



Arizona Department of Water Resources  
**GROUNDWATER USERS ADVISORY COUNCIL**  
Tucson Active Management Area

JOHN MAWHINNEY  
Chair

DAN M. OFFRET  
Vice-Chair

LARRY KEMPTON

VAL LITTLE

DEE O'NEILL

**Minutes**  
**March 25, 2009**

**Members Present:** John Mawhinney, Chair  
Larry Kempton  
Val Little

**Tucson Staff Present:** Jeff Tannler  
Mary Bauer  
John Bodenchuk  
Laura Grignano  
Diane Kusel  
Dawne Wilson

**Others Present:** Michael Block, Metro Water District  
Anne Browning-Aken, Udall Center  
Kathy Chavez, Pima County  
Hector Conde  
Dave Crockett, Flowing Wells Irrigation District  
Virgil Davis, Community Water Co. of Green Valley  
Brad DeSpain, Marana Water  
Arturo Gabaldon, Community Water Co. of Green Valley  
Matthew Garcia, AZ Water Institute, U of A  
F. Eric Holler, Bureau of Reclamation  
Diana Kelts, Freeport-McMoran, Sierrita  
Don Rhoden, Sahuarita Water Co.  
Philip Saletta, Oro Valley Water Utility  
Pete Schlegel, PMA Group  
Taylor Shipman, Montgomery & Associates  
Dennis Skelton, Upper Santa Cruz Provider Users Group  
Linda Smith, Tucson Water  
Sidney Smith, Cortaro-Marana Irrigation District  
Warren Tenney, Metro Water District  
Arnold Velasco, Freeport-McMoran, Sierrita

**1. Call to Order**

Chair John Mawhinney called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m. Introductions were made.

**2. Approval of Minutes**

Val Little made a motion to approve the minutes of January 8, 2009. John Mawhinney seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

### **3. Update on Proposals for Extension of CAP Delivery System**

Dennis Skelton of the Upper Santa Cruz Providers & Users Group (USC/PUG) was invited to give an update on the proposals currently being considered to extend the CAP delivery system to the Green Valley and Sahuarita areas.

Mr. Skelton began with reciting the USC/PUG mission statement:

“It is the mission of USC/PUG to bring CAP and other renewable water resources to the greater Green Valley/Sahuarita region to meet the long-term demands of the local aquifer supporting growth, lifestyle, and the environment.”

Water providers, agriculture, mines, developers, golf courses, the public, and government are all represented members of USC/PUG.

Over the last year, the stakeholders have been working on a comprehensive regional water plan by compiling current water data and projecting future water usage through 2030 in hopes to have a better understanding of what the region could potentially be facing. Both ADWR and Pima County have verified the group’s data, and Pima County is working on identifying potential recharge sites.

Through this effort, USC/PUG has established parameters to achieve safe yield in the upper Santa Cruz region. Projections indicate that without renewable water resources, overdraft would remain constantly in the 40,000 acre-feet/year range.

Since the CAP ends at the Pima Mine Road terminus, USC/PUG has been evaluating two pipeline proposals to bring CAP water to the Green Valley/Sahuarita area. One proposal was submitted jointly by Community Water Company and Rosemont Copper Company, and the other was submitted together by American Nevada and Farmers Investment Company.

Using the established parameters to address the area’s over draft situation, USC/PUG determined a 36” pipeline from Pima Mine Road would be needed to deliver enough water to alleviate the problem. In the long-term USC/PUG would like to add enough partners to this program in order to maximize the capacity of the pipeline and to expand recharge facilities. It has been determined that both proposals meet USC/PUG’s criteria.

Mr. Skelton did not have the details on the current status of the two pipeline proposals; therefore, the sponsors of the proposals would need to be contacted directly to provide additional information.

### **4. NW Area Water Providers CAP Reliability Feature Update**

Warren Tenney of Metro Water District was invited to provide an update on the Northwest Area Water Providers CAP Reliability Feature. The project’s partners are Town of Marana, Town of Oro Valley, Metro Water District, and Flowing Wells Irrigation District.

The objective of the project is to put to direct use the 28,000 acre-feet of CAP water allocated among the four partners. The NW CAP system includes three major parts: treatment, delivery and a reliability reservoir.

The Northwest providers have been utilizing approximately 60% -70% of their CAP allocations through recharge at Groundwater Saving Facilities (GSF) and Underground Storage Facilities (USF). They are currently looking at how to put this water to use directly in their service areas. The managers meet monthly, and there is a Memorandum of Understanding and Intergovernmental Agreement for Studies in place.

The partners have been working on this project since the early 1990s, when it was referred to as the Northwest Replenishment Program. This program resulted in the Avra Valley Recharge Project and the Lower Santa Cruz Recharge and Recovery Project.

In 1994 the Northwest providers requested assistance from the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) on evaluating how to best use CAP water. In August 2000 a study was completed on this request, and it was concluded that the best long-term water management approach, including costs, would be treatment and direct delivery.

As a result, a pilot investigation was done on slow sand filtration and reverse osmosis as possible treatment options for CAP water. Currently, a Science and Technology Grant is in place through the BOR, as well as support from CAWCD, the U of A and Tucson Water to study different treatment scenarios. When looking at reverse osmosis, the question is raised on how the concentrate would be managed. The pilot project, located near I-10 and Tangerine Road, is looking at the use of halophytes, salt tolerant grasses and Vibratory Shear Enhanced Process (VSEP) as possible mechanisms to manage the concentrate. In the near future, micro filtration will be studied as well.

The Northwest providers' service areas are roughly 10-13 miles away from the treatment facility, and Westland Resources and Corollo Engineers are currently conducting an analysis on two possible routes for the delivery system.

