



## Watershed Planning Subcommittee

### Minutes of September 28, 2009, Meeting

#### **Public/Agencies**

Anthony Cuaron, Town of Marana  
Asia Philbin, Tucson Water  
Bev Hester, City of Tucson  
Byron McMillan, PC RWRD  
Candice Rupprecht, UA WRRC  
Dan Hartley, Tohono O'odham Nation,  
Water Resources  
Deborah Tosline, Bureau of Reclamation  
Dianne Kusel, ADWR  
Ed Curley, PC Wastewater  
Hans Huth, ADEQ  
James MacAdam, Watershed  
Management Group  
Jim DuBois, PC RWRD

John Chesley, UA Laboratory for Emerging  
Contaminants  
Kristine Uhlman, UA WRRC NEMO  
Michael Block, Metro Water  
Mitch Basefsky, CAP  
Paula Bluemer, Town of Marana  
Raymond Morgan, ADEQ  
Sidney Smith, Cortaro Marana Irrigation  
District

#### **PAG Staff**

Claire Zucker, Watershed Planning Manager  
Mead Mier, Watershed Planner

#### **1. Call to Order and Introductions**

Kristine Uhlman, Watershed Planning Subcommittee Chair, called the meeting to order and introductions were made at 1:30 p.m.

#### **2. In-Kind Form**

An in-kind form was routed among attendees.

#### **3. Approval of Minutes of Aug. 31, 2009**

A motion to approve the Aug. 31, 2009, minutes was moved by Mike Block and seconded by Ed Curley. The minutes were approved unanimously by the Subcommittee.

#### **4. Announcements/Comments**

Announcements were made by PAG staff and the Subcommittee members about upcoming events and deadlines for several agencies. Ms. Uhlman shared the new publication: Arizona Well Owner's Guide to Water Supply. The WestCAS conference on sustainability will be in Tucson on Oct. 26, 2009. AZGS is requesting input on cutting services.

## **5. Causes and Consequences of Monsoonal Flooding in Nogales, Sonora**

Hans Huth, ADEQ Office of Border Environmental Protection, shared information on practices, including water harvesting techniques, that are being applied and considered for watershed management in Nogales, Sonora, to protect or enhance stormwater and sewer conveyance infrastructure. Mr. Huth reviewed several projects using earthworks to handle the channelization that concentrates flows during periods of heavy monsoonal precipitation, eroding loose alluvial sediments and disturbed soils along the banks of washes thus exposing wastewater infrastructure buried within washes. Many of these projects have been funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) through Border Environment (BEIF) grants and the EPA Border 2012 Program.

Mr. Huth explained that the rapid growth of the maquiladoras industry and population in Mexico's northern-border region has put increased demand on water infrastructure. The presentation included a list of several challenges created by increased stormflow with urban hardscape: sanitary sewer overflows due to sewers not designed for combined stormflow conveyance, resulting chlorination of drainages, increased flood peaks, loss of flood plains, reduced infiltration and premature physical deterioration of infrastructure.

## **6. The Lower Santa Cruz River Managed Recharge Project**

Deborah Tosline, Bureau of Reclamation, presented ways that she and regional partners are pursuing enhanced recharge rates of treated effluent in the Lower Santa Cruz riverbed. The Bureau of Reclamation is coordinating the Lower Santa Cruz Managed Recharge Project with the Cortaro-Marana Irrigation District, Town of Marana, Avra Valley Irrigation and Drainage District, Flowing Wells Irrigation District, Metropolitan Domestic Water Improvement District, Pima County, Town of Oro Valley and City of Tucson to store treated effluent for recovery at a later time.

The goal of the project is to create a low-cost, low-tech way to increase managed recharge credits. They are currently working on refining the design and acquiring permits with the goal of a six month timeline. The projects will be used as a pilot study to test methods for increasing infiltration in the stream by spreading water across the channel.

## **7. Emerging Contaminants**

John Chesley described services available including testing, research, outreach and professional training at the Arizona Laboratory for Emerging Contaminants at the University of Arizona. The lab opened in 2008 with support from NSF funds. The impetus for opening the lab was the need to know more about health effects of consumed contaminated water and to know the degree of contaminants in the water, as well as arid region water issues such as wastewater re-use, imported water and diminished groundwater. Very few states have defined emerging contaminants as of yet.

The Arizona Laboratory collaborates with other colleges and the Department of Health Services to detect, characterize and quantify the full range of contaminants including pharmaceuticals & personal care products, endocrine-disrupting compounds and disinfection byproducts found in water sources throughout the United States. Mr. Chesley stated that they are also looking at issues of bioaccumulation, food web transfers, carcinogens and biotransformation.

## **8. Future Agenda Items / Call to the Audience**

Ms. Mier reviewed upcoming meeting agenda items. Topics for the Oct. 26, 2009, meeting may include the Drought Impact Group, effluent-dependent streams and the report on Best Practices with Rural Waste Water. The November 2009 meeting will be merged with EPAC to discuss the water/energy nexus and held on Dec. 4, 2009.

## **9. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:40 p.m.