



# WATER CONSERVATION/SAFE YIELD COMMITTEE MINUTES

GENERAL MEETING  
DECEMBER 18, 2008  
PRESCOTT, ARIZONA

MINUTES OF THE **GENERAL MEETING OF THE WATER CONSERVATION/SAFE YIELD COMMITTEE** held on **DECEMBER 18, 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:

Shaun Rydell, Teresa Ogle, Alan Dubiel, Gene Schmidt, Margaret Nicoll

### 1. Call to order and roll call

The meeting was called to order at 3:03 p.m.

### 2. Public Comment

None.

### 3. Approval of Minutes from October 16, 2008 meeting

Chairman Crews made a motion to approved minutes with changes noted on the Revised Minutes (attached). Motion passed unanimously.

### 4. Update on status of proposals that were presented to Council on 11/18/08 (Tucker 5 minutes)

Connie Tucker was unable to attend. Chairman Crews stated that Connie indicated she may make a proposal to Council to take two years and track actual water used by new commercial development versus the allocation of .10 acre feet of alt water. Chairman Crews met with Connie Tucker last week and discussed suggesting to Council that they take their allocation approach, but only allocate .25 per house (not .35) and then allocate to commercial (non-residential) directly out of alt water. Non-residential entities would have to apply to the City for an allocation. Businesses would need to be categorized by water use type. It was questioned whether usage should be reviewed as compared to the allocation and adjustments made, for both residential and commercial. Programs/software will be needed to create databases and track data. Connie will provide an update at the next meeting.

Shaun Rydell reported on the items going to Council on February 17<sup>th</sup>:

- Incentive program ordinance changes – remove hot water recirculator, water efficient washing machines, \$100 credit for irrigation audits, .10/sq. foot for rainwater harvesting
- Facilities \$50,000 projects – Memorial Garden, Miller Valley School 50% turf removal
- Vista Volunteers – Americore full time staff for \$10,500

#### **5. Discussion of Conservation to Safe Yield Proposal (Tucker 30 minutes)**

Chairman Crews indicated that further discussions will take place in the context of a long term water policy. Tim stated that Connie Tucker said that Herb Dishlip may be brought in to present to Council. Previously, his model showed a 22% target for conservation, which was focused primarily on indoor use and efficiency in irrigation. The fact that we had a minimal handle on conservation that could be achieved in non-residential makes the goal more obtainable, especially with the buffer of alt water that has been found in the non-residential area. Chairman Crews will be following up with Craig McConnell to see what steps are being taken to implement a target as recommended by the committee.

#### **6. Discussion of finalizing work from 2008 and initial prioritizing of WC & SY docket for 2009 (60 minutes).**

Items on the docket for next year will include:

- Water audits – above and beyond the rebate program, both indoor and outdoor, including large scale users
  - Level 1 Audit - \$100 rebate – < 1,000 square feet of turf
  - Level 2 Audit – includes sports fields; should be audited annually. City employees who are CLIA certified should conduct City facility audits. Charlie Hildebrandt thinks that there needs to be a separate subcommittee charged with monitoring audits, both in the instructional phase and tracking/records phase; possibly one subcommittee for indoor and one for outdoor.
- Water Rates
  - Chairman Crews will follow up with Craig McConnell. Will ask for update on model from economist.com (Dan Jackson)
  - Shaun Rydell volunteered to present the customer annual water use tracking sheet at next meeting
- Chairman Crews introduced Margaret Nicoll, High Desert Rain Catchment. Small scale catchment systems will be included in the incentive program. Large scale systems need to be investigated in the future. Roofing materials need to be studied, i.e. development standards. Test systems should be considered.
- Howard Mechanic recommended that a task force be created to work with the Upper Verde River Coalition on conservation ordinances and that we should provide input as a committee. Tim suggested we need a regional water partner

or outreach task force that looks at the Upper Verde River Coalition, but may have involvement with other communities as well.

- Howard Mechanic stated that he would like to see a program where we maintain a list of licensed plumbers who will do a toilet retrofit for a fixed price.
- Sandy felt there should be an ordinance review. Howard felt an ordinance was needed to make it illegal to sell used toilets with > 1.6 gallons water use. Shaun indicated that maybe there should be a dumpster provided for disposing of old toilets.
- Howard asked whether there should be a subcommittee formed to work with the volunteer program. Shaun felt that the committee's work is done, and that she would implement the program. Tim agreed.
- Shaun stated concerns about where the City of Prescott's conservation program fits into the Upper Verde River Coalition's activities. Howard recommended that the committee send a letter (possibly signed by the Mayor) to the Coalition stating that we understand they have are starting a \$100,000 program for conservation and education, and that we have a similar program, and ask that we work together. It was also agreed that it may be appropriate for Jim Holt to facilitate offering Shaun's assistance to the Coalition.
- Gene Schmidt presented personally constructed "faucet" awards to committee members.
- In closing, Chairman Crews stated that he felt a fair amount was accomplished this year. The committee started out with a list of objectives, most of which have come to fruition. A new chair is being considered by the Mayor, along with additional new committee members.

## **7. Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at 4:54 p.m.

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**TIM CREWS**, Chairman

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**TERESA OGLE**