



NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING & AGENDA

**UPPER VERDE RIVER WATERSHED PROTECTION COALITION
BOARD MEETING**

**Wednesday, November 1st - 2:00 p.m.
Prescott City Hall – Council Chambers
201 S. Cortez - Prescott, Arizona**

ITEM NO 1. *Call to Public (Chairman)*

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.

ITEM NO 2. Discussion & Possible Action – Approval of Board Meeting Minutes – April 26th, 2017 and July 26th, 2017 (Chairman)

ITEM NO 3. Discussion – TAC Meeting Summary – September 6th, 2017 and October 4th, 2017 (Munderloh)

ITEM NO 4. Discussion & Possible Action – Rotation of Board Meeting Locations and Meeting Minutes (Chairman)

ITEM NO 5. Presentation, Discussion & Possible Action - Project Updates

- a. All Hands/All Lands Event (Munderloh)
- b. Wood Innovations (Munderloh)
- c. Juniper Silt Dams (Munderloh)
- d. Rainwater Harvesting/Aquifer Recharge (Munderloh)
- e. Partner Updates (Others, if available)

ITEM NO 6. Presentation, Discussion & Possible Action – Focus for Watershed Restoration Efforts (Munderloh/Reifsnyder)

- a. Position Paper
- b. Biomass Cooperative

ITEM NO 7. Outreach and Communication (Board Members)

ITEM NO 8. Next Meeting Day/Time (January 24th, 2018)/ Agenda Items (Munderloh)

ITEM NO 9. Adjourn Meeting



Minutes of the Upper Verde River Watershed Protection Coalition Board held on April 26, 2017, In Prescott City Hall, 201 South Cortez Street, Prescott, Arizona.

Chairwoman Nye called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

Members Present:

Chairwoman Lora Lee Nye, Town of Prescott Valley
Member Steve Blair Prescott City Council
Member Chris Marley, Chino Valley
Member Craig Brown, Yavapai County

Members Absent:

Member Ernie Jones, Yavapai-Prescott Tribe

Staff present:

John Munderloh, Town of Prescott Valley
Peter Bourgois, Yavapai-Prescott Indian Tribe
Melody Reifsnyder, Grants Administrator
Virginia Mefford, City of Prescott

ITEM NO 1. Call to Public (Chairperson Nye)

Chairwoman Nye called the meeting to order.

ITEM NO 2. Discussion & Possible Action – Approval of Board Meeting Minutes – January 25th, 2017 (Chairwoman Nye)

MEMBER BLAIR MOVED TO APPROVE THE UVRWPC BOARD MINUTES OF OCTOBER 26, 2016; SECONDED BY MEMBER BROWN; PASSED 4-1 (Jones, absent)

ITEM NO 3. Discussion – TAC Meeting Summary – March 1st, 2017 and April 5, 2017 (Munderloh)

John Munderloh, Town of Prescott Valley, Water Resource Manager, presented for the record the TAC Meeting Summaries for March 1, 2017 and April 5, 2017.

ITEM NO 4. Presentation & Discussion – Labor Market Analysis Update (Tom Hughes, GSH Educational Group)



Tom Hughes, GSH Educational Group, gave a presentation summarizing the Forest Products Labor Market Analysis report:

- Economic and Business Environment
 - Yavapai County has a favorable business environment with low taxes, good transportation network, opportunities for workforce education
 - The Healthy Forest Initiative provides tax incentives for forest product development
 - Yavapai County has a higher than average cost of living
 - Yavapai County has a exceptional quality of life based on several metrics such as good weather, low crime, cultural and recreational opportunities, and sunny days
 - Unemployment levels have dropped to Pre-recession levels at around 5.0%
- Industry and Labor Characteristics
 - Forest Products Industry is currently a very small portion of the labor force
 - Forecasted job growth is currently directed at other sectors of the labor market

Chairwoman Nye asked if job growth included residential home construction.

Mr. Hughes replied a lot of the labor force for construction was from Phoenix and not necessarily from this area.

