

## **ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING COMMITTEE**

**Wednesday, March 12, 2008**

**10:00 am MST**

**Town of Hayden Council Chambers**

**520 Velasco Avenue**

**Hayden, Arizona 85235**

### **MINUTES**

#### **MEMBERS PRESENT**

Chair Don Gabrielson, Pinal County Air Quality  
Vice Chair Reg Glos, Pinal County Environmental Health  
Jake Garrett, Gila County Wastewater Department  
LaRon Garrett for Debra Galbraith, Town of Payson  
Janet Martin, Town of Queen Creek  
Doug Mason, San Carlos Irrigation and Drainage District

#### **MEMBERS ABSENT**

Wayne Costa, Town of Florence  
Rick Gibson, University of Arizona Cooperative Extension  
John Mitchell, City of Eloy

#### **GUESTS PRESENT**

Mayor Monica Badillo, Town of Hayden  
Laura Romero, Town of Hayden  
Bob Loroña, Town of Hayden  
Carlos Estrada, Town of Hayden  
Candi Hilles, Town of Hayden  
Stephen Cooper, Attorney, Town of Hayden  
Vice Mayor Nolberto Waddell, Town of Winkelman  
Sylvia Kerlock, Town of Winkelman  
Steve Stratton, Gila County Public Works  
Adam Bliven, Engineering and Environmental Consultants  
Julian Kentwell, Copper Basin News  
Kevin Louis, City of Casa Grande  
Linda Taunt, Arizona Department of Environmental Quality  
Anastacia Wyatt, PMC (via teleconference)  
Jim Campbell, Burgess and Niple (via teleconference)  
Craig Tinney, Arizona Department of Environmental Quality

#### **STAFF PRESENT**

Maxine Leather, CAAG  
J. Peter Armenta, CAAG

#### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

The Environmental Planning Committee Meeting was called to order at 10:00 am MST by Chair Don Gabrielson.

## II. ROLL CALL & INTRODUCTIONS

Roll was taken, and a quorum was established.

## III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – *November 7, 2007*

Mr. Garrett requested a change to the minutes, referring to his job as Gila County Wastewater Department, rather than Department of Health.

◆ **Motion to adopt the minutes of the November 7, 2007 meeting, with corrections, made by Mr. Jake Garrett. The motion seconded by Mr. Mason. Motion carried unanimously.**

## IV. NEW BUSINESS

### A. *Environmental Planning Committee Member Appointment*

Mr. Armenta noted that the City of Casa Grande has an application to CAAG to become a DMA. As a request by EPC, all DMAs should place a member on EPC. Mr. Kevin Louis, Public Works Director for the City has volunteered to sit on the Committee.

◆ **Motion to recommend the appointment of Kevin Louis to the Environmental Planning Committee made by Mr. Mason. Motion seconded by Mr. Glos. Motion carried unanimously.**

### B. *Discussion on Hayden/Winkelman Wastewater Consolidation*

Mr. Armenta introduced the item. In 2003, the Town of Hayden received a Notice of Violation (NOV) from ADEQ, regarding their sewer system. Currently, Hayden collects raw sewage and discharges it into the ASARCO tailings, located just outside Town limits. ADEQ has instructed Hayden to discontinue this practice, and find a solution for this issue. The Town of Hayden, as a way to address the NOV, has come up with a plan to connect into the Town of Winkelman's Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF) through a series of gravity and force mains.

Winkelman's WWTF is currently an interconnected array of package plants, with a total capacity of 120,000 gpd, and permitted to discharge B+ effluent into the Gila River. The facility's current flow is approximately 33,000 gpd. Hayden would add approximately 74,000 gpd, for a total of approximately 107,000 gpd, or 89.2% capacity. The Areawide Water Quality Management Plan states that once a facility goes beyond 85% capacity, plans for expansion must occur, thus triggering a 208 amendment.

At the September 5, 2007 EPC meeting, the Committee informed the communities that any new facilities or expansions of existing facilities should make every effort to utilize 100% of the effluent produced for either reuse or recharge into the aquifer. Additionally, if any effluent is to be discharged, it should be of A+ water quality. Although the facility is located within Gila County, waters from the Gila River also flow into Pinal County. This will require both Counties to provide letters of no objection or support as the planning process begins.

On September 5, 2007, the Towns, engineers from Burgess and Niple, and consultants from

PMC approached the Committee to discuss their plans, which included consolidation, renovation to the Winkelman WWTF, treating effluent to B+ quality, and discharging into the Gila River. At that time, the Committee reaffirmed its stance on effluent quality, discharges, and water quality within the Region. The Towns of Hayden and Winkelman had requested to meet with the Committee to further explore options.

Anastacia Wyatt, a consultant for the Town of Hayden, made a brief presentation on progress since the meeting, including a note that the Town of Winkelman has decided not to extend an offer to allow Hayden to connect to Winkelman's treatment works, due to a large amount of risk to possibly be taken on by the Town of Winkelman. Also detailed were some possible options that the Town of Hayden is now considering, based on recommendations from engineer Jim Campbell, Burgess and Niple.

The floor was then opened for discussion. The Committee, Ms. Wyatt, Town officials, and Linda Taunt from ADEQ held a discussion on what may be feasible and an accepted solution to the NOV. The discussion also included ways ASARCO is willing or may be willing to assist in the solution. The discussion also included how cost is affecting the decision making process. The cost of developing treatment works, as discussed, could range anywhere from \$700,000 to upwards of \$2.5 million. The Towns currently have some funding available, but would need to find more funding, which is problematic, since some funding sources are close to expiration.

The group then discussed possible options. The Committee, engineers, and others in the group, including ASARCO and Gila County, had proposed various options. Chair Gabrielson had directed staff to compile a list of options discussed in that meeting (this document will be under separate cover). The Chair also asked Ms. Wyatt to review the options and come up with a cost estimate per option.

A final discussion was held regarding the Committee's effluent standards. As described in earlier meetings, the Committee has held to all applications that excess effluent be treated to A+ quality, and that beneficial reuse and/or recharge be implemented. A discussion ensued about the feasibility of these standards in this area of the Region. It was mentioned by Stephen Cooper, attorney for the Town of Hayden, that recharge in this area is impractical, since the Globe Equity Act governs water in the area. Recharge would not benefit the communities, since once the water is released into the aquifer or Gila River, that water would be owned by the Gila River Indian Community, and subject to allocations determined by the Globe Act.

This item was for discussion only, and no action was taken.

**V. CHAIR'S REPORT**

Chair Gabrielson had no report.

**VI. STAFF REPORT**

Staff provided a written report.

**VII. SET DATE, TIME, & LOCATION OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Environmental Planning Committee will be Tuesday, May 27, 10:00 am

MST, at the CAAG Conference Room, in Apache Junction.

VIII. **OTHER BUSINESS**

No other business was discussed.

IX. **CALL TO THE PUBLIC**

No one answered the Call to the Public.

X. **ADJOURN**

◆ **Motion to adjourn made by Mr. Mason. Motion seconded by Mr. Jake Garrett. Meeting adjourned at 12:13 pm MST.**

DRAFT