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YAVAPAI COUNTY WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE (YCWAC)
MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, November 15, 2006

NOTE: Presentations and attachments may be accessed by clicking on the following link:
<http://www.co.yavapai.az.us/Content.aspx?id=16648>

The Water Advisory Committee (WAC) met on November 15, 2006, at 2:00 p.m. at the Jerome Fire House upstairs meeting room, Jerome, Arizona.

Members present: Co-Chair Jane Moore, Town of Jerome; Co-Chair Art Coates, District 1, Paulden; Bob Roecker, City of Prescott; Jim Williams, District 2, Dewey; Virginia Reid, Town of Chino Valley; Diane Joens, City of Cottonwood; Tom Whitmer, ADWR, Phoenix; Doug Von Gausig, Town of Clarkdale; Brenda Hauser, Town of Camp Verde; Harold Wise, Town of Prescott Valley; Alternates: Mary Hoadley, District 2, Mayer; Doree Christensen, Town of Jerome; Mark Holmes, Town of Chino Valley

Members absent: Mike Flannery, Town of Prescott Valley; Steve Estes, District 3, Verde Valley; Christopher Moss, Yavapai Prescott Indian Tribe; Pud Colquitt, City of Sedona; Charles Bonnaha, Yavapai Apache Nation; Roger Swenson, Town of Dewey-Humboldt (BOS approval pending); Alternates: Leslie Graser, ADWR, Prescott; Dorothy O'Brien, District 3, Verde Valley; Bob Rothrock, City of Cottonwood; Tony Gioia, Town of Camp Verde; Jerry Wiley, Town of Clarkdale; John Bradshaw, City of Sedona; Billie Garner, Yavapai Apache Nation

NOTE: *This meeting was taped recorded is available to listen to upon request. Contact 639-8110.*

ITEM NO. 1. Introductions.

- Co-Chair Moore called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m. and welcomed those attending. Self introductions followed. Co-Chair Moore introduced Jerome's new Town Manager Mr. Randy Russell.

ITEM NO. 2. Approve October 18, 2006, meeting minutes.

- Consensus reached to approve the October 18, 2006 minutes with a change to Item #5, first bullet, second sentence – change the word “from to for”.

ITEM NO. 3. Informational reports.

- Doug Von Gausig reported that the Verde River Basin Partnership (VRBP) will have a General Meeting on December 8, 2006 at 2:00 p.m. to be held at the Prescott College Crossroads Center, 220 Grove Avenue, Prescott. Doug also said that he has given presentations to the councils for the Town of Chino Valley and City of Prescott regarding the history, purpose and proposed structure of the VRBP. He encouraged these entities to participate. However, he stated that the outcomes of the presentations weren't real positive and it didn't look like the entities would be joining the Partnership at this time. Doug will be giving the same presentation to the Town of Prescott Valley.
- Doug Von Gausig announced that the VRBP received a \$47,000 grant from the Arizona Water Institute (AWI) to hire a team of scientists to analyze how natural and man-made changes in the Verde River's flow would affect its riparian habitat and the animals that live there. It will also determine what types of flows are necessary to sustain the habitat and animals.

ITEM NO. 4. Coordinator's and TAC Report.

- <http://www.co.yavapai.az.us/Content.aspx?id=16648> Please click on link to review the Coordinator and TAC Reports for the November 15th meeting in detail.
- *The Conservation Committee* - will meet the last week of November. If anyone is interested in helping they should contact Coordinator Rasmussen.
- *The Education/Outreach Committee* - will meet on November 28th to discuss forming a plan to move forward with outreach efforts and present their ideas to WAC.
- *White Paper on Writ Report* - The WAC may ask the TAC to give a presentation at a future meeting.
- *Scenario Development, Northern Arizona Regional Groundwater Flow Model* – Abe Springer informed the TAC that the Decision Support Project was not funded by AWI. Coordinator is working on other collaborating possibilities.
- *WAC potential projects and retreat timeline* – Briefly discussed WAC/TAC priorities.
- *Other Coordinator Items* – 1) The Upper Agua Fria Watershed Partnership met and heard about NEMO's draft Watershed Based Plan for the Watershed. There was very good attendance at this meeting. 2) WAC received a bill for \$1,360 for Udall Centers services at the WAC Retreat. The Coordinator said he would write thank-you's to the Udall Center and Mingus Springs Camp.

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ITEM NO. 5. Discussion and possible action: TAC appointment and removal procedure.

- <http://www.co.yavapai.az.us/Content.aspx?id=16648> Please click on link to review the draft TAC appointment and removal procedure in more detail.
- Coordinator Rasmussen reviewed draft procedure. Co-Chair Moore commented that she thought the procedure looked good and asked if the WAC wanted to do by-laws. WAC members didn't feel by-laws were necessary.
- Some discussion took place about #3 under Basic Removal Procedure about how many members from the WAC should sit on the review board. The idea of the review board consisting of the co-chairs with the co-chairs each selecting one other WAC member to assist was discussed.
- Consensus reached to adopt the draft procedure using the above suggestion when a review board is necessary (co-chairs plus each co-chair select another WAC member). This procedure does not exempt Resolution 1270 allowing the Board of Supervisor to remove a TAC member at their discretion. Resolution 1270 or the adopted WAC/TAC procedure may be used in appointing or removing a TAC member.

