

**DRAFT**

YAVAPAI COUNTY WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE (YCWAC)  
MEETING MINUTES  
Wednesday, April 19, 2006

NOTE: Presentations and attachments may be accessed by clicking on the following link:  
<http://www.co.yavapai.az.us/meeting/WAC/2006/Attachments/Attachments.htm>

The Water Advisory Committee (WAC) met on April 19, 2006 at 2:00 p.m. at the Town Hall Complex, Men's Lounge, Ninth Street and Main, Clarkdale, Arizona.

Members present: Co-Chair Bob Roecker, City of Prescott; Co-Chair Jane Moore, Town of Jerome; Doug Von Gausig, Town of Clarkdale; Jim Williams, District 2, Dewey; Dick Ellis, City of Sedona; Virginia Reid, Town of Chino Valley; Mike Flannery, Town of Prescott Valley; Bob Kovacovich, Town of Camp Verde; Steve Estes, District 3, Verde Valley; Tom Whitmer, ADWR, Phoenix; Art Coates, District 1, Paulden; Thomas Hintze, Town of Dewey-Humboldt; Alternates: Tony Gioia, Town of Camp Verde; Bob Rothrock, City of Cottonwood; Dorothy O'Brien, District 3, Verde Valley; Carol Johnson, City of Prescott; Leslie Graser, ADWR, Phoenix; David Smith, Yavapai-Apache Nation; Bob Hardy, City of Cottonwood; David Smith, Yavapai-Apache Nation; Doree Christensen, Town of Jerome

Members absent: Diane Joens, City of Cottonwood; Christopher Moss, Yavapai-Prescott Tribe; Charles Bonnaha, Yavapai-Apache Nation, Camp Verde; Alternates: Jerry Wiley, Town of Clarkdale; Mary Hoadley, District 2; John Bradshaw, City of Sedona; Billie Garner, Yavapai-Apache Nation

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 2:10 p.m. and welcomed those attending. Self introductions followed.

ITEM NO. 2 Approve March 15, 2006 meeting minutes. [Committee]

- Consensus reached to approve the March 15, 2006 minutes with a wording clarification to Item No. 6, Bullet 2. This Item is changed to read: Consensus reached by the WAC to direct the TAC to assess what scientific studies WAC has completed; what studies are still needed; and what studies should be done first. The TAC will forward their assessment to the WAC for further discussion.

ITEM NO. 3 Informational reports [Co-Chairs and Committee]

- Co-Chair Moore announced that Dorothy Hores, a great advocate of the Verde River and an active citizen regarding water issues, passed away on Saturday, April 15, 2006 – Moore asked for a moment of silence in her honor. Dorothy will be greatly missed.
- Co-Chair Moore announced that the Verde River was named as one of America's most endangered rivers. The Upper Verde was number 10 on American Rivers' Annual List.

ITEM NO. 4 Coordinator and TAC Reports [Coordinator John Rasmussen]

- Please click <http://www.co.yavapai.az.us/meeting/WAC/2006/Attachments/Attachments.htm> to review information regarding this agenda item. There was little discussion on any of these items.
- Coordinator Rasmussen reviewed the current budget with no comments from the WAC.
- Coordinator Rasmussen asked Tom Whitmer with ADWR to update the group on current State water legislation. Status and full text of bills is available at the State website: <http://www.azleg.gov/default.asp>. Mr. Whitmer said that 13-14 different water related bills have been introduced in the State Legislature – more than anticipated. A few of those bills that have been passed and signed into law include: SB 1249, Domestic Water Improvement District which will require county's to hold a public hearing prior to forming a domestic water improvement district; SB 1256, Fee for Multi-Species Conservation Program along the Colorado River; SB 1334 only pertains to AMA's and allows more time to re-drill if needed (use to only allow a year to re-drill); SB 1143, seems like it may pass and allows a funding mechanism for emergency situations when water providers abandon a water company. When this happens the ACC takes over the water company which is often times a mess needing expensive repairs. During the time of repair (sometimes very lengthy), people may run out of water. A fund needed to be established for emergencies because a death occurred during one of these types of situations. Mr. Whitmer also stated that a bill for counties to approve or disapprove development based on water never made it out of the House. A bill introduced that would require notifying subsequent buyers about water availability made it out of the House, but died in the Senate.
- Mr. Whitmer announced that ADWR is heading up a new group called SWAG (Statewide Water Advisory Group). This group

has the Governor's blessing. The goal of this group is to create legislation to develop regional water districts. The group will have their first meeting May 1, 2006 and expect around 40 people to attend (John Munderloh and Bob Hardy from Yavapai County will be participating).

