

Workshop Report:

Arizona Water Settlements Act Planning Workshop III

Background:

On January 5, 2008, the third 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 to refine and extend efforts from the first two workshops toward the development of an informed, inclusive and transparent planning process supporting the 2004 Arizona Water Settlements Act. Specific goals for the second workshop included:

- Review elements of the December meeting report
- Refine the planning structure developed at the December meeting
- Identify next steps toward implementing the adopted planning process

A total of 30 people participated in the workshop representing a broad range of interests in the Gila/San Francisco Basin (see Appendix A for the participant list). Below we discuss the principle outcomes of the workshop followed by recorded details from the various discussions and breakout groups.

Outcomes:

Workshop participants successfully reached consensus on all four workshop goals listed above. Below we address workshop outcomes according to each of the specified goals.

Review of Workshop II: Outcomes of Workshop II (held on December 7, 2007) were reviewed. Specifically, foundational elements of the Arizona Water Settlements Act (AWSA) planning process were reaffirmed. These include key planning issues:

- Establish an organizational structure and scope for the decision process that promotes trust.
- Conduct comprehensive base-line studies to identify current and future water supply and demand conditions. Also, determine the consequences of each.
- Identify a broad and balanced range of water planning alternatives that close the gap between supply and demand and evaluate each with a common and agreed upon set of criteria.
- Define the desired future condition (and conditions that are to be avoided) in terms of assets, supply and demand.
- Clarify the legal and regulatory framework and how it applies to water use in southwestern New Mexico.
- Coordinate AWSA planning efforts with other water planning authorities and initiatives (e.g., State Wide Water Planning, municipal water planning).

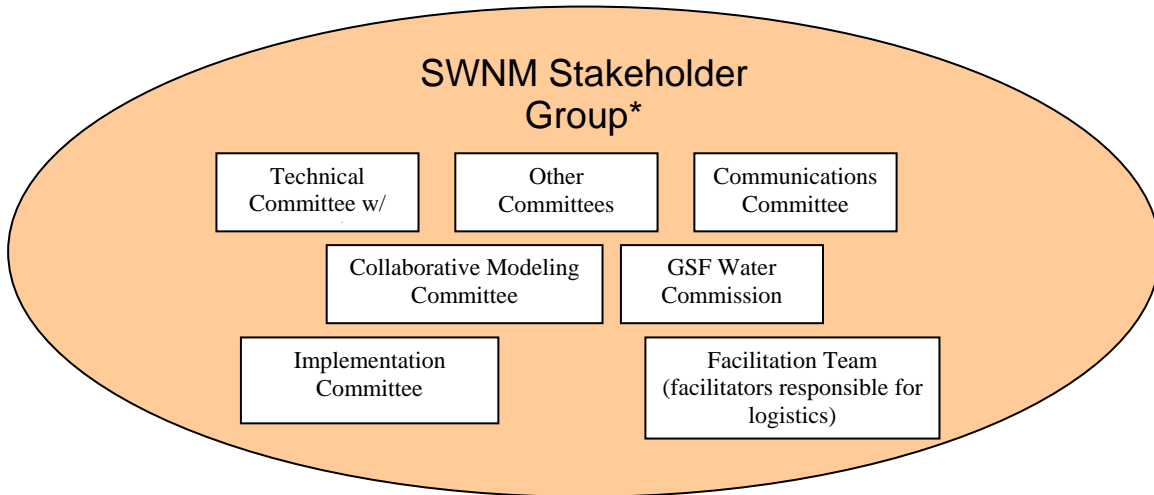
Also reaffirmed was the consensus goal for the AWSA planning process:

- Utilize the AWSA in a cost effective manner to balance historical and future demands against uncertain supply while protecting the environment.

Finally, topic areas forming the basis of language to be submitted to the New Mexico Legislature in support of appropriations for ASWA planning activities were reviewed:

- 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, and
- Economics/Social

Planning Structure: Building on efforts initiated in the first and second workshops, participants developed a broad framework for the AWSA planning process. The agreed upon structure has the form of an inclusive Stakeholder Group responsible for setting goals and direction for the planning program, which are then implemented by a number of committees. A Metaphor for the Stakeholder Group is a room or table where all gather to work together. The general structure is given below:



The Southwest New Mexico Stakeholder Group is responsible for setting the overall direction for the AWSA planning process; specifically, this will involve setting the goals, vision and alternatives on which planning will be predicated. Membership in this committee is open to any interested party. In efforts to effectively address critical planning issues, various members from the Stakeholder Group will be organized into committees. Specifically, there will be standing Implementation, Technical, Communication, and Collaborative Modeling Committees and other standing/interim Committees as needs necessitate.

