

Pat Call brought the meeting to order at 9:07 a.m.

Present: A quorum was present. Members and alternates include

- Arizona State Land Department Tim Bolton
- Audubon Arizona Tricia Gerrodette
- City of Bisbee / PAC At Large Ken Budge
- City of Sierra Vista Rick Mueller, Tom Reardon, and Chuck Potucek
- City of Tombstone Steve Troncale
- Cochise County Pat Call (Chair), Mike Ortega, Karen Riggs, and Kim Mulhern
- Cochise Water Project Tim Cervantes
- Fort Huachuca Justin Nixon
- Hereford Natural Resource Conservation District Lucinda Earven
- The Nature Conservancy Dave Gann
- SEAZ Association of Realtors David Greenberg
- U.S. Bureau of Land Management Keith Hughes (for Vi Hillman)
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Jason Douglas, and Carl Millegan (for Jean Calhoun)
- U.S. Geological Survey Jim Leenhouts
- U.S.D.A. Agricultural Research Service Russ Scott

Others present: Cado Daily, Pam Weir, Gina Gardiner, Karen Modesto, Lily House-Peters, Brooke Bushman, Shar Porier, Andre Newcomb, Peter Huisking, Bernie Stalman, Gene Fenstermacher, Mark Ruggiero, Sandra Hurlbut, Dan Haws, H. Lane Baker, and Tom Richter

Not Present: Arizona Department of Environmental Quality

**Call to the Public** – Lily House-Peters is from the University of Arizona and part of a group that has been working since 2010 on a project funded by National Science Foundation. On January 29, 2015, a meeting will be held to update people on their findings and get stakeholder perceptions and involvement. Christopher Scott is the lead for the project and formal invitations will be sent out to members.

**Approval of Minutes August 13, 2014** – on a motion from Rick Mueller and second from Karen Riggs, the minutes were approved.

**Presentations:**

Lucinda Earven gave a presentation on current Hereford Natural Resource Conservation projects. Andre Newcomb asked if the NRCDC could tell exactly where an animal is when they put collars on the pronghorn. Lucinda said yes, the collars do have GPS capabilities. Tom Reardon asked if the Paloma Trail crossing project would be of interest to Army Corps of Engineers. Lucinda responded that the Border Patrol was the only agency initially interested in the Paloma Trail crossing project, and that unfortunately it did not work out in the end. Pat added that federal agencies are reluctant to participate in these types of projects because of the road maintenance involved. Kim Mulhern said that she has worked with the Army Corps of Engineers, and they are

like an engineering firm in that they don't have money and can only do a project if they can get funding from another source. Tom asked if this would qualify for civil works, and Kim said that is usually for dams and levees. If it's a local flood control district, and if they can get congress to partially fund it, they could do a cost-share, then you may be able to get money with that. Tricia asked if the presentation is available online and was told it is on their website.

Karen Riggs gave a presentation titled *Palominas Stormwater Recharge Project Status*, which gave an overview of the Palominas project and other projects that resulted from it. David Greenberg asked what the acreage is that is feeding this project, and Karen replied the watershed is about 7.5 square miles. Cado asked if any other work has been done upstream as part of this project and Karen said not yet. Russ asked what the long-term average of recharge would be; Karen replied that the models are showing that rainfall that produces water in basin could expect up to 20 ac-ft of recharge for each event. Tim asked how it handled the water if it went over the spillway. Karen said that the spillway height is 6 feet and the water never got above 2 feet deep in the basin, and the three 36" pipes handled it all. Ken asked if the rainfall gauges are like the Davis Weather Station that tells rain and amounts, and Karen said the gauges are continually collecting data using a tipping bucket and other monitors. Karen stated the county reached out to the Salt River Project (SRP) to see if they have an interest in the watershed. The county and SRP representatives recently had a field trip, and the representatives took an interest and offered tech support for additional monitoring they would like to see.

