

CYHWRMS - TWG
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, May 3, 2012
10:30a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Cottonwood, Az.

Attendees:

Vivian Gonzales – Reclamation, Gerry Walker – ADWR, Tom Whitmer – Cottonwood, John Rasmussen – Yavapai Co., Doug Von Gausig – Clarkdale, Staley Bullard – Camp Verde Water, Greg Kornrumpf – SRP, Leslie Meyers – Reclamation, John Zambrano, Leslie Graser – City of Prescott, Ken Janecek – CWAG, Bob Burnside – Camp Verde, Stace Barne – Camp Verde Water

Update

Sharon Masek-Lopez from NAU is still working on the watershed management alternative.

Reclamation met with Doug McMillan and Rick Shroads from CivilTec last week to discuss the macro-rainwater alternative. They presented specific alternative examples that Reclamation Engineer Danny Falcon will finalize to get it into the format needed.

Greg requested that all alternatives and other documents be sent in a word document instead of a .pdf because it is easier to edit.

Legal & Institutional Considerations

Vivian explained that for the legal and institutional considerations, potential issues for each water supply category and regulations that pertain to the alternatives as a whole are listed. Alternatives were categorized by water supply type. For example, there is one category for groundwater that has alternative 1-3. The assumption was that there would be similar issues for those alternatives. The group went through each category and made comments. Vivian asked that everyone take the time and send their comments on the potential issues and regulations to her.

There will be no ranking of the legal and institutional considerations.

It was suggested to add a *Public Perception* section to the document to list the cultural views and principles for each category. That would be the institutional part of the considerations. For example, in this section, issues such as the social/cultural costs of depleting groundwater and surface water and their impacts would be listed.

In regards to costs, there was a comment about spreading the costs across all utility users, not just for the municipal users, but for private wells users too.

It was suggested to list the potential issues in alphabetical order as to not appear in order of significance.

There was an inquiry on whether Reclamation would have a no action alternative. The answer is yes and it will be in the appraisal report as a narrative.

It was also suggested to put in the report that some assumptions are inherent in Phase I such as the retirement of agriculture.

It was asked if Reclamation makes the decision to go to feasibility. No, the partners request feasibility authority. Tom Whitmer said that WAC would be the one to ask Congress.

The function of an appraisal study is to determine if there is a potential viable alternative, if Reclamation should proceed with this project (warranted federal involvement), look for fatal flaws and provide a basis for requesting feasibility authority from Congress.

Leslie explained that there are *four tests of viability* that are used as screening criteria:

Acceptability

Completeness

Effectiveness

Efficiency

Legal and institutional considerations fall within the acceptability section of the viability tests.

Doug mentioned that there is not just an indirect use of effluent but also direct use too and the need for public education and safety awareness. Reclamation will be counting on Doug for a lot of input in this section.

Greg mentioned the problems of taking water upstream on the Verde for the flood alternative. Reclamation will be looking forward to SRP's comments on the issues and regulations to that alternative.

For other water supply, there is a high risk of potential return on investment.

It was suggested to have a place to write if it is a long-term or short-term solution.

For the conservation alternative, it was suggested to report that there could be unintended consequences to conserving water. Reclamation will need help from Stanley Bullard on this section.

Everybody has lots of homework on the Legal and Institutional Considerations document. Please look through the issues and remember there will be a Public Perception section and also if there are any regulations that I missed or that need to be worded differently.

Environmental Considerations

Greg went over the documents and maps for the environmental considerations. Please take the time to look them over and provide comments to Rebecca. John Rasmussen will post them on the website. He will send out an email with the link.

Next Meeting

June 7, 2012

10:30am-12:00pm

Prescott, AZ