

PRESCOTT WATER ISSUES  
COMMITTEE MEETING  
FRIDAY, JUNE 4, 2010  
PRESCOTT, ARIZONA

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PRESCOTT WATER ISSUES COMMITTEE held on Friday, June 4, 2010 in the COUNCIL CHAMBERS located at 201 SOUTH CORTEZ STREET, Prescott, Arizona.

A. Call to Order.

Chairman Lamerson called the meeting to order at 8:53 a.m.

B. Roll Call.

WATER ISSUES COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Chairman Jim Lamerson  
Member Steve Blair            ABSENT  
Member Lora Lopas

Guests Present: Chuck Budinger, Michael Byrd, Gary Worob, Gordon Bean.

C. Approval of the minutes of the Committee Meeting of May 21, 2010.

Minutes of May 21, 2010 were approved by unanimous consent.

D. Discussion of Watson and Willow Lakes:

1. Operational storage and releases
2. Water quality sampling, analysis, and management
3. Sediment sampling, analysis, and dredging

Mr. McConnell noted that the agenda items were recommended by Mr. Worob.

Mr. Worob asked how they would go about getting the core samples and whose responsibility it would be. He said that their group cannot move forward without that information. He said that Jeff Lowe has expertise in that area, and he asked if the City would be prepared to look at their role in the process. Mr. McConnell said that they need to determine the scope of a boring or sediment sampling program. They need to have some discussion to determine if they need 10 or 100, how deep, etc.

Chairman Lamerson said that he thought that was what they were getting the speaker in from ADEQ to talk about. Additionally, he said that he thought they

already had some bore samples from the past. Member Lopas said that was how she remembered it also.

Chairman Lamerson said that he has heard more than once that the standard of water quality in the lake was ADEQ-qualified for recharge, but they were not sure if the quality was there for fishery and tourism.

Member Lopas asked Mr. Byrd if there were other groups that they needed to talk to, other than ADEQ and Fish and Game. Mr. Byrd said that in moving forward to Item E, future discussions, a few meetings ago they introduced the concept of the draft-improvement planning. As the working group they identified six or seven different presentations from both staff and agency representatives. He said that it could be added to or subtracted from, but the committee had not yet discussed the list.

Mr. McConnell said that in the information sent to Susan Fitch outlining what the committee wanted her to touch on core sampling was one of those items. It would be appropriate to ask her about core sampling as a component of an overall collection effort and any thoughts or experience that might relate to it.

He said that there was the draft assessment and it bears some additional discussion about what part sampling may play in the overall part of the lakes and their uses. Every time they have a discussion with someone like ADEQ, for purposes of clarifying sample boring, they ask questions and gather information. He said that perhaps that will be the means for directing the committee to come to conclusion about what is needed.

Mr. McConnell said that pursuant to direction of Council wanting to look at tourism application of the lakes, during some of the budget discussions they left some money in the budget specific to an algae study of \$25,000. As time elapses they are garnering some information. He did not remember the timeframe being set up for doing some type of performance presentation to the Council. He said that it did not have anything to do with bore samples, but rather algae. After they talk with ADEQ there may be other monies available to go after those purposes.

Member Lopas suggested that they wait until they have heard from the speakers, or send everyone a questionnaire. Mr. Worob said that the City should be looking at it needing to happen at some point.

Mr. McConnell said that he would go back to the draft document. It lays out a process of information gather, extending to a year from now, and includes among other things the next budget process of the City. There needs to be an identification of key aspects pertaining to the lakes and then some scoping done on what is important and what is not. He said there was almost a pass/fail about dredging in a lake when it is an impoundment and upstream there is a superfund site. It may be the last thing they want to do. If the bottom of the lake has been sealed and it is

disrupted, they could find out that they were leaking. These types of water bodies seal themselves.

Chairman Lamerson said that he thought they were on target. Right now was an assemblage of information. He heard from the Fish and Game gentleman that they should not be dredging the lake. At some point put they should put together some information for Council, perhaps in July, so it is in the public that they are looking at those elements. He said that it may be a little premature to talk about boring until they decide what they need to do. He said that right now he would like to hear from ADEQ on what they have to say regarding what they can and cannot do, and what they should not do.

