



# WATER CONSERVATION/SAFE YIELD COMMITTEE MINUTES

GENERAL MEETING  
APRIL 16, 2008  
PRESCOTT, ARIZONA

MINUTES OF THE **GENERAL MEETING** OF THE **WATER CONSERVATION/SAFE YIELD COMMITTEE** held on **APRIL 16, 2008** in the **POLICE DEPARTMENT TRAINING ROOM** located at **222 S. MARINA ST.**, Prescott, Arizona.

## Members:

Timothy Crews, Ph.D., Chair	P	Howard Mechanic- Vice Chair	P
Ann-Marie Benz	P	Andrew Millison	P
Sandy Griffis	A	Bob Williams	A
Charles Hildebrant	P	John Zambrano	P

(P=Present A=Absent)

## Others Present:

Connie Tucker, Shaun Rydell, Teresa Ogle, Alan Dubiel, Eugene Schmidt, Michael Crimmins, Amelia Ray, Peggy Simpson

### 1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 3:30 p.m.

### 2. Approval of minutes from the March 20, 2008 general meeting

Howard Mechanic made the motion to approve the minutes as written. Motion passed unanimously.

### 3. A revision to the February 21, 2008 minutes was proposed.

In section 4. A., third bullet, first sentence was changed to ....Councilman Lamerson reminded the Committee that 20% of the cost to import water from the Big Chino Water Ranch was assigned to current rate payers, but 20% of the water was not dedicated to them. Howard Mechanic made the motion to approve the minutes with revision. Motion passed unanimously.

### 4. Presentation by Dr. Michael Crimmins, University of Arizona. Dr. Crimmins will present on how Arizona's climate may change in the next decades, and how water resources for communities like Prescott could be affected.

Highlights of presentation included:

- ✓ Huge amount of variability in temperature and precipitation in Verde water shed.
- ✓ Seasonal distribution of precipitation includes winter precip in Northern Arizona and stronger monsoon signal in Southeast Arizona.

- ✓ Coolidge/Casa Grande – on an annual average, potential evapotranspiration is 77” with only 7” of rain into the system. Evaporative demand on the environment is very great.
- ✓ Walnut Gulch, AZ experimental water shed conducting water balance study measuring annual rainfall of 12”, with 10” being lost to evapotranspiration. Only about 3% of rainfall is recharged.
- ✓ El Niño southern oscillation tends to give enhanced chance of a wet winter.
- ✓ Starting in about 1970, global climate models show trend of rising temperatures (about 4 degree increase).
- ✓ Sea levels are rising due to thermal expansion, not melting glaciers.
- ✓ Seeing a decrease in freeze-free season length in last 30 years.
- ✓ Trends are showing more winter precipitation in the form of rainfall than snowfall; less snowpack for spring runoff.
- ✓ Junipers dying off due to increased temperature during drought periods.
- ✓ Greenhouse gases (carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide) increasing over past 150 years, interact with energy in the atmosphere trapping some of the heat.
- ✓ Earth is now radiating 0.85 W/m<sup>2</sup> less energy than it is receiving.
- ✓ More warming “in the pipeline”.

The presentation can be viewed at:

[http://cals.arizona.edu/climate/misc/crimmins\\_prescott\\_cc.pdf](http://cals.arizona.edu/climate/misc/crimmins_prescott_cc.pdf)

#### 5. Miscellaneous Announcements

- a. It was announced that at the April 22<sup>nd</sup> Council meeting, Chairman Crews will present the Task Force Work Docket, a copy of which was sent to Council. The purpose of the presentation will be to receive buy-in from Council of what is being worked on.
- b. YLNA will also be presenting to Council.
- c. Shaun Rydell gave an update on Water Awareness Month (April). Upcoming events are Earth Day 4/19, Highland Native Plant Sale 4/26, Manzanita Village Watershed Restoration Project workshop 4/26-27. The Iron Springs Fire Station has requested assistance with installing a water-wise landscaping. The City Hall landscaping project is complete. Lawn area was removed and replaced by rock and low water use plantings.

#### 6. The next WC/SF meeting will be held May 15, 2008 in the Utilities Conference Room at 433 N. Virginia St.

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**TIM CREWS**, Chairman

**TERESA OGLE**

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