

PRESCOTT CITY COUNCIL  
JOINT MEETING WITH PRESCOTT  
VALLEY TOWN COUNCIL  
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2012  
PRESCOTT, ARIZONA

MINUTES OF THE JOINT MEETING OF THE PRESCOTT CITY COUNCIL WITH THE PRESCOTT VALLEY TOWN COUNCIL held on WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2012, in the Founders Room of the Prescott Public Library, 215 E. Goodwin St., Prescott, Arizona.

◆ **CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Kuykendall called the Joint Meeting to order at 1:30 P.M.

◆ **INTRODUCTIONS**

Mayor Kuykendall recognized Carol Springer, Yavapai County Board of Supervisors.

◆ **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** by Prescott Town Council and City of Prescott Council.

◆ **ROLL CALL** – Prescott City Council

PRESENT

Mayor Kuykendall  
Councilman Blair  
Councilman Kuknyo  
Councilman Lamerson  
Councilman Scamardo

ABSENT

Councilman Arnold  
Councilman Carlow

STAFF: Craig McConnell, City Manager; Gene Neil, Interim City Attorney; Lynn Mulhall, City Clerk; and Leslie Graser, Water Resource Specialist.

◆ **ROLL CALL** – Town of Prescott Valley

PRESENT

Mayor Skoog  
Vice Mayor Tjiema  
Council Member Mallory  
Council Member Nye  
Council Member Anderson  
Council Member Whiting

ABSENT

Council Member Lasker

STAFF: Larry Tarkowski, Town Manager; Ivan Leger, Town Attorney; Diane Russell, Town Clerk; and John Munderloh, Water Resources Manager.

**I. REGULAR AGENDA**

**A. Presentation and discussion re regional water planning and management; operation of and participation in the Yavapai County Water Advisory Committee (WAC) and Upper Verde River Watershed Protection Coalition.**

Craig McConnell gave the introduction. In August of 2012 a few items came before the City of Prescott related to dues for Water Advisory Committee (WAC) and Upper Verde. At the time there was no opportunity to discuss water groups in general and these two more specifically. The City of Prescott asked for discussion in the coming year. This is an opportune time for the two Councils to discuss together and set forth steps for the FY2013-14 budget.

John Munderloh, Water Resources Manager for the Town of Prescott Valley, provided some history of the Water Advisory Committee (WAC) which was started in 1999 to open communication and cooperation related to water issues between the Verde Valley and the Prescott area. Discussions took place about removing water from the Big Chino. These plans resulted in concerns in the Verde Valley. The WAC got started, facilitated by the County Board of Supervisors, to reduce the temper of public discourse. The concerns about pumping the big Chino at that time are still of concern today. Membership then is the same as it is today. The only change is that County Board of Supervisors sit on the board now.

Larry Tarkowski, Prescott Valley Town Manager, pointed out that Robert Smith, Chino Valley Town Manager, is in attendance. Mr. Tarkowski said the WAC was set up to bring people together and make the best use of water for all the communities. He was a co-chair for 4 years. Although they didn't agree on pumping the Big Chino they agreed to disagree. The best possible management of water resources was the common goal. In 2002 they knew there was a need for water management in the Verde Valley. In 2002-2004 they started studies and building budgets. They identified the challenges. We are here to talk about getting the WAC back on track. We need to get agreement on goals and objectives.

Leslie Graser, City of Prescott Water Resource Specialist, reported since the release of the Northern Arizona Groundwater Flow Model (NARGFM) the discussions held within the Yavapai County Water Advisory Committee (WAC) have been challenging and forward progress has been somewhat contentious. The bottom line issue is not the challenges that all the communities in the area face in relation to the Big Chino, but that WAC members have deviated from their mission in a manner where some

municipalities are making efforts to determine another's path in water resources investigations and decision-making.

The City of Prescott and the Town of Prescott Valley are looking at the long-term water supplies for the communities, in a state defined AMA that was declared out of safe-yield in 1998. The City has reached another juncture where decisions will need to be made. Short term decisions such as a firm decision to not run the WAC scenarios (as is) does relate to a community's long-term water outlook. When water is pumped from the ground there are effects (change in groundwater storage, and potential changes to underflow that exit the basin and stream base flow). Further science will help our communities make better decisions for how much water can be utilized within the Big Chino sub basin, how much water to transport from a scientific standpoint (legally we know how much). For future generations we are looking at how to have reliable water supplies.

