



WATER CONSERVATION/SAFE YIELD COMMITTEE MINUTES

GENERAL MEETING
AUGUST 20, 2009
PRESCOTT, ARIZONA

MINUTES OF THE **GENERAL MEETING** OF THE **WATER CONSERVATION/SAFE YIELD COMMITTEE** held on **AUGUST 20, 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	P	Gene Schmidt	P
Charles Hildebrant	A		

(P=Present A=Absent)

Others Present:

Mayor Wilson, Councilman Lamerson, Connie Tucker, Shaun Rydell, Benjamin Davidson, Teresa Ogle, Jeff Low, Louis Bellesi, Paul Katan, Alan Dubiel

1. Meeting was called to order at 3:02 p.m.
2. Public comment (5 minutes)
3. Approval of minutes from the June 18, 2009 General Meeting
Howard Mechanic made a motion to approve the June 18, 2009 general meeting minutes as written. Motion passed unanimously.
4. Staff Report
 - a. Shaun Rydell introduced the new Vista volunteer, Ben Davidson. Ben explained that he will be assisting Shaun with the education program – developing a program to help educate the community on F.O.G. (fats, oils and grease) and backflow and backwater devices. Mayor Wilson recommended that service clubs be contacted and informed of the Water Conservation programs.
 - b. Shaun reported that 583 incentive program applications were processed in FY09, with total awards of \$105,373 (a 14% increase over FY08).
 - c. Shaun stated that the Miller Valley project design is complete. She will be removing 5,500 square feet of turf, which will save about 250,000 gallons of water. The budget will be cut in half – about \$10,000 – since no plant materials will be added, except possibly around the signage.
 - d. The Toilet Replacement Program partnership with Yavapai County Contractors Association at the Home and Garden Show has dramatically increased incentives for HD Supply/Niagara all high efficiency toilets.
 - e. Shaun is working with the Region on a water conservation program. Water Smart Cards have been revised with the addition of Upper Verde River being the primary logo. Rainwater harvesting books have been printed (6000). Commercials have been produced.

f. Partnering with U of A for a Well Owners Workshop.

The Mayor reported that on October 15th at 2:00 p.m., there will be a joint meeting with the Prescott City Council and the Water Conservation/Safe Yield Committee. Councilman Rodney Glassman, will be discussing the commercial rainwater harvesting program implemented in Tucson.

Connie Tucker stated that Cindy Barks, Prescott Courier, is putting together an article on the top 20 residential water users in the Prescott area. In reviewing the numbers, Connie has seen very encouraging numbers – the number of accounts that average more than 20,000 gallons per month has dropped to its lowest level since tracking began. In 2003, there were 699 accounts > 20,000 gallons. In 2009, there were 154 accounts. Overall usage to date is 1,000 acre feet less than in 2007, and 300 acre feet less than in 2008. Chuck Budinger indicated that the committee may wish to take the opportunity to send a response to the article, once it is published. Items to highlight would be that applications for incentives are up, and turf removal projects and conservation education programs are underway. Councilman Lamerson pointed out that even with the current negative atmosphere – the economy, sales tax revenues down, shared revenues going away, unemployment, etc. the committee is showing great successes. Howard Mechanic reminded the committee that they do not have to wait for an article to be published. “Talk of The Town” articles can be sent in at any time – previously articles were sent in several times per year to educate the public about water conservation. A motion was made that the committee would be proactive and send in a “Talk of the Town” article about the committee’s successes and progress to date. Motion passed unanimously. Chuck agreed to draft something for committee review.

Shaun also indicated that members are welcome to put together 30 second sound bites for use on radio spots.

5. Review and discussion of WC/SY Committee Parameters

a. Role of Committee (Mayor Wilson)

Mayor Wilson referred to the “Talking Points” document he sent to members last month. As a Mayor’s advisory committee, the committee will make policy recommendations. After reviewing minutes from last month’s meeting, the Mayor felt that the committee may be a little off course in providing direction to staff and may be exceeding the scope of the committee. Chuck Budinger provided an example of this in the “over-scrutinizing” of details in the development of criteria for the Memorial Park competition. Chuck reiterated that communication to staff should be directed through him. The Mayor added that attacks on staff will not be tolerated.

b. Mission and Mission Statement

Chuck emphasized that a Mission Statement is needed, and outlined a draft that he distributed. He went over the Plan of Action and the need to prioritize the committee’s focus on rainwater harvesting, residential/commercial water usage, recharge ideas and concepts, funding opportunities, gray water usage, codes and zoning for new infrastructure and hook-ups, etc. Chuck asked that members review the statements that were sent out, and return comments to him, for voting on at the next meeting. Once finalized, the mission statement will go to the Mayor for review.

