

UPPER VERDE RIVER WATERSHED PROTECTION COALITION
PRESCOTT, ARIZONA
APRIL 26, 2007

MINUTES

A MEETING OF THE UPPER VERDE RIVER WATERSHED PROTECTION COALITION WAS HELD ON APRIL 26, 2007 in the Prescott Municipal Building, 201 S. Cortez Street, Prescott, Arizona.

Chairman Fann called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m.

ITEM NO 1. Introductions

Members present:

Mayor Karen Fann, Town of Chino Valley, Chairman
Vice-Mayor Mike Flannery, Town of Prescott Valley, Vice Chairman
County Supervisor Carol Springer, Yavapai County
Mayor Rowle P. Simmons, City of Prescott
Ernie Jones, Sr., Prescott-Yavapai Indian Tribe

Members absent:

Mayor Bob Greene, Town of Dewey-Humboldt

Staff present:

John Munderloh, Town of Prescott Valley
Jim Holt, City of Prescott
John Rasmussen, Yavapai County
Chris Moss, Yavapai Prescott Indian Tribe

Guests present:

Prescott Councilman Jim Lamerson
Prescott Councilman Bob Bell
Prescott Councilman Steve Blair
Yavapai County Supervisor Tom Thurman
Leon R. DeKing
George Seaman
Ken Spedding
Ron Bell
John Zambrano
Ken Janacek
Ellen Sink

Joanne Oellers
Lou Bellesi
Crystal Frost
Thomas Slaback
Howard Mechanic
Candace McNlty
John Olson

✓ **Award – 2006 Prescott Active Management Area Water
Resource Commendation Award**

Chairman Fann presented a Commendation Award to Crystal Frost of the Arizona Department of Water Resources.

✓ **Presentation – Trans- Agency Resources for Environmental
and Economic Sustainability (TREES) presented by Mary Ann
Black**

Member Springer introduced Mary Ann Black, stating that she and Ms. Black were old friends and have worked together on water issues for many years. She said that Ms. Black is a fourth generation Arizonan and a third generation cattle rancher. She and her husband's families were both homesteaders in Cochise County. Ms. Black graduated from Mesa Community College, majoring in Agricultural Science; finished a BA in Business and a BA in Secondary Education and MA in Business. She has served as a supervisor on the Hereford Natural Resource Conservation District since 1992. She directs the Hereford NRC D Education Center and has taught Earth Science at Yuma High School. She served as Deputy Director for the Arizona Association of Conservation Districts in 1994 and 1995; has been in the real estate business since 1978. She studied stormwater management with some of the best specialists in the State, including Jeff Parker of the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the former director of the Prescott AMA, Bill Foster, who now lives in Cochise County. Ms. Black also sits as a representative of the Conservation District of the Upper San Pedro Partnership. She is familiar with this area because she lived in Prescott previously. She is now living in Sierra Vista.

Ms. Black then gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Trans-Agency Resources for Environmental and Economic Sustainability (TREES), attached hereto and made a part hereof as Exhibit A. She then briefly reviewed a hand-out that was available for anyone interested.

Joanne Oellers, representing the Center for Biological Diversity, said she was pleased to hear Ms. Black today and will get the packet of information over to the representative from Dewey-Humboldt since he was not

present. She asked what sorts of pollutants might be filtered out of the water, and which ones wouldn't be. Ms. Black said that most of the grasses and plants will capture motor oil and radiator fluids.

Leon DeKing said he is interested in all things ecological and requested a copy of the presentation. Ms. Black indicated that the PowerPoint presentation was available on their website at www.herefordnrcd.org.

Howard Mechanic asked if there had been a lot of scientific studies done on the recharge of stormwater through control systems. He said that those present are interested in the Big Chino area and if there were projects up there where there was a way to measure the increase in recharge from the projects versus the status quo. Ms. Black said that one of the things she forgot to mention was there is an environmental operations part where they take all of the City's effluent, and it goes through the primary, secondary and tertiary process. Downstream there is an old spring, an archeological site 6,000 years old and the spring has been dry for 120 years since the earthquake of 1807. Since they started recharging the water, the spring is back and all of well levels around the environmental operations part have risen.

