



**AUSTIN WATER OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING
March 5, 2020**

The Austin Water Oversight Committee convened in a regular meeting on Thursday, March 5, 2020 at City Hall, Boards and Commission Room, 301 West 2nd Street in Austin, Texas.

Chair Paige Ellis called the committee meeting to order at 10:03 a.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: GENERAL

There were two speakers:

- Dr. Craig Nazor, Lone Star Chapter of the Sierra Club shared concerns about chlorine odors from Austin Water's Dessau Wastewater Treatment Plant and downstream creek health.
- Grant Fisher, Austin Water and Wastewater Commissioner discussed concerns about an upcoming recommendation for Council action on Austin Water's advanced metering infrastructure (AMI) contracts.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- 1. Approve the minutes of the November 7, 2019 Austin Water Oversight Committee.**

The minutes of the November 7, 2019 meeting were approved on **Council Member Alter's motion, and Council Member Kitchen's second, on a 4-0 vote.**

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION:

- 2. Discussion and approval of remaining 2020 Austin Water Oversight Committee meeting dates.**

The following Austin Water Oversight Committee meeting schedule for 2020 was approved on Council Member Alter's motion and Council Member Kitchen's second, on a 4-0 vote.

Wednesday May 13, 2020, 1pm – 3pm
Thursday August 20, 2020, 10am – noon
Wednesday October 28, 2020, 2pm – 4pm

3. Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI)

Austin Water Director Greg Meszaros, Austin Water Assistant Director of Operations Rick Coronado, and Austin Water Chief Information Officer Chris Stewart presented an overview of Austin Water's AMI project, with citywide deployment over 5 years. Council Member Ellis requested implementation updates from Austin Water every 6 months. **A motion was made by Council Member Pool and seconded by Council Member Alter to recommend the AMI contracts for full Council approval. Motion approved on a vote of 4-0.**

BRIEFINGS

4. Director's Report

- **Upcoming recommendations for Council action – Brushy Creek**
- **Innovations, events and awards: Austin Water's Accomplishments (Texas Water Board Development fund, Industry Leaders Utility Management Conference, Austin Water's Strategic Plan)**

Austin Water Director Greg Meszaros presented highlights of an upcoming recommendation for Council action regarding a financing agreement amendment for the Brushy Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant expansion. He discussed the status of Texas Water Development Board loans and noted that Austin Water's Strategic Plan implementation report is online. He also recognized professional achievements of Austin Water staff.

5. Information Submittal: City Owned and Non-Owned Austin Wastewater Treatment Plant Map

Council Member Pool discussed a wastewater plant map provided by Austin Water and requested that private wastewater treatment plants be added to it. Austin Water Director Greg Meszaros and Assistant Director Rick Coronado provided some history on the Dessau Wastewater Treatment Plant operations. Council Member Pool asked Austin Water staff to visit the Dessau Wastewater Treatment Plant with Dr. Nazor and provide a follow up report.

6. Update on Planned Infrastructure Improvements and Infrastructure Leaks

Kevin Critendon, Austin Water Assistant Director of Water Resources Management gave a presentation on Austin Water's capital planning process and water loss management strategies.

7. Water Quality Report

Rick Coronado, Austin Water Assistant Director of Operations presented a water quality report that included an update on zebra mussels mitigation. He also noted a South Austin neighborhood water quality incident in January 2020 that involved the Austin Fire Department.

8. Presentation and Discussion by Great Springs Project representative regarding source water protection and regional collaboration

Bobby Levinski, SOS Alliance and Great Springs Project presented recommendations for land acquisition to protect springs between Austin and San Antonio. Council Member Alter asked Austin Water staff to meet with Mr. Levinski for further discussion.

FUTURE ITEMS

9. Identify Items to Discuss at Future Meetings

- Brushy Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant expansion and financing
- Water Forward plan implementation – quarterly update

ADJOURN

Chair Ellis adjourned the meeting at 12:02 p.m. without objection.

These minutes were approved at the May 13, 2020 Austin Water Oversight Committee meeting on Council Member Pool's motion, Council Member Kitchen's second on a 3-0 vote with Council Member Alter off the dais.