



WATER CONSERVATION/SAFE YIELD COMMITTEE MINUTES

GENERAL MEETING
APRIL 16, 2009
PRESCOTT, ARIZONA

MINUTES OF THE **GENERAL MEETING** OF THE **WATER CONSERVATION/SAFE YIELD COMMITTEE** held on **APRIL 16, 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	P	Margaret Nicholl	P
Sandy Griffis	A	Gene Schmidt	P
Charles Hildebrant	P		

(P=Present A=Absent)

Others Present:

Connie Tucker, Teresa Ogle, Bill McFarland

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 March 19, 2009 meeting

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

4. Staff Report – 2010 Draft Budget Review

- a. Connie Tucker handed out a letter from economists.com regarding proposed modifications to the City's water rate structure. Members requested time to study the letter, so it was requested that this item be placed on next meeting's agenda. The proposed structure would increase the rate for 14,001 to 20,000 gallons to \$12, and the rate for 20,001+ gallons would be \$30 per 1,000 gallons. Staff will be putting together a list of high water users (20,000+ gallons). A letter will be sent to these users with conservation and audit information. Gene indicated that usage is down among the top 100 water users, which is putting many customers in lower tiers, which equals less water revenue for the City. Howard stated that water rates may need to be raised again. Chuck indicated it would seem punitive to raise the rates now, i.e., you've done such a good job conserving, now we're raising your rates. It was agreed that this needs to be revisited in the future, after high water users are identified and the audit program is implemented. Should a customer have a water leak, the cost could be

exorbitant. Connie will check with Utility Billing to see what their policy is for one-time adjustments for leaks.

- b. Shaun Rydell distributed and discussed current status of the incentives program budget. A total of 415 applications were received, with entire \$75,000 budget distributed to applicants. Estimated water saved due to installation of water saving devices and turf removal is 24 acre feet/year. Shaun indicated that on April 10, 2009, incentives for water efficient washing machines and hot water recirculators will be eliminated. It was agreed that applications for these items will still be processed until the end of the month if the purchase date was prior to April 10, 2009. It was also agreed that applications and receipts must be submitted within 90 days of purchase to qualify for incentives. Shaun announced that she will be setting up a booth at the Home and Garden Show, May 15-17. Volunteers are needed to staff the booth. Teresa will coordinate a schedule for booth coverage.

5. Discuss Watering Restriction Ordinance – discuss pushing start date back to May 1st and end date changed to October 1st

Charlie Hildebrant recommended that the start date remain the same, but the ending date for the watering restriction be changed to October 1st, rather than October 31st. Charlie was concerned about early morning watering and the possibility for freezing. The committee agreed. Connie Tucker will take the recommendation to the Mayor, and request that it be in effect this year. A motion was made to change the ending date of the watering restriction to October 1st. Motion passed unanimously.

6. Review and discussion of proposed landscape auditing program

Shaun reviewed the audit form she uses with members. She has completed approximately 125 audits this year. Indoor water use is estimated. All high water use plants, vegetables and grass areas are noted, as well as trees and shrubs to calculate a water budget. CLIA certification only applies to grass. Northern Arizona Irrigation Audit training is also available (next week).

7. Update on Task Forces

Funding Task Force – Chuck Budinger and Ann-Marie Benz met and have a spreadsheet for funding. There is funding out there that the task force will monitor.

Facilities Retrofit Task Force – Howard Mechanic has done some research about the Depot Center and the possibility of capturing rainwater off the rooftops and storing for watering at Granite Creek Park. A request was sent to Council to approve \$50,000 each year for facilities retrofit.

Indoor/Outdoor Audits – Already discussed. Will be making a recommendation to Council to certify both CLIA and Northern Arizona Irrigation Audit training.

Public Information Task Force – A press release was issued inviting volunteers to contact the Mayor via email. These emails will be sent to Shaun Rydell, who will forward the information to the appropriate task force.

8. Discuss criteria for competition rules for landscaping of Memorial Park Triangle.

The project will not start until after the ADOT project is completed. Specifications will need to be completed by June 1, 2009. A diverse panel of judges will be recruited, and scoring will be done with a point system. Water use will be weighted, with other possible criteria being visual appeal, use of native plants, cost, conceptual drawing/rendering, visual aids, water budget and plan view and elevation. Final criteria needs to be determined by the task force, and brought to the committee next month for approval. Public service announcements and newspaper ads will be needed. One issue to resolve later is whether the existing trees can be saved.

9. Next meeting June 18, 2009 – discuss items for agenda

- a. **Discuss economists.com letter regarding water rate structure.**
- b. **Update on Task Forces**
- c. **Design criteria to be presented by task force to committee for approval**

10. Adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

CHUCK BUDINGER, Chairman

TERESA OGLE
Minutes Preparer