



## Executive Committee Minutes October 28, 2015

**Call to Order:** Vice Chair David Greenberg called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m.

**Members Present:** PAC At Large David Greenberg; City of Sierra Vista Rick Mueller; Cochise County Pat Call and Jim Vlahovich; The Nature Conservancy Brooke Bushman; Fort Huachuca Justin Nixon.

**Others:** Gene Fenstermacher, Bill Barlow, Bernie Stalman, Tricia Gerrodette, Cado Daily, Ed Gilligan, Pam Weir, Laura Wilson, Yolanda Velasquez, Karen Modesto, Bruce Gungle, Russ Scott, Dave Goodrich

**Call to the Public** – None

**Approval of July 22, 2015 Minutes** – Pat Call made a motion to approve the minutes (attachment 1). Justin Nixon seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**Request to change cap on purchase of dual flush valves from \$2,500 to \$5,000** – Cado Daily requested that the cap to purchase dual flush valves for the Retail Workgroup be raised from \$2,500 to \$5,000, just in case the \$2,500 runs out before the next quarterly ExCom meeting. Currently, \$2,500 pays for approximately 56 valves, and 51 were distributed since the last ExCom meeting. Rick Mueller made the motion and Pat Call seconded to raise the cap to \$5,000. The motion passed unanimously. The money is being taken out of ICI business grants.

**Finance Update** – Yolanda Velasquez reported that the summary of current funds available as of September 30, 2015 (attachment 2) shows a project balance of \$341,629.70. She also gave a report of funds available report to be carried over in Federal FY2016 from October 1, 2015 to September 30, 2016 (attachment 3), which added \$190,000 to the beginning balance (\$10,000 from the City, \$10,000 from the County, and \$170,000 from the Fort), and shows the final balance of \$531,629.70.

Four USGS invoices were submitted for approval for services from July 1, 2015 through September 30, 2015: 1. Additional work on the Upper San Pedro Basin (\$3,000); 2. Operation and maintenance of streamflow gaging stations (\$4,100); 3. Water level monitoring in the SPRNCA (\$4,500); and 4. Gravity monitoring in the Sierra Vista Subwatershed (\$7,858). Rick made the motion to approve all four invoices. Justin seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**Project Updates** – Brooke Bushman gave a brief update on Bella Vista and Riverstone near stream recharge feasibility investigations. The Cochise Conservation and Recharge Network completed Phase 1 on Bella Vista and Riverstone. They are in the process of compiling those results and hope to have a decision on where to focus the next project by late November.

**Appropriations** – None

### Coordination Updates

- **Technical Committee** – Brooke Bushman reported the Technical Committee met in August and the Watershed Management Group gave a presentation on the results of their work with the City of Sierra Vista with low-impact development and ephemeral channel

restoration concepts. The committee also continued their review of sustainability indicators and will continue indicator review in November. By the end of January, the committee will have completed their review of the sustainability report indicators. The members also discussed creating a subcommittee to develop the USGS web-portal concept and costs for a system that would report more timely on the USGS Sustainability Report data (14 indicators of sub watershed condition).

- **Partnership Advisory Committee** – Pat Call reported David Goodrich will give a presentation on modeling tools at the December 9 PAC meeting. A group from Verde Valley received a tour of the storm water capture projects and looked at conservation projects in the Sierra Vista area by The Cochise Water Project, and TCWP may have a video to present at the December PAC meeting. Karen Modesto of ADWR was asked to give a presentation on the Governor’s new Arizona water initiative.
- **Retail Workgroup** – Cado Daily reported 51 flushometer valves were installed since July, and that the estimated savings will be 50,000 gallons of water per year. Identified locations for more Flushometer valves include the County, Sierra Vista Police Department, Forest Service, Buena High School, and UofA Sierra Vista. Water Wise’s Sandra Hurlbut said the reception from establishments has been very positive on the toilet replacements. A USPP water conservation grant for \$700 was awarded by the Retail Workgroup to Step Up Bisbee/Naco, a non-profit organization that helps disadvantaged people do rehab on their homes, to complete installation of low flush toilets donated by The Cochise Water Project for Step Up’s rehabilitation day.
- **Fort** – Justin Nixon reported he has accepted a civil engineer position with the Corps of Engineers in Los Angeles and this will be his last ExCom meeting. Dawn Rohr will be filling in for ExCom and PAC, and discussions are being held to decide who will be on the Technical Committee.
- **The Nature Conservancy (TNC)** – Brooke Bushman reported TNC reorganized their water-oriented programs, with Holly Richter (formerly the AZ Chapter’s Director of Conservation) as the new AZ Water Projects Director, and Brooke as the AZ Water Projects Coordinator. This program will collectively focus on TNC’s work in the Upper San Pedro River, Verde River and Colorado River Delta. Holly and Brooke will be the primary and alternate representatives for the USPP committees. TNC hosted a tour with Western Resource Advocates October 22-23 to showcase the conservation and recharge work underway by Sierra Vista, Cochise County, The Cochise Water Project, Water Wise and TNC in the Sierra Vista Subwatershed to Verde watershed local government officials, staff, and Arizona’s Water Infrastructure Finance Authority (WIFA).
- **ADWR** – Karen Modesto reported the director’s decision is final and San Simone Valley sub-basin will not be an INA. The Governor has announced a new Arizona water initiative, which was based off the 2014 strategic vision. It involves two tracks; the first is to evaluate and prioritize the 22 planning areas, and the second will involve a council that will investigate long-term statewide augmentation strategies. The press release is at <http://www.azwater.gov/AzDWR/PublicInformationOfficer/ArizonaWaterInitiative.htm>.
- **USGS** – Bruce Gungle reported that USGS doesn’t have any funding in place for SPRNCA water level monitoring this year. He asked if the monitoring should be continued and if so, how to go about continuing the program. \$18,000 was spent on monitoring last year. Rick said he didn’t know where we’re going to get the money for the project, and Pat said Bruce could bring it up at PAC meeting to see if other agencies could help. Rick added they could look at moving money from existing accounts to see if there’s money to fund monitoring next year. Pat suggested that Bruce come up with a

budget for the next five years and see if there's a way to start working on it, or it could be a problem coming up with money every year. Brooke asked what the sustainability report indicators are relative to SPRNCA water level monitoring. Bruce said the indicators are monitoring near stream ground water levels, groundwater fluctuations, and vertical gradient.

- **The Cochise Water Project** – Pat Call reported that the PDS golf course smart irrigation went live. They will start monitoring January 1 and anticipate a water savings of about 10%, or 40 acre feet, in the first 12-18 months. Monitoring will also begin on the Mountain View golf course system. The City of Sierra Vista parks and ball fields smart irrigation project should be finished by year's end, with monitoring to begin in 2016. The phase 2 engineering study for the storm water capture project is currently in limbo. TCWP is talking to the Fort and the issue is phase 2 funding seems to be predicated on The Nature Conservancy moving that piece of property into ownership of the county, and that the concern from the Fort legal team is final disposition of ownership. The County and TNC are working on the conservation easement.

**Next Meeting Date: January 27, 2016**

The meeting **adjourned** at 2:37 p.m.