



# WATER CONSERVATION/SAFE YIELD COMMITTEE MINUTES

SPECIAL MEETING  
MAY 7, 2009  
PRESCOTT, ARIZONA

MINUTES OF THE **SPECIAL MEETING** OF THE **WATER CONSERVATION/SAFE YIELD COMMITTEE** held on **MAY 7, 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	A
Sandy Griffis	A	Gene Schmidt	P
Charles Hildebrant	A		

(P=Present A=Absent)

## Others Present:

Mayor Jack Wilson, Connie Tucker, Shaun Rydell, Jeff Low, Teresa Ogle, Bill McFarland

### 1. Call to order and roll call

The meeting was called to order at 3:10 p.m.

### 2. Discuss Technical Assistance Grant offered by WIFA which closes on June 1, 2009

The Funding Task Force found a Technical Assistance Grant (up to \$35,000) for Wastewater or Drinking Water projects, which has a deadline for filing of June 1, 2009. All applications will be evaluated based on how the project corrects current conditions that contribute to surface water pollution, runoff, groundwater pollution, contributes to water quality improvement, and promotes sustainable/green infrastructure design. Another criteria is that the project be "green" and sustainable infrastructure that enhances water quality improvements. An appropriate project needs to be determined and the request taken to Council by next week, so this special meeting was required for discussion of the grant.

Chuck Budinger went to WIFA last week and discussed the grant, and discussed possible projects. Grey water projects would not be applicable. Possible projects discussed were fixing leaking pipes, using rainwater harvesting for landscaping, and groundwater recharge. Connie Tucker felt that there are no City projects that are waiting for funding that would fit the criteria for the grant. One potential project that has been developed by ECOSA Institute uses vegetative methods to treat stormwater. Adding a drywell to this design would make the project a green, sustainable project that improves water quality and increases water availability due to recharge. The dry well concept includes a vegetative pond for water to flow through, along with a dual chamber dry well that improves treatment of the water. The dry well depth must be 10

feet above the water table. The pilot project would be shallow soils that would drain readily to the flood plains or creek, then get more elaborate down the road.

ADWR would be willing to evaluate the project, but would not apply recharge credits to the water recharged. Howard Mechanic reported that Upper Verde River Water Shed Protection Coalition just approved a project, part of which is to consult with ADWR to determine how credits can be calculated for natural recharge projects. Howard felt that we should avoid duplication of efforts in working with ADWR, and should work directly with the Coalition on what they work out with ADWR. It was recommended that the committee take a look at the work of John Todd, *The Living System*. He outlines natural vegetation that can even filter out sludge.

Mayor Wilson suggested that the committee coordinate with the Coalition through Edwin Muccillo ([emuccillo@turnip.com](mailto:emuccillo@turnip.com)) A.S.A.P. to prevent duplication of efforts. Chuck reminded the committee that the deadline to get this to Council is next week, so he proposed that the committee go ahead with grant preparation and then if the Council approves it, then the coordination could begin. The Mayor suggested the committee gather additional information on the grant and project, i.e., cost benefit analysis. Connie voiced her concern that the draft proposal mentions "the City" performing tasks, research, run a pilot program, etc. Connie was concerned about staff time that would be needed. The Mayor was concerned about the expense to hire a hydrologist. Chuck Budinger spoke with Jeff Low, who has a hydrology background, and Jeff volunteered to work on this with the committee. Chuck also volunteered his time to conduct geology research. The City will be applying for the grant, not the committee. The City will receive the money and choose a person to administer the grant, but an ECOSA consultant could be used for coordination, technical drawings etc.

Connie also voiced concerns about maintenance of the plants during dry seasons. There would also be maintenance for replacement of floating absorbent pads. These concerns will be addressed through the feasibility study. Connie will need the information by Tuesday, May 12, 2009, to get it in the Council packet for a May 19, 2009 WIFA grant presentation. Chuck will prepare the proposal. A map of the City highlighting possible installation areas will be created. Upper Verde River Protection Coalition has already prepared maps for recharge areas.

This project will require buy-in from the Public Works Director, and Greg Toth. The task force members will meet with Greg Toth and Jeff Low. (Per Chuck Budinger, Greg Toth was contacted immediately following the meeting and supported the idea.)

Gene Schmidt made a motion to take an information packet to Council and get approval to apply for the grant. Motion passed unanimously.

### **3. Adjourned at 4:30 p.m.**

---

**CHUCK BUDINGER, Chairman**

---

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