

City of Prescott
Council Subcommittee on Water Issues



July 1, 2025 | 9:30 AM
201 N Montezuma Street
Council Chambers
Prescott, AZ 86301

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Goode called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Phil Goode - Chair
Lois Fruhwirth - Member
Ted Gambogi - Member (Excused)

3. DISCUSSION & ACTION ITEMS

- A. Approval of the June 3, 2025 Council Subcommittee on Water Issues Meeting Minutes.

**MOTION BY MEMBER FRUHWIRTH TO APPROVE JUNE 3, 2025 MINUTES;
SECONDED BY CHAIR GOODE : PASSED (2 - 0)**

- B. Presentation & Discussion Regarding the 2022 Water Management Policy - Current Residential & Non-Residential Water Budget Overview for January 1, 2025 through June 19, 2025.

Water Resource & Environmental Services Manager Brian Ruiz provided a presentation to the Subcommittee regarding the status of the current water budget.

*Residential Projects Approved: Total 7.36 AF, leaving a remaining 17.64 available out of the 25 AF budgeted for the first six months of 2025. This included 6 total projects, 5 of which were administratively approved with 1 being approved by the City Council.

*Non-Residential Projects approved totaled 14.93 AF, leaving 10.07 out of the budgeted 25 AF. 8 total projects made up the total, all were administratively approved except 1 was approved by City Council.

*Existing Contracts for approved projects included 4.87 AF Residential, 0.03 AF Non-Residential, 4.9 AF Total.

Chair Goode asked if the current projects are under the impact fees prior to the June 30 fee schedule.

Community Development Operations Manager Will West responded that these are pending projects and their permit would have had to be submitted prior to January 1, 2025 to use the 2024 fee schedule.

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

C. Presentation & Discussion Regarding an Update on the Long-Term Water Management Plan.

Water Resources Project Manager Leslie Graser presented an update on the Long-Term Water Plan.

The Plan will contain:

Outline Components: Body - Executive Summary, Introduction, Plan Development, Water Supplies, Water Demands, Water Future, Plan Implementation, References

Technical Memos:

- Reservoir Operations
- Recharge and Recovery
- Big Chino importation
- Advanced Water Purification
- Stormwater
- Water Resource Management Model
- Demand Management
- Planning Horizons and Recommendations

2024 Baseline Data - Examples (using the WRMM updated with 2024 data)
Prescott's potable water service area overlies four governmental jurisdictions.

Potable System Active Accounts 2024:

- *Prescott within city limits- 22,332 accounts, 5,789 AF volume delivered
- *Unincorporated Yavapai County - 2,399 accounts, 551 AF volume delivered
- *Chino Valley within town limits - 763 accounts, 171 AF volume delivered
- *Yavapai Prescott Indian Tribe - 79 accounts, 105 AF volume delivered

Member Fruhwirth requested that more charts, numbers and percentages be used, they are very helpful.

Ms. Graser replied there will be lots of charts and numbers in the full report and will include those on future updates.

Chair Goode asked if there are any estimates available at this point for the travel center that is going in YPIT area.

Mr. Ruiz responded they have not seen anything come through at this point for that project.

Potable Volume Delivered per Category:

- *Single Family - 22,658 accounts, 3,694 AF
- *Multi-Family - 799 accounts, 698 AF
- *Non-Residential - 2,116 accounts, 2,224 AF

Member Fruhwirth expressed her concern for balancing economic development with water use, emphasizing the need to consider water impacts when attracting new businesses.

New Accounts added in 2024:

- *Prescott within city limits - 268
- *Unincorporated Yavapai County - 17

*Chino Valley within town limits - 7

*Yavapai Prescott Indian Tribe - 0

Total = 292

2024 New Accounts Breakdown per Category:

*Single Family - 263 accounts, 8.15AF

*Multi-Family - 3 accounts, 0.86 AF

*Non-Residential - 26, 4.93 AF

Total = 13.95 AF*The apparent low volume of deliveries for new accounts reflects that many of the accounts are established prior to construction and occupancy of the new homes, units, or businesses.

2024 Seasonal Patterns

*Potable peaked in June

*Non-potable peaked in June also, with a resurgence at a lower level in September

Member Fruhwirth asked what the timeline is to have the first draft ready.

Ms. Graser responded the grant has a deadline of December 2026, planning to have the draft ready in September 2026.

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

D. Presentation & Discussion Regarding an Update on City Lake Treatments & Willow Lake Management Plan.

Environmental Project Manager Jeremy Cordova provided an update on city lake treatments and the Willow Lake Management Plan. Since October 2024, Environmental Services has monitored all four city reservoirs monthly for water quality. Issues identified include low dissolved oxygen, high pH, and excess nutrients—primarily due to sediment, stormwater runoff, limited water flow, and past pollution. Two improvement projects are underway, and a management plan is being developed. Watson Lake is listed as “impaired” due to high pH, low dissolved oxygen which contribute to algae blooms, and aquatic weeds. A phosphorus-reducing treatment was conducted in June 2025, with a larger follow-up planned for October to target sediment-based phosphorus. Upper Goldwater Lake faces similar issues. Two of four planned treatments have been completed, and Public Works is coordinating with APS and ADWR on a potential aeration system to improve water quality.

