



A MEETING OF THE UPPER VERDE RIVER WATERSHED PROTECTION COALITION WAS HELD ON JANUARY 25, 2012, in PRESCOTT CITY HALL, 201 SOUTH CORTEZ STREET, Prescott, Arizona.

**ITEM NO 1. Introductions, Awards, or Presentations**

Chairman Nye called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m.

**Members Present:**

Councilwoman Lora Lee Nye, Town of Prescott Valley, Chairman  
Supervisor Carol Springer, Yavapai County Board of Supervisors, Vice Chairman  
Councilman Steve Blair, City of Prescott

**Members Absent:**

President Ernie Jones, Yavapai-Prescott Indian Tribe

**Staff Present:**

Ed Mucillo, Program Manager  
Dana Biscan, Project Manager  
Rick Shroads, Assistant Program Manager  
John Munderloh, Town of Prescott Valley  
John Rasmussen, Yavapai County  
Leslie Graser, City Of Prescott  
Amber Tyson, Yavapai-Prescott Tribe  
Kim Webb, City of Prescott

Mr. Mucillo introduced Linda Zanolli, who presented her Project Wet Program and book that she did for the sixth grade students in Verde Valley, Chino Valley, Cottonwood, Prescott Valley Prescott and all but one class in Sedona. She handed the booklet out to the members and went through each chapter. She noted that it was a three day program and said she asked the parents to sign their sons or daughters workbook, so that they may also get the training.

**ITEM NO 2. Communications**

Vice Chairman Springer asked Mr. Mucillo if he was monitoring Water Legislation. She noted that there were some bills of interest. She asked if Mr. Rasmussen could do a report on the current bills and said that she was especially interested in the Macro Water Harvesting. Mr. Mucillo said that he had been keeping track of the bills.



**ITEM NO 3. 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.*

**ITEM NO 4. Discussion & Possible Action - Approval of Board Meeting Minutes – September 28, 2011**

The approval of the minutes was tabled until the next meeting because Councilman Blair was unable to vote, since he was not present for the September 28, 2011 meeting.

**ITEM NO 5. Discussion - TAC Meeting Summary for October 12, 2011, December 7, 2011, and January 4, 2012**

Mr. Mucillo noted that the meetings of October 12, 2011 and January 4, 2012 did not have a quorum and the notes from the December 7, 2011 meeting were included in the packet and would be discussed.

**ITEM NO 6. Discussion & Possible Action – Budget Update and FY 2012/2013 Dues**

Mr. Mucillo gave a budget update with current and projected numbers. He noted that the member's dues would continue to drop an additional 20 percent and that less money would be allotted to water conservation. He noted that \$50,000 was originally budgeted and it was backed down to \$35,000.

Chairman Nye asked if the reductions made in the budget would cover the 20 percent reduction or membership dues. Mr. Mucillo said yes.

**VICE CHAIRMAN SPRINGER MOVED TO ADOPT THE BUDGET RECOMMENDATION; SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN BLAIR; PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**ITEM NO 7. Discussion – Grant Update**

Mr. Mucillo noted that they had not heard back from the National Science Foundation on the grant proposal submitted in October 2011. He noted that they were pursuing a partnering with Natural Resources Conservation Service NRCS for watershed management, restoration of watershed and vegetation and were also exploring private foundations for funding.



**ITEM NO 8. Discussion & Possible Action – Potential Projects**

Mr. Shroads gave a PowerPoint presentation entitled Pilot Projects for Source Water Capture and Recharge that covered:

- GOAL
- OBJECTIVES
- PILOT SITE LOCATIONS
- PILOT DETAILS

He noted that the Board had approved all projects to date. He said there was \$125,000.00 available to match grants or to use for a new pilot project and he wanted the Board to vote on where they would like to spend the money.

He said that the Old Home Manor site was perfect for the pilot project as the catchments were already dug. The project would create five types of catchment systems to allow water to drain into the dry ponds. The five would include a control area. He described each type of catchment. He said that each site was one half acre and they would build channels around the plots so offsite water would not be a part of the measurement.

He noted that plans were complete and had been reviewed by the Town of Chino Valley.

He said they planned to have pipes from plots going into manholes so area velocity sensors could check pressure for depth of flow and flow rate. Data would be transmitted through cell phones for real time data and there would be a rain gauge at the site. He noted that the manufacturer's representative was there for questions.

