WATER COMMITTEE
Tuesday, April 18, 2023, 9:30 AM
SRP Administration Building
1500 N. Mill Avenue, Tempe, AZ 85288

Committee Members: Paul Rovey, Chairman; Leslie C. Williams, Vice Chairman; and Anda McAfee, Randy Miller, Krista O’Brien, Mark Pace, and Jack White Jr.

Call to Order
Roll Call

1. **CONSENT AGENDA:** The following agenda item(s) will be considered as a group by the Committee and will be enacted with one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these item(s) unless a Committee Member requests, in which event the agenda item(s) will be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered as a separate item ................................................................. CHAIRMAN PAUL ROVEY

   - Request for approval of the minutes for the meeting of March 16, 2023.

2. **White Mountain Apache Tribe’s (WMAT) Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) Educational Program and Forest Health Initiatives** ................................................................. SHARON MORRIS and ELVY BARTON

   Informational presentation regarding an update on the SRP collaboration with the WMAT to support the STEM Educational Program and improve forest health, including a memorandum of understanding between WMAT and SRP on forest health initiatives.

3. **Proposed Sever and Transfer of Water Rights from Equestrian Estates Subdivision** ................................................................. CRAIG McGINNIS and STAN LUTZ

   Informational presentation regarding a proposed sever and transfer of water rights requested by the Equestrian Estates Homeowners’ Association on the Verde River Watershed from Equestrian Estates Subdivision Phase I and Phase II parcels. The proposed sever and transfer contemplates the consent of the sever and transfer under A.R.S.§45-172. The Committee may vote to go into Executive Session, pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.03(A)(3) and (A)(4), to have discussion or consultation with attorneys for legal advice regarding legal issues that may arise during the presentation.

4. **Report on Current Events by the General Manager and Chief Executive Officer or Designees** ................................................................. MIKE HUMMEL

5. **Future Agenda Topics** ................................................................. CHAIRMAN PAUL ROVEY
The Committee may vote during the meeting to go into Executive Session, pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.03 (A)(3), for the purpose of discussion or consultation for legal advice with legal counsel to the Committee on any of the matters listed on the agenda.

The Committee may go into Closed Session, pursuant to A.R.S. §30-805(B), for records and proceedings relating to competitive activity, including trade secrets or privileged or confidential commercial or financial information.

Visitors: The public has the option to attend in-person or observe via Zoom and may receive teleconference information by contacting the Corporate Secretary’s Office at (602) 236-4398. If attending in-person, all property in your possession, including purses, briefcases, packages, or containers, will be subject to inspection.
A meeting of the Water Committee of the Salt River Project Agricultural Improvement and Power District (the District) convened at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, March 16, 2023, from the Board Conference Room at the SRP Administration Building, 1500 North Mill Avenue, Tempe, Arizona. This meeting was conducted in-person and via teleconference in compliance with open meeting law guidelines. The District and Salt River Valley Water Users’ Association (the Association) are collectively known as SRP.

Committee Members present at roll call were P.E. Rovey, Chairman; L.C. Williams, Vice Chairman; and A.G. McAfee, R.J. Miller, K.H. O’Brien, M.V. Pace, and J.M. White Jr.


In compliance with A.R.S. §38-431.02, Andrew Davis of the Corporate Secretary’s Office had posted a notice and agenda of the Water Committee meeting at the SRP Administration Building, 1500 North Mill Avenue, Tempe, Arizona, at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, March 14, 2023.

Chairman P.E. Rovey called the meeting to order.

Consent Agenda

Chairman P.E. Rovey requested a motion for Committee approval of the Consent Agenda, in its entirety.

On a motion duly made by Board Member M.V. Pace and seconded by Board Member A.G. McAfee, the Committee unanimously approved and adopted the following item on the Consent Agenda:

- Minutes of the Water Committee meeting on February 21, 2023, as presented
Corporate Secretary J.M. Felty polled the Committee Members on Board Member M.V. Pace’s motion to approve the Consent Agenda, in its entirety. The vote was recorded as follows:

**YES:** Board Members P.E. Rovey, Chairman; L.C. Williams, Vice Chairman; and A.G. McAfee, R.J. Miller, K.H. O’Brien, M.V. Pace, and J.M. White Jr. (7)

**NO:** None (0)

**ABSTAINED:** None (0)

**ABSENT:** None (0)

**Solar on Canals Study**

Using a PowerPoint presentation, Bob F. Pane, SRP Director of Water Engineering and Transmission, stated that the purpose of the presentation was to provide information regarding a proposed study to investigate the costs and potential benefits of installing solar panels over open canals.

Mr. B.F. Pane provided aerials of India, the Gila River Indian Community, and the Turlock Irrigation District projects currently using solar on their canals. He listed the potential benefits to SRP as follows: use of existing U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) land, evaporation savings, impacts on aquatic vegetation growth, and a source of renewable generation.

