

Agenda Item 4: Coordinators Report and TAC Report

Budget: From preliminary "October 2007 Financial Report": Account balance: **\$333,161.01**; YTD Deductions: \$111,456.16 (Fiscal year begins July 1).

Recent payments have been made to USGS (\$53,500 - final payment for FY07), NAU (\$17,171 - half of total committed), H3J Consulting (\$5,000 - \$5,000 remaining).

Agenda Item 5 will address WAC budget issues.

Coordinator Updates:

Conservation Survey

An on-line version is available at the county website <http://www.co.yavapai.az.us/>. WAC communities are encouraged to direct citizens to the survey. This will be on the website through November.

Project WET

Final Yavapai County Project WET workshop was held November 10th in Sedona.

Recognition and Grants event is scheduled for January 9, 2008 (invitation only for water educators who have participated in a Project WET training.) Grants, up to \$500 will be awarded. Grant proposals are due by November 19, 2007, from educators and public who have attended a Project WET training event. (See coordinator for details)

Water education materials are available for use in the County on loan from ADWR. Schedules and Flyers have been distributed by Crystal Frost (ADWR Prescott AMA office).

Local drought Impact Group (LDIG)

The steering committee has been meeting. The acting steering committee consists of Jeff Schalau (Chair of Education Participant Group; County Extension), Nick Angiolio (Chair of Preparedness Group; County Emergency Management), Bob Adams (Chair of Monitoring Group; NRCS) Crystal Frost (ADWR), Tom Thurman (BOS), John Rasmussen (WAC Coordinator), Bob Arambula (NRCS), and Kresta Faaborg (NRCS). The primary meeting topics have been the nature of the participant groups, participant group goals/strategies, state involvement, and next steps.

Participant groups have been defined are meeting as sub-groups of the LDIG. Additional participants are welcome.

The preparedness participant group is working on a draft drought response/mitigation plan. The next meeting of the Preparedness participant group will be held after the beginning of 2008. The draft report they are working from is currently available upon request – however, the group anticipates several modifications before it releases the

“official” participant group draft. The “official” draft will be presented to the WAC and others for comments.

Conservation Subdivisions (County Planning & Zoning)

County Planning and Zoning Commission is still working on “Conservation Subdivision” guidelines and incentives. Had a joint session with Board of Supervisors on October 31, 2007. The BOS affirmed the steps taken thus far and approved the continuation of the process. (The audio and minutes of the meeting are available on the County website: <http://www.co.yavapai.az.us/Meetings.aspx?folderid=968&year=2007>)

USGS Numerical Groundwater Flow Model (same update as last month)

At the August 14, 2007 Model peer review and update meeting we learned that much progress has been made in the model. Some large items have been completed or are nearly completed. Depth to basement map has been completed; outflows have been completed (for steady state model); and a geologic framework map/model layers is nearing completion (EarthVision). Close to final recharge distribution; working on water use, hydrologic units, irrigation etc.

Current Schedule: Time frame for steady state is October for 2007. The transient model will be completed near end of calendar year. Report review process begins in January 2008 with a release date of April 2008.

USGS Verde River Synoptic (Surface Water)

Data has not yet been published (any day now?).

Long-term Scenario Development Project (Hoyt Johnson)

A special TAC meeting with Hoyt Johnson and USGS was held on October 18, 2007 in order to systematically discuss the project needs, fill some of those needs and outline remaining tasks. The primary objective of the meeting was to affirm or modify the growth assumptions (amount and location), assign water use number to population, identify location sources (wells) that will supply water (for USGS model requirements), and identify recharge areas and amounts. While much was completed at the meeting, follow-up meetings between Hoyt Johnson and TAC members were scheduled to finish the task. The model grid has been provided by the USGS to Hoyt in order to facilitate data transfer.

Besides the details of water use values, discussions involved what the growth numbers represented and how a range of possibilities could be incorporated into future model scenarios. It was acknowledged that the population number represent the values provided by the entities as “most likely”. The TAC agreed that a less aggressive growth scenario and a more aggressive growth scenario should be discussed and considered for future model runs.

Reclamation Appraisal Level Water Supply Study

The package will be submitted to BOS at a December meeting. The Cost Share agreement and Plan of Study are being finalized. (Cost share agreement is being reviewed by solicitor and ADWR) Anticipate that all agreements will be in place and project will initiate in January 2008.

Verde Valley Surface Water Proposal (NAU): titled “Verde Valley GeoSpatial Database” dated July 12, 2007.

Budget has been approved by BOS and contract has been signed. A graduate student has begun the research. A progress report will be presented to TAC (and potentially WAC) in January 2008.

