

PRESCOTT CITY COUNCIL  
WORKSHOP  
TUESDAY, JULY 13, 2010  
PRESCOTT, ARIZONA

MINUTES of the Prescott City Council Workshop held on July 13, 2010 in the City Hall Council Chambers, 201 South Cortez, Prescott, Arizona.

◆ **CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Kuykendall called the Workshop to order at 2:04 p.m.

◆ **ROLL CALL:**

PRESENT:

Mayor Kuykendall  
Councilman Hanna  
Councilman Lamerson  
Councilwoman Linn  
Councilwoman Suttles

ABSENT:

Councilman Blair  
Councilwoman Lopas

1. Presentation on Watson and Willow Lakes re overview/status of work plan addressing water quality, supply and recreation (requested by Water Issues Committee and presentation to be made by citizen participants).

Councilman Lamerson, serving as Chairman of the Water Issues Committee, said that their committee has been meeting with members of the private sector to discuss water issues. One of the priorities discussed is the lakes and he then turned it over to Gary Worob to make a presentation.

Mr. Worob introduced Chuck Budinger and Michael Byrd, and stated that Gordon Bean was unable to attend the meeting today. Also, he said that Sean Worob would be speaking on his behalf later in the meeting.

Mr. Worob said that in 1998 the City passed a bond to acquire the real property and water rights associated with Watson and Willow Lakes. A steering committee was formed to assist with the design of a Master Plan for the Lakes. One of the people responsible for the acquisition and planning was Earl Burden, who had a great love for the lakes and was an avid sailor. His dream was to see them be usable and user-friendly and his hope was to see a cove where sailboats could be gathered and more opportunity for recreational usages of the lakes. He said that Mr. Burden passed away last year but before he did he asked Gordon Bean and himself to assist in keeping his dream alive.

Mr. Worob said that two years ago he worked with the current Mayor, Marlin Kuykendall and members of the Council on a task force for sewer/septic. He had approached then Mayor Jack Wilson with the thought that a task force would help alleviate the anxiety of impending sewer systems and the lack of knowledge of how septic systems can work and should be addressed. The results of that committee were far reaching, but one result was an understanding of how the community and government could better work together to come to an understanding and mutual agreement. They brought in stakeholders and dealt with facts. He said that process was successful and he approached Mayor Kuykendall with the same concept, but for the two lakes.

The Mayor asked him to select a core group, which he did with Michael Byrd, Executive Director of Prescott Creeks, Chuck Budinger, environmental engineer with ADOT, and Gordon Bean, co-owner of Aspen Creek Engineering. He then presented the Statement of Purpose for their group: *“To research, review and recommend strategies to the City for lake improvements while considering the parameters of water supply, water quality, recreation and tourism while encouraging stakeholder involvement and public education.”*

Mr. Worob then introduced his nephew, Sean Worob, who continued the presentation. Mr. Worob said that the statement may seem simple, but it involves vast amounts of data and the comprehension of different concepts. It will lead to an understanding of the complexities and developing a consensus for moving forward with a lakes management plan. They agreed to not come to conclusions or recommendations until such time as all the cards were on the table or the timing was right. At this time they believe there are two recommendations that they will offer at the conclusion of their presentation.

Mr. Budinger continued the presentation by addressing the TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load) process being conducted by the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality in conjunction with Prescott Creeks. He said that the EPA had previously designated Watson Lake as impaired, and from the current studies of ADEQ they will be agreeing with that assessment. He said that the intent is to get the water body removed from the impaired list.

He said that the advantage of the having the TMDL for Watson Lake and Granite Creek is that the water quality is based on the type of use that has been designated for the water body. This fits in well with the mission of the committee of finding the best use or uses for the resources that Prescott has acquired.

