



City of Prescott

General Plan Committee Meeting

July 26, 2023 | 2:00 PM

201 N. Montezuma Street
Council Chambers, 3rd Floor
Prescott, AZ 86301

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Gambogi called the meeting to order at 2 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Ted Gambogi, Chair
Terry Sapio, Vice-Chair
Andre Carman - Arrived at 3:04 p.m.
Mary Frederickson
Ralph Hess - Absent
Jim Huffman
James McCarver
Don Michelman
Rod Moyer
Deborah Thalasis
Gary Worob

3. OPEN CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Member of the public Jim Helbling spoke as a member of the Martin Luther King Committee along with co-member Robert Shegog. Mr. Helbling proposed to the Committee that some wording be included in the General Plan stating that the city will not condone discrimination of any kind. They recommend that a subsection titled cultural diversity be added. Mr. Helbling requested that Mr. Shegog and himself be put on a future agenda so they may share more information relative to what they have done and why they think it is important for the city.

4. DISCUSSION & ACTION ITEMS

A. Approval of June 28, 2023 Meeting Minutes.

Member Frederickson noted that more discussion regarding the airport department's presentation may be necessary.

Ms. DeWitt advised the minutes will be revised and brought back at the next meeting for approval.

**MOTION BY MEMBER MICHELMAN TO DEFER THE APPROVAL OF
JUNE 28, 2023 MEETING MINUTES TO THE NEXT MEETING;
SECONDED BY MEMBER WOROB: (9 - 0)**

B. Discussion and Presentation from the Water Resources Department.

Water Resource and Environmental Services Manager Brian Ruiz provided a presentation to the Committee regarding Water Resources (Attached).

Member Michelman asked how the 2.9-million-acre feet estimate is calculated.

Mr. Ruiz replied that groundwater modeling helps establish what the supply is that is available.

Chair Gambogi asked what date the 2.9-million-acre feet of water estimate was established.

Water Resource Project Manager Leslie Graser replied it was most likely established back in 2006 or 2007.

Vice Chair Sapio asked if there were numbers available for how long the water would last, how much it is going down, how fast it is going down, is it replenished and how much is replenished.

Mr. Ruiz answered that he does not have those numbers but will review what it's going to take to get to that point where we can make those types of estimates and make good decisions based on the information that we have.

Chair Gambogi asked if there is a water portfolio chart available for the other nearby areas like Chino Valley, Dewy Humboldt, and Prescott Valley.

Mr. Ruiz responded that there is not. These areas are not designated water providers like Prescott is.

Ms. Graser expanded that the other communities work through certificates of assured water supply which are brought by the developer themselves to that community so what their portfolio looks like they are not required to disclose it like the City of Prescott, they don't have it in a legal document.

Chair Gambogi noted that data points tend to cluster together over the years, except for a couple of years with major drops. He asked about the cause of these dips.

Mr. Ruiz responded that prior to 1995, agriculture was a major water consumer, leading to rapid water withdrawal and subsequent rebounds.

Member McCarver asked if multiple wells were being monitored and whether they exhibited similar groundwater level declines.

Mr. Ruiz explained that there were indeed multiple monitored wells, but the presented data was from one representative well. A general decline in the aquifer level over the years was acknowledged.

Member Michelman inquired about the number of wells in Chino and their water source.

Mr. Ruiz clarified that Chino Valley has five wells and receives water from the same source as the present group.

Ms. Graser added that Chino Valley's water is an independent service area with a mix of wells, they do have water supply arrangements with the city as well. The complexity of the situation was acknowledged, particularly regarding Chino Valley's diverse water sources and water usage patterns. The aquifer's role in serving various areas and the challenges posed by differing geological conditions were also highlighted.

Member Thalasis sought confirmation that the entire area enclosed by this red line constituted the Active Management Area (AMA).

Ms. Graser clarified that the red line indicated the general boundary, established as of 2015, and defined the limits of the AMA.

Member Thalasis inquired about water usage of entities situated outside the Active Management Area (AMA), specifically whether these entities were also utilizing water from the "little Chino."

Ms. Graser pointed out the sourcing of water for different areas and discussed the distinction in aquifer usage for regions both within and beyond the AMA boundaries. Clarifications were provided regarding the aquifers that supplied water to various locations. It was noted that the distinction in water source had implications for water availability and management strategies. The complexity of these dynamics was acknowledged and the importance of understanding these patterns for effective water resource planning.

Member McCarver questioned the ranches located north of the Active Management Area (AMA) boundaries and whether these ranches were also extracting water from the same aquifer.

Mr. Ruiz clarified that these ranches were drawing water from a different aquifer.

Member Worob asked if there were maps available to see where the monitoring wells were located.

Mr. Ruiz replied that those maps can be found on the ADWR's website.

