

OFFICE OF BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
YAVAPAI COUNTY, ARIZONA

Prescott, Arizona

July 18, 2002

The Board of Supervisors met in special session on July 18, 2002.

Present: Lorna Street, Chairman; Chip Davis, Vice Chairman; Gheral Brownlow, Member.

Absent: Bev Staddon, Clerk.

The Board attended the Yavapai County Water Advisory Committee Retreat held in the Library Conference Room at the Orme Ranch School in Mayer.

Also present were the following Water Advisory Committee members or alternates: Co-Chairman Tony Gioia; Co-Chairman Larry Tarkowski; Jim Williams; Robert Behnke; Anita MacFarlane; Brenda Hauser; Art Coates; Jane Moore; Carol Johnson; and Rex Williams. Members of the WAC Technical Advisory Committee present were: Loyd Barnett; Brad Huza; Carol Johnson; John Munderloh; and Jim Holt. In addition, the following persons attended the meeting: Mr. Orme, Orme Ranch; Mette Brogden, Anne Browning, Jennifer Shepard, and Colleen Loomis of the University of Arizona Udall Center; and State Representative Tom O'Halleran.

ITEM NO. 1. Attend the Yavapai County Water Advisory Committee Retreat, participating in discussion of the following items:

1. Review of the environment in which the WAC is working, including statement of the problems it is attempting to address; opportunities for the WAC to add value to how water issues are addressed in Yavapai County; potential barriers and challenges to successfully addressing water issues. Ms. Mette Brogden with the Udall Center introduced herself and staff summarizing her background qualifications and career history. Ms. Brogden was the mediator and facilitator for this WAC/Board of Supervisors strategy session. She presented ground rules to include making a strong effort to understand other viewpoints and educate each other about interests and unique views. Ms. Brogden explained that she called most of the WAC prior to this meeting, and the following items were similar to all those she talked with: Develop a clear direction for the WAC and set goals; clarify WAC's role in Yavapai County and interaction with the Board; understand who is doing what and who has authority to implement WAC's recommendations; discuss WAC's regional responsibilities and accountabilities; the need to take a pro-active approach; and improve implementation of projects. Ms. Brogden then listed the agenda items she anticipated accomplishing. Three questions were presented to members attending the retreat and each member was asked to pick one of the questions and give their answer. The questions were: What has been your best experience in tackling a complex natural resource or public issue; What has been your worst experience in tackling a conservation issue; and, if nothing changes in the way that water is managed in Yavapai County, what will it be like in 20 years? After going around the table and listening to each member's answer or opinion to the above questions, the next question presented was: How do water problems impact your local area? Members were asked to keep their answers/opinions specific to their jurisdiction. The group was then asked to think about and answer the question: What are the necessary elements of a proactive approach to water planning and management? The group came up with 38 different items that they considered very important.
2. Review of WAC accomplishments to date. Ms. Brogden asked the Board what its charge was to the WAC. Supervisor Brownlow gave a brief history of how the WAC came into existence, saying that the WAC was formed with the intent of bringing communities together to discuss and resolve water issues, and to strengthen understanding between communities. He said the County's job was to act as a facilitator, and that the original intent was for the committee to identify resources, create a cooperative environment among towns and cities to work on water issues as a region, and to raise funds for scientific studies. He said that, in his opinion, the WAC was supposed to inform the Board of water issues but not advise the Board on water issues. Chairman Street had no comment. Supervisor Davis agreed with the original intent as stated by Supervisor Brownlow, but said he felt the WAC had come along way over the last several years, bringing increased responsibilities to its members. Ms. Brogden asked the Board and the WAC which of the original intent items the WAC had accomplished. Ongoing items identified included: Identified resources; created a cooperative environment among the county towns/cities and other agencies; raised funds for scientific studies; and created a Technical Advisory Committee (TA/C) to advise the WAC on technical issues prior to going forward to the Board. At this point, the group broke for lunch. Following lunch, Mr. O'Halleran stated that what

he and other legislators wanted was a unified message from the WAC and Board, and that a unified message was critical in order to address funding issues. He said there was a need to educate legislators on water issues, preferably in a face-to-face presentation and keeping things as simple as possible.

3. **Strategic Planning Session.** The WAC was asked to form groups of four and take 30 minutes to develop a proposal for regional water planning and management. After the time expired, each group gave a brief review of their proposal. Those attending discussed what each proposal had in common, what could be achieved through the common items in the proposals, what the WAC cared about the most from the proposals, and what, if anything, they could not reach agreement on. Issues that appeared to be of great concern to both the Board and the WAC were: How far can one go without being too authoritarian or oppressive to someone; and, the fact that not all areas of the county have the same needs and that it would be hard to standardize a regional plan. The group then discussed ideas of setting up a strategic plan. Some discussion followed with Chairman Street stating that in her district she represents Prescott Valley residents and ranchers. She said she needed to approach water issues from a different perspective and that no matter what district, it was different for different areas. She said she felt that sometimes the WAC puts the Board in a bind with water and development issues, and that She did not want the WAC dictating to her what she can and cannot do in her district. Supervisor Davis referred to the idea of having local rules within a master plan, saying he felt that the government or some entity would need to make the rules and that some would like the rules and some would not. The next question that Ms. Brogden posed to the committee was: What can the WAC do to help people in Yavapai County take a proactive approach and/or evolve the County into taking a regional approach? Going around the table, each WAC and Board member was given the opportunity to give their input. The last question presented to the group was: What does the Board want to change to the charge of the WAC? Answers included: The need to educate constituents now on the need for guidelines regarding water issues; continue to leverage funds for continued scientific database; establish time frames to accomplish water budgets for all entities, identify shortfall and come up with a strategy for acquiring additional water resources; that the WAC be a conduit between science and policy, so science gets turned into policy; the need to understand the Department of Water Resources' role in 100-year water supply and understand the water transportation act and the difference in the County land use and the cities' infrastructure. WAC members indicated that they would like to see the Supervisors attend more WAC meetings so everyone has the same understanding concerning water issues. WAC members also indicated that they would like to consider having representatives on the committee from the Forest Service and State Land Department.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

ATTEST:

_____Clerk_____Chairman