

GWAC May 13, 2016 Meeting Summary

Time: 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Location: Arizona Department of Water Resources

Fifty-one guests were in attendance and twelve on webinar for the second meeting of the Governor's Water Augmentation Council. Council Chairman and Arizona Water Resources Director Buschatzke welcomed a new member to the Council, John Kmiec who serves as the director of the Southern Arizona Water Users Association.

Chairman Buschatzke then introduced the next segment of the meeting, which would be led by ADWR Staff, Martin Stiles. Stiles presented responses to the questions that council members posed at the February 19 GWAC meeting. The meeting then moved into the next agenda item, reviewing the Council's Annual Report, which is due to the Governor's Office by July 1st. ADWR staff drafted the first version to be reviewed at this meeting and a subsequent meeting on June 10th.

Review began with changes to the recommendations section of the report. Chairman Buschatzke gave the Members of the Council opportunity to voice concern or suggestions for the language of this section. The Council discussed the proposed language at length and then made several significant changes.

The first change was suggested for the second recommendation. The original language read:
"The GWAC recommends that ADWR identify municipal water providers outside AMAs whose Lost and Unaccounted for water exceeds 10 percent and explore with those providers potential actions that may reduce the Lost and Unaccounted water to below 10 percent."

The text was changed to read:

"The GWAC recommends that ADWR identify municipal and private water providers outside AMAs whose Lost and Unaccounted water exceeds 10 percent and explore with those providers potential actions that may reduce the Lost and Unaccounted water to below 10 percent"

Several Council Members raised an issue about the wording from the original language:

"There will be no further discussion at the GWAC regarding implementation of large-scale programmatic or systematic statewide conservation measures. The GWAC does advocate for continued implementation of water conservation measures in all water use sectors throughout the state. "

Members of the Council voiced concern about the language of the third item under the recommendations section, which the Chairman intended to read:

Assess the potential for additional conservation actions as an element of the Planning Area Process. As ADWR addresses each planning area it should review existing conservation tools with the stakeholders for inclusion in the solution set that will be created for each Area.

Pat Graham wrote a revised version of recommendation number three, from the original draft. The language was modified by the Chairman and other members of the Council to read:

“In recognition of past, present, and proposed investments in demand reduction by the State, municipalities, industry and the agricultural community, the GWAC recommends the Department continue to lead Arizona water conservation efforts and bring applicable conservation concepts to the GWAC for consideration.”

This language was adopted by the Council.

The discussion then moved on to the topic of the fourth recommendation item. The Council decided to remove the two specific items relating to groundwater transportation and community gardens. Chairman Buschatzke requested that we include the topic of groundwater transportation because there are domestic water use needs that may be breaking current laws out of necessity. Clarifying this law to allow for domestic groundwater transfers (hauling water) would be a practical solution for homeowners. Five Council Members brought up issues with these two specific topics, saying that they were not directly related to water augmentation and that they should not be pursued by the Council. Regulations for groundwater transportation and AMA community gardens were removed from the fourth recommendation, which now reads:

“The GWAC recommends that Council discussions in Fiscal Year 2016-2017 focus on the following topics:

- The potential for augmentation through reuse, reclaimed, and poor quality water to significantly impact the future demand and supply imbalance
- The potential for augmenting groundwater supplies through natural recharge and conservation to include possible incentives and infrastructure needs
- Consideration of a communication plan for the State to accurately convey the status of its water supply resiliency and its efforts to maintain that status moving forward
- Funding for augmentation infrastructure
- Begin to identify large-scale augmentation opportunities

It is a recommendation of the GWAC that a role of the Council be to provide direction to the Director of the Arizona Department of Water Resources on any other issues that the Director determines may impact water management.”

Members of the council emphasized that Arizona has made great strides in protecting our water resources for future use and providing strong leadership in making the State a welcoming and prepared landscape for growth. Changes to the fourth recommendation item concluded with the addition of language that provides the opportunity for the Council to make recommendations to the Director of ADWR. This last point was put into a fifth recommendation bullet point.

The remainder of the document was accepted in its current state, with the exception of the “History of Water Success” timeline. Landmark accomplishments in water management were added to the timeline:

Yuma Irrigation District, formation of the CAP, the aquifer recharge program, and the establishment of the Arizona Water Banking Authority. The timeline portion was then moved to the appendices section of the Annual Report.

Two final announcements were made. The next meeting will be June 10th at ADWR's current location: 3550 North Central Avenue Phoenix, Arizona 85012. The meeting will begin at 10 a.m.

The Department is moving to 1110 West Washington St. Suite 310, Phoenix, AZ 85007 on June 13, 2016. Lastly, the Council Members were asked to look for an email in the coming week with the consolidated changes to the Annual Report. Members were asked to review the language of these changes and submit any final suggestions by June 2. The final version of the Annual Report will be adopted by the Governor's Water Augmentation Council at the June 10th meeting.