

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MINUTES WITH SUPPLEMENTAL TRANSCRIPT
(Where a supplemental transcript is available, it is printed in bold type)

OFFICE OF BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
YAVAPAI COUNTY, ARIZONA

Prescott, Arizona

July 31, 2006

The Board of Supervisors met in special session on July 31, 2006, at 2:00 p.m., at the Clarkdale Community Development Conference Room, Town of Clarkdale Town Hall Complex, 890 Main Street, Clarkdale, Arizona.

Present: Thomas Thurman, Chairman; Chip Davis, Vice Chairman; Carol Springer, Member.

Absent: Bev Staddon, Clerk.

Also present: Chris Moran, Administrative Assistant II for District 3 (sitting in for Ms. Staddon); Doug Von Gausig, Verde River Basin Partnership (VRBP) Structure Committee Chairman/Mayor of Clarkdale; Bob Luzius, Prescott City Councilman; Yolanda Trujillo, Yavapai-Apache Nation; Thomas Slaback, Structure Committee/Sierra Club; Carlos Sierra, Senator McCain's Office; Dorothy O'Brien, VRBP Communications Committee; Steve Kling, VRCA; Harry Jones, Gila County; Jack Wilson, Citizens for Reasonable Growth; John Kaminski, PACP; Jack Herring, Prescott College; Greg Kornrumph, Salt River Project (SRP); John Rasmussen, Yavapai County Water Advisory Committee; Keran O'Brien, NAU; Joanna Dodder, Daily Courier; Bob Rothrock, Cottonwood City Councilman; Carol Johnson, Clarkdale/VWA; Dick & Jean Clark, Williamson Valley Corridor Plan, Inc.; Joan McClelland, Big Park; Chelsea Deweese, Red Rock News; Steve Ayers, Verde Valley News.

Clerk's note: A copy of these minutes with a supplemental transcript is available in the Office of the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors and is also available on the County website.

The Board met with the Verde River Basin Partnership (VRBP) Structure Committee for discussion of the following items. No action was taken by the Board.

1. Consideration of adding new members to the Structure Committee.

Mayor Von Gausig opened the meeting welcoming those attending. He commented that he was pleased to see such a good turnout. Self introductions followed. Mayor Von Gausig said that the purpose of the meeting was to consider adding members to the Structure Committee. He asked how many attending were on the Structure Committee and counted nine (some current members were not in attendance). Mayor Von Gausig then asked of those attending who would like to be on the Committee. Including others that raised their hands, Supervisor Thurman and Supervisor Springer said they would like to be on the Structure Committee. Ms. Moran spoke on behalf of Supervisor Davis, saying that he, too, would like to be on the Structure Committee. Mayor Von Gausig stated that it is a consensus that all three County Supervisors will be on the Structure Committee.

2. Individual committee member reports.

Mayor Von Gausig commented that Ms. O'Brien, Mr. Campbell and he spoke in front of the Board of Supervisors two weeks ago and answered a lot of their questions. The result of that is that all three Supervisors joined the VRBP which is appreciated and is a huge step in the right direction. Mayor Von Gausig then asked Ms. O'Brien to share her survey report with the group. Ms. O'Brien said that she really appreciated everyone's input via phone, email or by using the actual survey form and reminded everyone that their input is important and will still be accepted. There were no other committee reports for this agenda item.

3. Report on VRBP member surveys and discussion/analysis of those results.

Mayor Von Gausig explained that at the last general VRBP meeting they passed out survey questionnaires to members. A lot of the questions on the survey were centered on the structure

and other general questions. Ms. O'Brien has been keeping track of the surveys. Ms. O'Brien explained that the survey (compiled as of June 24, 2006) came from some of the Committee members and it certainly isn't perfect but a start. Out of 40 written surveys, 15 were received back receiving other opinions over the phone or by email. Ms. O'Brien wanted to make it clear that none of the survey results were final – just wanted to start getting something out there to see what people were thinking. She also stated that she received lots of notes saying that “fairness” should be the priority. Ms. O'Brien is still receiving surveys and will continue to accept from anyone that wants to share their input. Coordinating Chairman Jack Herring discussed some of the survey results including Letters C, D, and F. Letter F addresses membership dues and according to the survey the choice so far was: Assessed proportionally on the basis of each member organization's population and budget resources exempting non-profits and unincorporated areas. Ms. O'Brien commented that there was a strong feeling that with in-kind service and volunteers' work the VRBP can remain moving forward. How to fund this group will need to be discussed down the line – not yet at that point. Mr. Kornrumpf with SRP said there eventually will need to be some commitment and that the in-kind services are very important and hours spent need to be kept track of for future use. In-kind services or cash will be needed in the future to accrue matching funds. Some method needs to be set up to keep track of these services. The Structure Committee needs to address fiscal responsibility and who can handle large sums of money. Legal structure will also need to be considered at some time. Currently there are four formal committees in the Charter: Partnership Structure, Technical, Communication and Coordinating. When the structure of the Partnership is completed the Structure Committee will dissolve, Mayor Von Gausig commented. Mr. Wilson said that the Partnership by-laws say that the Structure Committee could be restructured as necessary. Some other ideas concerning what committees may be needed were discussed, but no decisions made.

