

Meeting Notes

Regulations and Permitting Working Group

Blue Ribbon Panel on Water Sustainability

Wednesday, April 28, 2010, ADEQ, Phoenix, Room 145

1. Chair Ron Doba called the meeting to order at 10:05 am. The group went through brief introductions. Ron Doba reviewed the expectations of the three subcommittees that have been formed (gray water, permitting and water quality). The group proceeded to break up into their subcommittees and work independently till noon.
2. The work group reconvened at 1:00 pm at which time progress reports from the various subcommittees were provided to the working group.

Michele Robertson reported the progress of the Permitting subcommittee. The group identified categories of issue resolution to be policy, rule, statute, EPA engagement, and research/education. Priorities were assigned to their issues. Fifteen issues have been identified of which 4-5 were considered "low hanging fruit," policy type issues. Issues that are high priority include how to determine actual reuse (ADWR and ADEQ use different measuring methods), permitting for riparian and habitat restoration, and a "gray area" between Reuse and AZPDES (example: using reclaimed water to irrigate in a floodway that requires an AZPDES Permit). The group is still working on refining the list. The group has scheduled another subcommittee meeting for 5/13 from 12-3 pm at ADEQ.

Tom Buschatzke reported the progress of the Water Quality subcommittee. The group started out with 34 issues and has pared it down to 7 (with one not resolved). Issues include the relationship between different programs (AZPDES, Reuse, where does one stop and the other begin), the need to develop an all reuse category (direct potable, etc.), the need to put direct potable use on the table for discussion, support research on PCPs and emerging contaminants through the BRP, salinity requirements should be decided between the reclaimed water provider and the end user, review WQ standards for appropriateness, amend the fecal coliform rule to match BADCT, consider the definition of reclaimed water to identify when it stops becoming reclaimed water (Buckeye issue), and ability to combine reclaimed water with remediated waters for reuse. The group will be scheduling another subcommittee meeting in the next month via email.

Ron Doba reported the progress of the Gray Water subcommittee. The group started with 23 issues and is considering 13 for further research and action. Several of the issues will be able to be combined. Top issues include modifying permits so they are based on volume vs. land area instead of customer classes, training and education, protection of public potable water supplies, consideration of consumptive use, consideration of blanket permits, clarifying disposal requirements and expanding allowable uses. The group has scheduled another subcommittee meeting 5/12 from 10-12 pm at ADEQ.

3. Ron Doba reviewed the draft interim report that had been provided from the working group chair conference call. The expectations of the working group's effort in completing the report were discussed. Each subcommittee will be responsible for providing the information required for the report that is relevant to their specific issues. It is still anticipated the report will be due in June. Ron Doba indicated he hopes to have information from the subcommittees for the draft report prior to the next working group meeting so they can begin looking at a draft at the next scheduled working group meeting on 5/26.
4. The working group adjourned approximately 2:15 pm.