

DRAFT
YAVAPAI COUNTY WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE (YCWAC)
MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, August 24, 2005

NOTE: Presentations and attachments may be accessed by clicking on the following link:

- <http://www.co.yavapai.az.us/meeting/WAC/2005/Attachments/Attachments.htm>

The Water Advisory Committee (WAC) met on August 24, 2005 at 2:00 p.m. at the Yavapai County Board of Supervisors Meeting Room, 10 South Sixth Street, Cottonwood, Arizona.

Members present: Co-Chair Bob Roecker, City of Prescott; Co-Chair Jane Moore, Town of Jerome; Bob Kovacovich, Town of Camp Verde; Doug Von Gausig, Town of Clarkdale; Andy Groseta, District 3, Cottonwood; Jim Williams, District 2, Dewey; Tom Whitmer, ADWR, Phoenix; Dick Ellis, City of Sedona; Virginia Reid, Town of Chino Valley; Bob Hardy *for Diane Joens*, City of Cottonwood; Alternates: Bryan Detwiler, District 3, Cottonwood; Carol Johnson, City of Prescott; Mary Hoadley, District 2; Tony Gioia, Town of Camp Verde; Doree Christensen, Town of Jerome

Members absent: Art Coates, District 1, Paulden; Diane Joens, City of Cottonwood; Larry Tarkowski, Town of Prescott Valley; Yavapai-Prescott Indian Tribe; Charles Bonnaha, Yavapai-Apache Nation, Camp Verde; Alternates: Jerry Wiley, Town of Clarkdale; John Bradshaw, City of Sedona; Alan Tripp, District 1, Paulden; Billy Garner, Yavapai-Apache Nation; Mike Flannery, Town of Prescott Valley

NOTE: This meeting was tape recorded and the tapes are available in the Board of Supervisor's Office in Cottonwood, Arizona and may be reviewed upon request.

ITEM NO. 1 Introductions [Co-Chair Jane Moore]

- Co-Chair Jane Moore called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m. and welcomed those attending. Self introductions followed.

ITEM NO. 2 Approve June 15, 2005 meeting minutes with changes. [Committee]

- Consensus reached to approve the June 15, 2005 minutes with the following changes: Members in attendance should have included Bob Kovacovich, Town of Camp Verde; Item 6, second bullet should have read.....SR 260 towards Payson and **Cottonwood.**

ITEM NO. 3 Possible Action – Selection of Verde Valley Co-Chair and approval by Committee. [Committee]

- Dick Ellis, City of Sedona WAC representative, nominated Jane Moore to continue being the Verde Valley Co-Chair. Co-Chair Moore said she would be happy to serve again if everyone agreed.
- Consensus reached to have current Co-Chair Jane Moore continue to represent the Verde Valley as their Co-Chair for another year.

ITEM NO. 4 Informational reports [Co-Chairs and Committee]

- Co-Chair Roecker announced that the City of Prescott would be hosting a Water Summit titled “Developing A Cooperative Strategy Toward Safe-Yield” on September 1, 2005 at 5:30 p.m. located at the Prescott Resort Conference Room.
- Leslie Graser with ADWR announced that the Arizona Hydrological Society and the Flagstaff Chapter would be holding their Eighteenth Annual Symposium September 21-24, 2005 at the Radisson Woodlands Hotel in Flagstaff, Arizona. The theme for this years Symposium is “Conservation and Innovation in Water Management.”
- Andy Groseta announced that the National Public Land Conference would be meeting in Cottonwood September 13-15, 2005. Contact Andy for details.
- Co-Chair Moore announced that Representative Rick Rienzi would be in Cottonwood at the American Legion, on August 25th, 1:30 p.m. for an informational meeting and to answer questions that citizens may want to ask.
- Co-Chair Moore was happy to announce that the Town of Jerome received a Technical Assistance Grant to conduct an assessment of their water distribution. This is being done with the hope that more water storage tanks can be installed in the Town.

ITEM NO. 5 TAC (Technical Advisory Committee) report [TAC – John Munderloh]

- John Munderloh stated that he was reporting as a TAC member and was no longer assuming the position of WAC Coordinator.
- Reviewed a letter from the U.S. Department of Interior, USGS, signed by Director Charles G. Groat, regarding the formation of a new Verde River Basin Partnership. Basically, the letter stated that the USGS would work with the WAC if the Northern Arizona Land Exchange and Verde River Basin Partnership Act of 2003 (H.R. 410; S. 161) becomes law. The letter thanked the YCWAC for its initiative in this matter.
- Reviewed a letter dated June 13, 2005, from Kyle Blasch, USGS, stating that the Arizona Water Science Center is currently

receiving colleague review comments for the USGS Report summarizing findings of the geohydrological investigations in the Upper and Middle Verde River watersheds. The reviewers notified USGS that they would send their comments to them via overnight mail by June 13, 2005. After receiving the comments, the next three weeks will be dedicated to incorporating and responding to the comments. Kyle said that if anyone had any questions to contact him at 520-670-6671 ext. 283.

