

# **MINUTES**

Coconino Plateau Watershed Partnership

501 (c)(3)

Friday, January 29, 2016

10:00 A.M.

**NACET Incubator Building Conference Room,  
2225 N. Gemini Drive, Flagstaff, AZ**

## **Present**

Mandy Metzger, Coconino County  
Frank McNelly, City of Williams  
Tom Klimas, Westland Resources  
Erin Young, City of Flagstaff  
Alicyn Gitlin, Sierra Club  
Kira Russo, Global Water Policy Consulting  
Amanda Acheson, Coconino County  
Abe Springer, NAU  
John Martinez, City of Sedona  
Don Bills, USGS  
Hannah Griscom, AZGFD  
Ron Doba, CPWAC/CPWP  
Trent Blanchard, Senator McCain's office  
Robert Kirk, Navajo Nation  
Ron Lee, Congresswoman Kirkpatrick's Office  
Eric Marcus, SEDI  
Tara Jackson, AZ Town Hall  
John Malin, Flagstaff Water Commission  
Ward Davis, Flagstaff Water Commission  
Karen Modesto, ADWR  
Paul Babbitt, NRCD  
Mike Macauley, CNRCD  
Mike Hannemann, Kaibab National Forest  
Thomas Siyuja, Sr., Havasupai Tribe  
Coral Evans, Flagstaff City Council  
Dick Dahl, Sedona Real Estate Services  
Sharon Edgar, F<sup>3</sup>  
Ben Tobin, GCNP  
Kathy Flaccus, Friends of the Rio  
Nina Schmidt, Coconino County  
Emery Cowan, AZ Daily Sun  
Rusty Tweed, Woodson Engineering  
Stella Carr, NAU  
Stasia Begley, NAU  
David McCain, F<sup>3</sup>  
Margaret Vick, Havasupai Tribe

Pete Shearer, Tusayan Sanitary District  
John Nowakowski, citizen  
SOME PEOPLE DID NOT SIGN IN

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

Secretary Treasurer John Martinez opened the meeting at approximately 10:00 A.M. Self-introductions were made by all present.

**2. Approval of Minutes – Meeting of December 11, 2015**

Frank McNelly made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Don Bills and carried.

**3. Action Items - None**

**4. Non-Action Items**

**A. Presentation: Arizona Town Hall**

Tara Jackson began with an overview of the Town Hall process. A handout was provided summarizing the conclusions from the Town Hall. Brief presentations were given by Abe Springer, Stella Carr and Mandy Metzger. Discussion took place on the most important action steps that should be taken to address future water concerns. The discussion was recorded by Eric Marcus and reported on at the conclusion. The following is an attempt to capture Eric's recording and may not be exact:

Water is critical to our State's economic development. We tend to focus on the consumptive nature of water and there is a need to ensure that we also include environmental values and habitat preservation. We should also recognize that water usage includes the water that goes into our food and even supports the water that supports our forests. Education is an important factor in raising the importance of conservation issues. After increasing that awareness we should consider market mechanisms including pricing water in a way that more accurately reflects its true overall cost and incentivizes the best use of water. We should also consider novel approaches including a fee for water replenishment for high demand uses. Conservation and augmentation are key issues for Arizona to consider including tiered water rates for residential users, modernizing building codes, providing incentives for decreased water usage, increasing water reuse, the use of graywater and investing in additional storage capacity. Since 80% of our water is used for agriculture we need to consider what crops are grown in the state and incentives are needed to foster low water crops. Water rights holders may have to be willing to accept new restrictions on what they can do with their water. The critical importance of water to the state requires that it be inclusive in reaching recommendations. For example, tribes control 50% of Arizona's Colorado River water. The adjudication of water rights needs to be streamlined and simplified so as to ensure more expedient resolution of water

rights. We need clarity on these rights for everyone to move forward with planning for the future.

## **5. Committee Reports**

### **A. CPWP Technical Advisory Committee**

Ron Doba reported the TAC met yesterday and discussed the field trip, scope of services for GIS work and streamflow monitoring needs on the Plateau. The TAC will be bringing suggestions for this year's field trip to the Partnership in March. 2015 Data to update the water menu maps will not be available till later this year.

### **B. Public Outreach Committee**

Amanda Acheson gave an update on the POC activities. She would be hiring an intern to assist her with her efforts. She showed the group the bags, t-shirts and conservation items that are being used as awards for the 4<sup>th</sup> grade water ethics contest. The POC would still like to partner with NAU to develop a video on what is being done in the region regarding conservation.

### **C. Government Affairs Committee**

Ron Doba reported the Government Affairs Committee has not met recently but a written report from Brad Hill is included in the agenda. Ron reviewed Brad's report.

## **6. Member Corner**

Ben Tobin gave the Member's Corner Presentation on the Karst features of the Grand Canyon. He will check if it is ok to post the presentation on the CPWAC website.

## **7. CPWP Member Roundtable**

Karen Modesto reported she had been told that settlement discussions were going to resume. The west basin planning area will also be having its first planning meeting in accordance with the Governor's water initiative. Concerns exist regarding the agricultural groundwater use in the area for crops that will be shipped globally. Karen also discussed the ADWR budget. The first meeting of the Governor's water augmentation Council will be February 19<sup>th</sup>.

## **8. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at approximately 12:35 P.M.