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## **ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES**

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### **Water Resources Development Commission (HB 2661) Environmental Committee – Notes: January 11, 2011 Meeting**

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#### **IN ATTENDANCE:**

Brenda Burman (TNC co-chair)  
Warren Tenney (Metro Water co-chair; by phone)  
Linda Stitzer (ADWR)  
Bill Plummer (ABC)  
Chris Udall (ABC)  
Christine Dawes (USFS)  
Dave Weedman (AZGF)  
Doug Kupel (City of Phoenix)  
Jean Calhoun (USFWS)  
Jim Renthall (BLM)  
Karen Nally (for HIDD and CAIDD)  
Lynn Bredimus (SRP)  
Nicole Eiden (AZGF)  
Rebecca Davidson (SRP)  
Rob Marshall (TNC)  
Ron Solomon (Taylor)

#### **INTRODUCTIONS AND UPDATES:**

Introductions were conducted and Brenda and Warren reviewed the overall strategy for the workgroup. While additional guidance is needed for the Environmental Workgroup interface with the Water Supply and Demand Workgroup, there is general agreement that our cataloging effort and associated maps is the best approach. Whether any environmental data are needed for a calculation of unmet demand is unlikely but this needs clarification. The group should plan on completing its work by the third week in February while completion of the draft report will take longer.

#### **REPORT FROM ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS SUBCOMMITTEE:**

The subcommittee met on January 4<sup>th</sup> and revised the compendium table. The meeting notes and latest version of the table were distributed and discussed. Major changes included:

- moving the more descriptive language in the table to a separate section (narrative section) above the table, which reduces the table size
- using the groundwater basin as the geography for describing the table data rather than organizing by groundwater sub-basin. This simplifies data presentation significantly
- showing instream flow claims that have been permitted and certificated in a separate row and footnoting pending instream flow applications
- in addition to listing the primary streams for which baseflow data are available, adding a row listing other perennial waters
- including the miles of perennial flow
- additional changes are listed in the January 4<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes.

It was mentioned that instream flow volumes should not be additive when there are sequential applications along a stream. Members also suggested clarification to some of the column headings (e.g. changing "Discharge" to "Spring and Effluent Discharge"). While the subcommittee had proposed discussing the contribution of floodflow in the narrative section above the table, after considerable discussion it was decided to add a column with a check for those systems with an important floodflow component and to include a volume where available.

TNC has been meeting with ARS, USGS and others to collect data on ET estimates. Riparian ET data from a USGS study (in press) will be available in early February for input to the compendium. However, the subcommittee will still be analyzing AZGF data to present a range of estimates.

Baseflow data are available for 18 watersheds/subwatersheds from a TNC study but other systems also need to be included, primarily the Lower San Pedro and Bill Williams Rivers. These systems did not have streamflow data available that fit the study criteria. A different approach will be used for these systems and documented.

A group consisting of Rebecca Davidson, Doug Kupel, Dave Weedman and Nicole Eiden will work on the narrative section of the compendium.

#### **REPORT FROM MAPPING SUBCOMMITTEE:**

The subcommittee met on January 4<sup>th</sup> and most data layers have been stored at the FTP site. Meeting notes were distributed and discussed. Data layers have been pulled together into one project and were displayed. Some of the remaining tasks include:

- ADWR will cross check the miles of perennial flow generated by SRP
- Instream flow volumes, where certificates or permits extend across multiple basins or counties will need to be assigned to a discrete groundwater basin or county
- Considerable work is still needed on quantifying riparian acres and demand
- Need to ensure that all data are well documented
- Areas of critical environmental concern that have perennial reaches (such as Important Bird Areas) need to be included, not just formally designated protected lands
- The State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP) model will be used to yield counts of wildlife species. Threatened and Endangered Species will be pulled out for a separate count. The SWAP model may be used to show only aquatic dependent species.
- Map scale needs to be determined; i.e. basin, county, statewide. Maps will display current information.

It was suggested that given the large amount of data that the subcommittee focus on mapping the most important features that highlight what we want to communicate. This should be decided at the subcommittee level with the most controversial brought to the full workgroup for discussion and decision.

Regarding map scale it was suggested that the report include introductory maps with basic information that clearly displays key messages and that this would help drive what maps and at what scale to include in the report. We need to keep in mind who the audience is and what is of most importance to decision makers. Often more detailed maps are of most use.

#### **OTHER:**

Also discussed was the workgroup report process and outline. A workgroup chair meeting is scheduled for January 18<sup>th</sup> where this can be discussed. It was also suggested that the co-chairs of the Water Supply and

Demand workgroup be invited to an Environmental workgroup meeting to discuss the interface between the two workgroups. Rob Marshall, Jim Renthall and Christine Dawes will develop a report outline.

Christine Dawes will provide the USFS southwest assessment climate model that should be included in the report to show future climate impacts. It was noted that climate variability is being integrated into the work of the water supply subcommittee. The report also needs to mention environmental values related to quality of life, and where specifically this is most important. The need to incorporate tribal input was also mentioned and will be pursued.

**NEXT STEPS:**

The subcommittees were directed to continue discussions and meet as often as possible. In addition to the already scheduled meeting on January 21<sup>st</sup>, the subcommittees will meet on January 31<sup>st</sup>.

**NEXT MEETING:**

The next meeting of the Environmental workgroup will be February 8<sup>th</sup> from 10-12 at ADWR.