

Governor's Water Augmentation Council

Status Report

December 12, 2016

The purpose of this report is to update members of the Governor's Water Augmentation Council (GWAC) concerning Arizona Water Initiative activities. The December GWAC meeting was cancelled to allow the Committees time to define their scope and action items. Having this level of detail will provide the framework for the Committees to complete action items during the upcoming calendar year. This report focuses on the efforts of the Committees, as well as updates on recent Planning Areas.

Desalination Committee

Committee Chair	ADWR Lead	Committee Members Participating	Meetings
Bob Lotts	Zack Richards	Wade Noble	September 20, 2016
		John Kmiec (SAWUA)	December 5, 2016
		Bruce Hallin (SRP)	January 19, 2017 (in Yuma)
		Glenn Hamer (AZCC)	
		Brian Payne (AMWUA)	
		Trevor Baggione (ADEQ)	
		Chuck Cullom (CAP)	

Scope:

To explore opportunities for in-state desalination with a focus on brackish groundwater and effluent supplies.

Goals:

To research and identify potential locations for brackish groundwater desalination projects, and to discuss implementation of said projects.

Action Items:

- Researched successful and unsuccessful desalination projects
- Identification of experts in the field to provide inside and clarity on scope/goals of the committee
- Educate members on desalination technologies through a series of presentations

Since its last meeting in November, Committee members and Arizona Department of Water Resources (ADWR) staff have been exchanging information on in-state brackish groundwater models. These studies will help determine where to focus the attention of the Committee on identifying future desalination projects. Currently, the Committee is exploring the feasibility of potential projects in the Yuma area. The Committee's next meeting will take place January 19th from 10:00am to 3:00pm at the Bureau of Reclamation Office in Yuma. The meeting will include a tour of the Yuma Desalination Plant and a discussion regarding the Yuma Brackish Groundwater Mound by Chuck Cullom from the Central Arizona Project.

Long Term Water Augmentation Committee

Committee Chair	ADWR Lead	Committee Members Participating	Meetings
Maureen George	Zack Richards	Wade Noble	January 27, 2017
		Virginia O'Connell (AWBA)	
		Bruce Hallin (SRP)	
		Pat Graham (Nature Conservancy)	
		Brett Fleck (AMWUA)	
		Chris Udall (Agribusiness Arizona)	
		Sarah Porter (Kyl Center)	
		Phil Townsend (Sunland Chemical)	

Scope:

To explore the feasibility of large water augmentation projects on a statewide level.

Goals:

To be determined at inaugural meeting.

Action Items:

- Determine Committee members, goals and scope
- Determine meeting logistics

Chair of the Committee, Maureen George, has identified the following topics for discussion during the initial meeting at ADWR on January 27, 2017: Volume (all, M&I, ag, environment, statewide, industry; offset by findings of desalination and reuse subcommittee?), Timing (agreements, acquisition, infrastructure, environmental compliance), Options (in-state, regional, nationwide, international), and Financing (update by Martin Stiles on GWAC Funding Subcommittee).

Finance Committee

Committee Chair	ADWR Lead	Committee Members Participating	Meetings
TBD	Martin Stiles	Warren Tenney (AMWUA)	September 22, 2016
		Bas Aja (Cattle Growers Assoc.)	
		Philip Richards (SRP)	
		Cheryl Lombard (Valley Partnership)	
		Spencer Kamps (Home Builders Assoc.)	
		Sarah Porter (Kyl Center)	
		Sandy Fabritz (Freeport-McMoRan)	

Scope:

To research and identify possible funding sources for future projects proposed by the GWAC.

Goals:

To bring together an interdisciplinary group of experts to solve funding issues for water augmentation projects by analyzing what has worked in the past and will be most effective in the future.

Action Items:

- Meet and determine Committee members, goals and scope
- Identification of experts in the field to assist in research and education of Committee members on technical topics
- Analysis of ADWR Strategic Vision Planning Areas: which ones will experience water supply imbalances soonest, and where is the greatest need/opportunity for augmentation?

