

City of Bel Aire Utility Advisory Committee Minutes
Wednesday, February 8, 2023

1. Called to order at 3:00 pm
2. In attendance: Dan Broyles, Terry Ercolani, Antonio Kit, Bill Moss, Art Tenbrink. Also, Mayor Benage
3. Approval of agenda: Bill motion, Dan second. Approved.
4. Approval of January 11, 2023 meeting minutes: Bill motion, Dan second on the amended version (fixed two typographical errors). Amended minutes will be sent by Terry to the governing body, Art to the city staff.
5. New business
 - a. Ogallala Aquifer
 - i. Art shared research
 - ii. Discussed aquifer uses--drinking water and irrigation--for Kansas and surrounding states.
 - iii. Discussed usage rates and forecasts for depletion, along with aridification and agricultural changes that can affect depletion rates.
 - iv. Management: local enhanced management areas (LEMAs) are being put in place. Kansas governor Laura Kelly noted management of water supply as a priority.
 - b. Soil moisture sensors (SMS): see item f)
 - c. Water savings rebates
 - i. Discussed how Bel Aire could potentially use the Wichita water savings rebate program. Information provided by Ted Henry (Asst. City Manager)
 - ii. Overall: money is available, but application by Bel Aire citizens would need to be through the City of Bel Aire and then through Wichita. Not much money is available, and it is thought that the general application process would end up costing the city of Bel Aire, with not much money going to citizens. Timing is also an issue, especially for 2023.
 - iii. General feeling is that education/informing would be more useful to achieve water conservation. Then, savings would be directly available to

citizens. Informing can be related to purchasing water conservation appliances and devices, and water-conserving landscaping.

d. 2023 Water Conservation Plan

- i. Art sent the proposed conservation plan out prior to the meeting.

Changes were suggested and incorporated to the version reviewed during the meeting.

- ii. Mayor Benage brought up additional changes for discussion, including the approximated population of Bel Aire (used for per capita water usage calculations), responsibilities related to residential and source water meter calibrations/checks, and the addition of smart controllers to the list of potential water conservation practices.

- iii. Art agreed to make changes and to then review again before sending to the governing body.

e. Kechi tree limb and brush waste disposal? No additional information to report at this time.

f. March "Did You Know"

- i. Art wrote and put together the DYK; subject is sprinkler watering systems (SWSs). Accepted.

- ii. Discussed types of SWS devices and how these could be added to an existing sprinkler system, including how a zonal watering system could be altered. Art provided an example of a SWS device that costs approximately \$100.

- iii. Discussed water and utility costs in general. Noted that Bel Aire water costs are more than Wichita, but Bel Aire water costs are also comparable to other Wichita suburbs that purchase water from Wichita. Also, Bel Aire includes other utilities in the "water bill" that Wichita does not.

g. Waste Connections Hutchinson Plant visit

- i. Agreed on May 10 in the afternoon.

- ii. Approximately eight may attend--UAC members plus governing body members if they desire.
- iii. Tour will include review of robot sorting that has been added since last tour took place.

6. Roundtable discussion

- a. Dan, Terry, Antonio: no report
 - b. Art discussed the Colorado River and its impact on regional water supplies in the United States. The two largest reservoirs in the US are supplied by the Colorado River (Lake Powell and Lake Mead). Both reservoirs are at 25% capacity. This is having a huge effect on water usage planning in the western US region.
 - c. Mayor Benage:
 - i. Changes to the CCUA are coming. Will discuss these as they develop.
 - ii. Discussed proposed changes to K-96, including addition of divergent diamond interchanges at some intersections. Construction may start in 2026.
7. Next meeting: UAC meeting March 8, 2023, 3-5 pm at City Hall Senior Center. Accepted by the UAC members present.
8. Old, continuing, future business: no new additions to the list of items noted in the agenda.
9. Adjournment of meeting: Bill motion, Dan second. All approved. Meeting adjourned at approximately 5:00 pm