

# **MINUTES**

Coconino Plateau Water Advisory Council

Friday, July 26, 2013

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 PM

**USGS Building #3**

**2255 N Gemini Drive, Flagstaff, Arizona 86001**

## **Present**

Mandy Metzger, Coconino County Supervisor

Leo Manheimer, Navajo Nation

Ron Doba, CPWAC

Don Bills, USGS

John Davison, CNRCD

Greg Bryan, Mayor of Tusayan

Tom Klimas, Westland Resources

Mark Woodson, City of Flagstaff

Sue Pratt, Coconino County

John Grahame, Friends of the Rio de Flag

Judy Sulltrop, Congresswoman Ann Kirkpatrick

Lisa Leap, National Park Service

Sybil Smith, ADEQ

Brenda Smith, US Fish & Wildlife

Deborah Tosline, USBOR

Thomas Siyuja, Havasupai Tribe

Delfred Manakaja, Havasupai Tribe

Joe Mentor, Hopi Tribe

Travis Hamidreek, Havasupai Tribe

Mathew Putesoy, Havasupai Tribe

Ron Lee, Congresswoman Ann Kirkpatrick

Carl Taylor, Public Outreach Committee

Brad Hill, City of Flagstaff

Rusty Tweed, Willow Bend Environmental Education Center

Jane Rodgers, Grand Canyon National Park

Alicyn Gitlin, Sierra Club

Justin Ramsay, Westland Resources

Tom Whitmer, City of Cottonwood

Keith Self, Arizona Water Company

Margaret Vick, Havasupai Tribe

Mike Foley, Navajo Nation

Gerry Walker, ADWR

Art Babbott, Coconino County

Brad Garner, USGS

George Mase, Hopi Tribe

Bill Bettenberg, representing the Hopi Tribe on speaker phone

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

Chair Mandy Metzger opened the meeting at approximately 10:00 A.M. and self-introductions were made by all present. Ron Doba reminded everyone to please sign in.

**2. Approval of Minutes – WAC Meeting of June 28, 2013**

Greg Bryan made a motion to approve the minutes from June 28, 2013. The motion was seconded by Mark Woodson and carried.

**3. Action Items - None**

**4. Non-Action Items**

**A. NCAWSFS Funding Status**

Ron Doba reported that \$300,000 was needed to continue the feasibility study for the next year due to the lack of federal funding. Ron presented a spreadsheet that indicated approximately \$212,000 has been committed so far. ADWR has indicated it would provide \$50,000 this year and next year if the other partners would provide \$250,000. That leaves approximately a \$38,000 shortfall. This is something the CPWAC Board will need to discuss. Ron also reported on the two letters that are going out to the Department of Interior and Congress requesting FY 2015 funding for the project. A video conference call has also been set up with Commissioner Connor for August 6<sup>th</sup>. Attendees will be Coconino County, City of Flagstaff, Hopi Tribe, and the Navajo Nation.

Don Bills asked what kind of reserve funds the CPWAC has that could be used to make up the shortfall. Ron reported as of June 30<sup>th</sup> the savings and checking accounts had approximately \$147,000.

**B. Presentation on Willow Bend Environmental Education Center**

Rusty Tweed provided a presentation on the activities of the Willow Bend Environmental Education Center. Willow Bend has collaborated with the CPWAC on the recent WaterSMART grant application. The grant would provide funds for Willow Bend to assist in public outreach activities for the CPWAC. Rusty's presentation is posted on the CPWAC website.

**5. Presentation of Certificate of Appreciation**

This item was moved on the agenda until Sue Pratt arrived. Mandy presented Sue Pratt with a Certificate of Appreciation for her years of supporting service for the CPWAC. Sue is currently retiring from Coconino County and was very valuable to the CPWAC prior to the hiring of a coordinator.

## **6. Committee Reports**

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

Deborah Tosline gave a Power Point presentation on the activities of the TAC and specifically the feasibility study. The study has three new partners, the Hopi Tribe, Grand Canyon Park and Town of Tusayan. The cost estimate has been updated to \$12.8 million. Reclamation has indicated they may be able to invoice partners for their supporting funds in lieu of executing an agreement. Deborah's presentation is posted on the CPWAC website.

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

Carl Taylor reported the POC had recently met. John Taylor with the school district has been contracted with to work on establishing the Youth Council. It is anticipated that Youth Council members will be assisting with the Science in the Park event. The POC is trying to determine if they are timely this year with the Water Ethic Contest. Don Bills is printing posters from the previous year to get out to the schools. The POC is getting ready for the Festival of Science and the video project is anticipated to be completed in a couple months. The POC will likely have a special meeting in August.

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

Joanne Keene was not present. Ron covered the activities of the Government Affairs Committee in his previous report.

## **7. Member Corner**

Sybil Smith gave a Power Point presentation on the current activities of ADEQ and the transitions they have been going through. Sybil's presentation is posted on the CPWAC website.

The Havasupai Tribe offered to provide the Member Corner presentation for September. Mandy asked that the City and County provide a presentation in September on the recent flooding.

## **8. CPWAC Member Roundtable**

John Davison provided information on upcoming events that will be taking place for the CNRCD.

Mark Woodson talked about the importance of keeping funds in budgets for maintenance of drainage structures in light of the recent rainfall that the City and County have been receiving.

Don Bills reported that information from specific stream flow gauges can be found on the USGS website. A report has recently been published on the USGS monitoring activities and Don can make the link available.

Mike Foley indicated the Navajo got word yesterday that had received their funding award from the BIA that includes C-Aquifer monitoring.

Margaret Vick indicated the ADEQ report cover was interesting to the Havasupai Tribe. The falls shown on the report are not subject to ADEQ regulation. The Tribe continues to monitor mining activities.

Leo Manheimer indicated Ray Benally, Mike Foley and himself would likely participate in the video conference with Reclamation.

Brenda Smith reported on a proposal to list two garter snakes as candidate species. The proposal is out for comments.

Greg Bryan reported Tusayan has completed its first General Plan and their new community park has been completed.

Judy Sulltrop reported they had a briefing regarding the letter from the CPWAC and determine the best way they can support the effort.

Carl Taylor reported the BLM is spending half of its budget on wild burros.

Gerry Walker reported the Water Protection Fund was granted \$1 million dollars and the deadline for applications is August 28<sup>th</sup>. There is also a request for help from Yarnell for infrastructure items.

Brad Hill reported the Inner Basin Pipeline is being inspected for damage from the recent storm.

Jane Rodgers reported the Park's Back Country Management Plan process is underway.

Lisa Leap reported on a lightning strike fire at Wapatki that burned about 1400 acres of grassland and a number of archaeological sites.

Alicyn Gitland reported there will be a Colorado River Days event on October 1<sup>st</sup> and the events that would be taking place that week. Tables will be set up in Heritage Square the first Friday in October (10/1 to 10/8) to discuss the Colorado River and Alicyn invited folks to participate.

John Grahame reported Leroux Spring is now flowing and a piezometer has been set up.

Art Babbott reported the Big Boquillas Ranch may be closed in August and may impact any monitoring of Cataract Creek.

George Mase complemented the CPWAC on the feasibility study efforts and stressed the importance of the study.

Mandy reported the County had recently hired Cynthia Seelhammer as the new Coconino County Manager.

**9. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at approximately 11:45 A.M.

**Next meeting date September 27, 2013, 10:00 A.M.**