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YAVAPAI COUNTY WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE (YCWAC)  
MEETING MINUTES  
Wednesday, June 20, 2007

NOTE: Presentations and attachments may be accessed by clicking on the following link:  
<http://www.co.yavapai.az.us/Content.aspx?id=24848>

The Water Advisory Committee (WAC) met on June 20, 2007, at 2:00 p.m. at Camp Verde Council Chambers, 473 S. Main Street, Room 106, Camp Verde, Arizona.

Members present: Co-Chair Jane Moore, Town of Jerome; Doug Von Gausig, Town of Clarkdale; Brenda Hauser, Town of Camp Verde; Diane Joens, City of Cottonwood; Mike Flannery, Town of Prescott Valley; Jim Williams, District 2, Dewey; Virginia Reid, Town of Chino Valley; Steve Estes, District 3, Verde Valley; Bob Roecker, City of Prescott; Billie Garner, Yavapai Apache Nation; Pud Colquitt, City of Sedona; Alternates: Leslie Graser, ADWR, Prescott; Mark Holmes, Town of Chino Valley; Doree Christensen, Town of Jerome; Mary Hoadley, District 2, Cordes; Len Marinaccio, Town of Dewey-Humboldt  
Also present: Supervisor Tom Thurman, District 2; Supervisor Chip Davis, District 3; Jim Holt for Coordinator John Rasmussen; Chris Moran, WAC Recording Secretary  
Members absent: Co-Chair Art Coates, District 1, Paulden; Tom Whitmer, ADWR, Phoenix; Christopher Moss, Yavapai Prescott Indian Tribe; Roger Swenson, Town of Dewey-Humboldt; Alternates: Tony Gioia, Town of Camp Verde; Bob Rothrock, City of Cottonwood; Dorothy O'Brien, District 3, Verde Valley; Jerry Wiley, Town of Clarkdale; John Bradshaw, City of Sedona; Harold Wise, Town of Prescott Valley

NOTE: *Meetings are recorded. Contact 928-639-8110 if you are interested in listening to the recording.*

ITEM NO. 1 Introductions.

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

ITEM NO. 2 Approve May 16, 2007 meeting minutes.

- Consensus reached to approve the May 16, 2007 meeting minutes.

ITEM NO. 3 Informational reports.

- Doug Von Gausig commented on the Water Research Education Seminar he attended saying he found it very worthwhile with good speakers, questions and answers and field trips. The seminars are held every two years and he would highly recommend attending.
- Leslie Graser with ADWR said that if you hear of any stock pond owners receiving notice letters to send the calls to the Prescott AMA Office.
- Diane Joens complimented the Prescott AMA on their Prescott AMA Newsletter.
- Jane Moore reminded everyone about the John Hoffman presentations regarding the USGS Reports – June 20<sup>th</sup> in Prescott and June 21<sup>st</sup> in the Verde Valley.

ITEM NO. 4 Discussion and possible action: Appoint new Co-Chair to replace Co-Chair Moore.

- Co-Chairman Moore said that she had talked with all Verde WAC members and that Mr. Steve Estes was willing to replace her as the Verde Valley Co-Chair. She said it may be a short term depending on the restructuring of the WAC but that Mr. Estes is willing to serve until further notice.
- Consensus reached for Mr. Estes to serve as the Verde Valley area Co-Chair until further notice.
- Diane Joens thanked outgoing Co-Chair Moore for her years of service to the WAC. Bob Roecker also thanked Moore saying he enjoyed his time working with her.

ITEM NO. 5 Coordinator and TAC Report.

- TAC Chairman Jim Holt sat in for WAC Coordinator John Rasmussen who was out of town. Mr. Holt briefly discussed TAC recommendations regarding budget priorities as discussed at the last TAC meeting. He also stated that he thought the Coordinator's Report stood on its own for this meeting and would not be reviewing. Please click on <http://www.co.yavapai.az.us/Content.aspx?id=24848> to review the Coordinator and TAC Reports in more detail.
- Mr. Holt drew the members attention to the priority project spread sheet, reviewed the budget and priority project sections. The eleven priorities shown are prioritized from an even larger list of projects that the WAC identified in December 2006. From that list the TAC was requested to identify the top three projects which include: 1) Verde Valley Surface Flow Model (NAU); 2) Data Needs (e.g. data gaps) and 3) Reclamation Appraisal Level Supply Study. After these three, the next five items were identified as also being extremely important and then the remaining three items (see spread sheet by clicking on above link). Mr. Holt

