

MINUTES

Coconino Plateau Watershed Partnership

501 (c)(3)

Coconino Plateau Water Advisory Council

501 (c)(4)

Joint Meeting

Friday, December 2, 2022

10:00 A.M.

Meeting Location:

USGS Building #3

2255 N. Gemini Dr., Flagstaff, Arizona 86001

Also available as a Zoom meeting

Present

Ron Doba, CPWAC/CPWP

Don Bills, USGS

Pete Furman, City of Sedona - virtual

David Newlin, LCRP RC&D

Casey Jones, USGS

Jon Mason, USGS

Austin Aslan, City of Flagstaff

Alicyn Gitlin, Sierra Club

Tom Lamkin, City of Sedona - virtual

Pete Shearer, Town of Tusayan

Jeronimo Vasquez, Coconino County

Erin Young, City of Flagstaff

Zach Ferrie, NRCE representing the Havasupai - virtual

Morgan O'Connor, ADEQ

Kira Russo, Friends of the Rio - virtual

Roxanne Holland, City of Sedona - virtual

Nancy Steele, Friends of the Verde River - virtual

Emily Melhorn, City of Flagstaff

Alan Dulaney, Kachina Village Improvement District

Robert Kirk, Navajo Nation - virtual

Edward St. Pierre, Reclamation - virtual

John Rasmussen, Reclamation - virtual

Deborah Tosline, Reclamation - virtual

Approximately 24 people were in attendance.

1. **Welcome and Introductions**

Chair Austin Aslan called the meeting to order at approximately 10:00 A.M.

Self-introductions were made by all.

2. **Approval of Joint Meeting Minutes – Meeting of October 28, 2022**

Tom Lamkin made a motion to approve the minutes from October 28, 2022. The motion was seconded by Pete Shearer and carried.

3. **Action Items**

a. **Nomination and Election of CPWAC and CPWP Vice Chair**

Tom Lamkin nominated Pete Furman to replace him as Vice Chair. The motion was seconded by Nancy Steele and carried. Tom Lamkin then made a motion to elect Pete Furman as Vice Chair. The motion was seconded by Austin Aslan and carried.

4. **Non-Action Items**

a. **Presentation from Arizona State Climatologist**

Arizona State Climatologist, Erinanne Saffell, gave a presentation on her role and the data she provides to decision makers. Erinanne's presentation is posted on the CPWAC web site.

5. **Committee Reports**

A. TAC: Don Bills reported on yesterday's TAC meeting. The TAC is in consideration where we should plan for next year's field trip. Options include the Verde Canyon Railroad, a kayak float down the Verde River, Flagstaff/Coconino County fire/flood mitigation measures, Mohave County water issues, Navajo infrastructure projects and the Navajo Generating Station/Page. Casey Jones provided the TAC an update on the stream gage monitoring projects. Casey will be leaving the Flagstaff Science Center and Jon Mason may be taking her place. Additional stream flow gages are being considered. Those include the Rio de Flag and Clear Creek. Ron provided the TAC with an update on the rural water legislation. Don said the TAC is always looking for new members. Robert Kirk indicated he thought the NGS site and the float would be good field trips. The NN is retrofitting intakes for the old NGS and constructing a water treatment plant that will be adjacent to the NGS facility for LeChee. Construction should commence in 2023.

Infrastructure is also being worked on at Bodaway Gap by the Navajo Nation. Robert is willing to work with the TAC to set up the trip. Austin asked if Chevelon Creek is a potential field trip as well. Emily liked the idea of a component where we are actually on the water. Nancy said she would be happy to participate in planning the Verde River Trip and recommended Doug Von Gausig as a guide.

B. GAC: Ron reported on the group he was working with that wishes to support Rural Management Area legislation for the next session.

C. POC: Emily reported the Water Ethics contest closed on November 27th. Four schools are participating, Kinsey, Sechrist, Grand Canyon and Mountain School. The artwork will be provided to the POC in January and judging will take place the end of January. Winners will be announced in early March, a public reception held and presentations will be made during Water Awareness month.

5. **Members Corner - None**

6. CPWP Members Roundtable

Casey also said she will be relocating to another USGS office.

Jeronimo indicated he is still active in flood mitigation and uranium mining.

Alicyn said her students really appreciated the field trip. The Grand Canyon Semester students also have an art walk tonight if anyone is interested.

Nancy updated the group on work being done in the forest areas improving habitat for plants and wildlife and minimizing damage from flowing water (erosion). This might be good for a future presentation. She also indicated you can sign up on their website to provide community service on MLK Day.

Robert indicated the Navajo Nation has a new President Elect and Vice President Elect. This will be the first female elected as a Vice President.

7. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned for lunch at approximately 12:00 P.M.