Mr. Mechanic said that she was talking about an effluent facility and that is very quantifiable as to how much water is going through it. He said that he was talking about stormwater that is not being measured. Ms. Black said that if they did the rock dams in the Big Chino and improved the grasslands, they could put in tensionmeters to measure the recharge.

Shaun Rydell, City of Prescott Water Conservation Coordinator, asked if Ms. Black had seen any good examples of subdivision regulations because as they develop in the region it would be beneficial to have good examples that might support the effort. Ms. Black said that they developed some down in Cochise County, but were unable to get the County to adopt them. She said that Sierra Vista is starting to adopt some of those.

Member Springer added that the County had adopted some of those and Mr. Spedding, Yavapai County Development Services Director, could tell them about a few of the things already a part of the subdivision requirements for Yavapai County.

Ken Spedding said that Yavapai County has had subdivision retention requirements now for over 20 years; shortly after he arrived is when they were developed. Most recently they made revisions to their drainage criteria manual at the County where they require detention for commercial sites, mandatory for an acre or larger, and depending on the situation, they can require for sites that are one-half acre to provide on site

retention. He said that they have two detention ponds already, one at a park site in Mayer and the other is over in Cornville. He said that the information is available on the County website, through Development Services, under flood control. He said that they also have the stormwater management plan on the website, as well as the drainage material manual and there is all type of information with respect to local best management practices.

Prescott Councilman Lamerson thanked Ms. Black for coming and giving the presentation, and thanked the Coalition for have her here because it provided something positive rather than negative about water management. He asked if she was available for consultation during the process of some of the things they're attempting to do, to try and manage the watershed. Ms. Black said that she would make herself available.

Lou Bellisi said, as a second generation attemptee of doing these things (done wrong both times), that he has seen a lot of problems with noxious weeds, and he asked if Ms. Black had experienced that as well. Ms. Black said that they have a problem with those statewide. She said that it takes everyone taking steps to get rid of them.

Candance McNulty said that she was pleased to have Ms. Black here and wanted to make sure that everyone in this community knows that they have a lot of resources here and a lot of the practices she has been talking about are being put into affect. Prescott College has done a lot of work in that area; there are local landscape architects here that are using them—high tech and low tech. She said that one thing about a lot of the steps is that they are inexpensive and very feasible. She said that she would imagine that Yavapai College has put a lot of them into practices as well.

Member Simmons asked Prescott Councilman Blair to tell the audience what he had done at his new house. Councilman Blair said that his new house being built is roughly 5,000 sq. ft. and is all drained off the back of the roof. All the gutter system as well as the neighbor's roof system, that used to dump into the wash that he has, is engineered underground, going into a 1200 gallon septic tank, a cistern that will have an automatic pump that will be used to keep all of his water on site to water his vegetation.

Councilman Blair said that he believes that more investigation should be done into the possibility of dredging Sullivan Lake and put silt catch basins above on the Big Chino Wash to gather all of that water runoff. He said that several years ago they had huge floods in that area and if that Lake was back to what it was when the dam was built in the late '30s and made safe again, that would be quite a conservation effort, an economic effort, recreation effort, and mitigation to the Verde effort. He thinks they need to

push that it is also a catch basin for wildfire fighting and grasslands they could get in the future.

Chairman Jones left the meeting at this time (3:55 p.m.)

John Olson said that he has known Ms. Black for many years, working on the same projects dedicated to conservation efforts. He has been a supervisor now for 50 years and they've been doing the same type of projects in this community for 60 years, but not to the extent that they need to be done. He said that one of the problems in the area is the relative impermeability of the soil. He said that they do have in house a natural resource conservation district, and they are professional people, soils experts, drainage experts, engineering experts, that are available for no charge at all. He spoke with Jim Holt some time ago, and also the coordinator of the RC&D about a project on the water farm. He thinks there is a prime example there of where the expertise that they already have in place can make these things happen, but they need the cooperation of the cities. He said that Ms. Black's efforts are renown around the state and he commends her for spreading the word about it.

John Zambrano said that he was under the impression that once water was flowing on the ground it was surface water and therefore appropriable. Ms. Black said that when it comes through a defined drainage area, such as loose rock dams, they are retaining, not detaining the water, and is not appropriable.