4. Discussion and consideration of possible structures for the VRBP.

Mayor Von Gausig introduced Jack Wilson who gave a power point presentation titled Verde River Basin Partnership Proposed Structure, July 31, 2006. Mayor Von Gausig said that the decision-making process is the big bug-a-boo in the formation of the VRBP and asked if the Supervisors had any specific decisions to address. Supervisor Springer said that naturally she has some comments but would prefer to wait until after the presentation. Following the presentation, Supervisor Springer stated that she knew Mr. Wilson did some comparisons with the USPP and she did some comparisons as well and asked if she could hand out her Membership Analysis. Supervisor Springer said that she knows that the group is already talking about committees and so forth but as she has said several times we need to talk about the basic structure. So, what she has done is a membership analysis. Supervisor Springer explained the document. The purpose originally was for her own information to see where the differences were. Senator McCain has made it very clear that he expects the USPP to be the model for membership. She said that in looking at this, what she saw very clearly is that the media has made a big deal out of the fact that the four Prescott area cities have not become members of the Partnership, but that she also saw that Sedona, the Prescott Yavapai Tribe, two watersheds, and only one out of four national forests were represented. She said that even more significant was the fact that neither the State Land Department nor the Department of Water Resources (DWR), who have the responsibility for all the groundwater in the state, were represented. Supervisor Springer stated that the Analysis clearly shows that this is not any where close to the McCain vision of this partnership. She said that the group can go down the road and continue the path that they are on but it would be her guess that it would be highly unlikely to be credible enough to get the federal appropriations that it is seeking. She said she felt the group needed to go back to square one and before it gets down the road with all the assignments and take a better look at what the structure is and what McCain's vision is and start over again. Supervisor Springer said she knew a lot of time and effort had been spent on this but the question is how much more time and effort did the group want to spend if it ends up that it gets nothing. She said that in order to be a viable group the membership would need to include all of the stakeholders and the State Land and State Real Estate Departments are key players in this, as well as the Prescott area cities that represent two thirds of the population –