Prescott Valley Town Councilwoman Nye said she is a past co-chair for WAC and the current chair for Upper Verde and Vice President of Northern Arizona Municipal Water Users Association. As an elected official she has responsibility to wisely represent the citizens at any table she sits at. She has recently become concerned sitting at the WAC. She does not feel the funding that goes to it is being used wisely. She is also concerned that it is a Board of Supervisors meeting. There are multiple concerns and she feels these can only be addressed at a retreat. Issues need to be put on the table. The impacts at the WAC meeting are disturbing. They haven't even been able to fill a position on the WAC.

Councilman Blair said the 3 water groups are important. The Upper Verde Coalition stepped forward in water conservation to the point the City of Prescott had to redesign the water facility. Of all of these WAC has a definite function. The USGS regional model was released in 2011 and the City of Prescott had concerns about the model.

The studies are not complete. Councilman Blair said we need to have a retreat to talk about what WAC is all about, and what are the goals. Effective January 1, there will be five (5) Board of Supervisors and that changes things. We don't want a quorum of the Board of Supervisors making all decisions. Maybe the groups should be split and each goes their own way.

Councilwoman Nye invited Carol Springer to speak. She said the background has been covered and the Council's have arrived at a good position. It is time to meet and reevaluate. The purpose of WAC is to act as an advisory body. The WAC does not have any power to manage water. It is a consensus organization. That could be part of the problem. Ms. Springer said she agrees that a retreat is a good idea.

Councilman Lamerson pointed out that the City of Prescott is the only assured water provider in the area. The intent was always to make water available to the AMA. He said he has confidence in Councilman Blair and himself and Councilwoman Nye to

represent the citizens. If the recommendation is to have a retreat, he accepts and supports that recommendation.

Public Comment:

One gentleman, no name given, asked what measures are being used by the public to conserve water. We are in a drought and he has not heard anything how to fix that.

Mr. McConnell replied and said the item on the agenda is very specific. Good comments but not on agenda. City of Prescott and Town of Prescott Valley both have water conservation programs. Each has staff that work in water conservation.

Council member Nye agreed there are issues to work out. The sooner the better and we can move forward to do what we have to do.

Council member Anderson said it is required upon them to get the information they need to move forward. There are questions to be answered. Our responsibility is to represent our communities.

City of Prescott Council vote:

**COUNCILMAN BLAIR MOVED THAT THE CITY, BY LETTER FROM THE MAYOR TO THE YAVAPAI COUNTY WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE, REQUEST THAT THE WAC HOLD A RETREAT WITH ITS TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE NOT LATER THAN FEBRUARY 2013 TO REVIEW ITS MISSION, STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE, OPERATION, PROJECTS, INITIATIVES AND FUNDING IN LIGHT OF PAST ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND REGIONAL EFFECTIVENESS AND THE RECENT INCREASE IN THE YAVAPAI COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS TO FIVE MEMBERS, IN ORDER TO ASSIST PARTICIPATING LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN ASSESSING CONTINUATION UNDER THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT OF SEPTEMBER 16, 2000; SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN LAMERSON; PASSED 5-0.**

Prescott Town Council vote:

**COUNCIL MEMBER NYE MADE THE MOTION, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER MALLORY, AS READ BY COUNCILMAN BLAIR. MOTION CARRIED WITH 6 AYES AND 0 NAYS.**

The Chino Mayor said he was in agreement and asked to be included in the retreat.

## II. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to be discussed, the Joint Meeting of the Prescott City Council and Prescott Valley Town Council held December 19, 2012, adjourned at 2:24 p.m.

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MARLIN D. KUYKENDALL, Mayor

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LYNN J. MULHALL, City Clerk

**CERTIFICATION**

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Special Joint Meeting of the City Council of the City of Prescott and the Town Council of the Town of Prescott Valley, Arizona held on the 19<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2012. I further certify the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Dated this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2013.

AFFIX  
CITY SEAL

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LYNN MULHALL, City Clerk