- The income to housing cost ratio is high relative to median-wages earned in Yavapai County
 - Recruitment and retention of a forest products labor force will require a livable wage in the range of \$20-\$25.
- Private Sector Labor Market
 - A labor force already exists in Yavapai County that have comparable skill sets to work in the forest products industry
 - The forest products industry will have a labor gap of around 65 logging workers in the private sector. Much of the other jobs created can be filled by existing pool of trained workers
 - Overall, the private labor market is well situated to support harvesting, transportation and processing of forest products in Yavapai County
 - Public Sector Labor Market
 - The biggest labor gap in the forest product industry is in the public sector. Workers in this sector are needed to address the technical and



administrative needs of woodland thinning, such as dealing with environmental regulations, archaeological surveys and forestry science

- Around 16 jobs would need to be filled to meet these needs.

Mr. Hughes said several job types would need to be filled and it would take about 16 jobs to fill these areas. Mr. Brown asked if the average age demographic is around 55. Mr. Hughes replied the average age is 52.

Chairwoman Nye asked what demographic area was used for the survey. Mr. Hughes replied they used the central Yavapai County areas.

Mr. Brown asked about the forest products market. Mr. Hughes said that was the key piece they were researching it. Mr. Brown asked if they would have market for the material. Mr. Hughes said they would research that market opportunity in future appraisal studies.

ITEM NO 5. Presentation & Discussion & Possible Action - Project Updates

- a. Review budget and dues (Munderloh)

Member Marley thanked everyone on the Coalition for their patience and was happy Chino Valley was able to pay a membership fee.

Member Blair asked when it would be boots to the ground for the woodland thinning project. Mr. Munderloh said it had already started. Member Blair asked if the forest service was on board. Mr. Munderloh said it was a year out and once National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) was ready.

- b. Announcement: Coalition Booth at the Yavapai County Contractor's Association Home & Garden Show, Prescott Valley Events Center, May 19-21. (Munderloh)
- c. Juniper Silt Dams Project – Arizona Water Protection Fund (Munderloh)

Mr. Munderloh explained that the problem was soil erosion caused by juniper and the solution to fix it was to use the Juniper.

Chairwoman Nye asked Mr. Lowman with the Arizona State Land Department to explain what had happened with the project. Chris Lowman, Arizona State Land Department, addressed the coalition on the biomass project. He said they have observed how it worked and if the Juniper was placed strategically it did work. Chairwoman Nye said what great news. They were healing the land and it would help to restore the watershed.

Mr. Brown asked if the project could work for Granite Creek. Mr. Munderloh said he was



not sure; Granite Creek is such a large channel that engineering design would determine what materials would be appropriate. Member Brown said he asked this question because the erosion was taking out the road surface and thought the project would prevent it from happening.

d. Rainwater Harvesting and Aquifer Recharge Demonstration Project (Munderloh)

Mr. Munderloh said the expected increase amount of rain harvested would be 400% compared to a large cistern. He said it was expected to reduce the cost of the rainwater harvesting system by 50%. Member Blair said he captured so much rainwater he would have liked to have had another runoff catchment system.

e. Partner Updates

ITEM NO 6. Discussion and Possible Action – Executive Board Resolution to support an Application to the USDA Regional Conservation Partnership Program to fund vegetation management and infiltration enhancement programs (Reifsnyder)

Ms. Reifsnyder said the resolution to support an application was the next step in the project. She said they needed the letter of recommendation in order to apply for the grant.

MEMBER BLAIR MOVED TO ADOPT EXECUTIVE BOARD RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT AN APPLICATION TO THE USDA REGIONAL CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM TO FUND VEGETATION MANAGEMENT AND INFILTRATION ENHANCEMENT PROGRAMS; SECONDED BY MEMBER B (APPROVED 4-1; MEMBER JONES ABSENT)

ITEM NO 7. Next Meeting Day/Time (July 26, 2017)/ Agenda Item Munderloh)

Chairwoman Nye stated the next meeting was July 26, 2017 at 2:00 pm.

