

Southeast Arizona Citizen Forum  
Thursday, September 18, 2014, 5:30-7:30 pm  
Randon N & S Room  
Pima County Water & Energy Sustainability Center  
2955 W. Calle Agua Nueva  
Tucson, Arizona  
Tentative Meeting Notes\*

Board Members in Attendance:

Jackson Jenkins – Pima County Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department  
Ben Lomeli - U.S. Bureau of Land Management  
Rosanna Gabaldon – Arizona State Representative  
John Kozma – Green Valley Council  
Amanda Stone – Arizona Department of Environmental Quality

USIBWC Staff in Attendance:

Russ Frisbie – USIBWC

Members of the Public in Attendance:

Chloe Fandel – University of Arizona  
Gregg Garfin – University of Arizona  
Shay Saucedo – Office of Senator McCain  
Jeff Tannier – AZ Dept. of Water Resources  
Drew Eppehimer – Arizona State University  
Susanna Eden – University of Arizona  
Eve Halper – Bureau of Reclamation  
Wally Wilson – Tucson Water  
Kathy Chauze – Pima County  
Arturo Gabalden – Community Water Co.  
Jennifer Wong – Pima County BO54  
Dean Moulis - Arizona Department of Environmental Quality  
Jesus Quintances  
Sherry Sass – Friends of the Santa Cruz  
Lee Jacobs – City of Nogales  
Claire Zugmeyer

Co-Chair-Ben Lomeli called the meeting to order.

Introduction of each person in attendance

Pledge of Allegiance

**Groundwater Climate & Stakeholder Engagement (GCASE) Project Update**

by Susanna Eden, Ph.D., Assistant Director of the Water Resources Research Center at the University of Arizona [http://www.ibwc.gov/Files/CF\\_SEA\\_Groundwater\\_Climate\\_GCASE\\_091814.pdf](http://www.ibwc.gov/Files/CF_SEA_Groundwater_Climate_GCASE_091814.pdf)

Dr. Eden presented the case study of the “Microbasins” on the Upper Santa Cruz River. The GCASE has a component to investigate the transferability of the methodology used in the GCASE project of the Santa Cruz Case Study. The presenter described the projections of wetness categories from 8 regional climate models between Arizona and Mexico. 7 models indicated higher frequency of dry summer and 6 models indicated lower frequency of wet summer. 8 models indicated higher frequency of dryer winter and 6 models indicated higher frequency of wet winters.

The case study conclusions are that climate projections indicate greater uncertainty and spread of recharge, recharge is likely to be less than under historic conditions, and recharge is highly dependent on the water management scheme that is applied.

Research determined that the transferability criteria for the GCASE approach should be local climate is a major factor in the state of the local water resources. Rainfall-stream flows are highly variable and difficult to predict. Future climate projections indicate increased variability and uncertainty. Informative datasets are available for the region with collaboration from local agencies and stakeholders

Areas with the greatest transferability potential are the Tucson Region, Cienega Creek, and Upper San Pedro sub-watershed, Prescott Active Management Area, Verde River, and the Santa Cruz River.

The next steps in this process should be to evaluate microbasin management strategies for the City of Nogales, AZ (Arizona Department of Water Resources) ; seek funds for transferring the methodology to other regions, including Cienega Creek, and investigating storage needs in the Nogales area (Reclamation) and conducting a workshop in Mexico exploring transferability of the methodology south of the US-Mexico border (NOAA).

Additional information is available at [wrrc.arizona.edu/GCASE](http://wrrc.arizona.edu/GCASE)

### **Drought Management Challenges and Opportunities in the U.S.-Mexico Border Region**

Presentation by Gregg Garfin, Ph.d., Deputy Director for Science Translation & Outreach, Institute of the Environment, University of Arizona, available at:  
[http://www.ibwc.gov/Files/CF\\_SEA\\_Drought\\_Management\\_091814.pdf](http://www.ibwc.gov/Files/CF_SEA_Drought_Management_091814.pdf)

Dr. Garfin presented slides that depicted the Climate of Safford (precipitation) from 1948-2012; Southeastern AZ Winter Precipitation from the years 1000 through 1988, Colorado River Streamflow for the years 762 through 2005, and temperature and precipitation for parts of the Colorado River basin from the 1890s through 2010.

He presented photos of Arizona wildfires in recent years.

A chart depicting the projected Change in Water Withdrawals from 2005-2060 was shown, indicating a significant increase in water withdrawals under a climate change scenario.

He noted the cycle of risk management and crisis management as droughts occur and subside.

Information on the Arizona Drought Preparedness Plan from October 2004 was presented. Within the Drought Preparedness Plan it took into consideration what were good ideas, barriers for getting those ideas accomplished, and opportunities for improvement with those ideas.

A partnership was forged titled NACSP (North American Climate Services Partnership) it was established as an innovative trilateral partnership between the U.S., Mexico, and Canada. This partnership was established to respond to an increasing demand for accessible and timely scientific data and information in order to make informed decisions and build resilience in our communities.

Under this partnership is the Rio Grande-Rio Bravo (RGB) Regional Pilot Area. The Rio Grande-Rio Bravo (RGB) NACSP Regional Pilot Area will develop and deliver drought-based climate services in order to assist water resource managers, agricultural interests, and other constituents within the basin as they respond to future drought events and build capacity to respond to other climate extremes using data compiled from the NADM (North American Drought Monitor).

The NADM will provide map and narrative products that assess drought conditions on a continental scale which assist water resource managers, agricultural interests, and other user communities in the United States, Mexico, and Canada to respond to current and future drought events. Major US participants in the NADM program include NOAA's National Climatic Data Center, NOAA's Climate Prediction Center, the US Department of Agriculture, and the National Drought Mitigation Center. Major participants in Canada and Mexico include Agriculture and Agrifood Canada, the Meteorological Service of Canada, and the National Meteorological Service of Mexico (SMN - Servicio Meteorologico Nacional).

#### **Question/Answer:**

Ben Lomeli asks the question to presenter Susanna Eden regarding how to distinguish between wet and dry analysis. The presenter noted there is not a definitive answer.

#### **Public Comment**

Who is cleaning up trash in the urban area of Nogales Wash?

Status of clean-up efforts on the river (especially in the urban areas)?

USIBWC staff will look into these matters.

#### **Board Discussion**

Funding Source for the clean-up of the Nogales Wash

The responsible resource for getting this done (Nogales Wash clean-up)

Want an update from John Light on the status of South of border on river and International Outfall Interceptor (IOI).

### **Suggested Future Agenda Items**

Update from John Light on the International Outfall Interceptor (IOI), wants update on the Engineering Analysis.

### **Meeting Adjourned**

**\* Meeting notes are tentative and summarize in draft the contents and discussion of Citizens Forum Meetings. While these notes are intended to provide a general overview of Citizens Forum Meetings, they may not necessarily be accurate or complete, and may not be representative of USWBIC policy or positions.**