

UPPER LITTLE COLORADO RIVER
WATERSHED PARTNERSHIP

Minutes

February 19, 2004

7:00PM

1. Bill Greenwood introduced those present and welcomed all.
2. Big Ditch Improvement Project – Bill briefed everyone on additions of ATV trails. There is a 3-Day event Jamboree planned on the forest and a show place out near the rodeo grounds. Some roads will be open only for this event. Others will be open year around. There is a club formed in town to help with this effort. It will impact the watershed, but not significantly. This jamboree will be in September.
3. Vicente Ordonez proposed watershed improvement project. Package passed out. There is a considerable amount of money following the Forest Restoration Act. We need to prepare and be in a position to try for this money. Pre-planning waterways made necessary by the ditch improvement will need to be looked at very carefully. Communities need to write a letter to the USFS to request help in their preparation. County will have to be brought in to help.
4. Piping Big Ditch-Bill. Draft proposal for grant. The time may be ripe for Arizona to get considerable funding. This grant would finish the system throughout the communities. Bill will pass out the CES email for any comments we might have. The grant should be in DC nest week. Bill will also send the proposal to Tom for his comments before it is sent in.
5. Tom Whitmer – Water around the state Governor has a statewide drought task force to access conditions and affects. This has been in being for 9 months and should have a plan next year. It should establish trigger points for necessary actions. March 10 in Flagstaff in council chambers will be next meeting. They meet every 2 months. No one from our area is on that task force. San Pedro (upper) partnership. They have raised 25 million dollars to help their efforts. The threat to the San Pedro River is the big issue. They can now receive direct funding from congress because of a recent bill. Safe Yield and sustainability are very different. Sustainability is much more difficult and the concept may spread to other rivers as well as the San Pedro River. The state has requested money to help watershed groups prepare and deal with this problem. Rural water shed initiatives is concerned with water quantity. Letter in support RWS, I would help.
Inter basin transfer has been prohibited since 1994. This is being threatened again. SRP is fighting for no transfer.
Water protection Fund has some money.
Rural water study-looking at AZ ground water basins. This review will occur about every 2 years. Water budget brought up. Tom Whitmer will talk to Bill Remick about our budget he was working on, possible agenda item for next meeting.
6. Other Reports- Bill—The LCRMOM IS BEING REVAMPED. Next meeting 3 March in Holbrook.
Subgroups need to submit projects.
Next month an agenda item will be the memo of understanding between the NRCD and ULCR.
Next month's meeting will be March 25th at 7:00pm.