A reliability reservoir is being sought as it is critical for the treatment and direct delivery of CAP water. As part of the BOR's commitment, 30 days of reliability will be provided in times when the canal is down for maintenance and emergencies. An additional 17 days of reliability will be provided by the partners, ensuring that well fields are ready to operate in canal down times. There is also interest in the reservoir having recreational features that could potentially generate additional funding sources. The BOR is currently working on a construction-ready design for the reservoir with the goal of having it completed and on-line in 2014.

## **5. Update on Institutional Policy Advisory Group (IPAG) Activities**

John Bodenchuk, ADWR's Recharge Program Manager, provided an update on IPAG activities. The major issue IPAG has been reviewing is how to get more CAP water into the Tucson AMA and assist the AZ Water Banking Authority (AWBA) in meeting its Municipal and Industrial (M&I) firming goal for the region.

For various reasons, a large majority of the agricultural entities in the Tucson AMA aren't taking their settlement pool water. IPAG had been looking at ways this water could be redirected to the Tucson AMA rather than it going into the excess pool, which is made available to anyone in the three-county service area. The final conclusion made on this by CAP was that once the water is declined, CAP policy dictates that it goes back into the general pool.

Another issue IPAG has been studying is the under utilization of GSFs in the Tucson AMA by the AWBA. The main reason is pricing: the AWBA rate is \$32/af for storage at GSFs, whereas

farmers are currently paying \$12-\$14/af for entities to store at GSFs. This has led to discussions as to why the AWBA doesn't consider differential pricing. This issue will be one of the agenda items at the AWBA's April 1, 2009 meeting.

IPAG is also looking into the topic of recovery planning. A pool of money exists in Phoenix for recovery planning, whereas Tucson has excess capacity at certain facilities but no money. CAP was approached about the possibility of using its recovery planning process as a vehicle to launch discussions with some of the cities in Phoenix and the AWBA about forming a partnership to store a portion of Phoenix cities' CAP water at some of the Tucson facilities. During times of shortage, Tucson would forego the delivery of the water so the Phoenix cities could utilize it. IPAG encourages the stakeholders to consider pursuing discussions to move this idea forward.

## **6. Area Director Report**

It is not anticipated that there will be any more budget cutbacks in fiscal year 2009, but there is a real possibility of layoffs and furloughs in fiscal year 2010. Director Herb Guenther's first priority is to keep staff and is doing everything possible to make this happen.

Several weeks ago, Randy Edmond, the Pinal AMA Director passed away suddenly. Joe Singleton, who has worked in the Pinal office for many years, is currently Acting Director.

A quick overview was given of who makes up the Tucson AMA staff and some of their responsibilities:

Dawne Wilson – Tucson representative for Assured Water Supply applications and review of designations for water providers, certificates for subdivisions, and analysis for master planned communities.

Diane Kusel – Tucson representative for the Recharge Program. She also works on recharge applications for the Pinal office and possibly the Phoenix office in the future.

Linda Ingraham – Handles well permitting, water right conveyances and field inspections. She is also the lead for public assistance.

Mary Bauer – Handles office management and public assistance, GUAC coordinator/minutes and lead for the newly established Modified Non-Per Capita Conservation Program (MNPCCP).

Laura Grignano – Tucson's Industrial Planner. She also provides assistance to municipal planning and is currently working on ADWR's water assessment.

Christina Bickelmann – Tucson's Water Conservation Specialist and outreach coordinator. She is also working on redesigning and updating the Tucson AMA's portion of the ADWR website.

John Bodenchuk and Diane Kusel are involved in designing a recharge database to track recharge activities. It is anticipated that this will be a 12-18 month project.

Annual Report deadline is March 31, 2009.

Provider Profiles are due no later than July 1, 2009 from the large municipal water providers entering into the MNPCCP.

ADWR recently conducted its first “webinar”, allowing the public to view and participate in seminars and presentations via the Internet. Being that April is Water Awareness Month, four additional webinars are planned throughout the month on water conservation.

The Annual Xeriscape Contest Awards Ceremony will be held on Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup> at the Tucson Botanical Garden, in conjunction with the Garden’s “More Green Per Drop Festival.”

Laura Grignano has been working with representatives from other agencies on the increase of solar energy proposals and how they affect water use. Some of the proposals use quite a bit of water, and this could lead to overall state policy questions, such as does Arizona want to use its water resources to generate power that could potentially go to other states?

**7. Public Comment**

Anne Browning-Aken of the Udall Center for Studies in Public Policy reported that the Udall Center, CLIMAS and several universities in Mexico have secured a grant from the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research. As part of this grant they have been tasked with interviewing water managers and planners in Tucson, Sierra Vista and Cananea Sonora about what resources and information are needed for decision makers in the water arena to move forward on dealing with global climate and variability changes in this region.

Those interested in being interviewed were asked to leave their contact information with Ms. Browning-Aken.

**8. Date and Agenda for Next Meeting**

John Mawhinney asked the GUAC members to think about future agenda items and to keep in mind that the law states... “the Director shall promulgate a Management Plan for each initial Active Management Area no later than January 1, 2008”...

One of GUAC’s roles is to advise ADWR, and since the agency needs a Fourth Management Plan (4MP), perhaps at the next meeting the group should come prepared to talk about the nature and extent of the 4MP, focusing primarily on how progress will be made to reach safe-yield.

Also as part of the agenda, Eve Halper and/or Eric Holler of the BOR have agreed to provide information on the aspects and elements of the Northwest water providers’ reservoir plan.

The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, May 14<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m. Subsequent, future meetings were tentatively scheduled as follows: Thursday, September 10<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m. and Thursday, November 12<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m.

**9. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:10 a.m.