they have said that from the beginning. She said her impression of Supervisor Thurman's vision was to perhaps sit down and help try to get this back on track but that she did not see any way to do that unless it started at the beginning and said who should be members. Mayor Von Gausig read part of Senator's McCain's letter as follows: "It is fortunate that we have an existing model of water resources planning and management with USPP in the Sierra Vista sub watershed of Arizona. I have encouraged all of those working on the VRBP's establishment to learn from the experiences of this sister organization. It is my hope and indeed my expectation that the VRBP will be comprised of a knowledgeable group of balanced interests similar to those that comprise the USPP." Mayor Von Gausig said most definitely he believes we are all here to bring the Prescott area cities on board, he is meeting with Sedona to discuss coming on board and there is a meeting with the Department of Water Resources next week. Supervisor Springer commented that committees are already being appointed and in the USPP the advisory committee appointed those committee members but committees are being discussed and appointed without having the advisory committee in place and she did not think this was what Senator McCain envisioned. Mayor Von Gausig asked Carlos Sierra, Senator McCain's Aide, what he thought. Ms. Sierra commented that he did not think the group needed to start from square one but just needed to get the quad cities and a few more agencies on board keeping in mind that the Senator's letter said "similar" to the USPP – the USPP has some different issues. He said that some people may have to be asked to leave and that feelings may be hurt, but that it did not mean they could not participate by attending and giving their input. He said that Herb Guenther had talked with the Senator and after the politics settle down believes that they will be on board. Mr. Sierra said that, coming from the Senator's office, he did not feel the group needs to start over they just need to bring a few other agencies and quad cities on board. Mr. Kornrumpf commented that he thinks people are making an assumption that everybody that signed the Charter are all heavily participating and this is not the case. What it will really come down to in the end are the 20 or so entities that really have a significant role in the outcome of the Partnership. He said he thought the membership was pretty close to the USPP. He said he agreed that the Prescott and Prescott Valley entities need to come on board - that is a big gap. Mr. Herring said that he understood from Dee Hines that the District Engineer made the decision that the Prescott National Forest will represent all the Forest Service entities and doesn't think that is a limiting factor on moving forward with forming the Partnership. Supervisor Springer again commented on basing the VRBP on the USPP. One scenario could be a 6 member committee comprised of supervisors from Coconino, Gila, Yavapai, and Maricopa Counties sending out forms inviting entities to the membership that meet a certain criteria. This is just an alternative proposal to try to bring everyone on board. Supervisor Davis stated that he thinks what needs to be very transparent and crystal clear is that an invitation has been sent to everybody that should be involved with Title II so this has not been a closed process – it would be a shame that the Title II process will be sabotaged because those invited will not come. Supervisor Davis said the invitation can only be extended and that he did not feel the process should stop dead in its tracks because 3 or 4 groups choose to sabotage the process. Supervisor Springer said that was fine but that if the group was trying to model after the USPP there is a membership requirement – need to meet certain criteria. Supervisor Davis said that the Partnership is at an interim point and it is a growing group and if the other 4 entities were sitting at the table and helping to make decisions it would make it easier. Mr. Sierra stated that the VRBP is very similar, lacking a couple organizations and environmental groups. He said he could not say the Senator would object. Special interest groups can be consolidated. Mr. Kornrumpf commented that Title II defines who should participate in two different manners and he is not sure how to fix it. He said he senses an anxiety about the special interests groups when there are only a few participating on a regular basis with others observing. Supervisor Davis said everyone has the right to participate but could be grouped to something smaller in order not to bog thing down. Supervisor Thurman commented that when this was originally presented there were so many people at the table that they were afraid it was leaning in one direction - anti-growth. He said that no one here is for run-a-way growth, and that numerous real estate people, contractors and developers have contacted him saying they want a seat, too. He said that what needs to be looked at is how this is structured and that it could not be all Nature Conservancy or all developers. Supervisor Davis suggested using both criteria stated in Title II.

Executive Committee based upon the people with water authority and the membership based on the other section. He said that way the executive committee can get on with business and membership can be open to everyone. Supervisor Thurman said he did not know if this could be done by September and stressed all representation needs to be from both sides of the mountain. Supervisor Springer said she thought that one of the things that is making the Prescott area people uncomfortable is that currently the advisory group or executive group is self-appointed. Mayor Von Gausig replied that they have volunteers and the role of an executive committee is to appoint members. He said there has to be a comfort level on the structure of the upper level of the Partnership. Ms. O'Brien wanted to comment on Supervisor Thurman's concern about realtors and developers not being invited saying they have been invited and that she hoped that any misconceptions could be put aside. Supervisor Thurman said that is exactly why he wanted to join the Partnership for six months to try and eliminate these misconceptions. Mayor Von Gausig commented that he has better understanding of what may be needed to bring in the quad cities and that the quad cities' comfort level needed to be there in order for them to come on board. Supervisor Springer said a new proposal is needed – not from here, not from the quad cities but based on the USPP – a neutral proposal, and that the comfort level will come with the executive committee appointing the members using criteria. Mr. Kornrumpf said that he liked Supervisor Davis' idea of using both criteria in Title II to form committees. Supervisor Springer suggested reviewing her list and seeing who could be eliminated. Mr. Kronrumpf suggested using Title II criteria in the process of elimination. Mayor Von Gausig asked how the Nation felt about the VRBP. Supervisor Davis said the Yavapai Prescott Tribe signed water rights to the City of Prescott and the Yavapai Apache Nation is considered the same as the County. There was some further discussion about taking a look at the list of current members and seeing how to possibly narrow down and determine structure.

5. Future agenda items.

Tentative agenda items for the August 14, 2006 meeting are: 1) Make up of the Implementation Committee and criteria for members and 2) Financial structure; who will be the fiduciary.

6. Adjournment.

The next meeting is scheduled for August 14, 2006 at Jerome Town Hall starting at 2:00 p.m. The County will arrange for a shuttle to take people from the parking lot near the Fire Station to Jerome Town Hall. The meeting was adjourned around 4:30 p.m.

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

ATTEST:

Clerk _____ Chairman