

Blue Ribbon Panel on Water Sustainability
Friday, February 5, 2010
Meeting Summary

Introductions

- Co-chair Benjamin Grumbles called the meeting to order at 10:10 am. Co-chairs Herb Guenther and Kristin Mayes introduced themselves. The members of the panel went around the table to introduce themselves.
- Professor Sharon Megdal introduced her graduate students from her University of Arizona class on water policy.
- Co-chair Benjamin Grumbles gave opening statements on connecting the dots between energy and water conservation, and the importance of focusing on the goals with respect to the work of the working groups

BRP Goals Refinement

(Discussion of Goals handout)

- Co-chair Grumbles began discussion of the latest version of the Goals handout, which reflected revisions based on the January discussions. He added that there were purposefully no numeric goals stated at this time, and recognized that terminology is important, which may include new terms.
- Discussion and questions from panelists included:
 - In the “beneficial purposes” definition, add a term for surface water augmentation, after aquifer recharge.
 - In the “beneficial purposes” definition, should recreation be added also?
 - In the “recycled water” definition, what does the phrase “other water mean”, and should it be removed?
 - Should the feasibility of actions to support the goals be considered? Public education is an important part of achieving the goals.
 - Will desalinated water be part of recycled water? Is it “other water”?
 - Should renewable water be a definition since the overall concept is to use all renewable water more efficiently?
 - There was a purpose statement with the goals in the handout at the first meeting; where did it go?
 - What is the wider purpose behind having goals?
 - Should the purpose statement be revised?
 - Are the terms “recycled water” and “reclaimed water” redundant?
 - Need to be careful using the term “surface water” because it is a term of art.
 - Reclaimed wastewater reduces consumption of fresh water and may be a cheaper source of water for energy production. The water use of nuclear power plants was discussed (Palo Verde nuclear plant being a good example of efficient use of reclaimed water.) Water use for renewable energy generation was also discussed.
 - A glossary of terms is needed for better communication.
- Co-chair Grumbles recognized that the goals help focus on key areas, but there is a need to look at what are the values underlying these goals. There should be greater clarity by the next meeting. Some of the points raised are up for further discussion in the future. The working groups can assist in providing greater clarity for the next meeting. Some edits were made to the Goals handout (to be reflected in the next posting to the website)

Working Groups, Focus, and Process

(Discussion of Working Groups handout)

- Before proceeding with the working groups handout, panelists who arrived late

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introduced themselves.

- Co-chair Grumbles discussed the working group handout and the working concepts for the five specific groups. The chairs have been assigned, but this does not rule out that there may be changes in the future. Each chair can identify the co-chair. There are a lot of experts and knowledgeable stakeholders who want to be a part and can engage and participate through the working groups, which is where the real work of the Panel will be done. There is no limit on the number of participants in each working group.
- Co-chair Grumbles announced the chairs of each working group:
 - Public perception/Acceptance Chair: Kathleen Chavez, P.E., Water Policy Manager, Pima County Regional Wastewater Reclamation.
 - Regulations and Permitting Chair: Ron Doba, President, Arizona WaterReuse Association.
 - Infrastructure/Retrofit Chair: Guy Carpenter, Board of Directors, National WaterReuse Association.
 - Water Conservation/Recycling/Efficiency/Energy Nexus Chair: Steve Olson, Executive Director, Arizona Municipal Water Users Association.
 - Economic/Funding Chair: David Snider, Supervisor, Pinal County Board of Supervisors.
- The panelist discussed whether the Water Conservation/Recycling/Efficiency/Energy Nexus Working Group had too many issues assigned and should it be split into two working groups. Alternatively, two subcommittees of the working group could focus on the water and energy aspects.
- Concerns were raised on how agriculture, privately-held utilities, and small utilities fit into the assigned groups.
- The co-chairs decided to have the Water Conservation/Recycling/Efficiency/Energy Nexus Working Group proceed as one working group. Agency personnel of Steve Olea, Mike Fulton, and Sandy Fabritz-Whitney will be monitoring and assisting the working groups.

Review of Overall BRP Schedule

- Co-chair Grumbles stated that the working groups should meet at least once a month initially.
- The tentative location for the next Panel meeting is ADWR on March 5, but hosted by ACC Commissioner Kristin Mayes. Co-chair Grumbles recognized that there is still a desire to meet outside of Phoenix. Supervisor Snider offered to arrange for space in Casa Grande.
- It was announced that Bob Lotts will co-chair the Working Group on Water Conservation/Recycling/Efficiency/ Energy Nexus. Any other recommendations of co-chairs should be made to the chair of the working group.

Presentations

Due to time constraints, Co-chair Grumbles postponed the presentations from ADWR and ADEQ to a later date. The following two presentations proceeded:

- Reclaimed Water Trends Nationally and Internationally – Guy Carpenter, WaterReuse Association
- Perceptions About the Use of Reclaimed Water in Arizona: Survey Results – Dr. Channah Rock, University of Arizona

Call to Public

Blue Ribbon Panel on Water Sustainability

Friday, February 5, 2010

Meeting Summary

- Co-chair Grumbles opened the meeting for public comments.
- Steve Pawlowski of the Sierra Club commented that the goals statement should include an explicit goal to protect public health and the environment. He said this view is supported by Dr. Rock's presentation. He also asked how the public gets involved in the working groups.
- Co-chair Grumbles said the meetings are open and meeting announcements and other information will be posted on the Blue Ribbon Panel page of the ADWR website.
- Bob Sejkora of Arizona State Parks asked regarding Dr. Rock's presentation whether decreased supply was tied to the survey results. Dr. Rock's response, was yes, if people were more of aware of stressors.

Next Meeting

The proposed location for the next meeting is at ADWR on March 5, 2010, hosted by ACC Commissioner Kristin Mayes.