



WATER CONSERVATION/SAFE YIELD COMMITTEE MINUTES

GENERAL MEETING
MARCH 19, 2009
PRESCOTT, ARIZONA

MINUTES OF THE **GENERAL MEETING** OF THE **WATER CONSERVATION/SAFE YIELD COMMITTEE** held on **MARCH 19, 2009** in the **PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT CONFERENCE ROOM** located at **433 N. VIRGINIA ST.**, Prescott, Arizona.

Members:

Chuck Budinger, Chair	P	Howard Mechanic, Vice Chair	P
Ann-Marie Benz	A	Margaret Nicholl	P
Sandy Griffis	P	Gene Schmidt	P
Charles Hildebrant	P		

(P=Present A=Absent)

Others Present:

Councilman Jim Lamerson, Connie Tucker, Teresa Ogle, Alan Dubiel, Bill McFarland, James Cox

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 February 26, 2009 meeting

Charlie Hildebrant made a motion to approve minutes as written. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Staff Report – 2010 Draft Budget Review

Connie Tucker reviewed the 2010 Draft Budget. Budget for the Incentives Program was increased by \$10,000. Public hearings will be held in May and June. The committee can make recommendations prior to May 1st. There's a \$45,000 carry-over for the Facilities Retrofit projects already under way. \$10,000 was added for the Vista volunteer. Howard Mechanic requested that \$50,000 in Facilities Retrofit money be placed in the budget for several years – not just a one time expense. Connie suggested that the Committee make this recommendation to Council if they feel it is important. The committee agreed that a request should be made to have \$50,000 be added to the budget for the Facilities Retrofit program in the new budget year, and also continue the Facilities Task Force. It was agreed that the Committee will discuss budget issues every January so that recommendations can be made to staff prior to the budget deadline. Sandy asked for an update on FY09 spending at the next meeting. Councilman Lamerson recommended that the Committee focus on incentives with the

“biggest bang for the buck” to ensure buy-in from the Council. Discussed the money saved versus the money spent for incentives, and the actual value for a gallon of water (O&M) saved or not pumped. Item “parked” for now – to be discussed in the future.

5. Review the proposed new Task Forces for the Committee

a. Combine the Conservation Goals and Conservation to SY Task Forces

Wait for ADWR ruling and long-term water planning; revisit in 3 months.

b. Funding Task Force

Howard felt that this committee would duplicate the efforts of the Upper Verde River Watershed Protection Coalition. Chuck stated that there is a lot of funding available to the City of Prescott that is not available for the Coalition. We need to hear from Ann-Marie about time required for grant writing. Most grants he is aware of are available for municipalities and regulatory agencies and jurisdictional entities that have authority over infrastructure, etc. – 319 grants, WIFA grants, Federal Highway enhancement grants. The Coalition would take a different avenue for grants. Gene agreed that funding may be available specific to each community. Sandy thinks we should be proactive in searching for funding sources. Charlie felt that the committee should be looking for funds, but avoid stepping on UVRWPC toes. Margaret would like to see coordination with UVRWPC to avoid duplication. Connie reminded the committee that if a project is identified and funding is acquired, we need to look at City resources for completing the project. Connie also suggested that the committee look at public/private partnerships for funding. Under parameters discussed, this task force will be established.

c. Rain Water Task Force

An incentive has already been created. Howard reported that the UVRWPC will not be focusing on rain water harvesting; they are focusing on rain water recharging. A project Howard is suggesting is to capture rain on rooftops at the Depot Center, storing it in a pond and using it at Granite Creek Park for watering, instead of using potable water. This project could fall under the City Facilities Task Force and the Public Information Task Force, therefore, the Rain Water Task Force is not needed.

d. Audits Task Force (Indoor and Outdoor)

Charlie feels that this task force is needed for developing an outreach program. Continuity will be important – insuring that all auditors are using the same forms. A process will need to be established with Shaun Rydell to acquire water records. The Task Force should include indoor audits as well. Howard suggested that the Task Force investigate partnering with APS on their energy audit, to see if their audit could include toilets and showers. The volunteer program may be able to conduct these indoor audits as well. Commercial audits would require some type of certification. The Task Force should make recommendations on certifications needed for landscape audits. Because the audit program starts in a few weeks, the Task Force needs to be established quickly.

e. Design Competition Task Force

The Task Force will need to find Landscape Architects to volunteer to establish criteria for the design competition. The task force will need to meet with ADOT to determine a timeframe. Due to public sentiment, some turf will need to

remain. There may be a deadline of 4th of July. Connie will discuss this with the City Manager and report back.

f. Ordinance/Code Revision Task Force

Can be parked until the next meeting.

g. Public Information Task Force

Subtopics include audits and certification and rain water harvesting. Radio spots, public events, and presentations will require assistance from volunteers.

Evaluate the priorities of each task force. Establish a goal for each task force. Information needs to get out to the public asking for interested volunteers for the Task Forces.

6. Roundtable to discuss future issues/goals

Gene – Concerned about rainwater recharge and the UVRWPC and possible legal issues.

Sandy - None

Charlie – Will need to work with Connie, Chuck and Shaun to set up a process for audits right away.

Howard – Ordinances are a concern. Howard will draft a letter to Council requesting the \$50,000 for the Facilities Retrofit program and forward it to Chuck for review.

Chuck – Also has concerns about UVRWPC recharge.

7. Next meeting May 21, 2009 – discuss items for agenda

a. Discuss Water Restriction ordinance – Charlie Hildebrant would like to push the start date back to May 1st and end on October 1st to avoid freezing issues associated with early morning watering.

b. FY 09 budget status report

c. Design Competition Task Force

d. Ordinance/Code Revision Task Force

8. Adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

CHUCK BUDINGER, Chairman

TERESA OGLE
Minutes Preparer