



**DOUGLAS A. DUCEY**  
Governor

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<b>DATE:</b>	<b>FEBRUARY 19, 2016</b>
<b>TIME:</b>	<b>10 am to 12 pm</b>
<b>LOCATION:</b>	<b>Arizona Department of Water Resources 3550 North Central Avenue, Second Floor Phoenix, Arizona 85012</b>

- 1. Welcome and Formal Commencement of the Governor's Water Augmentation Council:**  
Chairman Tom Buschatzke welcomed those in attendance to the first meeting of the Governor's Water Augmentation Council (GWAC). The Chairman then recognized elected officials present.
- 2. Introductions of appointed parties:** Mr. Buschatzke introduced each appointed member of the GWAC along with the ADWR Staff who would be coordinating and facilitating the council. By way of introduction, Mr. Buschatzke read a short biography detailing each person's professional experience, expertise and talents.
  - ADWR Staff: Gerry Walker, Martin Stiles and John Riggins.
  - Members of the GWAC: Bas Aja, Lisa Atkins, David Brown, Misael Cabrera, Chris Camacho, Ted Cooke, Ron Doba, Sandy Fabritz-Whitney, Grady Gammage Jr., Maureen George, Patrick Graham, Glenn Hamer, Spencer Kamps, Rod Keeling, Rick Lavis, Cheryl Lombard, Robert Lotts, Hunter Moore, Wade Noble, Virginia O'Connell, Sarah Porter, David Roberts, Mark Smith, Craig Sullivan, Warren Tenney, Phillip Townsend and Chris Udall.
- 3. Chairman Buschatzke made the following statements regarding logistics:**
  - The Governor has appointed Hunter Moore as the Vice Chair.
  - In order to facilitate continuity of discussion, there will be no alternates to represent appointed members at the table.
  - Council decisions will be made by consensus.
  - The first annual report would be due on July 1, 2016.
  - Chairman Buschatzke then identified the order of discussion for the following topics:
    - Additional opportunities for conservation within the state
    - Opportunities associated with re-use
    - Augmentation opportunities
- 4. Presentation of New Conservation Opportunities:** Chairman Buschatzke provided an introduction to New Conservation opportunities and explained that the presentation was to

help generate ideas and be a jumping off point for council discussion. Martin Stiles then gave the slide presentation on new conservation opportunities ([Conservation Potential Slides](#)).

**a. Council Member questions and discussion as follows:**

- A question was made regarding the GPCD data and whether or not it took in account municipal and industrial uses. The Chairman clarified that the data was a statewide GPCD that included industrial use supplied by municipal providers.
- A question was made regarding the cost and saving of lining all the irrigation ditches and canals. The Chairman was not aware if that had been done but recognized that that lining ditches would need to be analyzed and explored in detail if they go down that path.
- A question was made regarding if there was data showing how many lined irrigation ditches existed in Arizona and if a before and after analysis had been conducted. The Chairman stated that issues such as funding may have limited which canals and irrigation ditches have been lined.
- A comment made stated that the discussion for conservation should include how conserved water will be used.
- A question was asked if the reduction in lost and unaccounted for water was a water supply issue and if lost and unaccounted for water included surface evaporation.
- A question was asked about the challenges and barriers that keep the agricultural sector from increasing efficiency in agriculture.
- An answer to the aforementioned question explained that it is a question of money for conservation efforts when analyzing these barriers.
- A second answer to the question explained that it is an efficiency situation and perhaps not a great conservation practice due to the high cost of lining.
- The discussion continued with a council member providing detailed information regarding the lining of canals and irrigation ditches within the Yuma area.
- A comment followed regarding the Ground Water Management Act and the requirement of mandatory ground water conservation in all three sectors.
- A questions was asked if there was a requirement by the USBR that reclamation projects operate efficiently.
- A comment regarding the above-mentioned question explained examples of water reclamation projects within the Yuma area and asked for spatial illustrations of where water is used in Arizona and for what purpose.
- A statement was made that the water savings of lining canals would not be very significant because of reduced water return to rivers and aquifers.
- A question was asked how the water is going to be used once it is conserved while another comment stated that issues of conservation will not just be a state issue but also have interstate and international involvement.
- A comment explained that many areas in the state lined canals and irrigation ditches as part of the Arizona Water Settlement Act.

- A question was then asked about the barriers of conservation that all sectors of the state face.
- A comment made stated Arizona is a leader in water conservation but there is room for improvement. The comment explained that cities look for cost effective savings and lost and unaccounted for water in the cities was a possible opportunity for savings while turf should be less a focus.
- A comment made focused on recent stats that show a reduction in municipal water use through education, rates and local decision making without mandating big changes.
- A question was then asked about the real savings involving the lining of on-farm irrigation as well as who gains from leaving water in the Colorado River.
- The Yuma irrigation district was mentioned as a good example of canal and irrigation ditch lining.
- It was then noted that the efficiency in water use with an increase in crop yield is something to look at when considering water conservation in the agriculture sector.
- A question was asked if the 73% agriculture usage figure reflects total water used or is it how much is diverted to agriculture. ADWR staff answered that the 73% is the total water used by the agriculture sector.
- A question was then asked if the implications of the slide presentation were for statewide regulation; to which Chairman Buschatzke answered that the report was not suggesting expanding the Ground Water Management Act outside the AMA's but instead showed some of the best management practices applied to a few sectors within the AMA's that could be applicable outside the AMA's.
- A comment explained that outside the AMA's, some municipal sectors in rural Arizona have programs to put turf in (the example given was St. Johns, AZ) and that removal or restrictions on turf might exacerbate the urban heat island effect.
- A comment was made regarding data needed to determine if the sectors have maximized water conservation and if over-conservation would cause less elasticity in times of drought.
- A comment was made about the importance to move forward and not backwards.
- The Chairman noted that Arizona's previous water management practices will be a part of the first annual report prepared by the GWAC.
- A comment was made that explained a price tag comes along with water conservation programs and conservation programs are usually the first programs to be cut.
- A statement explained that with limited time before the first annual report, the council might consider talking about where the most cost effective savings are and to use this as the report's main topic.

- The final comment stated that the more the council can articulate the problems they are trying to solve, the better they can target conservation and focus on a solution.

**5. Public Comment on the presentation over New Conservation Opportunities:**

- a. Five comment cards were submitted to speak at the meeting.
  - The first comment focused on indoor water use and low-flow fixtures. The speaker identified this as the last “low hanging fruit” and requested that the council consider these ideas.
  - The second comment explained that the council should focus on keeping rivers flowing and take into consideration climate change. The comment stated that keeping rivers flowing was a worthy goal for the council and that it was encouraging to hear that the council had discussed moving forward and not backwards.
  - The third comment was made by a representative from the golf industry and stated that there was a current water study available that shows the level of reclaimed water and total water use in the Arizona golf industry.
  - The fourth comment was from a representative of the turf industry and the speaker noted that saving water with turf removal is simply not feasible and the information in the presentation was dated and not relevant today.
  - The fifth and final comment explained that municipal conservation will have to look at the water provider’s infrastructure and “moving the dial” would significantly jeopardize the infrastructure of those providers.

**6. Announcements:**

- a. Comments made by Gerry Walker included:
  - Connect to GWAC webpage for agenda, calendar and working documents
  - Anticipate at least three more meetings within 2016
  - Upcoming Meetings May 13, 2016 and June 10, 2016 (tentative)