ITEM NO. 6. Discussion and possible action: WAC retreat timeline, outcomes and next steps. Continue planning of WAC priorities and action items.

- <http://www.co.yavapai.az.us/Content.aspx?id=16648> Please click on link to review this Item in more detail.
- After introducing this Item, Co-Chair Moore asked when the WAC might see the USGS Model. Coordinator Rasmussen answered that possibly the end of September 2007 or early October 2007. The Coordinator then reviewed his hand-out for this Item.
- Co-Chair Moore and other members would like to prioritize action items stemming from the WAC Retreat Timeline. Would like to be prepared to discuss priorities at the joint meeting anticipated with the Board of Supervisors in January. Doug Von Gausig mentioned that he would like to talk about effluent related chemicals – can't continue to put in our water supply; the public needs to be educated to make them aware that cleaner waste water is necessary or other recharge methods established. Data needs to be gathered to allow good decisions about persistent chemicals in recharge. Co-Chair Moore suggested an agenda item be placed on a future agenda to have a presentation addressing this subject. Virginia Reid suggested and would like to see the WAC move forward with the Conservation and Management Plans that are already in draft form. The Plans would most likely be different for each town/city but would like to push forward on selecting & implementing. Co-Chair Art Coates would also like to resurrect the Plans, update and present to the Board for their input. Coates commented that at a previous joint meeting with the Board of Supervisors, the Board instructed the towns/cities to go back to their councils and discuss adopting one of the Management Plans and when all towns/cities have accomplished this to come back to the Board for further discussion. Coates would like to move forward with this suggestion as a priority. Jim Williams stated that he thought a priority was to address the impact that exempt wells have on our water supply – he said they may have more of an impact than realized or known. He suggests making people more aware of conservation measures to reach safe-yield; solicit stakeholder input and educate the general population. Some discussion took place regarding how to obtain data about exempt well water usage; how to recruit volunteers to place meters on their wells, etc. Diane Joens stated that she believes that the Conservation and Management Plans and Purchase of Development Rights program should be considered as top priorities. Brenda Hauser mentioned incentives for property owners to consider conservation easements. Bob Roecker commented that other watersheds other than the Verde Basin need to be prioritized and discussed to determine what studies will be needed in other areas. He also said that he believes the VRBP will come to fruition – we will figure out how to do that and once it does happen they will need assistance from the WAC.
- After more thoughtful discussion some of the top priorities include: 1) Management and Conservation Plans – each town/city that hasn't presented to their council for discussion and possible adoption should take to their council to adopt a Plan so all towns/cities have adopted a Plan to take to the Board of Supervisors at the January BOS/WAC joint meeting; 2) Educational Outreach Committee to be formed and start with a couple simple projects to begin educating the general public about water issues always looking for ways to solicit the general public's input (media PSA's; newsletter; public meetings); 3) Consider retaining a consultant or other outside resources available to help the WAC move forward with items; and 4) on December's agenda the Coordinator will invite Dr. Kevin Lansey with the U of A to give his presentation on Decision Support Modeling and how it could work for our needs and how WAC would contribute.
- Brenda Hauser asked if the WAC had decided on an organization such as the USGS for the WAC to use as their primary resource for scientific information (like the San Pedro Partnership agreed to). Art Coates commented that he thought the WAC members attending the WAC Retreat had more or less agreed that the USGS is the resource the WAC would rely on at this time. He feels at this time they provide the best scientific information available – this could change down the line, but right now feel they are the best resource available.
- The Timeline Item developed from the WAC Retreat will remain on future WAC agendas in order to keep moving forward.

ITEM NO. 7. Discussion and possible action: USGS Numerical Model: 1.) Update on progress;
2.) Coordinating scenario development for model with city, town, and community plans

- <http://www.co.yavapai.az.us/Content.aspx?id=16648> Please click on this link to review this Item in more detail.
- Coordinator Rasmussen will contact the towns/cities to see if they want him to give a brief presentation to their councils regarding the WAC's history, current studies or whatever their councils are interested in.

ITEM NO. 8. Discussion and possible action: Future agenda items: Desired information, speakers, etc.

- Future agenda items mentioned at this meeting included: Common values; Joint BOS/WAC meeting in January (Chris will schedule date and time with Board of Supervisors); Effluent and persistent chemicals; Sale of effluent and value as a commodity (NAU speaker); Discuss other county watersheds; Retreat summary and timeline; USGS modeling scenarios; Discuss educational out-reach sub-committee; Hold a future WAC meeting at Arcosanti and the Yavapai-Apache Nation

ITEM NO. 9. Call to the Public. (Co-Chair)

- No comments from the public.

ITEM NO. 10. Set date, time, location and agenda items for the next meeting. (Committee)

- Meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m. The next meeting will be held in the Town of Chino Valley at the Windmill on Road 4 north (same place as last Chino meeting). Anticipated agenda items for the December 20th meeting are: 1) Presentation by Dr. Kevin Lansey with the U of A regarding Decision Support Modeling and 2) Discuss common values.

(The third Wednesday in December is the 20th.)

Reviewed by: Co-Chairs Jane Moore/Art Coates and WAC Coordinator

Respectfully submitted by: Chris Moran, Board of Supervisors, District 3, and Recording Secretary for the WAC.