

PRESCOTT WATER ISSUES  
COMMITTEE MEETING  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2010  
PRESCOTT, ARIZONA

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PRESCOTT WATER ISSUES COMMITTEE held on Tuesday, September 28, 2010 in the CITY HALL BASEMENT located at 201 SOUTH CORTEZ STREET, Prescott, Arizona.

A. Call to Order.

Chairman Lamerson called the meeting to order at 11:01 A.M.

B. Roll Call.

COUNCIL WATER ISSUES COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Present:

Chairman Jim Lamerson  
Member Steve Blair  
Member Mary Ann Suttles

Staff present: Craig McConnell and Leslie Graser.

C. Presentation and discussion of public request for new report to be prepared by the City: "Annual Report of Water/Wastewater: Facts, Figures, and Future".

Dr. Danforth said that he was there to support Mr. Kindig and thought that it was a good idea for the City to have its own compilation of information concerning water issues for the citizens, rather than having to rely on Mr. Mechanics version.

Member Suttles said that no matter what the City put out, it would always be in question. She asked if he felt that this would be a starting point.

Mr. Kindig said that he thought a report like this would help overcome some of that. Citizens would gain confidence when truths were put out. The City would become the place where citizens went for information. He personally struggled with the information he received and thought that the City should put out the information. There had not been enough communication and it had not been packaged in a way that the citizens could absorb it.

Member Suttles said that she liked the idea of starting with something on their own because they spent a lot of time defending themselves.

Mr. Kindig noted that Mr. McConnell said there would be something in March and that he wanted to put it on the web. Mr. Kindig thought that there should be a two or three page summary that went into the water bills to guide citizens to the web.

Chairman Lamerson agreed with him because everyone was not computer literate. He said that it was a key issue at the league meeting. They were trying to force everyone to go to the web. That argument was not supported. Mr. Kindig noted that there were a lot of over 55 folks who were not web savvy.

Mr. Kindig said the he had met with Mr. McConnell a couple of time and learned about the information that was and was not available. He asked what the limitations were that the State put on the City. He also asked about the limitations of the City's budget. He thought that information should be included.

He said that the City had a key role in identifying the information that would go into the report; noting that people sometimes drown in data, not information. If the Water Issues Committee did not institutionalize something, it would go away.

Chairman Lamerson said that the function of the ad hoc was to make a recommendation to the Council for possible action. He was hearing that there should be a more definitive report yearly, to the public and he asked the members if they wanted to do that with workshops or mail outs.

Member Suttles asked Mr. McConnell if there was already something out there regarding the quality of the drinking water.

Mr. McConnell said that the Water Issues Committee had a citizen sub committee that focused on the lakes. If it was the desire of the committee and the Council, there could be a second sub committee that could design the report and make sure that there was agreement about what was in the report. He had a mock up to hand out for illustrative purposes only.

Dr. Danforth said that he liked the initiative of the City.

Mr. McConnell said that the mock up reflected a lot of work that Leslie had done recently. He felt that the content was the important part. The annual report was required by Federal/State law, on drinking water quality. They did not want to replicate that or import information. It was a free standing report. They wanted to create a report for public information to help the public better understand the water resources and the uses of them.

He said that they already did a couple of reports; the Water portfolio and the Arizona Department of Water Resources (ADWR) report. They may import some of the information, but they do not want to replicate the information.

They would include a statement about the maximum amount of ground water that could be pumped and how much the City had pumped. There would be information on surface and reclaimed water. They could benefit from subcommittee discussion about what was important information and what the public was interested in. He also mentioned giving information on resources, demand, conservation, Safe Yield and Water Management Budget for 2011.

Chairman Lamerson asked Mr. Kindig if that was the direction he wanted to go.

Mr. Kindig put together some ideas with Dr. Danforth that overlapped some of the ideas Mr. McConnell presented. Dr. Danforth said that it was a terrific start and much more than he had expected.

Member Blair said that he would like to have reference maps to depict flow from the sub basin. Dr. Danforth said that he thought that it was critical to put in pictures to show what everyone had their straws in.

