

MINUTES OF THE MOHAVE COUNTY
LOCAL DROUGHT IMPACT GROUP AND STEERING COMMITTEE
July 09 2008
Kingman Arizona

1. Welcome and Call to Order.

The meeting was called to order by Co-Chairman Byron Steward at 2:30 pm., at the Saguaro A room, Mohave County Administration Building, 700 W. Beale Street, Kingman Arizona. The following members were present:

Dave Hawkins, Media Outlets
George Sedich, City of Kingman
Vance Barlow, the Town of Colorado City
Amanda Kaufman, Brown Drilling
Mike Gross, Rancher
Zelda Wright, Mohave County Improvement Districts
Ernie Wescott, Havasu Heights
Carl Buke Havasu Heights
Janice Paul, City of Bullhead City
Val Starr, SVS Inc
Doyle Wilson, Lake Havasu City Public Works
Rick Obenshain, Arizona Department of Water Resources
Denise Johnston, So Hi Water District
Jack Hommel, So Hi Water District
Jim Kanelos, MWSS
Jeanne Kentch, CBWCD
Ron Bowen, Public
Linda Reddick, Watershed steward
Susan McCauley, Valley Pioneer Water Co
Susan Armijo, Global Water
Tony Kuc, Lower Colorado River RC& D
Judy Cheon, Lower Colorado River RC&D
Jim Roundtree, Oatman Water Co
Alex Cabillo, Hualapai Tribe
Kevin Davidson, Mohave County Planning and Zoning
Luis Vega, Consulting Geologist
Elno Roundy, Northwest Arizona Watershed Council
Eric Nelson, Mohave County Public Works
Chad Benson, BLM Colorado River District
Dave Evans, Arizona American Water Co
Faith Borden, National Weather Service
Larry Jensen, National Weather Service
John Algots, Fort Mojave Tribe
Paul Hobbs, BLM Kingman
Rob Grumbles, Mohave County Extension Office
Byron Steward, Mohave County Emergency Management
Mike Browning, Mohave County Emergency Management
Liz Durst, Mohave County Emergency Management

2. Introductions.

Byron Steward thanked the group for attending the meeting and gave a brief overview of the purpose of the Local Drought Impact Group. Mr. Steward advised that the group is open to anyone that would like to attend.

3. Seating of Steering Committee Members.

Byron Steward advised that the Steering Committee, comprised of 7 members who are appointed by the Board of Supervisors, will direct the actions of the group.

4. Drought and Local-level Monitoring

Gregg Garfin, Ph.D., Deputy Director, Science Translation and Outreach, Institute for the Study of Planet Earth, University of Arizona.

Mr. Garfin gave a presentation on what the state drought monitoring group does and what kind of interactions they would like to have with the local drought impact group in Mohave County strictly from the monitoring side of things. An explanation was given on the creation of drought maps. Mr. Garfin expressed the importance that LDIG's play in compiling drought information. Information was given on the volunteer rain log network program.

5. Drought & Conservation Planning, A New Perspective on Reducing Drought Impacts

Melanie Ford, Drought Planner, Arizona Department of Water Resources.

A presentation on the concept of drought planning was given by Ms. Ford, who also stressed the importance of LDIG's. Ms. Ford advised the group that an emergency declaration has been in effect for almost 10 years now, which enables an agricultural disaster designation. The three main components to drought planning are: monitoring, mitigation, and a safety net of response programs. The goal of drought planning is the prevention of getting to the emergency response stage.

6. Arizona Droughtwatch Program

Melanie Ford, Drought Planner, Arizona Department of Water Resources.

An overview of the droughtwatch program was given by Ms. Ford. Homepage information was given, and the website explored. Key features that will be added to the site include: monthly reminders about data reporting and notifications of impacts reported in areas of interest. In the future the site will be linked with the Arizona Hydrologic Information System and the National Drought Impact Reporter.

7. Mohave County ALERT Flood Warning System

Mike Browning presented the ALERT flood warning system. This system is used to gather data from 300 sensors at 99 sites throughout the county and reports on temperature, humidity, stream flow, rain gauge and wind speed, as well as lightning strikes. Information was provided on how to access the site and review data online.

8. Review of LDIG Bylaws.

Copies of the bylaws were passed out and reviewed. It was noted that section 2 and 3 outline recommendation responsibility to the Board of Supervisors.

9. Election of Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of Steering Committee.

This item was tabled for the next meeting by general consensus. Liz Durst will be the clerk.

10. Discussion of LDIG Organizational Structure and Working Groups.

Three working groups will be established: the monitoring workgroup; mitigation and response workgroup; and the outreach and education workgroup.

11. Discussion of LDIG Goals and Objectives.

Monitoring will be the primary focus of the LDIG.

12. Call to the Public.

Nothing noted.

13. Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned by Byron Steward at 4:55 p.m. The next meeting will be held at 1:00 p.m. on October 15th in Kingman. Meeting location to be determined.