

**TOWN OF PRESCOTT VALLEY
REQUEST FOR COUNCIL ACTION**

Date: April 11, 2013

SUBJECT: Water Advisory Committee Dues

SUBMITTING DEPARTMENT: Management

PREPARED BY: John Munderloh, Water Resources Manager

AGENDA LOCATION: Comments/Communications , Consent , Work/Study ,
New Business , Public Hearing , Second Reading

ATTACHMENTS: a) Draft Letter to the Water Advisory Committee b) Letter from Mayor Skoog to WAC dated January 7, 2013 3) WAC membership dues for 2013

SUMMARY BACKGROUND: On December 19, 2012 the Prescott Valley and City of Prescott Councils met in a joint session to review the recent actions of the many water groups and specifically addressed concerns about the Yavapai County Water Advisory Committee (WAC). This review resulted in a letter being sent to the WAC requesting that a plenary session of the WAC be held to address “its mission, structure, governance, operation, projects, initiatives and funding in light of past accomplishments and regional effectiveness and the recent increase in the Yavapai County Board of Supervisors to five members, in order to assist participating local governments in assessing continuation under the intergovernmental agreement of September 16, 2000.” (letter from Mayor Skoog, January 7, 2013)

The requested plenary session was held by the WAC on March 1, 2013, with a follow up meeting of the WAC on March 20, 2013. Integral to the discussion was a decision made at a Yavapai County Board of Supervisors meeting on March 18, 2013. These many hours of discussions concluded that:

1. The Board of Supervisors will no longer have members sitting on the WAC, rather the WAC Coordinator will provide regular updates to the Board and bring forward issues for consideration or approval to the Board of Supervisors (Yavapai County remains the fiscal and contracting agent for the WAC).
2. The WAC will continue meeting as necessary with at least two meetings per year of the full WAC Board (the previous meeting schedule was monthly). The purpose of the WAC meetings will be to discuss issues of broad regional interest.
3. Each sub-area of the WAC, the Verde Valley and the Prescott Area, will form its own committees, or use existing local committees, to address local water issues.
4. The three core work programs of the WAC will continue, these are the hydrologic monitoring program under contract with the US Geologic Survey, the Central Yavapai Highlands Water Resources Management Study (CHYWRMS) in cooperation with the US Bureau of Reclamation, and the County-wide water outreach and education program in cooperation with the U of A Cooperative Extension Office and Project WET (Water Education for Teachers). The Technical Advisory Committee and Coordinator would meet as necessary to manage these activities.
5. The new operation model is a trial program that will be evaluated for effectiveness after 1-year and adjusted as necessary.

In addition to structure and operation, funding and membership dues were discussed. A review of the WAC’s budget revealed that the WAC could continue to maintain its core program and pay for the Coordinator’s salary over the next year if the membership dues are reduced to 50% of last year’s

contribution. Typically, membership dues raise \$226,252 for the WAC. Projected expenses for core functions in FY 2014 total \$207,500, but the carry-over from FY-13 is estimated to be in excess of \$130,000, or more than 60% of the total operating costs for next year.

However, if Council agrees, Town staff recommend sending a letter to the WAC notifying them that the Town plans to reduce its membership dues for FY 14 by 50%, that the WAC use the carryover from past membership dues to fund its core functions during the 1-year trial period and that the Town will continue to contribute professional-level staff time to assist with the functions of the WAC as it has in past years. A draft letter is attached for consideration.

According to the original Intergovernmental Agreement forming the WAC, the Town has until April 30 of each year to notify the WAC of its decision to leave the organization. It is further recommended that the Town's future participation in the WAC be contingent on the approval to reduce dues as proposed.

PREVIOUS ACTIONS: Request for a WAC Planning Session, December 19, 2012 (Joint Session with City of Prescott).

OPTION ANALYSIS: The Council may vote to:

- 1.) approve the attached Letter by Action, **OR**
- 2.) Modify the attached Letter
- 3.) not approve this Action, **AND/OR**
- 4.) direct staff to pursue other options.

ACTION OPTION: Motion to approve Letter to the Yavapai County Water Advisory Committee requesting a reduction in membership dues in consideration of its substantial carry-over and focus on core-functions

RECOMMENDATION: Town staff recommends approval of Action to approve the Letter

FISCAL ANALYSIS: A 50% dues reduction will result in a savings of \$20,789.00

REVIEWED BY:

Management Services Director _____

Town Clerk _____

Town Attorney _____

Town Manager _____

COUNCIL ACTION:

Approved Denied Tabled/Deferred Assigned to _____