Councilman Blair asked how long the project would be and when they would begin. Mr. Shroads said that it would be ongoing for five years and added that they would use solar panels for power.

Vice Chairman Springer said it was extremely important to do the project. She noted that when they supported the Rain Water Harvesting Bill it was shot down and then it turned into a study committee which was then also shot down. She said Representative Fann was reintroducing the bill to start the committee. The stumbling block was the actual data. She said this would be a pilot program for the entire state. It would be a basis to substantiate the feasibility of doing macro harvesting. She appreciated Mr. Shroads and his firm for the behind the scenes work they had done. She said it was the answer for the Prescott area safe yield situation.



Councilman Blair thought it was a great project. He said the more accurate the records, the better. He asked what they were going to do with the water they were collecting. Mr. Shroads said it would go into the dry basins in Chino. He noted that the soil was conducive to infiltration. Councilman Blair said it would be interesting to see if 100 percent of all water caught would go into the aquifer. Mr. Shroads said they had discussed whether or not they could predict that number. He said the main goal of the project was to see which plot produced the most run off.

Vice Chairman Springer said that it boiled down to establishing new water and that there was a monetary value to that water. She said they would not be able to get into water harvesting until they could show there was a new product.

Chairman Nye said it behooved them to move forward. She asked if any of the guests had comments on the project.

Councilman Blair asked if after the five years there would be value of a placement like Sullivan Lake. He asked if they should harvest closer to the headwater of the Verde River. Mr. Shroads said he would like to see harvesting systems throughout the region. He said that the geology of the soil would dictate where they could recharge. He said the slope in the Chino Valley location was an engineers dream and the dry basins were just waiting for water.

Vice Chairman Springer said they had talked about recharging at Sullivan, but had shifted their focus to harvesting and it was important to focus on that. Councilman Blair said it would be opportune to do the project at the watershed by the airport.

Dennis Gamache of Western Environmental Company said the equipment to be installed would transmit the data to a server automatically.

**COUNCILMAN BLAIR MOVED TO GO FORWARD WITH THE PILOT PROJECTS; SECONDED BY VICE CHAIRMAN SPRINGER; PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Vice Chairman Springer left the Council Chambers at 2:52 p.m.

**ITEM NO 9. Discussion – Montgomery & Associates White Paper Summary and Talking Points**

Mr. Mucillo noted that he provided Mountain Front and Mountain Block Recharge information in the packet and noted that there had not been a lot of research done.

He noted that areas of interest were: how tree canopies affected the relationship between evapotranspiration and precipitation and recharge, how long it took for different plants to adapt to hydrologic changes and if communities could be designed to include plant communities that provided an optimal balance of habitat, efficient water use and soil stability in semi-arid environments. He said they did some exploratory



research to go with a Category 1 application for the grant. He mentioned that there had been discussions about them partnering with the Forest Service.

Mr. Rasmussen said there had been some research on runoff, focused on increasing runoff so that Salt River Project could get the water into the reservoirs. He noted that only two percent of the water received went to recharge and they were trying to understand why.

Councilman Blair asked if they would do the study in the woods around Ash Fork or Seligman. Mr. Rasmussen said they could not do the study in wilderness areas. Chairman Nye said that she liked that there was a lot of room for improvement in monitoring of recharge. She said that so little was understood in that area.

**ITEM NO 10. Discussion & Possible Action - Next Meeting Time / Location / Agenda Items**

Mr. Mucillo said the next meeting would be March 28, 2012, at 2:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers and the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting would be February 1, 2012 in Prescott Valley.

Councilman Blair asked for a time frame for the Water Capture and Recharge project. Mr. Mucillo said they had to talk to the Town of Chino Valley but should be able to report back by the March meeting. He noted that at the next Board Meeting they would give updates to that project, water conservation and grant efforts and the water audits for the member entities. In addition, they would bring back the minutes from September 28, 2011, for approval.

**ITEM NO 11. Adjourn Meeting**

There being no further business to be discussed, the Upper Verde River Watershed Protection Coalition Board Meeting on January 25, 2012, adjourned at 3:03 p.m.

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Councilwoman Lora Lee Nye, Chairman

ATTEST:

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Kim Webb, Assistant Clerk