Brooke Bushman gave a presentation that included a proposal for the Technical Committee to update the 2012 USPP Priority Project List. A subcommittee formed from the Technical Committee convened to review the purpose, need and proposed steps for updating the 2012 USPP project list. Tricia asked, if a project is going to be done anyway due to opportunity, is it necessary and what is the value added for the partnership to have the Tech Committee assemble such a list. And, should the Tech Committee spend time on a project list, assuming the project would be done with or without the list? Kim said that it's good to have such a list, so in case someone has funding, we can look at criteria to decide on project. The current list does not show precise enough order, magnitude, cost, etc. for the projects. This time Tech would not spend the time on ranking and prioritizing, but will create a template for the projects to share those more informative project details. The County's Palominas Recharge Project was designed and constructed in 2014 and will provide the most current costs available to best estimate future project costs. Dave Gann added that if a funder came in, this list would show what would best fit their needs. The ability to have a pre-evaluated list makes us a lot more agile and nimble when it comes to seizing opportunities to fund projects that meet the partnership goals. It's hard to know when opportunities come up and it's best that they're informed by Tech Committee. Changing the Tech Committee meeting schedules so the committee meets less often was discussed, and Pat said if the Tech committee felt meeting quarterly or as necessary is better, they could do that. Tech is still evaluating whether to alter their schedules, but next convene in January. The Technical Committee also suggested a better system for responding to the partnership's science questions would be to give a more in-depth update/summary of the previous meeting findings/decisions/recommendations at the quarterly PAC meetings, and requested that PAC also use this opportunity to formally direct Tech to address particular questions. It was agreed Tech would take 20-30 minutes for this at the beginning of PAC meetings after approval of the minutes, starting in February.

A PAC At Large was to be nominated and elected at this meeting. Ken Budge has served the last two years as PAC At Large and said this position is used to represent agencies that don't have a set position on the board for ExCom meetings. Federal agencies cannot be PAC At Large based on their rules and procedures, so this narrows the field of eligible candidates to 4 or 5 people. Rick Mueller nominated Steve Troncale, and Tricia Gerrodette nominated David Greenberg to be PAC At Large. The PAC elected David Greenberg as the new PAC At Large, and he will begin serving at the first ExCom meeting in 2015.

A PAC Chair and Vice Chair also needed to be nominated at this meeting, with an election at the first PAC meeting in 2015. Rick Mueller nominated Pat Call to be Chair, and Pat Call nominated Rick Mueller as Vice Chair.

### **Agency Updates:**

- Tim Cervantes-The Cochise Water Project-560 toilets were replaced this year, and the total number of toilet replacements is now approaching 2,000. This past year, TCWP installed 48 residential rainwater systems. The capacity of the systems has gotten much bigger, jumping from 600 to 1,800 gallon capacity. Multiple commercial rainwater systems were put in this year, to include several 10,000 gallon tanks for Sierra Vista and Fry Fire currently underway, and a new 5,000 gallon tank for Sonic. Tim is working with Mountain View golf course to install a smart irrigation system with multiple moisture sensors on tee boxes and greens. The sensors can adjust to show how much water is actually needed per hole. Once installed, they'll be able to get hard numbers on savings instantly. The work will start soon and should be done by early 2015. Rainwater systems are also going to be added, and the golf course will be able to use the water to wash their carts. A meeting was set up with Turquoise Valley to look at changing sprinkler heads from 360° to 180 ° and possibly putting in a smart irrigation system. Artificial turf has been installed in residential areas, and there may be money to install more residential turf. The grass in front of City Hall will be replaced with artificial turf. Cochise College is going to have a rainwater harvesting system installed by the student union building. It will have a 10,000 gallon system to water all their plants around the student union building, and be designed and built to use as a training tool. Another more ornamental system will also be installed at Cochise College. Staff is working with Cochise College on phase 1 of their smart irrigation project, which would install weather stations that anyone can access. Tricia said that she read a report in Tucson that the rainwater systems weren't necessarily saving water because people are planting more, and she asked Tim if he had a method to track the water usage. Tim said he is not sure that is actually the case, but he is looking at doing a study.
- Jim Leenhouts-U.S. Geological Survey-Crews have been making measurements from Hurricane Odile. Palominas was one of the places measured and the reports showed it was one of the highest flows that they've ever actually measured.
- Karen Riggs-Cochise County Highway and Floodplain Department and emergency services met with BLM and submitted information on roads in that area. They are still dealing with damages from hurricane Odile in the extreme southeast of the county, and looking at Arizona Division Management funding and grant programs to repair those roads and clear debris related to the fire in 2011.
- Kim Mulhern-Cochise County-Kim is working on the EPA and Corps of Engineers report on redefinition of water to U.S. Comments are due November 14.