ITEM NO 8. Adjourn Meeting

There being no further business to be discussed, the Upper Verde Watershed Protection Coalition meeting of April 26, 2017, was adjourned at 3:03 P.M.

Chairwoman Lora Lee Nye



Minutes of The Upper Verde River Watershed Protection Coalition Board held on July 26, 2017, in Prescott City Hall, 201 South Cortez Street, Prescott, Arizona.

Chairwoman Nye called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

Members Present:

Chairwoman Lora Lee Nye, Town of Prescott Valley Councilor
Member Steve Blair, City of Prescott Councilor
Member Chris Marley, Chino Valley
Member Craig Brown, Yavapai County Supervisor

Members Absent:

Member Ernie Jones, Yavapai-Prescott Tribe President

Staff present:

Leslie Graser, City of Prescott
Leah Hubbard, City of Prescott
John Munderloh, Town of Prescott Valley
Peter Bourgois, Yavapai-Prescott Indian Tribe
Melody Reifsnyder, Grants Administrator
Virginia Mefford, City of Prescott

ITEM NO 1. Call to Public (Chairperson Nye)

Leslie Hoy, Citizen's Water Advocacy Group requested that the October 10th conference, "All Hands, All Lands" be open to the public.

Item NO 2. Discussion & Possible Action – Approval of Board Meeting Minutes – April 25th, 2017 (Chairman Nye)

Mr. Brown asked for minutes to be corrected and brought back for approval at the next meeting.

The Upper Verde River Watershed Protection Coalition Board agreed by consensus to move the minutes to the next meeting for approval.

ITEM NO 3. Discussion – TAC Meeting Summary – June 7th, 2017 and July 5th, 2017 (Munderloh)

John Munderloh, Town of Prescott Valley Water Resource Manager, presented the Board with meeting summaries of the past two Technical Advisory Committee Meetings and stated that much of the material that needs to be discussed is on today's agenda. No comments were made from the Board.



ITEM NO 4. Presentation & Discussion – UVRWPC outreach at Yavapai County Contractors Association Show (Leah Hubbard, City of Prescott)

Leslie Graser, Water Resource Manager for the City of Prescott and Leah Hubbard, Water Resource Coordinator provided a presentation on the outreach efforts by the Upper Verde River Watershed Protection Coalition (Coalition) at the Yavapai County Contractor Association 2017 Home and Garden Show held on May 19-21. The various Coalition staff that manned the booth estimated that over 500 one-on-one conversations were had with members of the public in the form of questions and answers. In addition, numerous informational handouts were picked up by those attending the show. A list of some of the items available for public included: Regional Conservation handbook

- Rainwater harvesting
- Smart Cards
- Xeriscaping
- Children activity booklets
- Watershed information pamphlets
- A newsletter about water resources in the area

Ms. Graser said each year the Coalition pays for booth space and advertising in the Building Yavapai magazine. This year a 55-gallon rain barrel was raffled and it was won by Dr. D. Fisher from Prescott Valley. She thanked everyone who helped make it a success. Chairman Nye said this was one of the biggest turnouts, and is an important outreach opportunity. Member Brown felt people are becoming more informed on water conservation and people are getting the message.

ITEM NO 5. Presentation, Discussion & Possible Action - Project Updates

John Munderloh, Town of Prescott Valley Water Resource Manager, presented background information on the watershed restoration approach. He pointed out that the diversity of landownership in Yavapai County provides unique challenges and opportunities. Yavapai County's woody biomass is approximately split by thirds in to private, Federal and State Trust Land ownership. The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process and archaeological surveys need to be conducted on Federal Lands before watershed restoration activities can take place. On State Trust Land, archaeological surveys, and in some cases, value assessments and payments to the State Trust need to occur. However, these expensive and time consuming activities are not necessary on the private land as long as the land owner agrees to move forward with watershed restoration activities. This leads to a unique opportunity to create Private Industry-to-Private Industry Connections to re-establish capacity in the woodlands industry in Yavapai County. This provides an accelerated approach to restore watersheds, reduce fire hazards, improve water security, reduce flood hazards, and improve grasslands and wildlife habitat.