He said that based on a presentation given by Susan Fitch with ADEQ, it was noted that for the TMDL process to be successful the City will have to work closely with community groups and a variety of stakeholders. Chlorophyll-a is the primary pigment in plants and algae and can be converted into algae or aquatic plants. Algae becomes a problem when Chlorophyll-a exceeds four micrograms per liter. Sometimes in the summertime Watson Lake has had levels as high as

301 micrograms per liter. The sampling program being conducted right now for the ADEQ is to collect and analyze for the whole suite of parameters to develop a representative chemistry of the lake and how each parameter may affect the other.

He said that right now the lake support a decent cross-section of fish species but collaboration with other agencies such as Game & Fish is important to develop a program for the lake to function as a fishery. At this time there are two potential issues of concern from the public health perspective—alcotoxins and bacteria in the streams flowing into the lake. Alcotoxins are not a problem at this time, but the conditions for their production could develop if action is not taken to reverse the trend in the lake.

Later this summer Ms. Fitch will be collecting samples for bacteria and alcotoxins in some of the coves of Watson Lake. She said that the City must begin the steps necessary to remove the lakes and streams from the impaired list through the permanent reduction of contaminant loading.

She said that the future plan is to complete the TMDL so the City has the numbers to make informed decisions on the best uses of the lake. The TMDL is revised every five years so the options available in the implementation plan can be staged over the long term.

Councilman Hanna asked if the study would determine if the bacteria was natural source of induced by humans. Mr. Budinger said that he did not believe her mission was to do that; however that type of study is going on by Prescott Creeks.

Mr. Byrd said that Prescott Creeks was putting together a Granite Creek Watershed Improvement Planning process. They have a council put together with representatives from the City, County, Prescott National Forest, ADOT. He said there were a lot of moving parts to the project, but one of the efforts they have undertaken was collecting some of the bacteria samples to get a better sense of where they were coming from. At this point they do not have conclusive data. They will continue to collect through the summer and next winter and come back with results.

Mr. Byrd said that one of the presentations the committee had was given by Jay Crocker of Prescott Creeks, who prior to that had a 25-year career with a metropolitan water system in southern California. He was very familiar with how a lake works and gave the group a presentation on how a lake functions.

Councilwoman Suttles said that they purchased the lakes in 1998 and asked if there were issues before that time. Mr. Byrd said that there is a lack of data to say for certain. The management of the lake has changed dramatically since that purchase and any time there is a change in management, new issues can crop

up. He said that they may have been there prior to the City's purchase, but they may not have seen them. At that time CVID would draw down the levels so keeping them full may enable them to see these problems.

Councilwoman Suttles said that she had lived in Prescott for long enough that her kids fished there. When the CVID came the lakes went down and no one swam in them even back then. Mr. Byrd said that taking a historical perspective is part of what the committee is trying to do.

Councilman Lamerson said that those lakes were constructed for cattle and irrigation. Their use has changed since the City bought them so they need to be looked at differently than before. Mr. Byrd said that the lakes are impacted by light, water density, temperature, etc. and monitoring efforts could be ongoing to get a clear picture of what is happening over time. Another issue addressed during the talks was the water, light and nutrients allow for aquatic vegetation and the algae to grow.

Mr. Byrd said that upstream and the lakes themselves need to be focused on. Focusing on one or the other will be insufficient. At this point they were trying to get education.

Mr. Worob said that a few comments were made by their speakers indicating that they were proud to be working with the City and its volunteers on these issues.

Mr. Worob then reviewed the recommendations being made to the City:

1. Adopt a plan to further involve the City of Prescott in the TMDI Program and the use of the allocated \$25,000 for sampling and other lake issues.
2. Reconsider the resolution to apply a 75 cent per metered-household per month to be used as an environmental funding source for the enhancement of the watershed and the implied areas that are affected by that.

Councilman Lamerson said that he thought it was important for the Council to understand the complexity of the water issues. A lot of times they will get bogged down that it is all about allocation, but it is important to understand the relationships that get built over time with other agencies. He said that the City and other agencies are all serving the public and they are working as a unit.

He said that one of the unfortunate circumstances was that a quorum from the Water Issues Committee was not present which made it difficult to make a recommendation to the Council as a whole, but hopefully they will give regular updates to the Council and community on some of the things they are coming up with.

