

Arizona Department of Water Resources
GROUNDWATER USERS ADVISORY COUNCIL
Tucson Active Management Area
Kenneth Seasholes, Area Director



Minutes
April 18, 2007

DEE T. O'NEILL
Chair

DAVID MODEER
Vice-Chair

JOHN MAWHINNEY

JON POST

CHUCK SWEET

Members Present: John Mawhinney
David Modeer
Jon Post
Chuck Sweet

Tucson Staff Present: Kenneth Seasholes
Mary Bauer
Christina Bickelmann
Laura Grignano
Diane Kusel
Jeff Tannler
Dawn Wilson

Others: Beryl Baker, Concerned Citizen
Michael Block, Metro Water District
Janet Lea Carr, SAWUA
Dave Crockett, FWID
Toops Culbertson, Farmers Water Co.
Nancy Freeman, Groundwater Awareness League
Arturo Gabaldon, Community Water Co. of G.V.
Eric Holler, Bureau of Reclamation
John Kai, AVID
Holly Lachowicz, City of Tucson - Ward 3
Tina Lee, City of Tucson - Ward 2
Ries Lindley, Tucson Water
Val Little, Water CASA
Jim Peterson, Town of Oro Valley
Ana Spitz, Arizona Water Institute
Warren Tenney, Metro Water District
Deborah Tosline, Bureau of Reclamation
Ramon Vazquez, UA – SAHRA
Karen Wilson, Pima Co. Flood Control
Claire Zucker, PAG

\

1. Call to Order

Vice-Chair David Modeer called the meeting to order at 10:00 a. m. Introductions were made.

2. Approval of Minutes

John Mawhinney made a motion to approve the minutes of January 26, 2007. Chuck Sweet seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

3. Tucson AMA and (Douglas INA) Activity

2006 Summary

Before reporting on the Tucson AMA and Douglas INA activities for calendar year 2006, Kenneth Seasholes gave a brief overview of the Tucson AMA staff. He noted that the nine staff members who currently make up the Tucson AMA have a combined total of almost 100 years of work experience in the AMA. At its peak, the office had a total of 16 staff.

Most staff members have a lead and secondary area of responsibility, and Mr. Seasholes briefly outlined those. There are also four other ADWR employees who maintain offices in the TAMA suite.

Next, Mr. Seasholes reviewed program activity that occurred in 2006.

Well & Withdrawal Permits

The non-exempt well permit process resulted in 33 new permits being issued; 35 applications were submitted to deepen/replace or modify a well in the same location, and 10 new wells were added to existing permits. There were also 10 hydrologic testing and three mineral extraction withdrawal permits issued, along with 208 applications submitted to drill exempt wells.

Water Rights Administration

Within the water rights administration program, 857 annual water use and withdrawal reports were generated for the Tucson AMA and 374 for the Douglas Non-Expansion Area. These reports include grandfathered rights, permits and irrigation authorities.

Recharge & Recovery

Applications received in the recharge and recovery program were for two Underground Storage Facilities (USF)—SAVSRP and High Plains; one renewal of a Groundwater Savings Facility (GSF)—Kai at Red Rock; 10 water storage permits—nine for CAP water & one for effluent; and three recovery well permits—Vail, Marana, and Oro Valley.

Permits issued for recharge and recovery in 2006 included one USF (Avra Valley), 2 GSFs (CMID, Kai at Red Rock), three water storage permits, and one recovery well permit. Estimated 2006 water deliveries were 166,900 acre-feet to USFs and 18,800 acre-feet for GSFs.

Assured Water Supply Program

Analyses—Mr. Seasholes explained that an Analysis of Assured Water Supply is optional step in the AWS process which is often used for master planned developments. The Analysis can be used to demonstrate there is a sufficient 100-year physical water supply available for the proposed development. That Analysis can be referenced later to for the subsequent issuance

of one or more Certificates of Assured Water Supply. In 2006, two applications for analyses were received in TAMA—Sahuarita Farms & Continental Farms (31,029 units), and Tucson Mountain & Valencia Ranch (887 lots). The two analyses that were issued in 2006 were for Swan Southlands (8,525 lots) and B2 Ranch (1,553 lots).

Certificates—There were 27 Certificate of Assured Water Supply applications received, and 25 certificates issued for TAMA in 2006. A Certificate is required for any new subdivision in an AMA, unless the subdivision will be served by a water provider with a Designation of Assured Water Supply.

Designations - Two Designation of Assured Water Supply applications were received in 2006—Willow Springs Utilities (new), and Town of Marana (modification). Two other Designations were issued—Metro Water District–West (new), and Metro Water District–Main (modification). Tucson Water’s application to modify its Designation is still pending. For a Designation, a water provider must satisfy the AWS requirements for its entire service area.

