

MINUTES

Coconino Plateau Water Advisory Council

Friday, April 27, 2012

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

USGS Building #3

2255 N Gemini Drive, Flagstaff, Arizona 86001

Flagstaff, Arizona

Members Present

Brenda Smith, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, CPWAC Co-Chair

Mark Woodson, City of Flagstaff

Joanne Keene, Coconino County

Carl Taylor, Coconino County

Leslie Meyers, Bureau of Reclamation

Mike Foley, Navajo Nation

Pete Shearer, South Grand Canyon Sanitary District

Sybil Smith, ADEQ

John Davison, Coconino NRCD

Don Bills, USGS

David Newlin, Little Colorado River RC&D

Steve Rice, National Park Service

Enrique Ochua, Town of Tusayan

Nicolai Lash, Grand Canyon Trust

Roger Clark, Grand Canyon Trust

Eunice Tso

Jamie Macy, USGS

Bob Hart, USGS

George Mase, Hopi Tribe

Ray Roessel, BIA

Tom Whitmer, City of Cottonwood

Brad Garner, USGS

Amanda Acheson, Coconino County

Candice Rupprecht, Water Resources Research Center

Ron Doba, CPWAC

1. Welcome and Introductions

Brenda Smith opened the meeting and introductions were made by those present.

2. Approval of Minutes – WAC Meeting of March 30, 2012

Sybil Smith made a motion to approve the minutes from March 30, 2012. The motion was seconded by Mike Foley and carried.

3. Action Items

A. Election of CPWAC Co-Chair

Carl Taylor made a motion to elect Mark Woodson as co-chair of the CPWAC. The motion was seconded by Sybil Smith and carried.

B. Consideration of CPWAC Application to Become a Non-Profit Tax Exempt Corporation

Ron Doba reviewed the information he had been asked to find out from the March CPWAC meeting. Carl indicated there would be very little tax advantage to becoming a (c)(3) as well as it having a requirement to be very careful about any lobbying activities. Don Bills discussed the member relationships with the organization and expressed concerns regarding advisory, funding and voting members. Ron indicated the bylaws will need to be amended and it would be necessary for the amended bylaws to be more general in nature so they did not require frequent amending in the future. It would not be likely that specific entities would be named in the bylaws. There would more likely be classifications of membership. John Davison asked if there were any more tax issues than the proxy tax for lobbying. Ron did not believe so. Carl Taylor made a motion to incorporate as a 501 (c)(4) non-profit tax exempt corporation. The motion was seconded by Mark Woodson and carried. Ron was directed to initiate the process.

4. Non-Action Items

A. Update on Little Colorado River Basin Settlement Agreement – Mike Foley

Mike Foley indicated Stanley Pollack was unable to attend and he would be giving the overview of the settlement. Mike's PowerPoint presentation identified numerous points, including the following:

- Negotiations were completed March 8, 2012
- The settlement does not include the Western Navajo Pipeline component
- The agreement does not waive water rights, it resolves claims of the Navajo and Hopi regarding the LCR Basin
- The LCR is ephemeral (no flow most of the year)
- Both the N and C aquifers are involved
- Establishes buffer zones for groundwater pumping on the south and west boundaries of the Navajo Nation (limitations on pumping)
- Three water infrastructure projects are included
- \$358.7 million included in settlement, most for groundwater projects
- One project includes the Hopi extension from the Western Navajo Pipeline that will reduce the overall cost of the WNP
- It is intended to be the final settlement
- There is a separate stipulation that addresses Red Gap Ranch well development
- Includes an option for delivery of 6,411 AFY of CAP NIA water for Arizona communities through the Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project (subject to continued operation of the NGS)
- The settlement includes \$3.3 million to go towards the Feasibility Study the BOR is currently undertaking

Mike will let Ron know if it is alright to post his presentation on the CPWAC web site.

B. Presentation on Conserve to Enhance Program – Candice Rupprecht

Candice Rupprecht gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Conserve to Enhance (C2E) Program, funded jointly by the BOR and the Walton Family Foundation. The program involves providing the opportunity for water customers to conserve water and donate the cost savings resulting from the conservation to environmental restoration and/or preservation projects. Currently a pilot project is taking place in Tucson. Candice covered the following in her presentation:

- The environment is not represented in traditional water use studies
- Water use exceeds supply in the Colorado Basin and will only get worse
- Voluntary water reduction programs don't get much participation from the public (less than 3%)
- Better participation is expected if water conservation and the environment are linked
- People are willing to pay a premium for the environment
- Idea: conserve water and donate the monetary savings toward community conservation projects
- Historic water use establishes the baseline for measuring purposes
- Typically \$3-6 per month can be generated from participating customers
- Community projects need to be visible to generate enthusiasm and continued participation
- An advisory board can be established to manage and select projects
- An option for donation is to provide a check box on the utility bill

Candice's presentation will be available on the CPWAC web site.

5. Committee Reports

Technical Advisory Committee

Leslie Meyers, Chair

Leslie Meyers reported the TAC met yesterday and finalized its review of the USGS Groundwater Study. The study should be published later this year. There will be a "white paper" written by the TAC to go along with the study. Approximately \$1.5 million has been authorized for the feasibility study. The TAC will be working on updating the non-federal matching funds and a work plan to cover the next two years.

Public Outreach Committee

Amanda Acheson, Chair

Amanda Acheson reported the Public Outreach Committee has been reviewing the Water Ethic Contest submittals. Last week the CPWAC hosted an Earth Day booth. The group will be meeting May 8th to discuss the CPWAC Youth Council proposal.

Government Affairs Committee

Joanne Keene, Chair

Joanne Keene reported the Legislative Day has been scheduled for Friday, August 17th at 10:00 A.M. in Flagstaff.

6. Roundtable Discussion

Brenda reported next month's WAC meeting would be cancelled due to the holiday. The next WAC meeting will be June 29th. The committees will meet on their normal schedule during May. Those in attendance provided updates on events that have been taking place in their respective organizations.

7. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned approximately 12:00 P.M.