

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



Minutes
August 30, 2006

DEE T. O'NEILL
Chair

DAVID MODEER
Vice-Chair

JOHN MAWHINNEY

JON POST

CHUCK SWEET

Members Present: Dee O'Neill, Chair
John Mawhinney
David Modeer
Chuck Sweet

Tucson Staff Present: Kenneth Seasholes
Mary Bauer
Christina Bickelmann
Laura Grignano
Diane Kusel
Virginia Welford

Others: Beryl Baker, Interested Citizen
Hope Braken, Lewis & Roca
Janet Lea Carr, SAWUA
Toops Culbertson, FICO
Susan Eden, UA WRRC
Arturo Gabaldon, Community Water Co.
Janet Lee, Ward 2 COT
Val Little, Water CASA
Mark Myers, Consultant
Dennis Rule, Tucson Water
Philip Saletta, Oro Valley Water Utility
Linda Smith, Tucson Water
Warren Tenney, Metro Water District
Deborah Tosline, USBOR
Claire Zucker, PAG

1. Call to Order

Chairperson, Dee O'Neill called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. introductions were made.

2. Approval of Minutes

Chuck Sweet made a motion to approve the minutes of May 24, 2006. John Mawhinney seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

3. Withdrawal Fee

Kenneth Seasholes reported that population has increased in Pima County, but that groundwater withdrawal fees collected have decreased. This is due to the fact that more renewable water resources are being utilized and less groundwater is being pumped. Although this is positive, it results in less funds being collected for water management assistance. It is projected that less than \$100,000 will be collected next year.

Withdrawal fees are currently set at the maximum of \$3.00, with \$2.50 going by statute to the Arizona Water Banking Authority (AWBA) for storage of water. The remaining \$.50 has historically been dedicated to the Tucson Active Management Area (TAMA) Water Management Assistance Fund. Mr. Seasholes recommended that the \$3.00 fee remain and be used as in the past.

John Mawhinney made a motion to keep the withdrawal fees at \$3.00 with devoting the remaining \$.50 to the Water Management Assistance Fund. Chuck Sweet seconded the motion. The motion unanimously passed.

4. Water Use, Storage and Overdraft

Mr. Seasholes gave a presentation on water use, storage and overdraft in the TAMA.

Water use (all sources) is divided into sectors with the following percentages used in 2005:

- Municipal – 55%
- Agriculture – 30%
- Metal Mining – 10%
- Other Industrial – 5%

Municipal water use has gone up, although 2005 use was somewhat suppressed due to conservation and lower ET rates than in previous years.

Agricultural use has remained relatively steady, though Indian agricultural CAP water use has been an increasing portion of that demand, and the use of Ag Settlement Pool CAP has also increased.

Golf course water use was approximately 6-7% of TAMA's total water use in 2005. Roughly 41% of this total was effluent 52% of was groundwater and the remaining water was either recovered CAP credits or surface water. Storage and recovery of CAP is being used as a way of meeting golf course replenishment requirements in Pima County.

ADWR's industrial sector is made up of non-irrigation users that have their own water rights. Mines are the biggest industrial user in the TAMA.

The GUAC indicated they'd like to see more NIA water used in the Tucson AMA. This water is direct use of CAP by farms that doesn't generate a credit that can be

used in the future. Even though this water is attractively priced relative to other CAP water, farmers are still able to pump from their own wells for less.

John Mawhinney requested that at a future GUAC meeting percentages be given for groundwater use only.

More CAP water was used in 2005 than previous years, with the AWBA storing approximately 74,000 af of CAP water in TAMA. Recharge facility capacities continue to expand. A total of 189,103 af was recharged in local facilities, with CAP water being the primary source. From 1993 through 2005, more than 1 maf of different water sources has been stored in the TAMA with close to 1 maf of total CAP use.

During the time period of 1997-2005 the AWBA has stored 387,760 af in TAMA's underground storage and groundwater savings facilities.

The AWBA credits in the TAMA by funding source in 2005 indicate substantial interstate banking by Nevada, which filled facilities and lowered the average costs to the local storers. The assessed valuation in Pima County continues to go up, resulting in a healthy return from ad valorem taxes relative to withdrawal fees, which are continually decreasing.

Mr. Seasholes noted that annually, close to 20,000 af of water leaves the AMA as surface flow that has originated as effluent. Many in the Tucson community are concerned about this, because credits are not being earned. This is an expensive issue to address.

5. Area Director's Report

The well spacing impact rules were adopted earlier this month; they are officially in Rule.

The new Assured Water Supply rule provisions will be going to the Governor's Regulatory Review Commission for review and adoption sometime in September.

The Third Management Plan Municipal Conservation Program stakeholder process is continuing. The proposal that was generated by ADWR has generated a lot of interest. Generally speaking the stakeholders believe that a Best Management Practice approach to the program will work best. How this would be phased in continues to be a topic of discussion.

The Pinal AMA has a proposed Assured Water Supply rule package in the works that would revise its current rules to closely mirror those of other AMAs. If adopted, there will be more replenishment taking place in the Pinal AMA.

Pima County has recently adopted its drought plan and representatives from the County will be invited to a future GUAC meeting to give an in-depth update on the plan.

The technical assessment document associated with the Gila River Indian Community settlement is available for public review. The SAWRSA assessment will be available within the next two months.

6. Date and Agenda for Next Meeting

The next meeting was tentatively set for October 20, 2006 at 9:30 a.m. Potential agenda items include an update on the AWBA's Plan of Operation and Pima County's recently adopted drought plan.

7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.