The Implementation Committee is responsible for implementing the planning process. The Implementation Committee will develop and oversee AWSA planning related studies and analyses, which are consistent with direction provided by the Stakeholder Committee. Membership of the committee includes a representative from the NM Governor's Office, NM Interstate Stream Commission, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, NM Game and Fish, and US Fish and Wildlife Service, two members from the GSF Water Commission, two members Gila Basin Irrigation Commission, and two members representing environmental interests. A preliminary Implementation Committee has been formed whose membership will be reviewed and amended at a later date. Preliminary members include:

- Mary Reece (U.S. Bureau of Reclamation)
- (New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission)
- (New Mexico Governor's Office)
- (New Mexico Fish and Game)
- (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service)
- (Gila Basin Irrigation Commission)
- (Gila-San Francisco Water Commission)
- (Environmental Representatives)

The Technical Subcommittee will be made up of technical staff from local, state and federal agencies, universities, environmental NGOs, and others with useful expertise. This group will provide technical leadership and assist in developing scopes of work for studies supporting AWSA planning. This team will be subject to periodic review by peer review (scope to be defined later). The Communication Committee will be responsible for supporting internal and external communications for the ASWA planning process. The Collaborative Modeling Committee will continue to develop decision support tools to aid the AWSA planning process. The Gila San Francisco Water Commission will be responsible for facilitating the contracting of AWSA water within southwestern New Mexico. A Facilitation Team will also be convened to cover facilitation and logistics services.

Identify Steps Toward Implementation: Next steps are catalogued in item 4 of the workshop notes (below). The next full workshop meeting is planned for Saturday, February 23, 2008 in Silver City at the Grant County Administration Building.

Workshop Notes:

1. INTRODUCTIONS

2. REVIEW OF WORKSHOP II

In the "Topic Areas" for which funding will be sought, the group decided to add the clause "consideration of drought and climate" to the Hydrologic Studies, to keep the additions of Demographics and Economics, and to add the word "Social" to Economics.

3. REVIEW STRUCTURE OF AWSA PLANNING PROCESS

The preliminary proposed structure was modified.

- The participants liked the metaphor of "everyone in one room" or "at one table" so decided to include all elements within the general category of Southwest New Mexico Stakeholder Group.
- The "Executive Committee" was changed to the "Implementation Committee" and was included within the circle of the Stakeholder Group (rather than be apart from it). It will be referred to as the preliminary Implementation Committee and it will be understood that its composition will be reviewed at some point
- "Staff" was changed to "Facilitation Team" and it was determined that the team will provide facilitation to the Stakeholder Group, to the subcommittees as needed, and make logistical arrangements for the planning process.
- Connections will be enabled by the use of an electronic bulletin board on the ISC's web site.

4. EFFORTS TO INITIATE THE PLANNING PROCESS; NEXT STEPS

STEP	RESPONSIBILITY
Outreach to gain involvement of participation from leadership within all four counties.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Everyone will be invited to the next meeting. • Farm Bureau will outreach to all four counties. • Gila Basin Irrigation will outreach to all four counties. • The Water Commission will encourage participation by the four counties. • The changed conditions in the AWSA will be communicated. • All parties will be encouraged to "signal" that the Southwest New Mexico Stakeholder Group is the group that will be moving forward to undertake the studies related to the AWSA.
Representation on Implementation Committee	Names of representatives are to be submitted to Vince by 1/21/08.
Implementation Committee will meet in Santa Fe when there is legislative activity on proposed funding to conduct the studies.	Estevan/ISC will convene the group.
The Southwest New Mexico Stakeholder Group will meet next on 2/23/08 in Silver. The place likely will be the Grant County facility.	The Implementation Committee will determine the agenda for the meeting.
At the first meeting of the Implementation Committee and the Southwest New Mexico Stakeholder Group a survey will be conducted to determine the best meeting time for each.	Facilitation Team
Communicate the creation of the Southwest New Mexico Stakeholder Group and the upcoming February meeting.	Mary Alice will prepare and distribute (for corrections) a draft of the communication. Members will distribute it to their networks.
Track funding and legislative activity, mobilize group to participate in legislative activity.	ISC, BOR
Notes from the three workshops, all notices, legislative activity will be posted on the ISC website.	Craig/ISC