Education and Outreach

In 2006 the Tucson AMA continued efforts in community education and outreach. In collaboration with Tohono Chul Park, TAMA held its Annual Xeriscape Contest Ceremony, which recognized both homeowners and professionals who have implemented Xeriscape principles and used native plants in their landscapes.

The Drop Your Water Use Program continues to operate and expand. This program educates retail nursery customers on how to plan and maintain healthy and water efficient landscapes. The program utilizes a plant numbering system that is tied to the Tucson AMA low water use plant list.

TAMA staff also assisted in the development of display materials used at an open house that ADWR held for Arizona legislators. The event was held in our Phoenix office and showcased many of the Department’s programs.

Some of the other outreach events the Tucson AMA office participated in included the Tucson Childrens Earth Day Festival, Raytheon Environmental Fair, ARCOSA Water Harvesting Conference and the WRRRC/GIOS Growth and Water Conference. Many speaking engagements on water management/policy were also arranged and carried out during the course of the year.

The Tucson AMA low water use plant list and the *Harvesting Rainwater for Landscape Use* publication were updated. The website (www.azwater.gov/TAMA) continues to be maintained and updated. A number of fact sheets on the Department’s various programs were created and contributions were made to the Water Wise landscaping CD-ROM.

Compliance

There were three major golf course compliance cases addressed in 2006. In total, approximately \$100,000 in fines were imposed on San Ignacio, Stone Canyon Club and the Golf Club at Vistoso. Between 2002-2005 each course exceeded their mandatory conservation requirements established in ADWR’s Third Management Plan.

Of the Annual Water Withdrawal and Use Reports sent out, approximately 15% were not initially filed, resulting in Failure to File Notices. Late fees and penalties are assessed for each delinquent month.

Also in 2006, TAMA staff investigated an alleged illegal irrigation case in the Arivaca area.

2007 Activities & Priorities

Mr. Seasholes continued by reporting on some of the activities and priorities TAMA and the Department has been and will be focusing on in 2007. Those priorities include a number of planning initiatives, though in the AMA those efforts compete with day-to-day operations.

Mr. Seasholes explained the relationship between the Arizona Water Atlas, which is currently being compiled by ADWR's statewide planning division, and development of the Fourth Management Plan. The Atlas is primarily intended to present an overview of water supply and demand conditions throughout Arizona. There are seven planning areas, each containing multiple groundwater basins. There will also be an Atlas volume covering the AMAs. The AMA volume will present the same material as the other Atlas volumes (to facilitate comparison), but the data compilation effort will also feed into a more detailed assessment of the AMAs that will be used for the Fourth Management Plan.

Mr. Seasholes also indicated that there will be some data compilation efforts related to upcoming outreach opportunities. The Water Resources Research Center, Pima Association of Governments, the Southern Arizona Leadership Council and ADWR are in the planning stages of putting on a conference in October 2007 for the public to attend and learn about water issues. Also, Mr. Seasholes will be participating in the Water CASA's 10th anniversary celebration/conference September 21, 2007.

4. Hydrologic Data Update

Mr. Seasholes reported that ADWR's Water Management Division is focused on making data sets and products readily available and more user friendly. In addition, ADWR's Hydrology division is finalizing and reviewing an updated Tucson AMA water level change map. This is an official product that serves multiple purposes.

Mr. Seasholes mentioned that there is now increased availability of well data on the Internet. The UA's SAHRA has made ADWR's groundwater site inventory and Wells 55 data available on its website- www.sahra.arizona.edu/wells. In addition, two Arc IMS internet mapping sites have recently been made available on ADWR's website- www.azwater.gov. This technology provides information on wells that are routinely measured. Transducer data is also available, which provides daily satellite telemetry of well levels.

ADWR's website also makes available a large number of imaged records (scanned files) with information on wells; grandfathered groundwater rights; statement of claimant/adjudication; surface water; groundwater authority and assured water supply.

Lastly, Mr. Seasholes reported that the USGS recently sent a letter indicating the network of streamflow-gaging stations in Pima County operated by the USGS may be reduced from 20 to 9 due to lack of funding. Unless additional funding is located, the stations will be discontinued September 30, 2007. Mr. Modeer indicated that over the last 10-15 years Tucson Water was the sole funder of these stream-gaging stations, but can no longer continue to fund

\

the project at its current level, which is approximately \$100,000. Due to the invaluable data that results from these stations, discussion ensued on ways to recruit additional funding, in particular from entities such as flood control districts that benefit directly from the information. It was suggested that a letter from the GUAC be sent to USGS stressing the importance of continuing this project and that funding should be sought from others.

5. Date and Agenda for Next Meeting

The next meeting of the GUAC was set for June 19, 2007 at 10:30 a.m. Potential agenda items include:

- Update on the legislative process
- Update on Statewide Advisory Group activities
- Status of CAGRDR enrollment
- Continued discussion on Arivaca sub-area management issues
- Discussion on SB 1190 (exempt wells in designated service areas)

6. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 a.m.