Mr. B.F. Pane said certain concerns regarding the maintenance of solar panels over open canals include safety and clearance concerns for equipment; reduction in maintenance efficiencies and increase in costs; may require specialized equipment; and increased shade could increase infestation of quagga mussels. He highlighted Arizona Falls and PERA Club as the locations chosen for a study to be conducted by Arizona State University (ASU).

Mr. B.F. Pane outlined ASU’s research objectives as follows: evaluate the site locations; measure and calculate potential evaporation savings; and investigate solar panel efficiency. He outlined the SRP and consultant objectives as follows: determine optimum system design; investigate impacts to aquatic vegetation; evaluate maintenance efficiency considerations; understand cost and benefit; assess public safety implications; develop options for distribution interconnection; and study invasive species infestation.

Mr. B.F. Pane concluded with a discussion of installation estimates, economic analysis for one Megawatt (MW) system, and next steps.

Mr. B.F. Pane responded to questions from the Committee.

Copies of the PowerPoint slides used in this presentation are on file in the Corporate Secretary’s Office and, by reference, made a part of these minutes.
Mr. J.C. Walter described the cloud seeding process along with SRP’s history with cloud seeding. He referenced articles in the National Science Foundation and the American Meteorological Society on the subject of cloud seeding for snow. Mr. J.C. Walter reminded the Committee that a Memorandum of Understanding between SRP and the White Mountain Apache Tribe was entered into to sponsor winter cloud seeding research over the upper Salt River watershed to understand the feasibility of snowpack enhancement through cloud seeding. He also reminded the Committee that DRI was engaged to conduct the research which included the following tasks: 1) evaluate cloud seeding potential using long-term climate observations; 2) evaluate cloud seeding potential using a high-resolution numerical weather model; 3) identify potential target area and cloud seeding methodologies; and 4) perform cost benefit analysis from results 1 through 3 and create a hydrology model.

Mr. J.C. Walter explained that the greatest seeding opportunities associated with clouds is between 9,000 and 13,000 feet and highlighted the target area for seeding. He concluded with a discussion of benefits and potential next steps.

Mr. J.C. Walter responded to questions from the Committee.

Copies of the PowerPoint slides used in this presentation are on file in the Corporate Secretary’s Office and, by reference, made a part of these minutes.

Mr. C.E. Ester III left the meeting during the presentation. Council Member M.A. Freeman and Mr. R.T. Judd entered the meeting during the presentation.

SRP Aquifer Management Research and Analysis

Using a PowerPoint presentation, Sharon S. Morris, SRP Manager of Aquifer Management and Data Analytics, stated that the purpose of the presentation was to provide information regarding SRP aquifer management research and analysis, including groundwater modeling of potential future pumping scenarios and the impact of increased groundwater pumping on ground water levels in the SRP water service area.

Ms. S.S. Morris provided a map that highlighted the New River – Agua Fria River Underground Storage Project (NAUSP) and Granite Reef Underground Storage Project (GRUSP); and discussed the research concerning the Central Arizona Project (CAP) supply shortage, the reduction in Groundwater Savings Facility (GSF), and long-term
Ms. S.S. Morris presented a map of depth to water in 2022 for SRP’s water service area, along with baseline model scenarios of groundwater pumping of 130,000 acre-feet per year over the 20-year projected period from 2023 through 2043. She provided comparisons of hydrographs at GRUSP monitoring wells for SRP pumping scenarios. Ms. S.S. Morris concluded with a discussion of the study results over the 20-year projected period and key takeaways.

Ms. S.S. Morris responded to questions from the Committee.

Copies of the PowerPoint slides used in this presentation are on file in the Corporate Secretary’s Office and, by reference, made a part of these minutes.

Report on Current Events by the General Manager and Chief Executive Officer or Designees

Mike Hummel, SRP General Manager and Chief Executive Officer, reported on a variety of federal, state, and local topics of interest to the Committee.

Ms. M.M. Klein left the meeting during the report.

Future Agenda Topics

Chairman P.E. Rovey asked the Committee if there were any future agenda topics. None were requested.

There being no further business to come before the Water Committee, the meeting adjourned at 10:57 a.m.

