

## **Agenda Item 6: WAC Common Ground and WAC Priorities.**

This agenda item is intended to further discuss issues surrounding the October 2006 retreat. As per previous WAC meetings, the desired outcome of this agenda item is to make a list of “common values” within the WAC communities and further the effort to define/affirm WAC priorities and next steps. This may serve to lay part of framework for joint session with Board of Supervisors in January (1/17/06 1:30 PM County Building, Prescott). Some background information is provided below.

Committee will decide how to proceed with this agenda item (e.g. brainstorm and discuss a list).

### **Priorities from 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 Board of Supervisors

### **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*

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**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 12-14-06