Mr. McConnell said it was okay to talk about an array of topics simultaneously and if Mr. Worob was interested in a particular day talking about sampling, it helps keep it at the forefront of their thinking. He said that they will have a number of things going on concurrently.

Mr. Budinger asked if there was anything written or a presentation given, that was seen that the resource was given. Member Lopas said that Civiltec did a presentation and she would like to see that done at a workshop publically.

Mr. Budinger said that he thought the Council and the community had so many options available to achieve their goals for the lakes; there were a lot of ideas. The more they hear about them the better off they are going to be. He said that in his work with Prescott Creeks and Mr. Byrd, the concept of a watershed is very complex and very integrated. When ADEQ comes in to speak, they will be able to present that framework to them.

Chairman Lamerson said that he found it interesting what Mr. Clark said about fishing licenses, but they were looking at it from a different angle.

Mr. Byrd said that he agreed. They have laid out a list of perspective speakers and each one will speak about what is important to them. It will be the group's job to look for the commonalities in what they are being told and match the goals of the committee. In terms of additional groups, in the discovery stage they have a limited group of people and based on that they would put together their plans with bullet points. Then they would pull in a broader group of stakeholders that might include some of the speakers they had before, and they talked about SRP being part of the process at some point.

Member Lopas said that they already did the rainwater harvesting presentation with SRP and they loved it, so the olive branch is already out there. That was why she wants to do it publically.

Staff was directed to contact Civiltec to see about getting them scheduled for a presentation before Council and the public some time in July.

Chairman Lamerson said that he found it interesting that if they cannot have much evaporation in the AMA they could have a significant effect on the safe yield component, so the question becomes how they control evaporation. He said that they talked about collection of water during rainstorms, using the creek, directing waters, etc.

Mr. Budinger said that he would like to point the Council to the grant they approved for that purpose; they were already on the forefront of doing that. What Civiltec brought together was a lot of other ideas. That was the direction that the Water Conservation/Safe Yield Committee was headed in; they were looking at catchment basins, rainwater harvesting, incentives. Member Lopas said that the presentation addressed it from more of a regional concept. Chairman Lamerson said that was in the line with what Ms. Black talked about a few years ago from the San Pedro area.

Chairman Lamerson said that this was the water issues committee, not the lakes issues committee. One of the things that came out of the unsewered areas committee was the water aquifer protection. Maybe this was the catalyst for boring, water catchment, and a funding mechanism to have in place to address those issues. He said that they need the public to understand the need before they try to bring that forward.

Mr. Bean asked if they talked about the impact of the rainwater on recharge at the Civiltec presentation. Member Lopas said that it was more on how to get water to Granite Creek, because it was sandy and worked like a drip system. She suggested that they invite Fann and Cavan, or their land planners, because all of that development is going to affect the creek.

Mr. Worob said that they were finding more and more models of programs wanting to expend nationally and looking for target areas. One of the things they found was the Wetlands Institution in Illinois. They were enacting the things they have been talking about and they had funding and were looking for a group in the US for a target area.

Mr. McConnell said that, in terms of specifics, he was hearing there was a request for three presentations. First, at the most recent Upper Verde River Watershed Protection Coalition meeting they were asked to do a Safe Yield Work Group presentation to the Council before the next UVRWPC board meeting, which would make it either July 6 or July 14. There would be a second presentation in July, an informational presentation about what the committee is talking about that would outline the list and the process. Third would be the Civiltec presentation.

In regard to the presentation on what the committee was doing, Chairman Lamerson said that while he realized they had three elected people, they were not experts and he would hope that members of the working group would be prepared to be the lead on that presentation to the Council.

Mr. McConnell said that it was not usually the Council's role to do a presentation. His recommendation would be that one of the other citizen members do the presentation and it would be much more powerful for the community if they do not have a staff person pitching it. Everyone agreed that would be the best approach.

Mr. Byrd said that it was not clear to him what would be presented. He suggested the draft but noted that it has not even been discussed by the Committee. Member Lopas suggested that they keep it as a draft and take citizen participation. Mr. Worob said that his immediate thought was they could do a history of why the group was formed, and let the public know there was a huge concern.

