



# WATER CONSERVATION/SAFE YIELD COMMITTEE MINUTES

GENERAL MEETING  
MAY 21, 2009  
PRESCOTT, ARIZONA

MINUTES OF THE **GENERAL MEETING** OF THE **WATER CONSERVATION/SAFE YIELD COMMITTEE** held on **MAY 21, 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, Louis Bellesi, Paul Katan, Alan Dubiel, Marc Vetere, Ken Janecek, Jeff Low

### 1. Call to order and roll call

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

### 2. Public Comment

Ken Janecek, representing CWAG, mentioned that the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and ADWR and WAC are doing an appraisal study, studying GPCD's using the 2006 baseline to 2050. ADWR provided a GPCD number of 191 for 2006, and a target of 125 for 2050. Connie Tucker does not know how the 2006 number was calculated – maybe it includes effluent use. ADWR shows a number that is 2,000 acre feet higher than what was pumped in 2006. Connie's calculation for GPCD using the formula in the Third Management Plan, is 137 for last year – down from 150 average for the previous few years.

### 3. Approval of Minutes from April 16, 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 reported that we have been awarded a Vista volunteer. Recruitment will start shortly, with an estimated start date toward the end of July. Main duties will include coordinating the volunteer program for internal audits and the backwater valve education program.

## **5. Discuss Creation of a Mission Statement**

Chuck Budinger discussed the need for a mission statement. Chuck would like to start drafting a mission statement, to help guide the committee on future complex issues. Having a mission statement will also help when dealing with other agencies, i.e., EPA regarding grey water task force, etc. Chuck would like input from the committee to at least draft a framework for a mission statement. An initial statement would be that the Water Conservation/Safe Yield Committee will research water issues and make recommendations to the City Council. Connie suggested using the vision statement from the Budget Book – she will provide a copy to Teresa for distribution to members. Once a statement is completed, it will need to be reviewed and approved by the Mayor.

## **6. Discuss economists.com letter regarding water rate structure**

Economists.com suggested that substantially higher rates would cause higher water users to conserve more. The committee discussed the fact that this may not be the case for some people who have the money to maintain a certain life style. It was discussed that another rate increase may send the wrong message to people that have conserved water - that their efforts are not appreciated. In May of 2008, two scenarios were presented to Council – one being that higher water users would have much higher tiered rates and residential irrigation meters would be eliminated. Council chose not to implement these changes at that time. The rate structure will be up for review again this winter. Connie reported that the Legislature introduced a bill that would prohibit municipalities from assessing impact fees for three years – water, sewer, streets, police, fire. Also, the bill would prohibit new building codes, including green building codes, for three years, and would prohibit increases in construction sales tax. So this would provide no funding mechanism for growth, other than rates. Chuck Budinger made a motion to table the economist.com report until the next report comes out, and then at that time discuss how the committee would like to be involved in reviewing any new rate structures. Motion passed unanimously.

## **7. Update on Task Forces**

Audit Task Force – Chuck mentioned that he attended the YNLA certification course, and felt that it was a good course. Charlie Hildebrant reported that 35 people took the course. 21 people took the test, with only 9 people passing. The test can be retaken in one year. The testing included:

- 100 question multiple choice test (70 questions based on what was taught in the class and 30 questions based on plant identification.) Charlie felt that plant identification was required to ensure someone's experience level. Plant identification was the section where most people failed.
- The people who passed the written tests will now need to complete two audits with a board member present, and then they will be certified.

The program needs to be promoted. Three inquiries have come through the website. There was a discussion as to whether the committee should endorse the YNLA certification program. Connie stated that as a professional organization, YNLA has set their own standards for certification. The City accepts certifications from all sorts of professional organizations. If YNLA is confident in their certification process, and are willing to put their name behind it, then the City should be OK with recommending them as a certified audit program for the incentive. Currently, when a resident inquires about an audit, they are directed to the CLIA website for a certified auditor. A list will be

created, which will include the 9 people who just passed the certification class and the CLIA list, and residents can choose whomever they wish to conduct an audit.

Indoor audits still need to be addressed. A review is needed, possibly at the next meeting. Howard mentioned that the Vista volunteer will be managing the volunteers needed for this indoor audit program.

City Facilities Task Force – Margaret Nicholl, Howard Mechanic and Chuck Budinger met last week to discuss ideas for rainwater collection and various uses. One use discussed was collection of rainwater for use in dust abatement. Currently effluent is available for dust abatement, but the locations to get the effluent are not convenient. Another project discussed was for the watering of Granite Creek Park with rainwater harvested from the Depot Marketplace. Members of the Task Force met with Diamonte Properties, whom indicated they felt the business owners would be willing to work with the City and not expect compensation for their participation. Albertson's is separately owned (40,000 square feet of rooftop). Diamonte owns about 90,000 square feet, which would be about 1 million gallons harvested per year without Albertson's participation. The park uses about 2 million gallons of water per year. An audit of watering practices for the park was suggested. Connie will speak with Parks and Recreation about an audit. An audit for Watson Lake Park was discussed as well. Parks and Rec personnel did attend CLIA training. Howard reported that task force members will be meeting with Yavapai College who are building green buildings, and are interested in incorporating rain watering harvesting into the buildings. The task force also spoke with Chief Willis with the Fire Department about the use of harvested water. There could be backflow valve issues on hydrants with this. It was recommended that ERAU be approached as well. Margaret agreed to follow up with them.

Funding Task Force – The Task Force has been working on a grant for a system to recharge storm water through a dry well and vegetative detention pond. Chuck Budinger presented the request to Council. It was not placed on the consent agenda for the next meeting, so it will be discussed at the voting session. If the maximum \$35,000 grant is approved, there will be a match required by the City. The City will also provide staff for hydrology, etc. The best location will need to be determined – flood plain, ridge tops, etc. will be investigated. Other issues to be investigated are whether the dry well could be metered, and if credits could be applied from ADWR. The Mayor has recommended there be a coordination of efforts with the Upper Verde River Watershed Protection Coalition. Aesthetics will be a consideration. Ann Marie has located other funding sources that may be available in the future. Ann Marie attended a meeting last week regarding a Yavapai County Community Foundation grant. There is only \$18,000 available, with quite a bit of competition in attendance. This money could be used to supplement the audit program.

EPA Grey Water Work Group – Chuck Budinger was contacted by EPA to have someone participate in a Multi-Agency Grey Water Work Group. Jeff Low, who is an hydrologist on the wastewater master plan for the City, will be providing assistance as an advisor. EPA will be rewriting guidelines, rules and regulations for grey water. They want small towns dependent on groundwater to participate. A work plan has been sketched out. The first meeting is June 11<sup>th</sup> via webinar. There may be grant

possibilities available. Connie suggested that Jeff Low contact Suzanne Ehrlich with Yavapai County, since they have jurisdiction and are permittees over grey water. Howard reported that Chino Valley has banned the use of grey water.

Information Task Force – An update will be provided at the next meeting.

**8. Design criteria to be presented by task force to committee for approval**

A presentation will be made by the task force at the next meeting.

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

- a. Design Criteria presentation by Task Force
- b. Indoor Audits
- c. Presentation about YNLA Course – Charlie Hildebrant
- d. Information Task Force update

**10. Adjourned at 5:05 p.m.**

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**CHUCK BUDINGER, Chairman**

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**TERESA OGLE**  
**Minutes Preparer**