- Reviewed a letter from Steven Spangle with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service regarding the *Notification of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Assessment for the Anticipated Proposal of Critical Habitat for Spikedace and Loach Minnow*. Munderloh commented that USF&W may be available to give a presentation on this subject at the October meeting if the WAC was interested.

ITEM NO. 6 Presentation – Grant application to US Bureau of Reclamation regarding Fate of Organic Compounds in Effluent [Gail Cordy, USGS]

- Co-Chair Moore introduced Gail Cordy with the USGS.
- Ms. Cordy stated that about a year ago they submitted an application to study the occurrence of Organic Wastewater Compounds in treated effluent, streams, and ground water and management options for their removal in Yavapai County. The proposal was submitted, but not funded, because the Bureau didn't have enough money at that time to fund. However, the Bureau encouraged Cordy to resubmit the application the next year. Comments were received and the proposal was revised and resubmitted. Cordy explained to the group that her team wants a total of \$475,000 to study three Yavapai County wastewater systems and offer ideas on how water providers might reduce any impacts of the compounds. Cordy would use the latest technology to test for more than 100 compounds including about 20 pharmaceuticals. A large part of the cost is the analysis. USGS is the only organization that provides these types of analysis for more than a 100 compounds in wastewater and their expertise won't be found any where else.
- This is a three year proposal with the first year consisting of sampling in the three systems in towns/cities willing to participate; the second year would consist of additional sampling to answer questions that were brought up in the first year and looking at potential treatment technologies and management options that could be used to remove or mitigate these compounds from the effluent source; and the third year would be used to put together a report documenting what was found. Ms. Cordy asked the group if they had any questions. One of the questions was if the \$10,000 appropriated was in the WAC budget. The money is in the budget and sampling would take place from both the Tri-City and Verde Valley areas.
- Several groups in Yavapai County have asked Cordy to give presentations about the issue – three times in the past year and all were well attended. Cordy commented that this shows her that there is a lot citizen interest in this issue.
- Ms. Cordy thanked the WAC for their attention. The proposal was due August 14, 2005 and has already gone forward.

ITEM NO. 7 Update – USGS Hydrologic Study [Kyle Blasch, USGS]

- Mr. Blasch reported that the Report is waiting for the Regional Specialist to give Director's approval to meet the September 30 deadline. The USGS cannot release Report without firm approval. The TAC has invited the USGS to come talk sometime in September (no firm date) and at that point will discuss the next phase of the modeling, what the objectives are designing, etc. After Director's approval the Report will go back for final layout and to the printer and released to everyone simultaneously. Best guess for release is sometime in October. Bob Hardy with the City of Cottonwood asked if detailed geological mapping would be included in the Report. Blasch replied that detailed mapping would not be included in this Report. Through communication with Laurie Wirtt, Blasch said Wirtt is working on the mapping. Blasch will follow up on the mapping.
- John Munderloh personally thanked the USGS for all their hard work and cooperation with all the various entities that were involved. He said that the USGS has been and continues to be great to work with. The WAC members echoed Munderloh's praise of the USGS and extended their thanks.

ITEM NO. 8 Discussion and possible action – Water issues for next Legislative session (Conservation Easements; State Trust Lands; Other issues) [Committee, with Legislative issues update from Tom Whitmer, ADWR]

- Co-Chair Moore read the agenda item and asked if Mr. Tom Whitmer with ADWR had a legislative update. Whitmer commented that as everyone may recall that the last session a number of water bills were introduced but they didn't go anywhere mostly because of the introduction and passage of S.B. 1336 regarding the establishment of the Legislative Study Committee whose report isn't due back to the legislature until 2006. Because of that legislation, Whitmer commented that he didn't anticipate a lot of water issues going through the legislature in the upcoming session. Internally we are looking at three bills which are basically just cleanup bills. Whitmer said that the Legislative Study Committee hasn't met yet.
- Co-Chair Moore asked if the State Land Trust was coming up in 2006. Whitmer said he wasn't following that bill. Moore asked if there was anything that the WAC can do in the mean time. Whitmer suggested attending the Legislative Study Committee study session when it happens. The WAC should have their voice heard through their state representative. Moore also asked about the bill giving counties the option of turning down development due to the lack of water and whether it would be coming up again. Tony Gioia suggested writing a letter to our State Representatives letting them know what tools are needed for counties to better manage their water resources. Dick Ellis with the City of Sedona suggested that the TAC research WAC's past position s and bring back to the WAC for further discussion. Andy Groseta said that he thought that was a great idea, but right now doubts anything will go through the legislature. Moore commented that she still felt it doesn't hurt to let the legislature

know how this group feels and what the concerns are for counties in rural Arizona to manage their water issues.