Mr. McConnell said that from staff's perspective, the Council as a whole was on board for looking at the lakes as a tremendous asset of the community, for water supply, tourism and recreational. With that, what the committee has done has enumerated the various components proposed and is in the process of having presentations to present information. Mr. Worob added that next week's presentation was crucial in opening up more thoughts.

Mr. Worob said that he needs clarification of the \$25,000 for algae testing. Mr. McConnell explained that Parks and Recreation had included this request in their budget because having attended and been aware of these discussions and the focus on tourism, and comments she has received in the past of there being a problem, they thought it would be best to have the study done and put the issue to rest. He said that the project will need to be scoped and they will not go out and contract for the study without people being involved in the scope of the study.

Mr. Worob asked if they find that the study will only cost \$5,000 if some of the remaining funds could be used for core samples. Member Lopas said that it could be, or it may be found that some of the algae was related to something else that would need to be looked at.

Mr. Bean said that Jay had previously mentioned that monitoring was an ongoing process. Mr. Worob said that was something they needed to talk with Susan Fitch about, such as how often and the related costs.

E. Discussion of grant opportunities and funding.

Mr. Worob suggested that they have a workshop to discuss the legalities of who can receive monies from what areas. He volunteered to come and sit down with whoever they deemed should be looking at those areas.

Mr. Budinger said that he read something that the administration (Federal) wants to change the way they distribute grant monies, looking at a watershed-scale, not huge projects that affect a very small area. Chairman Lamerson said that regardless of what administration is in office, it is appropriate that they start looking

at more local. The bigger the spread the more the money gets lost. He said that what they would be looking at would be targeted. There was still a lot of private sector money, foundations, that make money available, but they do not do that out of the goodness of their heart.

Mr. Byrd said that everything they were talking about is right on point and everything they were doing was on target. During the Clinton administration there were small water grants and they got the watershed perspective going. The Bush administration had big dollars going to larger watersheds. With government agencies and the private sector, they were now seeing they want people to have a watershed plan, which they have developed through the University of Arizona for the Verde River, but they really need a more specific plan and the work that the Granite Creek Watershed Improvement Council was working on is a watershed plan.

He said that ADEQ is putting together the TMDL and that will work really well with the watershed improvement plan. The working group was putting together a lakes improvement plan and their view is that all of the different plans will complement each other nicely.

Mr. Byrd said that everyone wants to see partnerships. Member Lopas said that Civiltec's presentation was on a regional basis, and perhaps all three of the municipalities could work together.

Jim Lawrence, Prescott, said that on Tuesday the Granite Dells Preservation Foundation did apply for their corporation activity and assuming they are approved, very shortly they will be applying for the 501(c)3 status. Specifically in the organization activities they had meetings with the City of Prescott, the County, the Tribe and a good number of organizations that would be part of the partners to address the challenges and opportunities of the Granite Dells. He said that this was the type of project they would be participating in with private funds. He said that the lakes were the heart of the Granite Dells. He said that they have a list of about 45 different challenges and opportunities that the Board of Directors will look at.

Mr. Worob said that they have already asked Walt Anderson to speak to them, and they hope to have him come in August to speak about the Audubon Society.

Mr. Worob said that last night they had the Sailing Club meeting and it was mentioned that the valves were closed at the dam. He asked if they knew what the release program would be and if they could find that out before the next meeting. Chairman Lamerson said that he would ask someone to give him a call.

F. Identification of items for future Committee discussion.

Chairman Lamerson said that at some point he would like to meet with ADEQ, SRP and ADWR.

Mr. McConnell asked if the Committee members and public would prefer to meet at 9:00 a.m. for the July 2 meeting next month. It was agreed that the meetings would be changed to 9:00 a.m. rather than 8:00 a.m.

Mr. Byrd said that they added the name of Amanda Richardson to the list of speakers.

Member Lopas suggested that they also look at the groups that were involved in the Parks and Recreation surveys to see if there were any that should be contacted.

G. Adjournment

There being no further business to be discussed, the Water Issues Committee meeting of June 4, 2010 adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

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JIM LAMERSON, Chairman

ATTEST:

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ELIZABETH A. BURKE, City Clerk