



WATER CONSERVATION/SAFE YIELD COMMITTEE MINUTES

GENERAL MEETING
FEBRUARY 26, 2009
PRESCOTT, ARIZONA

MINUTES OF THE **GENERAL MEETING** OF THE **WATER CONSERVATION/SAFE YIELD COMMITTEE** held on **FEBRUARY 26, 2009** 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	P	Howard Mechanic- Vice Chair	P
Sandy Griffis	P	John Zambrano	A

(P=Present A=Absent)

Others Present:

Mayor Jack Wilson, Councilman Jim Lamerson, Chuck Budinger, Connie Tucker, Shaun Rydell, Teresa Ogle, Alan Dubiel, Gene Schmidt, Margaret Nicoll, James Cox, Paul Katan

1. Call to order and roll call

The meeting was called to order at 3:05 p.m.

2. Public Comment

None.

3. Approval of Minutes from December 18, 2008 meeting

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

4. Water Conservation Program Changes – Council Agenda 03/03/09 (S. Rydell)

A Council Memo was drafted to summarize items to be discussed at the March 3, 2009 Council meeting:

- Changes to the incentive program
- Americorp Vista Volunteer
- Three City facilities projects (Armory, Miller Valley School Right-of-Way and Memorial Park Triangle). A design competition was discussed for the Memorial Park Triangle. Mayor Wilson suggested that volunteers from garden clubs be involved. Preliminary worksheets (RFQ's) will be prepared, and will be given out to interested candidates. Mayor Wilson felt that local people should be given a preference. Shaun indicated that a ranking system will be used, and this will be taken into account.

5. Introductions of new Chair – Chuck Budinger, and new committee members: Gene Schmidt and Margaret Nicoll

Chairman Tim Crews will be leaving the committee – he is taking an extended sabbatical in England.

- Mayor Wilson introduced the new Chairman of the committee, Chuck Budinger. Chuck works for ADOT as an Environmental Coordinator. Chuck has a degree in geological engineering, with a background in groundwater and surface water management. Chuck also chaired the Mayor's 2050 committee.
- Gene Schmidt has contributed a great amount of work to the committee in the past year. Gene stated that his background is IN recycling and reuse of electronics, but also environmental impacts such as rainwater.
- Margaret Nicoll is co-owner of High Desert Rain Catchment. In addition to rainwater catchment, Margaret is involved in grey water systems.

The Mayor presented Tim Crews with a certificate of appreciation, and thanked him for his contributions, and wished him well on his new endeavor.

6. Discussion of task forces and other Committee activities for 2009

Chairman Budinger stated that his plan would be to continue on with conservation, but also look at safe yield and recharge. There are a lot of good ideas out there, and a task force should focus on this. Tucson is doing great things. Yavapai County has completed a pilot project at Pioneer Park. Chuck would like the committee to go out and look at the project. It was funded through an ADEQ grant, and was partnered with U of A to put in plants that reduce contaminants from runoff from the parking lot.

Gene would like to focus on projects on the outskirts of the City or in the County. Ordinances need to be addressed for new development - get people off wells and onto City water.

Sandy agrees that we need to look at recharge. She would like to see the committee identify a priorities list to be more effective in the future.

Tim Crews indicated that all task forces have completed their work, and possible task force subjects identified for the new year were residential, commercial, indoor and outdoor auditing, code review and possible revisions, and task force to look specifically at collaboration with Upper Verde River Coalition and County initiatives.

Howard Mechanic felt that the committee needs to discuss the budget prior to submittal to the finance department and provide input. Connie will provide the budget schedule to Chairman Budinger.

Anne Marie stated there may be other financial options. A resource search needs to be done. The County partnered with the State and got 319 money from EPA. The committee needs to look into other financial options.

The Mayor asked about possible WIFA funding. Connie will check with Craig McConnell.

Councilman Lamerson stated that the budget process will be different than in years past. Prioritizing projects will be important, with a focus on public health and safety first.

Shaun requested that committee member(s) review the Bureau of Reclamation Regional Water Conservation Workbook – 3rd and hopefully final draft.

Charlie suggested that a task force be created for outdoor audits and increase the program focus (and include commercial). He feels there could be a huge return, with very little effort. Charlie stated that an aggressively designed audit program could save 100 acre feet per year. He conducted a pilot program last year. YNLA has written a 50 page syllabus on audit training.

Suggested task forces discussed:

- Safe Yield
- Auditing Program – indoor, outdoor, residential, commercial
- Water Budget Review
- Other Funding Sources
- Code Revision
- Rainwater Catchment
- City Facilities
- Coordination with Upper Verde River Watershed Protection Coalition and WAC
- Public Outreach/Education

7. Discussion of task force membership

Will be discussed at the next meeting.

8. Next meeting – March 19, 2009 discuss items for agenda.

- Discuss 2010 Water Conservation Program budget
- Task Force Membership

Meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

CHUCK BUDINGER, Chairman

TERESA OGLE