Mr. Munderloh continued with an update on progress to date, pointing out good progress such as:

- United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) – Brush Programs
 - 1,340 acres restored, 1,700 acres planned for 2017/2018
- Az Game & Fish & Landowners
 - 4,000 & 3,000+ acres restored, respectively

He said that this progress is primarily funded by grants and government programs and is not on pace to address the over 900,000 (+?) acres of untreated woodlands in Yavapai County. The only viable and cost-effective approach is to look for partnerships with private industry and to find a value-added approach to woodland thinning. To help reach this goal, the Coalition has developed the following “investment-grade” data on Yavapai County woodlands to help attract private industry, including:

- Labor Supply Study
- Wood Supply Study, which provides data on:
 - Amount
 - Availability and Consistency
 - Location
- Harvesting Costs
- Transportation Solutions

An additional and critical component that the Coalition and its partners have been working toward is developing value-added products and end users for harvested biomass – primarily Juniper. This includes uses of Juniper such as:

- Erosion control
- Bio-coal and chips for bio-energy
- Landscaping products
- Fire wood
- Biogas
- Essential Oils

a. Juniper Silt Dam Project

Mr. Munderloh commented that the erosion control idea lead the Coalition to apply for and receive a grant from the Arizona Water Protection Fund for the Juniper Silt Dam project – essentially using harvested low-value Juniper trees to provide erosion control in arroyos and head cuts created by the invasion of Juniper trees.

Member Craig Brown, Yavapai County asked if any locations have been identified. Mr. Munderloh replied yes, a ranch in the Williamson Valley area had volunteered. The York/Kenson Ranch has recently undergone a Juniper



thinning project funded by the NRCS and the trees are cut and on the ground available for use in constructing the erosion control structures. The grant contract has been signed, and the notice to proceed for the engineering phase of the project has been given.

b. Rainwater Harvesting and Aquifer Recharge Demonstration Project (Munderloh)

Mr. Munderloh stated that the Rainwater Harvesting and Aquifer Recharge Demonstration Project is moving forward and will be located at the Yavapai County property at the corner of Highway 69 and Fain Road. Yavapai County and the Coalition have signed a Memorandum of Understanding, completed an access agreement and hired an engineering firm to conduct the percolation testing and construction drawings.

c. All Hands/All Lands Event (Munderloh)

Mr. Munderloh said that the Coalition will be hosting the second “All Hands, All Lands” conference on October 10th with co-sponsors Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management and the Chino Winds and Triangle Natural Resource Conservation Districts. This professional conference will involve invited stakeholders who have both responsibility and accountability within their specific field. If a quorum of the Coalition Board or Technical Advisory Committee attend a notice of possible quorum will be posted and the public may attend, but would not necessarily be participants.

Mr. Munderloh stated that they would like to invite US Forest Service Region 3 Forester Cal Joyner to be the keynote speaker and proposed that the Coalition Board send him an invitation. Member Brown asked what Mr. Joyner would speak about. Mr. Munderloh said it would be up to him, but would let the presenter know what the conference was about. Chairman Nye asked if there was more information on the focus of topics for the conference. Mr. Munderloh said that the conference would focus on development of wood products industry in Yavapai County and how to remove barriers to that industry. They would like to extend an invitation to Cal Joyner, Regional Forester, Southwest Region.

The Upper Verde River Watershed Protection Coalition Board agreed by consensus to extend an invitation to Cal Joyner, but asked for a letter to be sent with discussion on the focus of the conference.



d. Partner Updates (Various, if available)

Russ Shumate, Northwest Region Manager, Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management (ADFFM), updated the Coalition on moving forward with the process of the state trust land. They will be able to place a value on the (wood) product and have a process in place to enable a purchaser to move the product across the State Trust Land boundaries.

