

**Gila Watershed Partnership**  
**Minutes of the July 14, 2010 meeting**

The Gila Watershed Partnership held its July 14, 2010, meeting in the Graham County General Services Building. Chair Jay Howe called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

**Welcome and Introductions:**

The following people attended the meeting: Jan Holder, GWP; George Lemen, Town of Pima; Chris Morris, BLM; Greg Moody, Graham County Health Department; Deborah Mendelsohn, Town of Duncan; Bill Cook, Town of Duncan; Suzanne Menges, Greenlee County Cattlegrowers; Chris Gibbs, Safford Mayor; Linda Stitzer, Arizona Department of Water Resources; Harry and Greg Quinsler, Blue, AZ; Darcy Ely, Upper Eagle Creek, AZ; Ken Houser, and DeAnne Rietz, SWCA; Drew John, Graham County Supervisors; Jay Howe, City of Safford; Phil Ronnerud, Greenlee County; Margaret Ronnerud, York Resident; Mel Taylor, ADEQ; Vivian Gonzales, Bureau of Reclamation; Dick Kaler, rancher; Melissa Warren, BLM; and Diane Saunders, Eastern Arizona Courier.

**Call to the Public:**

No one asked to speak.

**Approval of the minutes:**

Mr. Quinsler moved to approve the minutes from the July 2010 meeting and Mr. Cook seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**Financial Report:**

Mr. Cook moved to accept the financial report and Mr. Lemen seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**Presentation of Grant Proposals:**

Ms. Suzanne Menges proposed that the GWP write a grant to the Arizona Water protection Fund to research ways to improve communication between rural communities and agencies and organizations involved in river and riparian protection projects. Mr. Lemen moved to accept the proposal and Mr. Cook seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Ms. Darcy Ely proposed that the GWP write a grant to the Arizona Water protection Fund to will replace approximately nine miles of fence on the boundary of the San Carlos Reservation and Apache Sitgreaves Forest Service Allotments to eliminate access to Eagle Creek by recreation vehicles and trespass cattle. Mr. Kaler moved to accept the proposal and Ms. Mendelsohn seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Jan Holder proposed that the GWP write a grant to the Arizona Water protection Fund to harden the Filleman Crossing in Upper Eagle Creek in Greenlee County to reduce the erosion and sedimentation in the river from vehicles. This will aid in the our on-going restoration of the Eagle Creek riparian corridor. Mr. Kaler moved to accept the proposal and Ms. Mendelsohn seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Mr. Richard Kaler proposed that the GWP write a grant to the Arizona Water protection Fund for another well to reduce the E.coli in the San Francisco River on the Kaler Ranch. Ms. Mendelsohn moved to accept the proposal and Mr. Cook seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**Presentations:**

Melissa Warren from the BLM on the BLM's Solar Installation Proposals, and the impacts to our community. Linda Stitzer gave a presentation on the Arizona Water Atlas.

**Reports from our advisors:**

**BLM:** Chris Morris reported on the status of the BLM projects completed by the BLM. He said that there are stream gauges that are going to be abandoned if they cannot find entities that can pay for the maintenance.

**ADWR:** Ms. Stitzer reported that the blue ribbon panel will be studying the conservation and reuse of effluent.

**Graham County:** Supervisor John reported that the Peterson Wash Project is complete and the bridge is on schedule. He said that Peterson Wash may require a barrier to exclude people from the culverts due to the increased height of the drop. He also reported that the BMX track is complete at the fairgrounds and will attract thousands of users to the area.

**City of Safford:** Jay Howe reported that all three of the concrete water storage facilities are online, and operational. Supervisor John congratulated Mr. Howe for completing the project, which is vital to our community.

**Town of Pima:** Mr. Lemen reported on the annexation of 500 acres South of Pima. He said that Graham County Utilities will provide the water, and the Town of Pima will supply the sewer services.

**Duncan:** Mr. Cook, reported that Duncan may have solar coming to their town, and that the town has repaired the sewer lift.

**Adjournment:**

Mr. Lemen moved to adjourn the meeting and Mr. Cook seconded the motion. The motion carried and Mr. Brandau adjourned the meeting promptly at 9:32 p.m.