



## City of Prescott

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### WATER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

September 13, 2007 Meeting Notes

#### MEMBERS:

Dava Hoffman - Chairwoman

Timothy Crews

James DiRienzo – Vice Chair

Barnabas Kane (absent)

Thomas Kayn

Ken Lain

Andrew Millison – TBKA representative

Steve Morgan (stopped in)

#### OTHERS PRESENT:

Shaun Rydell, WC Coordinator, Connie Tucker, Teresa Ogle, Howard Mechanic, Alan Dubiel

The meeting was called to order at 3:15 p.m. – Location : Prescott Public Library

Notes for the August 23, 2007 were approved as written.

### RECENT & CURRENT BUSINESS

#### 1. WCC member review of Draft 3: LDC Code – Sec. 6.5 Landscape and Screening

##### ➤ Review/rediscussion of turf limits consensus

DISCUSSION: Tim Crews was absent from the last meeting, and requested the opportunity to present data regarding turf limits to the committee. Tim felt that in the past, 300 square feet was discussed as a limit, and he felt this was a compromise. Therefore, Tim wanted to present data in support of a number under the 600 foot limit that was voted on and passed at the last meeting.

As a member who previously voted for the 600 square foot limit, Jim DiRienzo agreed to bring the subject back for discussion and another vote.

Tim compiled data from 1990 to 2006 for February and June total acre feet, which showed more than double water use in June for outdoor watering.

He also presented data collected from the incentive program. Applicants who received credits for removing turf, 3-year water use records were used for data collection. Records are available to document before turf removal and water use showing after turf removal. Removing turf showed a dramatic reduction in outdoor water use (On average, 41 gallons of water was saved per square foot , May-October).

The Committee has done education, rate increases, incentives/rebates –

- ✓ indoor incentives total water savings 2,000-5,500 gallons per incentive – 500,000 total saved
- ✓ outdoor incentives – turf removal – saves 51,000 gallons per customer - total saved by incentive program = 2,300,000 gallons over 2 year period (45 customers)

Going back to a 600 square feet turf size may not sound like much, but uses 24,600 gallons of irrigation between May and October per lawn. 600 square feet of vegetation on drip would use 5,400 gallons same period.

Tim has an issue with paying people to take out turf and then allowing 300 square feet of turf to be put in. Tim suggested compromising at 300 square feet, with anything above that requiring rainwater harvesting is a true compromise.

**ACTION/RECOMMENDATION:**

*Jim DiRienzo made a motion to reopen the last vote on turf limits. Tom Kayn seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-1 with Ken Lain casting the dissenting vote.*

*Jim DiRienzo made a motion to phase out turf in new construction using the following schedule:*

January 1, 2008 600 sq ft limit  
January 1, 2010 400 sq ft limit  
January 1, 2012 200 sq ft limit  
January 1, 2014 0 sq ft

*Tom Kayn seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-1 with Ken Lain casting the dissenting vote.*

Dava made the point that at the last meeting and this meeting, the landscape industry acknowledged that there was very little demand for lawn in new construction. A victory for the landscape industry is that there is no longer an oasis area defined, because it was to include all high water use plants, not just sod. Nursery stock will not be impacted at all.

There was a discussion of indigenous grasses and possible over-watering of these. Perhaps 1,200 square feet is too high if over-watering is occurring. One argument was that a person who goes to the time and expense to put in blue gramma or buffalo grass is knowledgeable and won't over-water. It was decided that we need more data to make a determination. ...Andrew agreed to identify 10 gramma/buffalo grass lawns and check their water use to see how much water is being used. Andrew will provide data for discussion at next meeting.

It was agreed that the proposal of 600 square foot limit should move forward, and follow it up with the indigenous/non-irrigated turf limits code later.

Dava asked that Shaun set up a Council study session in October to present a summary of the proposed changes in code and then take it to the Commission and Council approval.

➤ **Discussion on Draft for Rain Harvesting Rebate Formula – see attached**

DISCUSSION: None

**ACTION/RECOMMENDATION:**

**2. Discussion of a process to inform advisory and community groups on WCC work and conservation information– Horticultural Industry, CWAG/WAC**

DISCUSSION: None

## NEW BUSINESS

- Shaun Rydell reviewed the Water Conservation Incentive Credit Program totals for FY 2007. Spent 60% of Incentive Credit budget – total of \$63,720 paid out in credits.

Incentive	# of Residents	Total \$
Automatic drip irrigation	23	\$ 3,450.00
Turf Removal (44,110 sq ft)	32	15,539.50
Leak Repair	84	2,095.00
Water Efficient Washing Machines	166	16,600.00
Hot water Recirculators	33	1,650.00
Low Flow Toilets	116	11,540.00
Dual Flush Toilets	3	390.00
Showerheads	68	1,490.00
Waterless/low water use Urinals	12	1,475.00
Water Smart Kits		9,490.50
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$63,720.00</b>

Shaun reminded the Committee that the County Fair starts September 20<sup>th</sup>. The Central Yavapai Water Conservation Partnership will have a booth to provide regional water conservation information and to promote the Regional Opinion Survey and Water Smart concepts.

Shaun provided an update on the Central Yavapai Water Conservation Partnership Survey. 100,000 surveys were sent out September 6<sup>th</sup>. To date she has received 1,000 completed surveys. This is enough data to start analysis.

The committee discussed the public's perceptions on water conservation. Some residents are voicing concerns that they will have to let their fruit trees die. Over-watering is a concern. Shaun agreed of the need to create a Water Smart card on watering fruit trees and vegetables for public education.

## NEXT WCC MEETING

**The next meeting is schedule for Thursday, October 18, 2007 at 3:00 in the Public Works conference room.**

**ADJOURNMENT – 4:45 p.m.**