Chair Goode asked if a difference has been noticed since the circulators have been placed in Watson Lake.

Mr. Cordova responded they are 1 tool in a group of tools to use. They are a better long-term solution and not a primary improvement tool. 1 year of data is available to compare and see differences. Looking at adding them to the other lakes for a long-term management solution. Willow Lake management planning is in progress to guide coordinated efforts among city staff. The plan will address water levels, water quality, recreation, vegetation management, species protection, public safety, and open space improvements.

Member Fruhwirth asked what results the weed harvesting boat has had. She

would like results and improvements shared with the public.

Mr. Cordova responded they have seen hundreds of pounds of weeds removed from the lake. He has received feedback from the public while at the lakes.

Next Steps:

Watson:

- Lake sediment phosphorus treatment in October
- Continue use of aquatic weed harvester
- Design and build fish barrier to stock lake with grass carp

Upper Goldwater:

- Muckaway and phosphorus treatment monthly during summer
- Continue project development for aerator on dam
- Build natural sediment and water filters around lake inlets

Willow:

- Management plan in development with significant updates anticipated
- Q4 of 2025 Lake to be stocked with grass carp

Chair Goode asked if any vandalism or attempts to damage improvements from the public has been noticed.

Mr. Cordova responded the public has responded positively, only negative response noticed is with equipment being messed with in small ways.

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

- E. Presentation & Discussion Regarding Green Stormwater Infrastructure. Environmental Program Manager Matt Killeen provided the presentation on GreenStormwater Infrastructure(GSI). He started by expressing the importance of public communication and they have a number of public communications ready to deploy at the right times. GSI is designed to mimic nature and capture rainwater where it falls. Goals are to slow it, spread it, and sink it into the ground. GSI is being utilized to address a number of challenges facing urban communities. Pollution reduction, water conservation, heat island reduction, and traffic-calming are all benefits to these features. Staff will share how the city is incorporating these natural, cost-effective, solutions into our future.

Member Fruhwirth asked should we consider how we update code.

Mr. Killeen confirmed yes some are outdated and were under a prior mandate.

Member Fruhwirth often hears complaints from the public and thinks that more proactive community and neighborhood communications and engagement can be beneficial.

Mr. Killeen responded that some past improvements were not normal. They currently are working with some areas/neighborhoods on education and communication. Some projects design approach could be improved and the City is evaluating new approaches.

Chair Goode asked if the rain garden near the hospital is still functional.

Mr. Killeen responded that sometimes there is a maintenance issue from different departmental perspectives. More specific maintenance plans need to be established and followed for location specific solutions. Often volunteers are helping in the special projects area but professional maintenance is needed.

Chair Goode asked how can we measure the effectiveness of the efforts.

Mr. Killeen responded that may be a long term goal, they are starting pretty far above the watershed. Should see a longer spread through the streams, water quality improvements should also show, persistence of water through small water/rain events.

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

4. GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM STAFF

Ms. Graser provided an update on a new web page that will be available to the public on the topic of a long-term water management plan, should launch in approximately a week.

Water Resource Project Manager Tracie Beasley provided an update on the rebate program print and web page launch. In September there will be a more comprehensive update. Prescott is partnering with Friends of the Verde River which can help qualify for grant funds and possible rebates. More information available on Prescottwater.com.

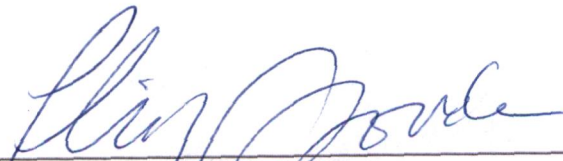
Member Fruhwirth congratulated Ms. Beasley on the water rebate programs, the public enjoys the interaction, conversation. She suggested maybe using a relationship with Meals on Wheels to get information out to the public.

Mr. Ruiz announced that Water Resources department is now part of the Community Development department, and they will be in City Hall once their offices are ready to occupy.

Mayor Goode commented that he is looking forward to working together with our community neighbors to adopt responsible policies to save the aquifer.

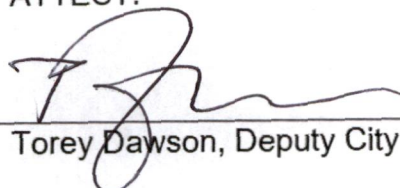
5. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, Chair Goode adjourned the meeting at 10:50 a.m.



PHILIP R. GOODE, Mayor

ATTEST:



Torey Dawson, Deputy City Clerk