- Consensus reached by the WAC to ask the TAC to put together a list of tools needed to help counties make decisions when it comes to development and water.
- Co-Chair Moore concerned about State Trust Lands being held until 2006. An article she read said there was pressure to auction off State Land between 89A between Sedona and Cottonwood which is a huge concern. Greg Kornrumph with SRP mentioned that The Nature Conservancy is considering a voter initiative for the conservation of State Lands and suggests talking to Dan Campbell about their efforts towards that voter initiative. Maybe the WAC could invite The Nature Conservancy to attend a WAC meeting and give a presentation addressing this issue.

ITEM NO. 9 Discussion and possible action – WAC and Verde Basin Partnership Organization [Committee]

- Bob Hardy stated that he thought until further action by the legislature that WAC wouldn't do anything (if attached to Wilderness bill probably won't go anywhere – who knows what's going to happen). Andy Groseta commented that until that legislation passes, it is premature to discuss – the bill is pending. Bob Roecker reminded the group that a letter was already sent letting them know that the WAC wanted to be a lead agency in the formation of the Partnership. John Munderloh thinks maybe a work group including a TAC member could be considered to discuss the proposal for the Verde River Watershed and WAC. Hardy asked if he was thinking of a subgroup out of this group including others – similar to other conservation work groups. Groseta commented as a word of caution, that such a controversial bill would suggest stepping back a bit and would hate to see the WAC get caught up in the politics of this bill. Munderloh said that the BOS charged the WAC to see how Title II and WAC can work together. Doree Christensen said that she feels the WAC needs to get ahead of the game and be prepared in case the bill passes. Roecker agrees that the WAC should let the legislature know what we want. Groseta said that he thought the WAC already sent the legislature letting them know just that. Roecker said that perhaps the WAC could reaffirm that what happens to this bill affects everyone. Hardy suggested adding to a future WAC agenda to establish a sub-committee.
- Consensus reached for the TAC to form a small group as an advisory group and discuss the proposal for the Verde River Watershed Partnership and WAC.

ITEM NO. 10 Update and discussion – WAC Coordinator position [Co-Chairs]

- Update provided via memo to the WAC from Julie Ayers, YC Human Resources Director. The results of the first recruitment for this position ended with one candidate declining the offer, and being unable to come to terms with the second candidate. As a result, it was decided to conduct a second recruitment for the position, expanding our search. Twenty-one applications were received during the second recruitment. With input from the TAC, five applicants were selected to be interviewed. Two of the applicants withdrew their applications prior to interviews. Those receiving interviews included: Sue Wolf, John Rasmussen, and Patricia Livingstone. The advisory committee, upon unanimous vote, selected John Rasmussen as the strongest candidate. Yavapai County Human Resources is working on the recommendation to present to the BOS – possibly at the September 16th BOS meeting. At this time, no recommendation has been presented to the Board.

ITEM NO. 11 Adjournment; set date, time, location and agenda items for the next meeting [Committee]

- Possible agenda items for the next meeting: The Nature Conservancy – State Trust Lands; Presentation regarding H.B. 2277 – Implications for Rural Arizona; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service presentation – Critical Habitat for Spikedace and Loach Minnow – Environmental Assessment
- Meeting adjourned at 4:02 p.m.
- Next meeting scheduled for September 28, 2005 at the Chino Valley Town Council Chambers, 1020 W. Palomino Road, Chino Valley, AZ.
- Agenda items for the September 28, 2005 meeting:
 1. Introductions
 2. Approve the August 24, 2005 meeting minutes
 3. Informational reports
 4. TAC Report
 5. Presentation – Town of Chino Valley Water Resource Management Plan
 6. Presentation – House Bill 2277 – Implications for Rural Arizona
 7. Update on hiring for Coordinator position
 8. Discussion and possible action – Approval of the FY 2005/06 Scope of Work and Contract with the USGS
 9. Discussion and possible action – Topics for consideration by Arizona Legislature Study Committee on Water
 10. Discussion and possible action – Verde Basin Partnership Work Group
 11. Set date, time, location, and agenda items for the next meeting.

(The third Wednesday in October is the 19th; the currently scheduled meeting location will be in the Verde Valley with the exact location decided at the October meeting.)

Reviewed by:Co-Chairs Jane Moore and Bob Roecker

***Respectfully submitted by: Chris Moran, Board of Supervisors, District 3
Recording Secretary for the Water Advisory Committee***