- Steve Troncale-City of Tombstone-The last storm brought debris and knocked out some pipe in the aqueduct system, and they had to wait until river receded to make repairs. Prior to the break, Tombstone had been receiving enough water and they didn't have to run any pumps. There is no information since the breaks, but the system seems to be providing enough water. Arsenic in the Tombstone wells needs to be mitigated.
- Tricia Gerrodette-Audubon Arizona is pleased about the yellow billed cuckoo and looks forward to comments on critical habitat for that bird. The new deadline for comments is January 15, and covers the entire west, including Colorado and New Mexico.
- Rick Mueller-City of Sierra Vista-Rick thanked Ken Budge for his service as PAC At Large. He also thanked Tom Reardon for his support of the partnership.
- Justin Nixon-Fort Huachuca-Storm damage from the monsoons must be fixed before more testing can be done with the Huachuca City effluent project. He hopes it will be done in January. Fort Huachuca is working with the Corps of Engineers to repair Garden Canyon Road, which is currently impassible and closed off to public. The Corps is working to fix the road and culverts, along with methods to stabilize the road. The work is scheduled to begin November 30 with a completion date of August 2015.
- Mark Ruggiero-The Forest Service is working with USGS on funding of the watershed study in the Patagonia creek areas, to declare it as watershed. Hopefully it will be done in the next year.
- Keith Hughes-BLM-Keith sat in for Vi Hillman. He has been with BLM 20 years as Acting Assistant Field Manager but is new to the San Pedro. BLM is in the process of developing alternatives with the travel management plan. The anticipated timeframe for completion of the RMP is in the fall of 2015. The Gila District Tucson and Safford field offices are working on an environmental assessment for district-wide fuel management on the San Pedro to bring it under more consistent coverage. BLM hopes to fill the vacant Park Ranger and Intern positions soon.
- Dave Gann-The Nature Conservancy-The San Pedro River Wet/Dry Map Animation is now available on [AZConservation.org](http://AZConservation.org) and includes 15 year animations. An article was recently published on online journal Water, and discussed development in the San Pedro River. Holly Richter, Bruce Gungle, Laurel Lacher, Brooke Bushman, and Dale Turner co-authored the article, and they did a great job of showing how the partnership came together and how successful the collaboration is. The article can be found at <http://www.mdpi.com/2073-4441/6/8/2519>.
- Lucinda Earven-The Hereford Natural Resource Conservation District met with the BLM requesting that they coordinate with the HNRCD as a local government agency to consider re-introducing managed grazing on the San Pedro River in their RMP for the SPRNCA. The HNRCD also had a coordination meeting in Tucson with US Fish and Wildlife representative Sherry Barrett to question the science and economics behind the recommendation by that agency to introduce the Mexican grey wolf into Cochise County. Joining them in questioning the wisdom of that action were representatives from other NRCD's throughout the state, AZ Game and Fish, Cochise County Sheriff Mark Dannels and others. Freeport has to pump water to mitigate sulfite plume-moving south and west (due to a mandate from the state), and the HNRCD is proposing to grow native grass seed with the water used. Discussions with Freeport have been delayed due to management changes.
- David Greenberg-SEAZ Association of Realtors is using one of Tim's toilets from The Cochise Water Project for a paraplegic as part of a Real Wishes Foundation project.
- Ken Budge-City of Bisbee/PAC At Large-Ken reported on the recharge project, saying we cut into the line and ran a camera in all directions, and found too many low spots that have

settled over the years. The survey showed at least 70-80% of the line is unusable and wasn't installed properly. At this point, we have to dig whole new line or determine another way – either pump or gravity flow. The estimate from state engineer is \$80,000-90,000. Funding is a big issue and Pat Call is working with the golf course.

Pat Call said that the issue with the Turquoise Valley golf course is effluent; there would be funding to get effluent but the issue is the golf course wants A effluent and Bisbee produces B+. Lee Ash, head of Bisbee's wastewater system, said it would probably cost \$800,000 to \$1.2 million to bring effluent up to A, and there is just not enough money for this type of project. The Turquoise Valley 360° sprinklers are watering a lot of desert landscape, so they're looking to replace the heads. Money that they could no longer be used for groundwater will be used for sprinklers instead, and this might reduce the amount of groundwater needed from the aquifer. Pat said this has been ongoing since 2006, and thanked Ken for getting the ball moving.

Ken is looking forward to helping the new PAC At Large. The new Bisbee Mayor will be taking office the first Tuesday in December.

Next Meeting: The Next PAC Meeting will be February 11, 2015.

The meeting adjourned at 12:10.