said that considerable interest has been shown throughout not only the State but the entire Nation for the item of Emergent Chemicals with respect to Effluent. He said from work currently being done that enough information should be available and that the WAC shouldn't have to move forward at this time with expending funds. Mr. Von Gausig asked for clarification on the Operating expenses. Mr. Flannery asked about the Project Wet funding and if it was committed County-wide or just for the Verde Valley? After some recollection by the group, it was determined that it was a County-wide commitment. Mr. Von Gausig had concerns about the income side of the budget saying he didn't have much faith in the documents bottom line and perhaps should wait for Coordinator Rasmussen prior to drawing any conclusions as far as dollar numbers go. Co-Chair Moore said the figures are based on what the communities and County pay in.

ITEM NO. 6 Presentation, discussion and possible action: Reclamation Appraisal Level Water Supply Study – Leslie Meyers, USBR Phoenix Office. Action Item to approve letter to develop Scope of Work

- Co-Chair Moore introduced Ms. Leslie Meyers a Civil Engineer with the USBR. Ms. Meyers thanked the group and said that her plan for today is to tell the group who the USBR are and what they do and why they do it and to walk the WAC through an example of a recent study. The mission of the USBR is to *manage, develop, and protect water and related resources in an environmentally and economically sound manner in the interest of the American public*. She gave some history of the Bureau of Reclamation. The beginning goes back over a hundred years established in the early 1900's by Theodore Roosevelt. The 1902 Act authorizes the Bureau of Reclamation to conduct appraisal studies, special studies and feasibility studies. Studies are only done at the request of constituents and they can provide up to 50% of funding for the study. An appraisal study is a brief investigation to determine whether or not it meets feasibility and answers the questions: Is there a problem? Is there at least one solution? Is there federal interest? Ms. Meyers named several of the on-going studies the USBR has going on in the State. She also mentioned the Rural Water Supply Act saying it could be important to the Verde area along with other rural areas.
- Please click <http://www.co.yavapai.az.us/Content.aspx?id=24848> to review Ms. Meyers Power Point presentation titled *Reclamation's Water Resources Planning Program with an overview of The North Central Arizona Water Supply Study*.
- A few questions were asked and one was whether or not the WAC should join in on the North Central Arizona Water Supply Study or should a separate study be done for this area. Ms. Meyer's suggests that each area should go through their own appraisal process and then join in on other studies if appropriate. All WAC studies will feed into this process and all studies are partnered with ADWR. She stated that she thought the timing would be right to do a study for this area.
- Co-Chair Moore stated that the WAC needed to decide today whether the WAC wants to finalize and accept a study plan and cost estimate and sign on as a cost share partner. Mr. Holt said that the TAC and Coordinator reviewed the mission of the WAC and mission of the USBR and had also met several times with Ms. Meyers to discuss, and it is the conclusion that the study and results are aligned with the WAC mission and would benefit the County and WAC communities. The TAC recommends the WAC send a letter to the USBR to request an appraisal level water supply study including purpose, scope, costs, cost-share commitment and schedule.
- Consensus reached for the Coordinator to send a letter to the USBR requesting that Reclamation personnel work with the Coordinator and TAC to prepare a written draft Study Plan and develop a cost estimate. After review, finalization and acceptance of the Study Plan and cost estimate by the WAC, the WAC will consider formally signing-on as a cost share partner with Reclamation.

ITEM NO. 7 Presentation and discussion: Chino Valley HIA Plans/Chino Grande Ranch, LLC Agreement – Mark Holmes, Water Resources Director for Chino Valley.

