



**BABBITT CENTER**  
FOR LAND AND WATER POLICY

*A Center of the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy*



**SONORAN**  
INSTITUTE

**Arizona Growing Water Smart  
Team Action Plan June 2021**

**Cochise County**

**Next meeting date: July 15, 9am - via Teams**

**Goal: Standardize policies across jurisdictions and collaborative activities**

ACTION STEP(S)	INDIV/ DEPT LEAD	PARTNERS	DEADLINE	RESOURCES REQUIRED (staff, tech, etc.)	NOTES
Share and update water policy matrix with all Cochise jurisdictions	Christine	Michelle, other town planners	3 months	Add a few cities to matrix	
Other jurisdictions to adopt water policies as applicable	Michelle	Other town planners (Peter - Douglas), Public works, Christine	6-12 months		Michelle to share with other jurisdictions which policies Benson is interested in, try to open discussion; Douglas and Willcox need to update building codes anyway
Create a list of resolutions or letters of support for things like NRCS	Kris, Peggy	Legislator offices/staff, Eastern Counties Organization	6 months	Examples, identifying where support is needed	
Potentially amend County strategic planning, with added water policy-related items from this workshop	Peggy, Kris	Board of Supervisors	3 months	Can we hang our hats on the objectives already in the plan?	Benson - only info about water in strategic plan is Water Infrastructure Master Plan
Adopt consistent messaging around the	Camilla -	Board of Supervisors adopt	3 months		Develop list of actions to collaborate on



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importance of water	Public Info Officer	message			
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### **Goal: Increase agricultural water efficiency**

ACTION STEP(S)	INDIV/ DEPT LEAD	PARTNERS	DEADLINE	RESOURCES REQUIRED (staff, tech, etc.)	NOTES
Present at annual Cochise County Farm and Livestock Bureau meeting to show County support for ag water efficiency	Peggy	Christine, ADWR	August	Presentation	Willcox Elks Lodge
Explore new standards for high water use ag processing	Christine	Alan Seitz, Richard Searle, Peggy	3 months		Christine to work with Alan and Richard to explore feasibility; give presentation to Board of Supervisors with what results
Research incentive programs for water-efficient crops or land fallowing (NRCS a start)	Peggy to assign (Tina Thompson?)	Peggy discuss with NRCS, Chase Skaarer	Ongoing	Funding? Examples	Ex: Verde Valley hops growing (Nature Conservancy), agave, EDF, AZ Land and Water Trust
Encourage voluntary metering and water-efficient crops	Carol Denton	ADWR			Ask ADWR to do a push for meter volunteers again



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**Goal: Update building code and zoning and subdivision codes/regs**

ACTION STEP(S)	INDIV/ DEPT LEAD	PARTNERS	DEADLINE	RESOURCES REQUIRED (staff, tech, etc.)	NOTES
Additional local amendments focused on water for the building code update (applicable countywide)	Christine	Building division	3-6 months	2015 codes	Provide copies to Michelle for Benson to implement; Pinal County uses 2018 codes
Expand watershed overlay policy through zoning regs	Christine		3-6 months	Have county-wide standards - add in zoning regs	Sierra Vista Overlay - amended comp plan first
Water smart development standards for RV Parks	Christine		6-12 months		When P&Z has light workload
Allow mixed use zoning by-right	Michelle	Cities and towns	12 months		Bisbee and Willcox already have
Expand some of the less popular zoning designations, like neighborhood business, which are less intense than general comm and industrial	Christine		12 months		Low priority
Research and pilot incentives for green infrastructure for new development	Christine, Michelle		12 months	Example programs	Density bonuses, efficient fixtures; monetary and non-monetary incentives
Research robust TDR programs to direct growth away from sensitive watersheds	Christine, Mark		12 months	Example programs	



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**Goal: Water recharge**

ACTION STEP(S)	INDIV/ DEPT LEAD	PARTNERS	DEADLINE	RESOURCES REQUIRED (staff, tech, etc.)	NOTES
Work with large water users on potential stormwater recharge opportunities using green infrastructure and unadjudicated sheetflow	Mark	Nut growers, <b>dairy as a pilot project</b> , kinder morgan; Sun Sites area	Underway		
Increasing recharge as a water policy goal, in conjunction with flood control efforts	Mark, Flood Control		Ongoing		
ADWR ancestral use ownership/who has rights for stock ponds	Carol Denton	Willcox Water Project	3 months		
Support municipalities in converting traditional WWT into effluent recharge facilities, e.g. Sierra Vista Environmental Operations Park	Mark	Talking to Willcox - Willcox Treatment Ponds; Benson and Douglas are doing some of this in golf courses; Willcox Water Project	Ongoing		Tombstone potentially only one not doing this already to some degree



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### Goal: Incentive programs and education

ACTION STEP(S)	INDIV/ DEPT LEAD	PARTNERS	DEADLINE	RESOURCES REQUIRED (staff, tech, etc.)	NOTES
Benson to start education and incentives work in collaboration with WaterWise	Michelle	Water Wise, P&Z Commissioners	3 months		
Expand use of Water Wise program, County partner with WaterWise to expand offerings	Board, Peggy	UofA Extension Water Wise	12 months	Funding	Board of Supervisors to add \$\$ for Water Wise staff
County to help standup and support water districts	Board	Water districts	12 months	Funding - Coronavirus State and Fiscal Recovery Funds (ARP), potential infrastructure bill funding	
Reach out to potential funders to standup a Willcox Water Project in Sulphur Springs Valley	Peggy	funders - Howard Buffet, AEPCO, mines, Commonwealth, Marlin mine, dairy, Southeast AZ Economic Development Group	6 months		
Well rescue program	Peggy	Fund in the dairy area,	Ongoing	Funding	Individual wells will not qualify under ARP



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		Willcox Water Project, ADWR, state legislature			funds; only prohibition on County related to general fund (not County taxes)
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