

Agenda Item 6: WAC retreat timeline, outcomes and next steps. Continued planning of WAC priorities and action items

This agenda item is intended to further discuss issues surrounding the October 2006 retreat. The desired outcome is to reach consensus on the WAC priorities and next steps. I have received comments that indicate the desire to have a short and simple “road map”, “action plan” or “outline”. As of the previous meeting, this has been partially accomplished (Education/Outreach Committee; Conservation Committee; plan to meet with BOS). This agenda item serves as a follow up, and to list some received comments and TAC input. The timeline below is as recorded by the retreat facilitator.

The Timeline as prepared by Udall Center:

Oct-Dec.

Lobby BOS for help to John R., water resource specialist?, TAC assess this issue

Joint WAC BOS meeting re findings, mention subcommittees

Solicit Stakeholder input (begin)

ID common values/basis

ID science to put forth to public

ID cities and towns management plan (begin talking), conservation plan

Jan-March

Joint WAC BOS meeting about subcommittee launches, authority, decision-making

Launch public outreach

process

Pilot program, selection

Prepare report

April-June

WAC BOS meeting - management strategies, report

Launch Partnering with other water groups regarding public outreach, education

Continue info studies, needs

Consider legislative strategies/changes

June-assess WAC progress, revisit Oct. 4 retreat

July-Sept.

WAC-BOS meeting

Verde V. Reg. Plan-guest w/WAC

Continue partnering and public outreach

Oct-Dec.

WAC-BOS meeting

Continue quartering and public outreach

Priorities from above time line (also see excerpts from retreat summary in “Background” section below):

Identify common values (define how they are common, why they are good, and what each means (i.e. what does local control mean? Each landowner? Just not the Feds?...))

Local control

Water

Informed Water Resource management

Flowing River

Stable good economy

Factual basis of management

Water Conservation (Conservation subcommittee is reformed to revise report)

Seeking stakeholder input

Education/Outreach subcommittee is established

Identify specific science needs

TAC works with WAC to define goals. Have some ongoing plans. Need information to understand, predict, plan, mitigate, etc. How do we decide what to get, how to get it

Fully use existing information. List and discuss available relevant science. Requires discourse in the context of relevant issues, white papers, etc to understand what we have and what we need.

January meeting with BOS (at regular WAC meeting??)

Comments received on Retreat and Draft Retreat Summary document (not in any particular order; some slight edits)

I think what I'm looking for is the Road Map, The Action Plan the outline that gives us the highlights from which we can move forward. (short and peppy...)

for me to be effective and choose the one or two things I can roll up my sleeves and help implement....I need to see almost a list or outline with all this good data as backup

being more proactive,

requesting of the BOS that we have more autonomy,

implementing "pilot programs" in Clarkdale, Cottonwood and an unincorporated community to begin water management strategies,

using "tools" that we already may have to coordinate development with water availability,

to lobby for legislative changes as a group,

to possibly change our consensus voting to allow the group to move forward without the 100% agreement of the group,

to work with county regional plan and open space groups to preserve open space in watershed,

and finally that the overall vision would be for sustainability of our water resources and economy (somehow!)

I was a little disappointed that we did not seem to be able to discuss our divisive Verde River issue,

bring into question some way to question if we could live within our currently available water resources rather than importing water from somewhere else at great expense and possibly at another area's environmental expense.

broach the really difficult topics.

And do we really want to be drinking effluent??? Personally, i don't want to live somewhere i have to drink someone else's recycled effluent...i don't care if it IS A+....that is a high priority value in my mind.

Background:

Excerpts from Draft October 2006 WAC Retreat summary

Key challenges: Secondary issues (not in any order):

- *Revisit earlier water conservation strategies, options for water management*
- *Revisit concept of consensus and why or if not working*
- *Legislative changes including incentives to conserve, e.g. cities and county need more control over growth with water as key consideration*
- *Need public outreach to community in sense of education in schools and community at large about WAC and the interpretation and analysis of scientific studies and their implications*
- *Non-AMAs develop management tools specific to their region, including legal authority to deal with exempt wells and other matters*
- *Exempt wells in AMA—how much real impact on water planning (study)*
- *WAC work on solution and present it to the legislature rather than letting State make decisions*
- *How to balance growth with sustainability (availability of resources)*
- *Understanding, interpreting and accepting USGS studies*
- *Knowing impact of Chino Valley pumping on Verde River, mitigation plan*
- *List of lessons learned (positive and negative)*
- *Locate alternative sources of water*
- *Finding consensus on nature of relationship with Verde River Basin Partnership*

- *Cities and county need more control over planning and growth with water as key consideration*

How to address these challenges?

- *Find what we can agree on, points of consensus*
- *Make sure scientific facts are accurate, understood by members and public TAC*
- *Compile info and present big picture, including seasonal changes and impact on specific sectors*
- *Revisit earlier water conservation strategies, options for water management*
- *Revisit concept of consensus (joint fact-finding?) and why or if not working*
- *Advocate legislative changes including incentives to conserve water*
- *Educate new members*
- *More proactive in educational outreach to public (not just articles in paper)*
- *Prescott meet with municipalities to submit statement to legislature about domestic (exempt?) wells*

Step 2: Gathering the pieces (whole group): Common elements in the 3 maps

- *Criteria or values needed for WAC's management of the Verde Basin: balance, viability, sustainability*
- *Goals for WAC's management of the Verde Basin: enough water, economic health, communication, cooperation across boundaries, economic development, local decision-making, understanding environmental impacts of management decisions, watershed health, common vision and community goals.*
- *Tools for implementing WAC's management of the Verde Basin: education, public participation, planning, communication, understanding environmental impacts of decision-making, money, science, and artful solutions.*

Step 5: Gathering the pieces: whole group selection of criteria for evaluating the strategies/decision-making for achieving new vision

- *Is the strategy practicable, will it work?*
- *Is it fair/equitable/ethical for all living and working in the basin?*
- *Is it timely in the sense that?*
- *Are there means to make the strategy accountable?*
- *Do we know the impacts of the strategy on other sectors or water users?*
- *What are the opportunity costs?*
- *Will the strategy achieve WAC goals?*
- *Is the strategy economical/affordable?*
- *Is the strategy based on an agreed-to scientific foundation, reality, and facts on the ground?*
- *Is the strategy consistent with other strategies and goals?*
- *Is the strategy practicable (legal, politically viable, affordable, physically (hydrologically) feasible)?*
- *Is the strategy really necessary for obtaining WAC goals, or is there an alternative strategy that might fit the WAC criteria even better?*

Step 6: Gathering the pieces: whole group selection of strategies for achieving the new vision

- *Public outreach/education to encourage public support, participation and buy-in*
- *Establish pilot program where volunteer communities implement a water management program in a small area with the help of WAC to make necessary legislative changes*
- *Lobbying for legislative changes*
- *Develop funding mechanisms for Purchase of development rights*
- *WAC expansion*
- *Solicit stakeholder input through visiting speakers, possibly form subcommittees to seek input from public spheres*
- *Water office (library, data clearinghouse, policy links, etc)*
- *Expand existing water authority of WAC*
- *Partner with other water groups*
- *Town Council outreach*
- *Continue to help facilitate studies to fulfill needs for scientific information*
- *Meet quarterly with the BOS*
- *Respectfully and confidently present WAC ideas to BOS*

Jrr 11-13-06