 175/day/ individual 2011 and in 2022 it was 150 gallons per day. Briggle asked how they stack up, Gay stated that is in part of the plan that is being worked on, we will bring it back.

Briggle discussed depleting resources and what are the projections for water resources. Gay talked about Lake Ray Roberts and Lewisville. We are diversifying our portfolio.

Richter mentioned there were not a lot of projections, he asked what they were. Gay, very subjective factors working with Municipal Utility Districts (MUDs) that are interested in City of Denton water. Hunter and Cole believe to see about an 8% number of projections within the next five years.

Briggs asked about future growth. If we do 8% increase and business as usual for water supply, how long is that sustainable if we don't start implementing all the other ideas. Gay will bring that information back.

Richter stated that he loved what was presented. Richter mentioned looking at other items other than xeriscaping. Gay stated there will be a plan to incorporate a demonstration garden that will show customers different alternatives such as a botanical garden, for example.

Richter also talked about ground water banking, the 70% use of surface water, and if there is other competition with the depositing of water into the aquifer. Gay believes it will be regional partnership and a comprehensive view. We have raw water and treated water that will give us a competitive advantage.

Soph asked about the master plan and if it will extend out 50 years. Gay stated 5 25 50. Will there be timelines for the plan? Gay stated that it is continually refined. Soph asked, with ordinances? Gay agreed. Soph when plans completed. Gay stated WW WS to PUB and final by year end. One

Water just started. Soph asked if this group can be up to date as we go along. Is the irrigation normal? Gay said it is normal. Gay talked about City of Las Vegas and how they recycle and conserve.

Stevens asked what our goals were and if we are in trouble now. He asked how much we need to reduce the areas of opportunities, what does that look like in terms of gallons, and how much will it cost to make that happen. Gay said no we aren't in trouble. What are the targets? Gay stated we are working on the targets. Stevens asked about partnerships. Do we have a partnership with colleges and how do we get the information to customers? There is a great opportunity. Barnett says that we have that connection. Gay stated that audit is part of this master plan and that we hope to earmark funds to help upgrade a sprinkler system.

Stevens requested to add to that we educate the community about irrigation to the matrix.

Briggs asked if there is a list of waterwise vegetation on our city website. Barnett stated that she will double check., yes. Briggs also asked if there was anything that we treat our water with that will harm the environment, if we put it back into the aquifer? Gay stated we are working on this part in the master plan, and it will include chemists that can answer those questions. TCEQ is very clear about what the water must look like before it can be injected.

Briggs also asked if we have rebates for our irrigation systems. Gay and Barnett stated that we did not, but we will be looking for this. Katherine stated this information is important to have as we grow.

Meltzer asked if there was potential for a new reservoir to be built in the region? Stephen talked about how we submit our growth projections to Region C and based off the need, there may be an opportunity to build one, but the most current reservoir is at Lake Ralph Hall that is being constructed by Upper Trinity Water District. It's about a 2–3-year project. Stephen stated we will not pass up any opportunity, he will advocate for any help to sustain our water supply.

Meltzer asked if xeriscaping is bad for other things. Including pollinators. He also asked what the timeline is for the Master plan. Gay stated the wastewater plan is expected to be complete by end of 2023. One Water plan has just launched, he mentioned between 18-24 months.

Meltzer asked what Gay would like to see from this committee. Stephen stated he hasn't had any struggles but will think about it.

Briggle asked about the water quality, and if we are up to the state of the art for this. Stephen will talk to the Lab and get more information. He stated that we are compliant and that we are closely regulated by TCEQ.

Soph asked about Permeable concrete driveways and sidewalks. Stephen stated that our Drainage department would better answer this.

C. SFAC23- 017 Staff Reports

The item was not presented, and discussion followed:

Stevens – More comprehensive water plan presentation. What are the goals and how will it impact Sustainability and costs.

Meltzer – Incentivize solar battery walls, Solar rebate discussion on grandfathering, correctly valued rooftop solar, and a discussion on meeting two times a month to make more progress.

Soph – Would like an update on the efforts to increase the number charging stations, City to utilize solar over parking lots, and if there are any city initiatives to utilize solar for City buildings.

CONCLUDING ITEMS

Stevens - Sustainability fund work plan, is there something more up to date? Barnett stated there is one from this year and will find it.

Stevens – Is the Simply Sustainable document the most current? Barnett is working on update.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:49 pm.



KEELY BRIGGS
CHAIR
CITY OF DENTON, TEXAS



KIM MANKIN
UTILITIES ADMIN MANAGER
CITY OF DENTON, TEXAS

Minutes approved on: _____

5/26/23