

# Governor's Water Augmentation, Innovation and Conservation Council

## June 13, 2019

### Meeting Summary

**Time: 10:00am – 11:30pm**

**Location: Arizona Department of Water Resources**

#### I. Welcome and Introduction of Council Members

Chairman Tom Buschatzke called the meeting to order and welcomed those in attendance to the second meeting of the new Governor's Water Augmentation, Innovation and Conservation Council (Council). Council members introduced themselves individually along with their affiliation. Thirty-one of the 42 members or their delegates were present.

#### II. Committee Updates

Chairman Buschatzke reminded the Council that two Committees were carried over from the first Governor's Water Augmentation Council (GWAC); the Long Term Water Augmentation (LTWA) and the Desalination committees. After the committees produce proposals for the Council to review, they will be sent to the Council members three weeks before the next Council meeting. Those materials, furthermore, will be posted on ADWR's website. As such, the public will have an opportunity to review the proposals.

##### **Long Term Water Augmentation Committee**

Committee Chairman, Wade Noble, reported the committee has been studying the possible options for long term water supplies and has developed a preliminary report of those results. It is anticipated that the report will be finalized in time for a presentation at the next Council meeting in September.

Chairman Noble provided a snapshot of the results covering:

- augmentation options
- best practices
- processes that may be needed to implement these options and best practices
- projects to improve water utilization
- options that need further development
- impediments to the augmentation options that are being considered

Rep. Griffin referred to the 2017 study "Potential Water Storage Sites on Arizona State Trust Land," which she suggested be considered again. Chairman Noble invited her to do so at the next LTWA Committee meeting scheduled for June 25. In order to meet the committee's September completion date, Chairman Buschatzke suggested not to delay the LTWA study as other pieces of information come into the LTWA Committee.

## Desalination Committee

Chairman Buschatzke introduced the new Committee Chairman, Philip Richards, who announced the next meeting scheduled for June 28 at ADWR.

### III. Water Loss Control Program Phase II

Cyndi Ruehl, Water Resource Specialist in Statewide Planning, explained that the water loss control program is a carryover from the original GWAC's goal "to reduce water loss in Arizona." The American Water Works Association's M36 manual details the industry best-practices for water-loss management, which is called the M36 methodology. Phase I was a pilot program involving six systems. Phase II encompassed recruitment of 25 small- to medium-size water systems, public and private, inside and outside the AMAs and geographically spread across the state. The consultant, Cavanaugh, was contracted to provide technical training and assistance to these 25 systems to perform a water analysis and audit using the M36 methodology. Ms. Ruehl showed an example of the disaggregated components of non-revenue water discovered by each water company during the analysis and audit performed in this program and a summary of real water loss (infrastructure leakage) across all 25 water systems (refer to the Meeting Material section on the GWAICC website at [http://infoshare.azwater.gov/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-11552/20190605\\_GWAICC\\_June\\_%20Meeting\\_%20presentationFINAL.pdf](http://infoshare.azwater.gov/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-11552/20190605_GWAICC_June_%20Meeting_%20presentationFINAL.pdf)).

Council discussion of the program's results as presented concluded in a Council request for ADWR to:

- explore available tools which could assist water companies in reducing their losses
- inquire with the participating systems to identify what state assistance might be of value to assist them in implementing the recommendations made from the analysis and audit
- research how other states are incentivizing or assisting water systems to perform audits and implement improvements
- research how the water loss discovered in this program compares to other states' audits

The full report is posted under the Documents tab on the GWAICC webpage at <https://new.azwater.gov/gwaicc/committee-studies-public-comment>

### IV. AMA Management Plans

At the March meeting, the Council requested an informational update to learn about the AMAs' Management Plans. Natalie Mast, Program Director for AMA Management Plans, provided that overview covering the following: (refer to the meeting's posted recording and/or posted presentation at <https://new.azwater.gov/gwaicc/information> for more detail):

- the structure and components of Management Plans and the regulatory structure enforced from the 1980 Groundwater Management Act
- location of the five AMAs and their Management Plan's history
- trends in declining GPCD and increase in underground storage
- most AMAs have not met their goals toward safe yield. The long-term balance across all AMAs is in the direction of overdraft.

- ADWR will begin periodically publishing analysis of each AMA's progress toward its goal, to open conversations of what is and isn't working for the AMAs and how to move forward for the Fifth Management Plans and beyond.
- Current status of the Fourth Management Plans

A new Management Plans Work Group, open to the public, will meet July 9, 2019 to discuss recommended changes to the Fourth Management Plans currently in development and then development of the Fifth Management Plans. Chairman Buschatzke encouraged all stakeholders to attend and participate in the Management Plans Work Group.

In a recap for the Council, Chairman Buschatzke said ADWR will continue working on the Fourth and Fifth Management Plans while keeping the Council updated on changes for feedback at the proper time. Sen. Fernandez spoke about her caucus' priorities in the state legislation focused on identifying ways to reduce stressors on the state's natural resources, including water resources. She urged that there must be a better understanding of water supply and demand through data, statewide.

## V. Discussion of New Committees/Working Groups

Chairman Buschatzke recommended the Council form a Groundwater Committee to look at groundwater issues outside the AMAs. The chairman received Council consensus and Rep. Griffin and Ms. Jamie Kelley volunteered to co-chair the committee.

Chairman Buschatzke also recommended another new committee, the AMAs Post 2025 Committee, to focus on goals and regulatory activity across the AMAs beyond the Fifth Management Plans. Mr. Warren Tenney and Mr. Tim Thomure stepped up to co-chair this new Committee. Council member Kathy Ferris suggested it would be helpful to understand the source of the overdraft in the AMAs and why safe yield is not being accomplished. Therefore, data will have to be made available to this committee. Chairman Buschatzke said ADWR would provide the data that is available.

Anyone that is a member of the Council or their designee can become part of the GWAICC committees, and the meetings also will be open for public participation.

Chairman Buschatzke asked the Council if they would like informational presentations at future Council meetings. Council agreed they would appreciate presentations on the topics of safe yield and an adjudication reform update from the Kyl Center.

Council members are encouraged to contact support staff, Cyndi Ruehl at [cruehl@azwater.gov](mailto:cruehl@azwater.gov) to join a committee.

New committee meetings will be posted on the website and notice of the first meeting will be sent to all council members to encourage participation.

## VI. Closing Remarks and Next Meetings

The next meeting of the Council will be Sept. 12, 2019 at ADWR.

Chairman Buschatzke opened the floor to public comment on the agenda items. None were heard.

## VII. Adjournment

Chairman Buschatzke closed the meeting by thanking everyone for their assistance in getting the Drought Contingency Plans, interstate and intrastate agreements, signed on May 20.