Member Worob asked what percentage of water released from Watson and Willow goes back to recharge.

Mr. Ruiz responded that he does not know that number, but it may be available in a study done so he will check if he can find that exact figure.

Chair Gambogi commented that while development of a long-term water management plan was part of the 2015 General Plan it has not yet been completed, and asked if it is included in the 2025 General Plan.

Mr. Ruiz advised that it is a major goal of the water element.

Chair Gambogi asked how citizens become aware of rebate programs offered by the city.

Mr. Ruiz replied there are a few ways, such as social media and the city's water conservation website.

Member Frederickson asked about the status of the forever chemical issue.

Mr. Ruiz stated that the utility department does a monthly update on the readings and measurable quantities of PFAS which is available on the city's website.

Member Worob directed his question to the mayor who was in attendance and asked if the city is currently in litigation over water contaminants.

Mayor Goode responded that yes, the city is party to a multi-district lawsuit.

Chair Gambogi asked what percentage of water is not reclaimed and if there is a monetary value that can be placed on what is not reclaimed.

Mr. Ruiz said he would have to investigate the studies done and see what the numbers were.

Member Worob asked if someone hooks up to city water, are they required to abandon their well.

Ms. Graser explained that it is a city policy that when someone switches to city water, their well must be abandoned.

Member Worob expressed concern that the public has a general assumption that septic systems are bad but understands this topic may be covered in more detail in a future meeting when the Public Works' Environmental Unit speaks.

Chair Gambogi asked if the Big Chino sub basin is the only additional water resource.

Mr. Ruiz replied that at this time, the Big Chino sub basin is the only imported water resource.

Chair Gambogi asked Ms. DeWitt if she had a copy of Prescott Valley's and Chino Valley's General Plans and do they address water.

Ms. DeWitt replied yes, she has a copy of Prescott Valley's, and it does address water, Chino Valley is working on their plan now.

Member Thalasis asked which department is responsible for storm water.

Mr. Ruiz replied that it falls under the Environmental portion of Public Works and will be discussed at their presentation in a future meeting.

Member Michelman asked why some of the strategies from the previous general plan were not implemented.

Mr. Ruiz replied that as time moves forward goals and perspectives can change, and he believes that is what happened over the last approximately 10 years.

Chair Gambogi commented that he would like to get a better assessment of whether the community could live off the Little Chino aquifer. He also voiced concern that Prescott may claim to manage water well, there is uncertainty about whether the other communities tapping into the same AMA are doing the same. He suggested a need for stronger collaboration and coordination with these neighboring areas to establish more comprehensive measures for water management.

C. Discussion and Presentation Regarding Materials for the August 30th Open House Event.

Planner Tammy DeWitt presented the materials for the Open House Event.

Member Thalasis commented that she would like to add on to the challenges the lack of a comprehensive economic development master plan.

Chair Gambogi commented that to attract and retain essential professionals like police,

fire, and teachers, they should have access to capital growth, which is hindered if they only rent. He suggested that financial considerations should include aspects such as salary and assistance with down payments to enable individuals to make mortgage payments instead of rental payments, encouraging them to stay in the area.

Ms. DeWitt advised they will be talking to the Workforce Housing group about that, and it could become a new element of the General Plan.

Member Frederickson wanted to make sure the challenge of the Rodeo Grounds growth or lack of growth is covered in some area since that is a hot topic.

Member Worob asked Ms. DeWitt to talk about the marketing for the 2025 General Plan and open house meeting.

Ms. DeWitt responded that they have created and shared flyers, there will be information on the radio and on the city's social media and can reach out to the newspaper.

Member Carman requested that the current population be listed on the information sheet so citizens can see how close the population may be to the 50,000 number.

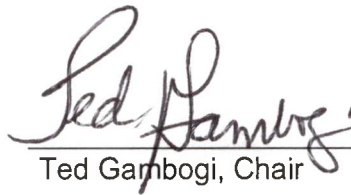
5. STAFF UPDATES

Ms. DeWitt provided a preview for the next regular meeting to be held on September 27th:

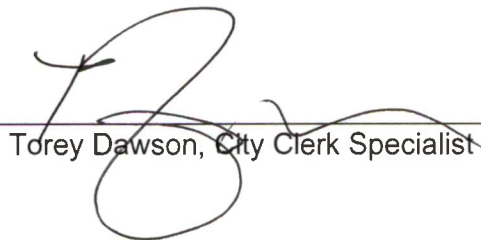
- Environmental/Green Infrastructure Presentation
- Police Presentation
- Recap Open House
- Review responses from survey and Open House
- First Chapter review and input
- Any proposed language or Goals for any elements needs to be sent in to be incorporated in updates

6. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Gambogi adjourned the meeting at 3:57 p.m.


Ted Gambogi, Chair

ATTEST:


Torey Dawson, City Clerk Specialist