- The Town of Chino Valley and Chino Grande, LLC entered into an Agreement approving a Water Resources Agreement and Lease of Historically Irrigated Acres with an emergency measure to ensure protection of the health, welfare, and safety of the citizens of Chino Valley.
- Please click on <http://www.chinoaz.net/>
- After you click on this link click on Water Resources Agreement and Lease of Historically Irrigated Acres (HIA) presentation to view the presentation given by Mr. Holmes and the Agreement details.
- Mr. Holmes said some of the reasons the Town needs to import water is that the groundwater storage capacity is reduced; future reliability of water supplies is uncertain; water levels decline, currently declining 2.5 feet per year; wells would need deepening; water quality problems would increase; wells would go dry; pumping and drilling cost would increase and land subsidence and earth fissuring would occur.
- Mr. Holmes said that the Agreement provides Chino Valley and the Region with a landmark approach to sustainability, protection of the environment, and preservation of the aquifer. The Agreement is innovative and cutting edge. A Partnership was created with the Morrison Institute at Arizona State University to develop smart and sustainable growth plans. Chino Grande responsibilities include creating the LLC; obtaining the financing and obtaining the construction contract. Mr. Holmes said the Town would need around 5,500 AF in its water portfolio to serve the community as a whole until approximately 2030 at the 7% population growth. The Town will require strict water conservation measures; water resource smart and sustainable growth plans; alternative water for outdoor landscape watering and collection, treatment and recharge of all HIA water.
- Conversation about how much water irrigated lands actually use and how much goes back to the acquirer. It was mentioned that it was a possibility that 40-50% more water than used by crops could actually be pumped. Conversation about using

alternative water supplies for any outdoor uses such as landscaping or parks. Mr. Von Gausig asked if the indoor use only requirements are a Town ordinance or contractual obligation and what would prevent future councils from doing something different. Mr. Holmes said it is in the Agreement. Mr. Davis asked if the Town was obligated to purchase a certain amount of acre feet annually or is that based upon demand. Mr. Holmes said that right now it is stipulated in the Agreement that the water marketing agent has to sale 280 acre feet on an average annual basis at \$45,000 per acre. Mr. Von Gausig asked how much of the very complicated Agreement had been approved by the Town council. Mr. Holmes said the Council approved the Agreement. Mr. Von Gausig also asked how far from the headwaters of the Verde the project is located and Mr. Holmes replied that it is located five miles west of the headwaters. Mr. Davis commented that the Chino Grande folks were suing the County over a right away issue and in the claim it says that someone wants to develop and subdivide 28,000 acres. This is conflicting in what we are hearing today and we would much rather see the land in conservation as you are explaining. Mr. Holmes said that 20% of land has already been given plus the 1,000 of HIA that can not be developed.

- Due to time restraints the group had to move to the next agenda item. Co-Chair Moore thanked Mr. Holmes and asked him to stick around after the meeting in case others had questions.

ITEM NO. 8            Discussion and possible action: WAC structure – review and approve or suggest changes to amendment of BOS Resolution establishing the WAC and to reflect inclusion of the Supervisors as Committee members.

- Co-Chair Moore introduced the Item and gave a brief history saying the WAC had come to a consensus at the joint meeting with the BOS to discuss including the BOS as members of the WAC. Mr. Holt said that the Coordinator had met with the County Attorney and reviewed the Resolution and he met with each of the Supervisors separately trying to share language that is in the draft Resolution dated 6-18-07. The Coordinator feels this draft meets with the suggestions of the Supervisors. Co-Chair Moore said that at the last meeting there was discussion about consensus and if this could be accomplished with the Supervisors as member on the WAC. The Supervisors would carry the same decision capabilities through the consensus process as all other members. Mr. Flannery suggested taking the Resolution to their councils for review prior to making any further decisions. He doesn't see anything wrong with the Resolution but would prefer taking to Council.
- Consensus reached by the WAC members to take the Resolution back to individual town/city councils for review, discussion and possible action by their councils and bring recommendations back to the July 18<sup>th</sup> WAC meeting.

ITEM NO. 9            Set date, time, location, and agenda items for the next meeting.

- Meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled on July 18, 2007 at 2:00 p.m. held at the Yavapai County Administration Building, Board of Supervisors Meeting Room, 1015 Fair Street, Prescott, Arizona. Agenda items for the July 18, 2007 meeting may include: NAU Verde Valley Surface Water Study Proposal; Habitat Conservation Plans, Brenda Smith with USFWS; Hoyt Johnson, Scenario Development presentation; WAC structure; Karen English presentation (WAC recommends having TAC review prior to putting on a WAC agenda). It was also mentioned that the WAC should ask the Yavapai-Apache Nation and the Yavapai Prescott Tribe if they would like to be included in the meeting location rotation.

*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.*