Member Blair said that it hit home when they went to the Juniper Wilderness to see where the water was coming from and that it was not just from Mint Creek and Granite Mountain.

Mr. Kindig thought that they should go through a few drafts before going headlong into a final. They would help however was needed. Member Blair said that the drafts were a good idea and once they got a template together they could just fill the information in every year.

Chairman Lamerson liked the direction they were going and agreed with them 100%. They had to look at the new budget and get an idea of what they were going to recommend to Council no later than the middle of November. Mr. McConnell said that they had discussed bringing an item to Council in November or December 2010 which would be a resolution, probably extending the 2005-2010 into 2011; until the litigation was clear on the assured water supply application.

Chairman Lamerson noted that there was still water available in that five year portfolio.

Member Suttles asked Mr. Mechanic if this new report would feed into the water groups that he was involved with.

Mr. Mechanic said that arguments between the citizens and the City were about certain policy decisions. He did not think that this information would cause arguments. It would be specific numbers and not up to interpretation. A public discussion before the report was issued to clarify issues would be a good idea.

He thought the report would be helpful. He would like to see numbers attached to the reclaimed water that went to three areas. He would like to know when contracts expired for golf courses. He asked if the City had to give extensions to the plats on the plat rush lots.

Dr. Danforth said there was a web site for the Big Chino (Protecting Our Water Resource). There was a public relations firm that put information in there that came across to him as spin which besmirched the reputation of the City. This was putting hard fact down to restore credibility to the City as a source of reliable information.

Member Blair said that the information needed to be as exact as they could make it. When talking about Safe Yield, the citizens should know that they were only responsible for their own yard, not others. Chairman Lamerson said that it sounded like everyone in the room agreed to forward the concept. He asked when they should move forward with the next phase.

Mr. McConnell suggested that they meet biweekly to discuss content and design of the report. He did not see anything else, formally, as being necessary until the end of the year. The time frame for the report was the end of the calendar year. The ADWR annual report would be finished around February or March, which would be a major input into the other report. He would be glad to establish some meetings.

Chairman Lamerson found it helpful if the group was smaller. He wanted to keep it to around four people from the public. He asked if Mr. Worob was there to volunteer. Mr. Mechanic said that he would like to volunteer input but it did not have to be official. Chairman Lamerson said that the only official part was the three Council Members going to the Council with their recommendations. Mr. Kindig, Mr. Worob, Mr. Mechanic and Dr. Danforth would volunteer.

Mr. McConnell said that they could not lose site of what the objective was, which was to simplify the information for the public. Mr. Kindig said that he only linked Prescott with the Active Management Area (AMA). He thought that if he was unclear, then many others were also. He also noted that people would be making up their own facts because an election was coming up.

Chairman Lamerson said that he did not think that it was always in the public's interest to have such critical elements of their daily lives become political footballs that damaged communities. Mr. Kindig said that there were 83 pages being developed by ADWR that they might want to look at. It was called Draft Demand and Supply Assessment, Prescott Active Management Area 1985-2025.

Ms. Graser said that their intent was to make that a precursor for the fourth management plan for the AMA.

Member Blair said that their mission statement should be to do what was right for the community. He said that the lakes could be supplemental to the report.

Mr. Worob said that a long range benefit would be to educate the community so that the foundations would be aware of their financial needs and what the City was doing.

Chairman Lamerson suggested that they get together in two weeks. Mr. McConnell asked him if he wanted members from the Water Issues Committee to be involved.

Chairman Lamerson said that they were not necessarily interested in the same issues.

Mr. McConnell said that he was only concerned if staff should meet with the interested citizens a couple of time and come up with something and then come back to the committee. Chairman Lamerson said that he did not have a problem with that.

Mr. Kindig said that he would be gone until October 18<sup>th</sup> and would rely on Dr. Danforth and Mr. Mechanic.

Chairman Lamerson said that he was sensitive to his issue but that they would move forward due to the timing and would include him whenever they could.

D. Adjournment

There being no further business to be discussed the Water Issues Committee adjourned at 11:39 a.m.

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JIM LAMERSON, Chairman

ATTEST:

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KIM WEBB, Assistant City Clerk