



WATER CONSERVATION/SAFE YIELD COMMITTEE

REVISED MINUTES

GENERAL MEETING
OCTOBER 16, 2008
PRESCOTT, ARIZONA

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING OF THE WATER CONSERVATION/SAFE YIELD COMMITTEE held on OCTOBER 16, 2008 in the PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT CONFERENCE ROOM located at 433 N. VIRGINIA ST., Prescott, Arizona.

Members:

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

(P=Present A=Absent)

Others Present:

Councilman Lamerson, Connie Tucker, Shaun Rydell, Teresa Ogle, Alan Dubiel, Gene Schmidt

1. Call to order and roll call

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m.

2. Public Comment

None.

3. Approval of Minutes from September 18, 2008 meeting

Howard Mechanic made a motion to approve minutes with changes noted on attached revised minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Presentation on the success of water conservation efforts in the City of Prescott to Date (based on a Presentation to City Council in September) (Tucker and Rydell)

Connie Tucker gave an overview of her presentation to Council which included a brief history of the water conservation committee and programs implemented in the past four years, including Time-of-Day Watering ordinance and incentives program. Connie also discussed effects of conservation and rate increases on consumption, and GPCD numbers. Shaun Rydell discussed FY08 incentive program results and gave an overview of a water customer utility audit. There were 127 lawn removal applications processed, with an average of 1,472 square feet removed and \$509 credit applied per applicant. Shaun continues to work with Parks and Recreation staff, and has reviewed 40 of their accounts. \$50,000 has been budgeted to assist

in upgrading City facilities. Targeted areas are Grace M. Sparkes Memorial Activity Center, Miller Valley School Right of Way and Pioneer Park.

Shaun discussed the Bureau of Reclamation award of \$48,500. A regional opinion survey was distributed and the response analyzed. An upcoming Certified Landscape Irrigation Audit (CLIA) Training is scheduled for December 11-12, 2008.

The Regional water and conservation guidebook should be published by year-end. Also, letters will be going out to water customers with average use over 10,000 gallons per month. Shaun continues to foster partnerships with the landscape industry, Project WET, Rinse Smart (ADWR), Upper Verde River Watershed Protection Coalition and WaterSense Partner (EPA).

Connie Tucker reported that 2,457 acre feet of surface water has been recharged so far this year.

5. Plan to present WC & SY initiatives to Council (Crews)

Tim Crews announced that a date has been set for a Council workshop – November 18, 2008 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Initiatives to be presented will be 1) the conservation target, 2) the volunteer program, 3) revision to incentives list - draft ordinance - much discussion about increasing irrigation audit incentive to \$100, 4) recommendation for City facilities improvements, and 5) the Water Conservation to Safe Yield Task Force report.

6. Water Conservation to Safe Yield Task Force report and discussion of proposal to Council

Howard Mechanic and John Zambrano prepared a draft proposal for committee review. The task force was charged with determining how it could be said that if you conserve water, it will go toward off-setting overdraft (safe yield), i.e., water conserved will not go to ~~new home construction development~~. For residential this is the case, because any ~~new construction development receives-is allocated~~ water from the alternate water supply. Essentially every new home is allocated .25 acre feet an average of (6,788 gallons per house per month). What the task force did find was that any water conserved today could result in more water being used by new commercial accounts. In actuality, Council allocates .35 acre feet per house, with direction that the .10 difference is for non-residential. So there is already alternate water being allocated to commercial and non-residential applications. However, new commercial is not limited to this amount of water.

In 2007, the City issued 74 new commercial permits and 633 residential permits. The alternate water supply that was allocated for the residential ~~construction development~~ was $533 * .35 \text{ af/house} = 187 \text{ af}$. Of the .35 af/house, 0.25 af is dedicated to the house itself (133.5 af) and 0.10 is dedicated to non-residential applications (totaling 53.50 af).

Work by WC & SY statistician Gene Schmidt has shown that water demands by Prescott businesses break down in the following categories:

% of businesses	af used/year/business
30	0.06
30	0.20
30	0.86
5	3.29
5	10.0

Based on analysis of 1,100 Prescott businesses, the mean water use per business is 1.05 af/year, whereas the median water use per business is 0.50 af/year. Using the mean, it was estimated that the 74 new businesses in 2007 required 78 acre feet. Seventy percent (53.5 af) of this commercial allocation was accounted for in the alternate water budget, with the balance of about 25 af coming from AMA groundwater. According to this estimate, all water conservation gains made in the 2007 Prescott incentives program may have been effectively used for new commercial enterprises rather than safe yield. If the median water use per business is used, then the 74 new businesses would have required 37 af which is well within the alternate water supply allocation for non-residential uses. Whether the City of Prescott tapped conservation savings to support commercial growth in 2007 depends on how many new businesses fell into the top 10% water use categories. Actual water use of the new businesses would have to be examined to determine which scenario was actually allowed.

It is crucial that the City's water allocation policy guarantees the allocation of conservation savings to safe yield. The WC & SY Committee will strongly recommend to Council that the City Council tie commercial water allocations to its alternate water supply. If non-residential allocations exceed the .10 af/home allocations assigned, then applications should be supplied strictly through further allocation of alternate water.

7. Next meeting – December 18, 2008, discuss items for agenda

8. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

TIM CREWS, Chairman

TERESA OGLE