

MINUTES OF THE MOHAVE COUNTY
LOCAL DROUGHT IMPACT GROUP AND STEERING COMMITTEE
January 14th 2009

1. Call to Order.

The meeting was called to order by Chairwoman Amanda Kaufman at 1:00 pm., at the training room of the Mohave County Sheriffs Office, 600 W. Beale Street, Kingman, Arizona. The following members were present:

Jeff Pebworth, Arizona Game and Fish Department
Zen Mocagski, Arizona Game and Fish Department
Mike Blanton, Bureau of Land Management
Rob Grumbles, University of Arizona
Elno Roundy, Self
Ron Bowen, Self
Lori Ann Cameron, Fort Mojave Indian Tribe
Luke Johnson, Fort Mojave Indian Tribe
Whit Bunting, Bureau of Land Management
Gary Sims, Self
Jack Hommel, So Hi Water
Vance Barlow, Colorado City
Jeanne Kentch, Crystal Beach Water
Amanda Kaufman, Brown Drilling
Mike Gross, Rancher
Byron Steward, Mohave County Emergency Management
Liz Durst, Mohave County Emergency Management
George Sedich, City of Kingman
Bill Trotter, Golden Shores Water Conservation District
Barry Sinclair, Golden Shores Water Conservation District
Imogene Wright, Golden Shores Water Conservation District
Paul Maxwell, Golden Shores Water Conservation District
Jim Kanelos, SVS

*Via teleconference

Melanie Ford, ADWR
Susan Craig ADWR
Larry Jensen, NWS

2. Approval of Minutes of October 15, 2008, Meeting.

Jeanne Kentch moved to approve the minutes as written. Mike Gross seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

3. Report on Observed Drought Impacts from Bureau of Land Management.

Whit Bunting with the BLM gave a brief summary on drought impacts in the Arizona Strip region. Since 1975 the Arizona Strip region has had 47 rain gauges installed. The gauges are read seasonally and the data is compiled to determine averages. During the last decade, only 3 years have shown above average in rainfall. Wildlife and vegetative losses suffered from drought were outlined as well as mitigation measures.

Mike Blanton with the BLM gave a brief summary on drought impacts for the Kingman region. Since 1990, twenty one rain gauges have been monitored in the area. Data is collected on a monthly basis. Losses suffered during 2002 were discussed and the importance of soil moisture probes was noted.

4. Report on Observed Drought Impacts from Arizona Game and Fish Department.

Jeff Pebworth with Arizona Game and Fish Department gave a presentation on the basic effects of drought on wildlife. Large animals have been found to be more tolerant of drought than smaller animals; however half of the population of big horn sheep in the black mountain region was lost during the dry season of 2002. A U.S. Fish and Wildlife study done in 2001 found that drought cost the State \$850 million dollars. Example expenditures included filling water catchments and increased nuisance wildlife calls.

5. Report on any Additional Observed Impacts.

None

6. New Business.

A discussion was held regarding changing the meeting dates. Janice Paul has a standing conflict with the current meeting schedule. Because Board approval is required to change the date, Byron Steward advised he would put the request on the next agenda to move the date permanently. In the meantime, Jeanne Kentch moved to hold a special meeting on April 15th in lieu of the April 8th meeting. George Sedich seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed. The next meeting will be held on April 15th at 1:00 p.m. location to be determined.

7. Discussion and Possible Action on Establishment of Working Groups / Subcommittees.

Melanie Ford with ADWR advised that other groups have found that forming all subcommittees at once is too much. The general consensus was that all subcommittees could be formed; however the primary focus will be on the Monitoring group. Susan with ADWR recommended setting up a network of individuals who were interested in monitoring, with data reported back to one lead individual. Per Susan Craig, the State is not interested in the number of individuals that are monitoring, but rather the information that is gathered. Mike Gross felt that everyone needs to work together. It was agreed that the monitoring group would gather information on the locations of rain gauges, so that bare sectors can be found. Jack Hommel felt that the group should be looked at as a coordinating body to make sure the information gets where it needs to go. Byron Steward read an email from Doyle Wilson regarding his feelings on the matter. Discussion ensued regarding what should be monitored. The question of laws for meeting frequency and posting notices was addressed. Byron

Steward advised that he would check with the County Attorney on the matter. Susan Craig advised that ADWR is available to attend subcommittee meetings and to facilitate what needs to happen.

Mike Gross moved to set up the Monitoring group, and table the other two groups. Jeanne Kentch seconded the motion. It was agreed that the two members from the steering group to be on the subcommittee will be Doyle Wilson and Mike Gross. Jack Hommel will take the lead.

8. Planning Discussion for Drought Monitoring Program.

Addressed above.

9. Call to the Public.

Rob Grumbles felt that it was important to look at well information as well as natural resources. Jack Hommel advised that he had gauged two valley pioneer wells recently and both had shown an increase. Discussion ensued regarding the fear some well owners have regarding the possibility of the Government demanding private wells be metered.

Jim Kanelos announced that ADEQ will be hosting a public meeting on February 4th at 6:00 p.m. at the County Administrative building on the aquifer protection permit for Mineral mine.

10. Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned by Chairwoman Amanda Kaufman at 2:45 p.m.