

## **Workshop Report: Arizona Water Settlements Act Planning Workshop V**

### ***Background:***

On April 12, 2008, the fifth in a series of Arizona Water Settlements Act (AWSA) Planning Workshops was held at the Grant County Administration Complex in Silver City, New Mexico. The purpose of the workshop was for the Stakeholder Group to address the following items (that became the agenda for the meeting):

- **Introductions.**
- Review and refine the proposed **agenda.**
- A presentation on the “**Cooperative Model**” that is being developed about the Gila River.
- How this process should manage “**communications.**”
- What, if anything, should be done to secure **input** from people who do not or cannot attend the meetings of the Stakeholder Group.
- What are **questions** about the Arizona Water Settlements Act that need to be answered?
- What are the “**interests**” participating in the Stakeholder Group? Everyone should “lay their cards on the table.”
- What should be the “**leadership**” for the Stakeholder Group?
- What **advice** does the Stakeholder Group want to give **to the Implementation Committee** about the studies to be undertaken?

More than 50 people participated in the workshop representing a broad range of interests in the four counties of Southwest New Mexico.

### ***Summary:***

Attached to this brief summary are the full notes of the meeting.

- This process should hire someone to manage “**communications.**” The Implementation Committee should prepare a job description and implement procedures to make such a hire.
- To secure **input** from as broad a range of participants as possible, the meetings should be held in Silver City, on a Saturday, from 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The minutes should be distributed as broadly as possible, with the professional advice of the new communications manager, and provide ways for people not able to attend the meetings to comment on the minutes. A key element to receiving the broadest possible input is to utilize as many types of media as possible to communicate when and where the meetings will be held. Holding the meetings at a predictable time in a common place may enhance participation. It may be desirable in the future to hold meetings in towns like Gila and Cliff, rather than in Silver City.
- Attached are **questions** that need to be addressed about the Arizona Water Settlement Act.

- The discussion of **interests** represented in the meeting room resulted in the following themes summarized by the note taker, Amy Sun.
  - Protect the health of the river and ensure its ecological diversity.
  - Return lost water rights to 1968 owners.
  - Keep New Mexico entitlement of the AWSA water in southwest New Mexico.
  - Keep the river flowing.

**Please send in any other interests you have or you heard at the meeting that are not reflected in these four bullets.**

- The participants concluded that a more formal **leadership** structure is not needed to guide the process. The group should continue to operate as it has, with Vince and Carl facilitating the group. Now that the Implementation Committee has begun to function, that is likely to provide direction for the group.
- The discussion of **advice** about studies that should be conducted encouraged the Implementation Committee to begin with the list included in the legislation request.
  - Ecologic studies
  - Hydrologic studies, including characterization of surface and groundwater supplies within the four-county area, considering drought and climate change
  - Demand management/conservation
  - Multi-stakeholder planning process, including administration and public involvement
  - Demographics
  - Economics/social