

Governor's Blue Ribbon Panel for Water Sustainability: Status and Schedule

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Outline for Today



- BRP formation, purpose, and composition
- Goals
- Working Groups
- Schedule and products
- Early ideas and next steps

Blue Ribbon Panel on Water Sustainability



- Gov. Brewer announces formation of Panel on Aug. 28, 2009
- Co-Chairs
 - **Ben Grumbles, Director**
Arizona Department of Environmental Quality
 - **Herb Guenther, Director**
Arizona Department of Water Resources
 - **Kris Mayes, Commissioner**
Arizona Corporation Commission
- First meeting held Feb. 5, 2010

Blue Ribbon Panel on Water Sustainability



Purpose

“To advance statewide sustainability of water by increasing the reuse, recycling and conservation of water to support continued economic development in the State of Arizona while protecting Arizona’s water supplies and natural environment.”

Blue Ribbon Panel Composition



40 appointed panelists from:

- Legislature
- Municipalities
- Federal Government
- Tribes
- Universities
- Private Utilities
- Industry & Environmental associations and organizations

Blue Ribbon Panel Goals



1. Increase the volume of reclaimed water reused for beneficial purposes in place of raw or potable water.

Blue Ribbon Panel Goals



2. Advance water conservation, increase the efficiency of water use by existing users, and increase the use of recycled water for beneficial purposes in place of raw or potable water.

Blue Ribbon Panel Goals



3. Reduce the amount of energy needed to produce, deliver, treat, reclaim and recycle water by the municipal, industrial, and agricultural sectors.

Blue Ribbon Panel Goals



4. Reduce the amount of water required to produce and provide energy by Arizona power generators.

Blue Ribbon Panel Goals



5. Increase public awareness and acceptance of reclaimed and recycled water uses and the need to work toward water sustainability.

Working Groups



- **Public Perception/Acceptance**
 - Chair: **Kathleen Chavez**, Water Policy Manager
Pima County Regional Wastewater Reclamation
- **Regulations and Permitting**
 - **Ron Doba**, President
Arizona WaterReuse Association
- **Infrastructure/Retrofit**
 - **Guy Carpenter**, Board of Directors
National WaterReuse Association
- **Conservation/Recycling/Efficiency/Energy Nexus**
 - **Steve Olson**, Executive Director
Arizona Municipal Water Users Association
- **Economic/Funding**
 - **David Snider**, Supervisor
Pinal County Board of Supervisors

Blue Ribbon Panel Schedule and Products



- **Phase I – Organization & Education:** (Jan – Mar 2010)
- **Phase II – Issue Identification** (Feb – May 2010)
- **Phase III – Concept Development** (May 2010 – July 2010)
 - *Interim Report* to Panel at June 2010 meeting
 - “Emerging areas of focus”
 - *Priorities*
 - *Potential solutions?*
- **Phase IV – Resolution Development** (July 2010 – Nov 2010)
 - Detailed resolution of priority issues
 - Recommendations for legislation, rules, policy, as appropriate
 - *Final Report* issued by Panel November 2010



- Still too early for anything fully formed from the Blue Ribbon Panel or its working groups...

...but “emerging areas of focus” (i.e., ideas) have percolated up.

Emerging Areas of Focus: Public Perception/Acceptance



- Need more detailed surveying of public perception regarding reclaimed/recycled water
 - Widely different perceptions & reasons exist around the State
- Settle on acceptable terms and definitions (“*toilet to tap*” won’t get us far!)
- Expand educational initiatives that already exist (e.g., Project Wet)
- How to gain support for sustainability measures when, even in a drought, it’s “business as usual” in Arizona?
- Should media professionals be brought in to assist with developing and publicizing a consistent, fact-based message about water sustainability?

Emerging Areas of Focus: Regulations/Permitting



- Simplified and consistent standards/monitoring requirements
- Stormwater harvesting & gray water mechanisms that encourage expanded use where appropriate
- Waters of the US, urban lakes, AZPDES permits, and reclaimed water permitting (a myriad of issues)
- ADWR policies policies that inhibit certain reclaimed water uses (GSF, turf irrigation limitations)
- Should a percentage of conserved water be dedicated for the environment?

Emerging Areas of Focus: Infrastructure/Retrofit



- Detailed technical criteria, on a statewide basis, for reclaimed water distribution systems (new and retrofit) and “premise” plumbing
- Certification program for reclaimed water distribution system operators
- Criteria for aquifer recharge and recovery for indirect potable use
- Criteria & administrative approach that allows for augmentation of reclaimed water with other recycled water
- Single, concurrent, water quality study of reclaimed vs. CAP vs. canal water (microbial, PPCP)

Emerging Areas of Focus: Conservation/Recycling/Energy



- Very different concerns among communities
- “High country” and Phoenix/Tucson area communities take different approaches to sustainability
 - Use of surface/groundwater supplies first
 - Conservation first
 - Supply augmentation first
 - Working Group probably will emphasize conservation opportunities
- Incentives for hybrid and dry cooling technologies for power plants need to be devised
- Analyses of cost savings for different types of agricultural conservation technologies are needed

Emerging Areas of Focus: Economic/Funding Group



- Developing matrix of available funding sources vs. project types (private/public, large/small, etc.)
- Developing simplified cost modeling showing viability breakpoints
 - Customer connections needed to viably serve A+ water
 - Local gray water use vs. system-wide provision of reclaimed water

Emerging Areas of Focus: Multiple Working Groups



- Subsidies or monetary incentives—everyone wants them!
- Reclaimed water rate study—pricing and methodologies (WIFA?)
- Standardize reclaimed water reporting requirements
- Development of an agenda for further research/studies
- Development of a standard, consensus list of constituents and test protocols for PPCPs for use throughout AZ
- Strategy options needed for reclaimed water PPCPs (because we shouldn't expect numerical standards anytime soon)
- Resolve jurisdictional/duplication issues between ADEQ, ADWR, counties, and other entities

Emerging Areas of Focus: Multiple Working Groups



- More life-cycle analysis (LCA) and triple-bottom line analysis (TBL, or “people, planet, profit,” or “social, economic, environmental”) of water sustainability approaches at the strategic level
 - Centralized vs. decentralized infrastructure
 - Reclaimed vs. stormwater utilization vs. residential gray water
 - Regional salt management options
- Q: Why should I conserve water?
 - **Average citizen:** The water only goes support more development and reduce my quality of life.
 - **Water provider:** It cuts my own throat by reducing my revenue.



Stay tuned...

Final Report due in Nov. 2010

(but you can still get involved!)

- Working Groups continue to meet
- Next Blue Ribbon Panel meeting
 - Friday, July 9, 2010
 - ADWR, 10 am – 1 pm