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ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

Water Resources Development Commission (HB 2661) Environmental Committee – Notes: December 9, 2010 Meeting

IN ATTENDANCE:

Brenda Burman (TNC co-chair)
Warren Tenney (Metro Water co-chair)
Tom Buschatzke (City of Phoenix, Commission co-chair)
Linda Stitzer (ADWR)
Dave Weedman (AZGF)
Dennis Rule (CAP)
Doug Kupel (City of Phoenix)
Karen Nally (for HIDD and CAIDD)
Jim Renthall (BLM)
Joanna Nadeau (UA/WRRC)
Lyn White (Freeport McMoRan)
Philip Bashaw (AZFB)
Rebecca Davidson (SRP)
Sharon Masek Lopez (NAU)

INTRODUCTIONS AND UPDATES:

Co-chairs Warren Tenney (Metro Water) and Brenda Burman (TNC) welcomed the committee members and introductions were conducted. BLM distributed the Arizona BLM Water Strategy (10.18.2010). This strategy is consistent with a national initiative and is aimed at maintaining surface flows in key areas and working with partners to achieve objectives.

DATA AND DOCUMENT SHARING:

Karen Henrickson, ADWR presented a powerpoint on the process for storing and sharing data at an ADWR hosted FTP site. Standard folders have been set up but additional folders may be established. File structure will be monitored by Linda Stitzer. In early 2011, an ADWR DocuShare site should be operational and data and document files can then be moved to that site. If problems are encountered utilizing the FTP site, Karen may be contacted at kamartini@azwater.gov. There is no limit on file size.

REPORT FROM ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS SUBCOMMITTEE:

The subcommittee met on November 29th and have revised the compendium table. The meeting notes and latest version of the table were distributed and discussed. Most of the discussion focused on the environmental flow components and what the most important indicators might be. The current table includes baseflow, ET and underflow under the environmental flow heading, while floodflow, which is harder to quantify but highly relevant to environmental conditions, has been moved under "other environmental attributes". It was suggested that some of the more descriptive sections of the table be better organized to focus on key features. It was agreed that terms used in the environmental flow section need to be clearly defined. Some attendees

questioned even quantifying environmental flows and raised concerns about competition for water resources between the environment and other users. There were concerns about identifying minimum flows available for the environment. Others expressed the opinion that representing flows and attributes raises the profile of the environment and what environmental flows support. How best to capture environmental needs is a challenge as well as how the work of this workgroup will interface with the water supply and demand workgroup. Warren expressed that the workgroup should continue to focus on identifying, cataloguing and mapping environmental conditions. Due to overlapping objectives, the Environmental Conditions Subcommittee will merge with the Quantification Subcommittee.

REPORT FROM MAPPING SUBCOMMITTEE:

The subcommittee met on November 30th and developed a list of data sources, which was distributed and explained along with the meeting notes. Mapping riparian vegetation and perennial and intermittent waters will need to be discussed further since there are multiple sources of this information. AZGF are gathering more information on the data that goes into their predictive model. Initially, accumulating layers in the FTP site is critical. It is still undetermined who will be generating the maps for the final report.

NEXT STEPS:

The subcommittees were directed to continue discussions and meet as soon as possible. It was agreed that the subcommittees would meet on the same day, January 4th, since many members serve on both. The Environmental Subcommittee needs to focus on environmental flow definitions and quantification. Information on accessing the FTP site needs to be forwarded to the Environmental Workgroup members (sent December 13th).

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting of the environmental workgroup will be January 11th from 10-12 at ADWR.