John M. Felty
Corporate Secretary
SRP and White Mountain Apache Tribe STEM Educational Program and Forest Health Initiatives

Water Committee Meeting
April 18, 2023
Sharon Morris and Elvy Barton
Water Rights Quantification Act

2010: Water Rights Quantification Act signed into law

2012: Amended and Restated Water Rights Quantification Agreement

2014: Adjudication Court approval

2018: Funding approval for Rural Water System

2019: Enforceability date extended to 2023

2023: Enforceability date extended to 2027
White Mountain Apache Rural Water System

• Water Rights Quantification Act:
  • Funds for Rural Water System
  • Record of Decision required by April 2027

• WMAT/SRP joint efforts:
  • STEM program development
  • Cloud seeding study
  • Water measurement sites
  • Forest restoration
WMAT Rural Water System Project Overview

Proposed Pipeline

Proposed Miner Flat Reservoir

Proposed Miner Flat Dam

Proposed Water Treatment Plant and Diversion
Estimated Future Timeline

Construction on Miner Flat Dam begins

- Construction of Miner Flat Dam
  - 3 years

- USBR operates Miner Flat Dam
  - 3 years

- WMAT assumes O&M of Miner Flat Dam

04/18/2023 Water Committee Presentation, S. Morris & E. Barton
WMAT Water System Careers

Miner Flat Dam Operations
- Operations & Maintenance Technicians and Operators
- Operations & Maintenance Management
- Civil Engineering
- Business Administration

Water & Wastewater Treatment/Distribution
- Water Production, Treatment, Distribution and Reclamation Operators
- Water Production, Treatment, and Reclamation Management
- Environmental Compliance Specialist
- Customer Service and Business Administration

Water Resources, Measurement & Delivery
- Supervisory Control & Data Acquisition (SCADA) Technicians
- Water Resources Management
- Water Accounting and Business Administration
### WMAT Workforce Development

#### K-12 Education
- Core STEM Curriculum
- Career & Technical Education (CTE)
- CTE Districts
- Internships

#### Post-secondary Education
- Community College/Certificate
- Universities
- Internships
- Apprenticeships

#### Adult Education
- GED Test Preparation
- Certification Programs
- Tribal Workforce Development

04/18/2023 Water Committee Presentation, S. Morris & E. Barton
STEM Partnership Timeline

- Goal Outline
- Plan/Program Development
- Approval
- Funding
- Implementation

04/18/2023 Water Committee Presentation, S. Morris & E. Barton
Key Takeaways and Next Steps

White Mountain Apache Tribe

- Miner Flat Dam
- Potable Water System
- Sustainable Workforce
- STEM Education Program
- Vibrant Community
- Healthy Watershed

WMAT Staff following SRP watershed tour
SRP Forest Health Goal Strategy

- SRP Forest Health Goal Pillars:
  - Partnerships
  - Projects
  - Policy

- SRP Current Partners:
  - Federal agencies
  - State agencies
  - Local governments
  - Non-profit organizations

- Upcoming Partners:
  - Tribes
White Mountain Apache Tribe MOU

- **Purpose:** To collaborate on forest restoration activities
  - **Goals:** To reduce wildfire risk, protect watersheds, communities and infrastructure, and ecosystems
  - **Geographic Scope:** Fort Apache Indian Reservation lands
  - **Duration:** 10 years
  - **White Mountain Apache Timber Company Responsibilities:** To perform restoration work
  - **SRP Responsibilities:** To provide project cost reimbursement
SRP & WMAT MOU Next Steps

• **Current Status:**
  • Received support from WMATCO
  • Drafted Final MOU

• **Next Steps:**
  • Receive WMAT Council Approval
  • Execute MOU
  • Coordinate on forest project work plans
thank you!
Equestrian Estates Homeowners Association
Proposed Water Rights Sever and Transfer

Water Committee
April 18, 2023
Equestrian Estates S&T

**Agenda**

- Background
- Proposed Sever and Transfer ("S&T") Conditions
- Next Steps
Equestrian Estates S&T

**Background**

- Arizona law (A.R.S. §45-172) requires water users’ associations and agricultural improvement districts to consent to upstream S&Ts

- Equestrian Estates Homeowners Association (“HOA”) asked for SRP’s consent for this S&T

- Existing 2007 Agreement on property; SRP provided consent for similar S&T in 2007; board resolution expired
Equestrian Estates S&T

Background (continued)

- **Frampton S&T (1991)**
  - Transferred water rights from 17 historically irrigated acres from area.

  - Established water use limit on the HOA
  - Envisioned S&T to cover all water uses within subdivision
  - **August 2007 Board Meeting**: consent to S&T—provided developer filed by 12/31. Application was never filed
Equestrian Estates S&T

Sever and Transfer Proposal

• Sever 30 acres (90 acre-feet of consumptive use) from recognized water right lands within property boundary
  • *Slight difference*: Town of Camp Verde (15 acre-feet)

• Transfer to 52.47-acre HOA (90 acre-feet consumptive use)

• S&T is not an adjudication and does not validate water rights or claims
Equestrian Estates S&T

Next Steps:

• Continue to monitor compliance with 2007 Agreement (water use limit, reporting)

• Request SRVWUA/SRPAI&PD consent at future Water Committee meeting (including Board resolution consenting to S&T)

• Equestrian Estates HOA files S&T application with ADWR