Member Brown asked him to talk about the Digital Readout (DRO). Mr. Shumate said it provides valuable information to assist in use of controlled burns as a method of thinning woodlands and making watershed improvements. He said there were issues dealing with the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) air quality permits but they were able to help ADEQ to incorporate the biomass projects.

Member Brown mentioned having a conversation with a couple of engineers who said by Mr. Munderloh taking them there it was very helpful for them to understand the process.

Mr. Shumate said they are making head way and they plan to work on how to transport for the least cost. Chairman Nye said they did have the materials, and that the engineers did not know they had such vast land to process the material.

Mr. Shumate said the other issue was to identify the ecological value of doing the work. This would be what would drive the industry.

ITEM NO 6. Presentation, Discussion & Possible Action– Grant Updates (Reifsnyder)

Melody Reifsnyder, Grants Administrator, presented the Grant updates

- a. Woody innovations grant \$194,160** – Notice of award was provided by the US Department of Agriculture. Staff is working on the grant contract for approval by the Town of Prescott Valley Council. This grant will utilize locally-sourced Juniper as a bio-coal for a test burn at the Drake Cement Plant. The grant will also pay for a consultant to develop a biomass utilization study.
- b. Western Forest Landership grant (\$100,000)** This is an extension for the Juniper Silt Dam project and staff are working on developing the contract
- c. Juniper density Study (\$20,000)-** Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire



Management planned to complete this study in-house, but has placed the study on hold.

- d. Biomass Cooperative (\$30,000)-** Ms. Reifsnyder explained that the Coalition would be requesting up to \$30,000 from the Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management for expenses associated with formation of a multi-stakeholder forestry cooperative, with a portion of the money set aside for specialized legal advice. Supervisor Brown asked if the Arizona Attorney General's Office could provide the legal advice. Ms. Reifsnyder said since the state is providing the funding, she thought the answer to that was no.

Mr. Brown asked about the Wood Innovation Grant and if staff knew how much product would be shipped to Missouri to be converted into bio-coal. Ms. Reifsnyder said she did not know how much, without looking at the grant, but the product would be Juniper.

Ms. Reifsnyder said at the moment they do not have a specialist who could draft the document or provide money for legal counsel, but once the draft was written up it would be moved forward. Mr. Shumate said they were trying to do this in-house and were trying to get the tools to evaluate the Juniper and figure out what was on the ground.

Jerry Brady said the University of Colorado strategic science 1921-1940 Preservation of Mobilization was a study done here in Yavapai County and it talked about Juniper.

Chairman Nye said there was tremendous interest on forest industries and would like to for someone to speak to the coalition on Biomass.

ITEM NO 7. Discussion & Possible Action – Goodwin Fire Next Steps (Munderloh)

Mr. Munderloh presented information about the recent Goodwin fire

- Started June 24, 2017
- 28,500 acres burned
- \$14.5 million to suppress
- Flooding costs and other impacts not yet determined
- Recovery costs not yet determined
- Suppression and recovery as much as 30X cost to treat

Mr. Munderloh said they had a post-fire meeting with landowners, Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire, National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Prescott Area Wildland Urban Interface Commission (PAUWIC), and Coalition the topics were:

- National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)
- Archeological Surveys



- Public Outreach
- Outreach to Elected Officials
- Grievance process with Federal and State Land
- Wildland/Urban Interface

Mr. Munderloh said what kept coming up over and over were the archeological surveys. He wanted to know if the board wanted to give any direction on this. Chairman Nye said landowners needed to do repairs but because of the archeological surveys it could not be done, and they need to help them. Member Brown said they call it their land but it was Federal land they leased. He said the people in Dewey-Humboldt were trying to get fuel breaks.

Mr. Shumate said Mayer did a project to provide fuel breaks and it has worked out great. He said the archeological surveys were costs effective and this was why they did them. Chairman Nye said the concern was the time it took to get back to the land to fix what needed to be fixed. Jerry Brady, citizen, agreed and landowners got hit very hard, and the County could not provide permits to go back on the land and fix what needed to be repaired.