Vice Chairman Flannery said that as long as he has been on the Council in Prescott Valley they have always had catch basins, or detention basins. They've gotten away from doing it on individual commercial buildings and now do it on a regional basis. One of the things on which he was enlightened today is that it is not sufficient enough to capture the water; there's an ecosystem that goes along with it and he's pleased to take that back to the rest of his Council. He thinks that he's heard today that there's a big opportunity in the Big Chino to work on these items.

Ms. Black said that because of the rock in the area, they should focus on capturing water. They could capture the water and use it for watering grasslands before it runs into the streams. She said that they have done similar projects in the Sierra Vista area.

Chairman Fann asked, when they are talking about reusing water before it gets into the streams, if Ms. Black believed that SRP would have a problem with that. Ms. Black said that they may gripe about it but there's not a thing they can do about it. Member Springer notes that the San Pedro runs north.

Vice Chairman Flannery said that they are talking about the difference between retention and detention. Ms. Black said that when they get into a defined waterway, they have to be very careful not to dictate the flow, such as with dirt dams; they can have rock dams because the water flows through.

ITEM NO 2. Call to Public

Consideration and discussion of general unscheduled comments from the public: Those wishing to address the Coalition need not request permission in advance. Any such remarks shall be addressed to the Coalition as a whole and not to any member thereof. Such remarks shall be limited to three (3) minutes unless additional time is granted by the Chair.

At the conclusion of the unscheduled comments, individual members of the Coalition may respond to the item addressed at the discretion of the Chair, or they may ask Staff to review the matter or ask that the matter be placed on a future agenda.

[Committee]

No public comments.

ITEM NO 3. Approval of Minutes – March 28, 2007 Meeting
[Committee]

Member asked that a correction be made on Page 4, changing Ted Spedding to Ken Spedding. MEMBER SPRINGER MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 28, 2007, MEETING AS AMENDED; SECONDED BY VICE CHAIRMAN FLANNERY; PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

ITEM NO 4. Discussion & Possible Action – Review of Members' support towards Project Priority List and Program Management
[Committee and Staff]

Member Springer noted that the Yavapai County Board of Supervisors will not be hearing this item until their May 7 meeting, with Mr. Munderloh making that presentation.

Member Simmons reported that the City of Prescott had discussed it at a meeting and was in agreement with everything that was presented.

Vice Chairman Flannery reported that the Town of Prescott Valley had it scheduled for discussion at a work study on May 4, but he believed they would support it.

Chairman Fann said that Chino Valley formally took action and they are 100% in support of the action plan.

Howard Mechanic asked if it was appropriate at this time to discuss the specific goals or if that would be discussed at a later time. Chairman Fann said that it would be discussed at a later time; right now they're just trying to find out if there is funding for some projects, review the list of potential projects that could be amended, which she envisions to be very much like the CYMPO process where they actually have a plan that is revised continually.

ITEM NO 5. Next Meeting Time / Location / Agenda Items
[Committee]

(The next regularly scheduled meeting date is May 23, 2007)

Chairman Fann said that she is assuming that one agenda item will be the one they just mentioned, the Priority List of Projects. Mr. Munderloh said that they could put more flesh on the plans previously presented.

Vice Chairman Flannery asked that they also include discussion of the administration of the projects. Mr. Munderloh said that the staff recommendation, which the City of Prescott and Town of Chino Valley both agreed to, was the hiring of a consultant.

Chairman Fann asked if some of the items that Ms. Black had presented today would be incorporated into some of the projects. Mr. Munderloh said that he believed they will.

Member Simmons said that what he was hearing from Ms. Black regarding Sullivan Lake was it would not be legal for them to dredge the lake and hold water collected there. Ms. Black said that it was a prior existing structure and may have some prior property rights involved. Mr. Munderloh said that before much more work goes on they should do some due diligence; most likely they would have prior property rights.

MEMBER SPRINGER MOVED TO ADJOURN; SECONDED BY MEMBER SIMMONS; PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. Chairman Fann adjourned the meeting at 3:15 p.m.

KAREN FANN, Chairman

ATTEST:

ELIZABETH A. BURKE, Clerk