We are deeply saddened by the recent passing of Council Member Rick Lavis. He will be greatly missed. The Finance Committee, previously chaired by Mr. Lavis, has met only once on September 20, 2016. At this plenary meeting, ADWR staff were tasked with researching and ranking the Strategic Vision Planning Areas by most immediate water demand imbalances, as well as statewide opportunities for large augmentation projects. While progress was made on this project, the Committee’s activity has been paused until further direction is provided by a future Chair of the Committee. The Chair of the GWAC has reached out to a member of the Council to possibly fill the role of Finance Committee Chair. Staff expects to present the research findings to the Committee at a future meeting.

Recycled Water Committee

Committee Chair	ADWR Lead	Committee Members Participating	Meetings
John Kmiec	Martin Stiles	Brad Hill (Flagstaff)	December 5, 2016
		Charles Mosley (Sedona)	
		Jeff Biggs (Tucson)	
		Philip Richards (SRP)	
		Bob Lotts (APS)	January 24, 2017
		Brian Payne (AMWUA)	
		Chuck Graf (ADEQ)	
		Grady Gammage (Kyl Center)	

Scope:

To continue the work on the recommendations established by the Blue Ribbon Panel on Water Sustainability (BRP) and to look for opportunities to develop reclaimed water supplies.

Goals:

Assess current status of statewide opportunities and Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) rule changes for direct and indirect potable reuse.

Action Items:

- Meet and determine Committee members, goals and scope
- Identification of experts in the field to aid in research and education of Committee members on technical topics
- Evaluation of the progress of reclaimed water recommendations made by the BRP in 2010

The Recycled Water Committee was tasked with assessing the current status of the recommendations for reclaimed water that emerged from the BRP. The Committee was also asked to explore opportunities across Arizona for new reclaimed water projects for augmenting local water supplies.

The first meeting was held on Monday, December 5, 2016. The format of the meeting followed a series of five educational presentations given by the designers of recycled water projects around Arizona. The Chair, John Kmiec, provided an overview on the status of the BRP reclaimed water recommendations. Out of the 18 recommendations for reclaimed water made by the BRP: 50% have some degree of progress made toward completion; 39% have not been advanced; 11% have an unknown status.

Chuck Graf of ADEQ, who served as staff for the BRP, will attend the next Recycled Water Committee meeting to offer further updates on the status of the BRP recommendations, contaminants of emerging concern and the opportunity for rule changes for direct potable reuse.

Susan Craig of the Water Infrastructure Finance Authority (WIFA) provided examples of reclaimed water projects that have been funded through WIFA.

Presentations on large reclaimed water projects were also provided:

- Jeff Biggs, City of Tucson: Restoring flows to the Santa Cruz River
- Bob Lotts, APS: Palo Verde's Reclaimed Water System (used for cooling the nuclear plant)
- Brad Hill, City of Flagstaff: Reclaimed water used for recharging the aquifer

The next meeting will be scheduled for the end of January 2017.

Planning Areas

West Basin

Municipal water demands were finalized and preliminary industrial water demands for the West Basins Planning Area were discussed on October 5, 2016. The meeting to discuss agricultural water demands has been delayed until field verification data from the United States Geological Survey becomes available in 2017.

Northwest Basin

The last meeting of the Northwest Basins Planning Area was held in Kingman on December 6, 2016. Approximately 40 stakeholders attended the meeting at Mohave Community College. The discussion focused on preliminary municipal water demand data for the Northwest Basins and also included a presentation on Arizona's Recharge program. ADWR received feedback from local stakeholders regarding municipal water demand as well as their concerns regarding recent agriculture in the Northwest Basins.

Future meetings of the Northwest Basins are currently being planned. Date, time and location are to be determined.

Cochise

The last Cochise Planning Area meeting was on November 30, 2016 at the Willcox Community Center in Willcox. There were approximately 50 stakeholders in attendance. The meeting included a discussion of

finalized industrial water demand data and a guest presentation and discussion regarding the Willcox Basin Groundwater Conservation Area concept. Additional meetings are now being planned.