TAC Meeting (November 1, 2007):

The TAC primarily used the meeting to discuss the budget and priorities:

Agenda Item 5 is a discussion of the WAC budget and expenditures recommended by the TAC.

The TAC was tasked by the WAC to use the coordinator’s spreadsheet as a basis to evaluate future expenditures as they relate to identified priorities. The spreadsheet presented at this (11-14-07) WAC meeting shows TAC recommended future funding by the WAC. The TAC worked within constraints of the available budget and the established priorities as identified in previous WAC and TAC meetings.

- 1. Reclamation Appraisal Level Study.** The WAC has already made a recommendation to proceed with this project. The in-kind service contributions from the Coordinator, TAC, ADWR are likely to reduce the amounts reserved in the spreadsheet, however, the values were left as the conservative values previously shown to the WAC.
- 2. USGS Continued funding of data needs and model development/application.** Recommend jointly funding USGS as described in agenda item 5. The USGS has submitted a Work Plan and Joint Funding Agreement for FY08. These are included in background materials for agenda item 5. The TAC has identified this as a priority and recommends this be funded by the WAC.

Benefits to WAC: Data needs for water budget and model calibration. Including water source and seasonality analyses, groundwater level monitoring (e.g. hydraulic relationships, gradients), and Williamson Valley baseflow.

Recommendation is to continue funding of data collection efforts and use cost share to fund additional modeling refinements (see USGS work plan dated 11/07). The data collection efforts support the modeling efforts.

The item has been budgeted for multiple years in order to provide continuity in data and establish a record... If the modeling indicates specific data needs which are higher priority than the identified needs, the TAC will re-assess. The budget item is a year by year renewal item and will be reassessed each year.

The recommended data collection effort is based on available budget and prioritization. It consists of the Williamson Valley stream and precipitation gages; continued continuous water level monitoring and precipitation gages (8 sites); isotope analyses (9 precipitation sites and 9 stream sites). The USGS will use \$40,000 in matching funds to continue to run, modify, calibrate, and update the groundwater model (this is a high priority).

The budget is projected with the monitoring effort continuing into the future (e.g. see the Excel spreadsheet titled "Item 5 WAC 111407 TAC Budget Brief v111407.xls").

- 3. Education/Project WET.** Recommend jointly funding a water educator position to be housed locally at Cooperative extension. A Position Description and justification are included in agenda item 5 background materials.

Benefits to WAC: Jointly funded local contact for water education efforts in Yavapai County. Continuation of Project WET program and the Cooperative Extension water education program.

Project WET has demonstrated success and inroads into Yavapai County. The discussion by the TAC (with input from ADWR, Project WET, and the Cooperative Extension office) led to the conclusion that a local position dedicated to water education would provide the best use of WAC funds. The cooperative extension office had enough funds for a half time position only. With ADWR and WAC funds the position can be full time and allow for coordination of effort. A local person working for Project WET will allow more time for teacher education and contact than can be accomplished solely from Tucson.

The person who is hired will do several education things (see position description). Continuation of Arizona Project WET will remain a primary use of their time. This will result in a local contact person for project WET as well as other adult education activities of County Cooperative extension service. In

addition to a local person focused on Yavapai County water education programs, benefits also include the use of University of Arizona resources and expertise.

Position will be housed at cooperative extension office in Prescott. Looking at trying to keep position funded for multiple years. (First year (FY08) amount is for half of the fiscal year.) The exact nature of the ADWR funding is not known at this time. It appears they will be able to fund ¼ of the position and some of the operating expenses for the first year.

4. Other budget items:

- a. Agua Fria needs: Coordinator will work with Upper Agua Fria Partnership and ADWR to identify needs for the watershed. Needs that are related to the WAC mission will be assessed by the TAC.
- b. Precipitation gages: The WAC budget did not recommend funding these at this time because the budget did not allow it. They are important data and the data set generated thus far was used in the modeling effort by USGS. Coordinator will determine if County Flood Control has ability and desire to fund upkeep and data collection for high elevation precip gages. Alternatively, if ADWR is able to fund some of the USGS work, funds may become available for other priorities, such as these gages.
- c. Future NAU work: The ongoing work by NAU will likely have other phases associated with the surface water system in the Verde Valley. Some place-holders were inserted into the budget spreadsheet for this purpose.
- d. Other priority items exists but have not been specifically listed with amounts at this time. If additional funds are available, the TAC will provide supplemental information listing costs and benefits of funding other priority items.

Next TAC Meeting: The next regular TAC meeting is scheduled for 9:00 AM Thursday, December 6, 2007 at the County office in Cottonwood.