

PRESCOTT WATER ISSUES
COMMITTEE MEETING
FRIDAY, APRIL 16, 2010
PRESCOTT, ARIZONA

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PRESCOTT WATER ISSUES COMMITTEE held on Friday, April 16, 2010 in the City Manager's Conference Room located at CITY HALL, 201 SOUTH CORTEZ STREET, Prescott, Arizona.

A. Call to Order.

Chairman Lamerson called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

B. Roll Call.

WATER ISSUES COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Chairman Jim Lamerson	Present
Member Steve Blair	Present
Member Lora Lopas	Present

GUESTS PRESENT:

Chuck Budinger; Gary Worob; Michael Byrd; Gordon Bean.

C. Discussion of upcoming grants for lake study.

Chairman Lamerson distributed materials to everyone that had been provided by Mr. McConnell who was unable to attend the meeting. He explained that the Committee was meeting with various public members to obtain information.

Discussion was held on the next meeting (May 7) and it was agreed that they would ask Jay Crocker of Prescott Creeks to discuss how lakes function.

Chairman Lamerson said that one thing that would be important is that until they go through their budget process, the reality of them looking to the outside would be tough. He did not want them to spin their wheels with high hopes, but there is information that would be pertinent for them to understand regarding water issues, specifically areas such as drainage and lakes.

Mr. Worob said that there were some grants that do not have to run through the City at all; they could go through Prescott Creeks if their Board approved it. He said that it was imperative to know what was happening with the sediment levels.

Mr. Budinger said that they had found some grant information from the EPA that was relevant, but the deadline was May 20. He said that was separate from the City's function in the future. Chairman Lamerson said that would be important for the committee members to take to the Council. If there were monies available they should do that.

Mr. Budinger said that it was a natural resources conservation grant which goes to irrigation districts and conservation of lakes. He has not had a chance to talk to someone, but it would be a grant to apply for sampling. They have to come up with a scope of work and how it fits into the overall plan. He said that they could work on that over the weekend and get something to the Council or committee as a general concept for them to begin to see how it fits into everything else.

It was agreed that once the information was put together a special meeting would be called of the committee to review, to provide enough time to get it on the Council's agenda.

Mr. Worob said that they have other lists available for other funding and what they need from the Council is a statement of support to go forward.

Mr. Budinger said that the Council needs to understand that there is a problem with ADEQ funding being cut. It does not mean that there will be less environmental regulation in the future, but rather EPA could step in and take over the program. He said that may not necessarily be a bad thing because if they tap into EPA grants and programs, they would then have those contacts.

It was noted that there were a lot of questions and that they would have more answers at the meeting on Tuesday.

Mr. Worob said that he would recommend that when Mr. Budinger makes his call if they find that this particular grant is not applicable they send them to somewhere else because they have been declared impaired by the EPA. In the past he has found that if they work with the agencies they are more willing to help. He said that there are local foundations that would fund things like this as well.

Mr. Worob said that when they had the Septic Committee there was a resolution presented to suggest a \$.75 per household fee to address the quality of the lakes. He said that would be a way for them to get the money.

Member Blair suggested that they contact the City of Tempe because they have had problems with their Town Lake before, too.

Member Lopas said that with the aftermath of Katrina FEMA has been looking at the dams again. She said that the dam at Watson Lake was leaking and there was rust coming out. Mr. Worob said that the mission of their committee was to look at

everything. Member Lopas said that they may want to pull in Jeff Low to look at things like that.

Mr. Byrd said that as they consider this grant funding and others, Page 2 of the Civiltec report, Table 8, included a summary of the contents at the bottom of the lake. He said that they need to get together a plan and figure out what they need to do before they start putting money at it.

Mr. Bean said that they need to identify the problem, understand the causes, evaluate techniques, develop a Lake Management Plan, implement and evaluate.

Mr. Byrd said that rather than fund the core sampling perhaps it would be appropriate to fund the planning process itself. Mr. Budinger said that was a great idea and may fit them into the grant process better.

D. Discussion of future agenda items.

Further discussion was held on the benefits of having someone come in to present on the function of lakes. Mr. Byrd said that he would like to see the committee get clear about the process. He said that they need to do strategic planning, gain knowledge, put together plans and then they can get a whole schedule of getting grants. Member Lopas added that they need to educate the public on the need for the fee as well.

Chairman Lamerson said that one of their discussion's focuses is water quality and how it affects assured water supply and the economy. Member Blair said that they should marry the two plans together, addressing recreation, water quality, septic, etc. Chairman Lamerson said that it could be the catalyst for getting the \$.75 fee started.

Mr. Byrd said that Civiltec did a survey of what data was out there. The scope of what the committee and public members have set up for themselves is similar to what the City had paid Civiltec to do. He said that they will want to lean heavily on Civiltec's information, and perhaps ask Mr. Nietupski to have staff talk about the Civiltec project.

Further discussion was held on who would benefit from attending the May 7 meeting. It was suggested that Mr. Nietupski and Mr. Norwood be invited, perhaps Debbie Horton and Eric Smith with Parks and Recreation and anyone involved with preservation such as Cat Moody.

Mr. Byrd said that Mr. Crocker would take about 45 minutes, and they would provide another 15 minutes for questions and answers.

Mr. Budinger said that, on another matter, the City was doing a project with a production well in the Granite Dells area. He said that Jeff Low was getting bids for

geo lines to locate fractures. He said that there is another \$35,000 green grant that would help them understand where they could put drywells for storage where it would get into the fractures that intersect.

He said that he would like to see the whole area studied at some point to look at fractures below the dams, or near them, so no one comes along and puts in a well and sucks it dry. He said that the consultant used before for the dry well had chosen six locations. He said that it would be good to know if they were located anywhere near a fracture.

It was noted that this grant was time-sensitive with an April 27 deadline. Member Lopas said that as long as Mr. Norwood gave direction the Council could approve it retroactively.

E. Adjournment

There being no further business to be discussed, the meeting of the Water Issues Committee held on April 16, 2010 adjourned at 9:31 a.m.

JIM LAMERSON, Chairman

ATTEST:

ELIZABETH A. BURKE, City Clerk