



WATER CONSERVATION/SAFE YIELD COMMITTEE MINUTES

GENERAL MEETING
AUGUST 21, 2008
PRESCOTT, ARIZONA

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING OF THE WATER CONSERVATION/SAFE YIELD COMMITTEE held on AUGUST 21, 2008 in the PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT CONFERENCE ROOM located at 433 N. VIRGINIA ST., Prescott, Arizona.

Members:

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

(P=Present A=Absent)

Others Present:

Shaun Rydell, Teresa Ogle, Alan Dubiel, Eugene Schmidt, Tom Atkins

Opening remarks: Chairman Crews reported that two committee members have resigned. Andrew Millison is moving to Oregon, and Bob Williams is no longer able to dedicate time to the committee. Replacements are being sought. Also, Council members and Connie Tucker are in Phoenix attending the Arizona League of Cities conference.

1. Call to order and roll call

The meeting was called to order at 3:02 p.m.

2. Public Comment

None.

3. Presentation by Tom Atkins regarding water conservation and safe yield

Tom Atkins gave a presentation titled "Prescott's Last Oasis". Tom discussed concerns about reaching safe yield by 2025. He feels that pumping water from the Big Chino Water Ranch would be unnecessary if residents took conservation measures to achieve 35 g.p.c.d. (gallons per capita day); "Conservation at a Sustainable Level" that would lead to safe yield.

Tom would propose new water rates that would make the first 35 gallons per day very inexpensive, with usage above that very expensive. Tom is able to sustain a g.p.c.d. of 26 at his home. Conservation measures he has used to reach this g.p.c.d. are:

- checking for leaks inside and outside
- high efficiency washing machine
- low flow toilets – reduced flushing
- 6,700 gallon rain catchment system for landscape drip irrigation system
- replacing plantings with native/xeriscape plant materials, and soil amendments to retain water
- timer on drip irrigation system – timer monitored weekly to avoid over/under watering
- 4 minute showers

Tom feels that we could have sustainable, stable aquifers that would supply a steady, reliable supply of water at a rate that does not impact quality of living for our future, our children's future and their children's future. It just takes a different mind set.

4. Approval of minutes from the June 19, 2008 general meeting

John Zambrano made the motion to approve the minutes as written. Motion passed unanimously.

5. Review of City letter to high-volume water customers

Tom Crews discussed a letter drafted to go out to high water users. There are hundreds of customers who fall into two category - >10,000 and >20,000 average gallons per month. It was discussed that letters could be sent out in staggered batches, so that staff could respond effectively to responses from residents. Staff will track and report on responses to the letter, and will monitor water usage among these users.

6. Review of proposed changes to incentive offerings

It was recommended that incentives for hot water recirculators and water efficient washing machines be discontinued. Incentives would be added for rainwater harvesting systems (500 gallon minimum capacity), high efficiency toilets (HET's), dual flush toilets increased to \$150, and \$50 incentive for irrigation audits. Also discussed was an incentive for shut-off valves on showerheads.

A reasonable incentive amount for rainwater harvesting was discussed. Tim presented a calculation of how much water a 5,000 gallon tank could capture in a year, based upon incoming rainfall and outgoing irrigation and a 2,000 square foot roof size. Approximate amount of water harvested was 9,000 gallons. Most incentives are between .01 and .03 per gallon saved, with .07 being the market value of alternate water. It was decided that there would be a 500 gallon minimum tank size, with a .10 per gallon incentive with a \$500 cap. Howard made the point that systems need to be installed properly with proper filters, valves, etc. Specifications, photos and receipts would be required. Shaun stated that the goal would be to encourage residents to, instead of installing an irrigation system at \$8,000-\$10,000, to install a rainwater harvesting system first, and then design landscaping accordingly. State incentives are also available through 2010. It was also decided that a recommendation would be made to increase turf removal incentive to \$1 per square foot, with a \$500 cap.

7. Proposal for City Facilities Retrofit

Howard Mechanic reported that City Council approved \$50,000 in fiscal year 2009 to retrofit existing facilities. A meeting was held with Parks & Rec to discuss indoor and outdoor water use. Four large turf areas were identified for water conservation projects:

- Watson Lake Park – remove 15 feet of turf around perimeter and replace with decomposed granite - may look at testing soil conditioners/additives to retain moisture on remaining turf
- Honor Island – 50% reduction in turf area
- Grace Sparks Activity Center – remove all or partial turf in front of the building and replace with artificial turf, along with possible toilet and urinal retrofits
- Miller Valley School ROW – Turf removal adjacent to Miller Valley Road, and replace with xeriscape landscape.

Once designs are complete, the total water saved can be calculated. The Committee will be taking this recommendation to Council for approval. Once approved, design can begin and then projects can be ranked in order of priority.

8. Discussion of Conservation to Safe Yield proposal development

To be discussed at the next meeting.

9. Next meeting – October 16, 2008, discuss items for Agenda

10. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

TIM CREWS, Chairman

TERESA OGLE