Councilwoman Suttles said that it gave them more information on what is going on at the lakes. She asked what was required of the Council. Councilman Lamerson said that there was \$25,000 in the current year's budget to study the algae problem, but with that issue being addressed indirectly, the Committee may be recommending that it possibly be directed toward sampling. He said that the \$.75 cents fee was a different scenario. Understand that if their assured water capability became questionable because of the water standards in the lakes, they could have a problem, so they had discussed implanting that fee to address the lake issues.

Councilwoman Suttles said that they have talked about other groups funding by user fees. She thought with the stakeholders being brought to the table they should be able to find out what they can do before they go back to the citizens. She would like to get into it more, seeing what was available before it goes back to the users because they will have citizens say they do not use the lakes.

Councilman Lamerson said that he appreciated those comments, but wanted to remind everyone that it was not just about those who use the lakes. It has to do with the water quality in the lakes and a portion of that is obligated for recharge to maintain their AWS portfolio. If it alters that capacity, it affects everyone.

Councilwoman Suttles said that if each of the property owners could change out their septic systems it would help. Maybe they need to start further out as to some of the things feeding into the lake. Mr. Worob said that was right. One of the outcomes of the fees is that the fees would be available if a problem arises that affects the lakes. He said that they know there is a whole watershed that is impacted. The individual homeowners could be more educated.

Councilwoman Linn said that the information was interesting and she really appreciated the professionalism and respectful attitude in working together.

Mayor Kuykendall thanked the committee members and citizen volunteers. He said that he was fortunate to be part of the original committee that looked at the North Prescott area, although it is not the only area without sewer. It did not take long for them to realize that it is just a part of the problem. He said that in years past they asked the citizens to buy the lakes, but they did not put anything in to that on how to maintain the lakes. Prescott has done that a lot of times without looking at maintenance. He said that now they are forced to step up and realize it will take money to maintain and make the lakes a benefit for the long term. In addition to recreational facilities there is a quality standard required before they could put water back into the ground and a funding source must come. He said that there will be arguments on where it should come from.

Mr. Worob said that their citizen committee has prepared to volunteer and realize it will not be a short-term process. The lakes are impaired and they will be

federally mandated. It would be better if it comes from the community. He said that they do not have real solutions. The answers will take time and they were prepared to work through that. Councilman Lamerson added that it would be better to come up with solutions than be subject to a mandate.

Mayor Kuykendall said that since Ms. Barks did a report on the issue the City has received a lot of advice on what to do with the lakes and how to alleviate the problems. He said that they were happy to receive them and will follow them through to conclusion.

Norm Samuelson, Prescott, said that he was involved with the paddle clubs and he really appreciated the fact that the City has the lakes; they were a wonderful asset. He thought they were doing the right thing in studying the problem before jumping in to doing something. He liked seeing the cooperative nature between the government and its citizens.

John Zambrano, Prescott, said that it was his understanding that the lake water was being recharged and delivered without any monitoring for quality. Mr. Craig Dotseth said that they have requirements that pertain to the recharge of effluent. Their underground storage permit with ADWR has water quality monitoring time frames on surface water. They are monitoring on the recharged lake water.

Ralph Weiger, Prescott, said that he lived out near Lynx Lake. He asked if that lake and Goldwater Lake were included in any of the studies. Councilman Lamerson said that the two most endangered were Willow and Watson. He said that it does not mean that they were not considering other water issues at the other lakes, but they have learned that one shoe does not fit for all. Even the lake capability of Willow is different than Watson. They can only look at doing certain things in a certain timeframe, but they were looking at Willow and Watson because that was the water they use for recharge purposes. Mr. Weiger said that he used to live in Kuwait and they did desalinization 100%.

2. Adjournment.

There being no further business to be brought before the Council, the Workshop of the Prescott City Council held July 13, 2010, adjourned at 2:53 p.m.

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MARLIN D. KUYKENDALL, Mayor

ATTEST:

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ELIZABETH A. BURKE, City Clerk