ITEM NO 8. NEXT MEETING DAY/TIME (OCTOBER 25, 2017)/ AGENDA ITEMS (MUNDERLOH)

Member Brown said he had a conflict with the meeting on October 25 and would not be able to attend. Member Blair asked if it could be moved up to October 18, 2017.

The Upper Verde River Watershed Protection Coalition Board agreed by consensus to move the meeting to October 18, 2017.

ITEM NO 9. Adjourn Meeting

There being no further business to be discussed, the Upper Verde Watershed Protection Coalition meeting of July 26, 2017, was adjourned at 4:06 P.M.

Chairwoman Lora Lee Nye



UPPER VERDE RIVER WATERSHED PROTECTION COALITION TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC) MEETING

September 6th, 2017 – 3:00 PM
YPIT Police Department Conference Room
530 E Merrit St, Prescott AZ

Meeting Notes

Members Present: Diana Rios (YPIT), Richard Straub (Town of Chino Valley), Mike Bovee (Town of Chino Valley), John Munderloh (Town of PV)

Others Present: Melody Reifsnider (Sage Consulting)

ITEM NO. 1 Discussion and Possible Action – Project Updates

- i. **Rainwater Harvesting Pilot Project** – Project description and background provided. Civiltec Engineers were scheduling a site visit for survey and coordination of the infiltration test and location of the French Drain system
- ii. **Juniper Silt Dams Project** - Project description and background provided. Site visit conducted on 8/25 with Agricultural Research Service, Arizona State Land Department, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Civiltec Engineering staff, Landowner and Coalition representatives to determine best approach for erosion control. Control panels were set and aerial survey complete.
- iii. **Other** – No other items were discussed

ITEM NO. 2 Discussion and Possible Action – Watershed Conference – Update on Conference was provided. Conference planning and assistance from TAC members was deferred to the next TAC meeting.

ITEM NO. 3 Discussion and Possible Action - Outreach & Communication – No additional items were discussed.

ITEM NO. 4 Communication from Members - No additional items were discussed.

ITEM NO. 5 Next Meeting Time / Location / Agenda Items (Next Regular Meeting Date October 4, 2017)



UPPER VERDE RIVER WATERSHED PROTECTION COALITION TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC) MEETING

October 4th, 2017 – 3:00 PM
YPIT Police Department Conference Room
530 E Merrit St, Prescott AZ

Meeting Notes

Members Present: Mike Bovee (Town of Chino Valley), John Munderloh (Town of PV), Leslie Graser (City of Prescott)

Others Present: Lora Lee Nye, (Board Chair and Vice Mayor, Town of Prescott Valley), Melody Reifsnider (Sage Consulting)

Public Present: Dirk Stringham

ITEM NO. 6 Discussion and Possible Action – Project Updates

a. Wood Innovations Grant Project

A brief update was provided on the Wood Innovations Grant: \$194,000 from USDA, grant agreement approved along with contract with TSS Consulting (company that completed the Wood Supply Study). TSS Consulting will complete the Biomass Utilization Appraisal Study and manage the test conversion of Yavapai County-area Juniper into Bio-coal for a test burn at Drake Cement

b. Other

Other projects are on course – the Juniper Silt Dam project is undergoing aerial surveys and flow analysis, the Rainwater Harvesting project engineering is beginning.

ITEM NO. 7 Discussion and Possible Action – Watershed Conference

Work assignments for the Watershed Conference were discussed and made for the various members present.

ITEM NO. 8 Discussion and Possible Action – Items for Coalition Board Meeting, October 25th

Agenda items include:

Discussion of the Biomass Cooperative

Position Paper

Wood Innovations Grant

Project Updates

Rotation of Board Meetings and Board Minutes



ITEM NO. 9 Discussion - Communication from Members

No other items were discussed.

ITEM NO. 10 Next Meeting Time / Location / Agenda Items (Next Regular Meeting Date November 1, 2017)