ITEM NO. 5 Presentation – ADWR Colorado River Management Overview and Transfer Policy within State of Arizona [Perri Benemelis, ADWR-Colorado River Management Section Manager]

- Co-Chair Moore introduced Perri Benemelis with ADWR, Colorado River Management Section Manager. Ms. Benemelis thanked the group for inviting her to give her presentation. Following is the information Ms. Benemelis presented.
- Considerations for the Future Acquisition of Colorado River Water
  - The Law of the River governs the operation of Colorado River reservoirs and the allocation of water. In the Lower Colorado River basin, including Arizona, Colorado River water rights are federal rights. The 1922 Colorado River Compacts allocates 7.5 million acre-feet of water to the Upper Colorado River Basin States and 7.5 million acre-feet to the Lower Basin States. The Director of the Arizona Department of Water Resources (ADWR) is responsible for consulting with and advising the Secretary of Interior on matters related to Arizona Colorado River water rights and operations.
  - Three issues impact the future availability of Colorado River water supplies; 1) the River is over allocated - the average annual flow is less than the amount allocated by the Compact and subsequent treaty 2) population pressure has increased demand in the Lower Basin to the full allocation amount and 3) in the southwest our normal hydrology includes extended periods of drought. In times of shortage the Central Arizona Project and equivalent priority mainstream water users will be the first to experience reduced water supplies. Hydrologic modeling indicates that shortage conditions may last for periods of 10 years or more.
  - ADWR has a policy that describes how the Department will analyze proposals to transfer Colorado River water rights. The Department will not recommend transfers for speculative purposes. The Department evaluates how a potential transfer will impact return-flow to the river and potential third party impacts.
  - The Arizona Water Rights Settlement Act includes a provision for the future reallocation of approximately 75,000 acre-feet of NIA water. ADWR will be responsible for recommending how this water will be allocated. That recommendation will follow an extensive public input process to determine the appropriate criteria to apply. The ADWR recommendation can occur no sooner than January 1, 2010. NIA water is lower priority CAP water and is subject to reduction in times of shortage. Any plan to acquire this supply should consider the availability of alternate supplies to offset future shortage reductions.
- As a side note, Co-Chair Roecker announced that Perri is the daughter of WAC District 1 representative Art Coates.

ITEM NO. 6 Discussion and possible action: Proposed Structure Verde River Basin Partnership (VRBP) [Co-Chair Bob Roecker/ Committee]

- Co-Chair Jane Moore introduced Co-Chair Bob Roecker who introduced the proposal dated April 3, 2006 titled Representation and The Verde River Basin Partnership – A proposal of elected officials within Yavapai County, Arizona (proposal is available at <http://www.co.yavapai.az.us>; meeting index, Water Advisory Committee, Attachment No. 6 for the April WAC meeting). Roecker stated that he had met with Co-Chair Jane Moore and Supervisor Chip Davis regarding this proposal and had made some revisions that he would like the WAC to study and consider. He stated that he is concerned about the time table of Title II and wants to get moving on forming the VRBP.
- The proposal modified (expanded) WAC, wouldn't be under the County Board of Supervisors and would consist of elected officials or their representatives as the decision-making body of the VRBP. There would be 2 subcommittees under the WAC: The current Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and the VRBP which would represent the vast majority of stakeholders. The proposal would allow a conduit for funding and allow elected officials to allocate start-up funds for use to move forward and would also allow the use of the current WAC Coordinator. Roecker said the proposal does not want to exclude anyone that is in the basin. All votes would carry the same weight not based on population.
- Discussion about the proposal was lengthy and high-spirited. Completing this discussion, which included a lot of audience participation, Co-Chair Moore polled the WAC members to see how they felt about the proposal. Though somewhat confusing and unclear, most of the WAC members expressed that the existing WAC and VRBP are unique and separate bodies that need to stay independent of each other; that Title II mandates that the VRBP be broadly based with a role largely scientific and advisory and that it would be inappropriate for the VRBP to be a subcommittee of the WAC.
- No consensus by WAC members was reached on referenced proposal.

ITEM NO. 7 Set date, time, location, and agenda items for the next meeting. [Committee]

- Possible agenda items for the next meeting: Well credit formula; Sedona water resources management strategy; Water providers; Hyde Mountain presentation; Verde Adjudication
- Meeting adjourned at 4:35 p.m.
- Next meeting is May 17, 2006
- Agenda items for the May 17, 2006 meeting:
  1. Introductions
  2. Approve the April 19, 2006 meeting minutes
  3. Informational reports

- 4. Coordinators and TAC Reports
- 5. Presentation – Geologic Framework of Aquifer Units and Groundwater Flowpaths, Verde River Headwaters, North-Central Arizona (OFR 2004-1411)
- 6. Discussion regarding Yavapai County water issues by Supervisor Chip Davis
- 7. Discussion and possible action: WAC's position on Verde River Basin Partnership
- 8. Discussion and possible action: Removal/Appointment procedure for TAC and WAC members
- 9. Discussion and possible action: WAC Co-Chairs term lengths
- 10. Set the date, time, location, and agenda items for the next meeting.

***(The next WAC will meeting is scheduled for May 17, 2006 at 2:00 p.m. to be held at the Windmill House at Windmill Farms, 1460 West Road 4 North, Chino Valley, Arizona)***

***Reviewed by: Co-Chairs Jane Moore, Bob Roecker and WAC Coordinator  
Respectfully submitted by: Chris Moran, Board of Supervisors, District 3  
Recording Secretary for the Water Advisory Committee***