6. Facilities Discussion

Howard Mechanic and Margaret Nicholl reviewed ideas for using rainwater for the fire station's pumper trucks rather than potable water from hydrants. They met with Chief Willis, and he was receptive to the idea. They currently use about 2,000 gallons at each of the 5 fire stations to fill their trucks. They will be meeting in the future at the airport fire station, where layout would be more conducive to installing a storage tank. Howard felt that grant funding might be available for this demonstration project. Chief Willis also expressed interest in removing turf at the airport location. The Mayor reminded the committee that there are future plans to relocate the fire station at the airport. Councilman Lamerson asked about catchment of rainwater for construction purposes, and the possibility of the City selling this water. The committee will continue to look at this.

Howard also spoke to Chad McDowell about use of rainwater for street sweepers. Chad agreed that it may be possible to park street sweepers directly under rain spouts, and a tank could be added in the future to store water for filling the sweepers. On a different note, in speaking with Chad, he indicated that Field Operations will not be using water for dust control within 2 years, because they plan to have all unpaved alleys chip-sealed.

The Mayor felt that there are opportunities for synergism with commercial development north of the airport. Cavan and ERAU Business Park may be approachable in discussing rainwater harvesting.

7. Funding Discussion

Chuck found 3 sites for potential funding – Greater Arizona Development Authority, U.S.D.A. Rural Development Fund (ARRA funds) and Rural Community Assistance Corporation. These grants are much more complicated than the Technical Assistance Grant. Chuck asked the Mayor whether city staff may be available to assist the committee with obtaining a grant if the committee could come up with a workable project. The Mayor stated that the City has had some successes with getting approval for WIFA forgivable funds for water and wastewater projects. Applications have been submitted for stimulus funds – one for the downtown fire station and one to move the fire station at the airport. Broadband money is also being pursued. Regulations are extremely complex. Yavapai College is hiring a lobbyist to apply for stimulus money. The Mayor stated that support staff is limited, and the committee may wish to find knowledgeable volunteers from the community. The Mayor suggested contacting Gary Worob.

8. Progress on Bioretention/Drywell Basins

Grant money was received. Chuck Budinger and Jeff Low have been working on a scope of work with Drainage Engineer, Greg Toth. They have also spoken with ECOSA. Jeff Low stated that they will need to develop site characteristics of specific locations. The sites will be chosen and ranked, geotechnical analysis will be conducted, and will need to determine where groundwater and bedrock are. They will need to look specifically for residential or industrial drainage that needs to be cleaned. Site topography and site vegetation will need to be considered. (One proposed site is Acker Park, with a developer possibly funding a portion of the construction.) The goal will be to incorporate some sort of design of these facilities in the drainage criteria manual that is being updated in the next year, and also incorporate design with the

Granite Creek Watershed Improvement Council. The Mayor recommended that once this project is complete, media coverage will be important.

9. Finalize design criteria form

Shaun does not feel that this is a viable project, due to lack of buy-in to revise the park. New turf has already been installed and is being watered. Maybe a small amount of money could be spent on a CLIA audit for the site so that water use can be better managed. She felt the bulk of the \$25,000 could be better spent on a different project – maybe a 10,000 gallon tank at a fire station. The Mayor stated that the City has made a commitment to replace the memorial. Chuck agreed that it may be best to invest in the fire station project to conduct a pilot project, then bigger grants could be sought in the future. A motion was made to abandon the design competition for the landscaping at Memorial Park, and focus instead on other City facilities for water conservation and rainwater harvesting. Recommendations would be made that audits be conducted at Memorial Park, and use as an example to show residents/City Staff how to better manage their turf. Motion passed unanimously. CLIA training for Parks and Recreation staff was discussed. Sandy Griffis stated that YCCA will sponsor 2 employees for CLIA certification.

10. Next meeting September 17, 2009 – discuss items for agenda

- a. Staff Report
- b. Mission Statement
- c. Facilities
- d. BioRetention Basin Drywell
- e. Discuss Tucson Rainwater Ordinance (Chuck will distribute to members)
- f. Toilet Retrofit Program Proposal (Howard and Sandy)

The Mayor has asked Connie Tucker to get an item on the Council Agenda for a presentation regarding the accomplishments of the Water Conservation/Safe Yield Committee. Members will be notified of the date.

11. Adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

CHUCK BUDINGER, Chairman

TERESA OGLE
Minutes Preparer