

Governor's Water Augmentation, Innovation and Conservation Council
Non-AMA Groundwater Committee
Goals and Topics for Discussion
September 23, 2019

Committee Goals

- A. To achieve a baseline understanding of Arizona groundwater in non-active management areas.***
- B. To identify and develop voluntary alternatives to address groundwater issues by planning area while protecting individual property rights.***
- C. To make recommendations to the full Council for Best Management Practices at the local level.***
- D. The further discussion and recommendation of issues that may be brought forward.***

Topics for Discussion

- Quantify the number of nonexempt and exempt wells by planning area
- Well monitoring or measurement
 - Measurement by voluntary means
 - Alternative methods to assess groundwater use and recharge (natural and constructed)
- Forest management - benefits to watershed management
- Phreatophyte and invasive species management/removal
- Education of the general public and groundwater users, and incentives for documented groundwater pumping reduction
- Recharge methods
 - Stormwater runoff and reuse (voluntary and legally permissible)
 - Effluent
 - Other conservation methods and projects
- Groundwater transportation basins
 - Harquahala INA
 - Butler Valley
 - McMullen Valley
- Metering, monitoring, and reporting requirements
- Consideration of adequate water supply rules outside of the AMAs
- Options to address fracking, water availability, water quality, aquifer contamination issues

- Well spacing requirements
- Agricultural production in areas involved in the adjudication
- Voluntary best measures – how to organize, showcase, and more widely implement
- The need for more data, to create more accurate models and better inform local decisions
- Identification of at-risk basins, and gathering necessary data to empower local communities—what information is available per the planning areas and where there are gaps in information
- Identification of areas interested in pursuing water adequacy requirements
- Identification of areas interested in establishing INAs
- Tax incentives or other means to motivate voluntary or cooperative reporting
- Removal of legislative impediments to “self-governance” in northern Arizona (in response to current rules relative to water adequacy outside of an AMA, raised by Flagstaff), creation of rural management areas
- Addressing laws that drive “use it or lose it” and the connection between groundwater and surface water
- Compilation of groundwater issues of concern for particular areas of the state (e.g., the Central Plateau or the Verde) and identification of which issues are most pressing in each of these areas. It was suggested that this could help focus of the Committee