



Watershed Planning Subcommittee

Minutes of October 26, 2009, Meeting

Public/Agencies

Anthony Cuaron, Town of Marana
Bill Petroustson, PDEQ
Byron McMillan, PC RWRD
Catlow Shipek, Watershed Management Group
Channah Rock, UA - Extension
Charlotte Cook, Empire-Fagan Coalition
David Benjes, PCDOT
Deborah Tosline, Bureau of Reclamation
Elizabeth Webb, Cienega Corridor
Jim DuBois, PC RWRD
Kathleen Chavez, PC RWRD
Kelly LaCroix, ADWR

Kim Rego, Vail resident
Melodee Loyer, Tucson Water
Michael Block, Metro Water
Mitch Basefsky, CAP
Paula Bluemer, Town of Marana
Rosanna Gabaldon, Town of Sahuarita
Roxanne Linsley, ADEQ
Sheila Bowen, EPAC
Vicki France, PC NRCD

PAG Staff

Claire Zucker, Watershed Planning Manager
Mead Mier, Watershed Planner

1. Call to Order and Introductions

Mead Mier, PAG, called the meeting to order and introductions were made at 1:30 p.m. Kristine Uhlman, Watershed Planning Subcommittee Chair, was unable to attend the meeting.

2. In-Kind Form

An in-kind form was routed among attendees.

3. Approval of Minutes of Sept. 28, 2009

A motion to approve the Sept. 28, 2009, minutes was moved by Jim DuBois and seconded by Kim Rego. 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. Malini Banerjee, PAG, announced that the PAG Stormwater Management Working Group's 2009 stormwater outreach campaign received first place in the National Association of Flood and Stormwater Management Agencies' "Excellence in Communication" award.

5. Local Drought Impact Group

Kathleen Chavez, Water Policy Manager-Pima County, discussed the activities of Pima County's Local Drought Impact Group (LDIG). She explained the purpose of the group, which is to coordinate drought public awareness, provide impact assessment information to local and state

leaders and implement local mitigation options. The current status of the county area is “severe” drought, which is updated every three months. Ms. Chavez discussed how drought levels are declared and what the corresponding responses are. The Subcommittee inquired about the status of funding for the program.

Mead Mier, PAG, presented information on the hydrologic monitoring that PAG contributes to the LDIG. Ms. Mier discussed how PAG determines impacts of drought to Cienega Creek and what the findings have been. PAG contributes hydrologic monitoring data to the LDIG through AZ Drought Watch. Thanks to Pima County support, PAG’s data is highly valued by this effort because it is the only consistent long-term data set that has been collected along Cienega Creek. Ms. Mier explained that in addition to acute drought impacts to groundwater and flow volume, creek flows in September 2009 were less extensive than any previous record. The Subcommittee discussed how these findings can be extrapolated to the drought conditions of the greater region.

6. Survey of Public Perceptions Regarding Water Reuse in Arizona: Challenges and Opportunities

Dr. Channah Rock, Water Quality Specialist/Assistant Professor at the University of Arizona, presented a study on public perceptions of wastewater reuse funded by the Arizona Water Institute. Dr. Rock discussed the level of public support, what the public’s concerns are and how these concerns can be addressed to ensure successful reclaimed water management in Arizona. Tucson was found to be unique in the high level of outreach and knowledge. One finding was that people were willing to pay more for higher quality water.

In addition to the survey, Dr. Rock spoke about a cooperative effort with Kristine Uhlman in mapping effluent discharge locations across the state. These maps include developed effluent-dependent stream lengths, which computed very different numbers than was originally assumed for designated reaches.

7. Environmental Planning Advisory Committee: Watershed Issues List

Claire Zucker, PAG, led a discussion on updating the Environmental Planning Advisory Committee (EPAC) issues list. The issues form the basis for decisions about topics for Subcommittee meetings. Ms. Mier prepared a list of Subcommittee meeting topics which covered the priority issues, and sorted by issue, over the last two years. The issues were fairly evenly covered and some topics are covered on an as-needed basis. The Subcommittee made several suggestions for new issues including pharmaceuticals, solid waste management, water/energy nexus, green infrastructure and riparian enhancements. The issues will be reviewed by EPAC and will go to the Regional Council for approval.

8. Future Agenda Items / Call to the Audience

Ms. Mier reviewed upcoming meeting agenda items. The November 2009 meeting will be merged with EPAC to discuss the water/energy nexus and will be held on Dec. 4, 2009.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.