

# MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING OF THE ARIZONA NATURAL RESOURCES REVIEW COUNCIL

**Date:** February 25, 2013; 1:00-4:30pm  
**Location:** Governor's Executive Tower  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room  
1700 West Washington Street  
Phoenix, AZ 85007

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## 1. Call to Order- 1:00 P.M.

### Welcome and Introductions

Chairman Larry Voyles called the meeting to order and welcomed the members of the Council to the first meeting. Council members present were:

- AZ Game and Fish (AGFD)– Larry Voyles
- AZ Department of Transportation (ADOT) – Floyd Roehrich
- AZ State Land Department (ASLD) – Vanessa Hickman
- AZ Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) – Henry Darwin
- AZ Department of Water Resources (ADWR) – Sandy Fabritz-Whitney
- AZ State Forester (ASF)– Scott Hunt; AZ Geological Survey (AGS)– Lee Allison
- AZ State Parks (ASP)– Bryan Martyn
- AZ Department of Agriculture (ADA)– Don Butler

Presenters

- Governor's Office- Kevin Kinsall.
- AGFD – Bob Broscheid, Jim Odenkirk, Tim Wade
- ASP- Jay Ream

## 2. Review Agenda

Chairman Voyles asked for any questions or clarifications on the agenda. No questions or changes were provided.

## 3. Background and Purpose of Executive Order 2013-02

Mr. Kinsall cited the Governor's state of the state address providing background on the purpose of the council. The Chairman offered some additional opening remarks regarding his feeling on the task at hand and expressed appreciation for the support from the Council.

## 4. Review Deliverables of Executive Order

The Chairman reviewed the four deliverables from Executive Order 2013-02 and the Council had discussion of each.

- a) The first deliverable that was discussed was to develop a State Integrated Geographic Information System. Council members discussed the benefits of this approach but cautioned that other states' efforts to centralize was not successful. For example, Data.gov is moving away from centralized system to an online (federated) shared data system. Although some agencies are already working this direction, the Council decided that the next step is figuring out what information is available and useful and look more holistically to answer inquiries. State agencies are independently spending considerable funding on GIS software and hardware and have been unable to achieve a more integrated approach.

**Action taken:** The Council approved the establishment of a subcommittee to evaluate existing GIS technology and develop a recommended approach to accomplishing this deliverable. Lee Allison will serve as Chair for the subgroup. Each member agency will provide a representative with GIS expertise to the subcommittee. The subgroup will decide if

any inventories are needed. In order to determine what exiting priorities are, the agencies should use existing strategic and operational plans as a good place to start. Although these visions may be different, the goal should be to integrate.

- b) The second deliverable that was discussed included the identification of priorities for legal, legislative and incentive-based programs and associated funding. Examples of challenges that were discussed included recent air quality regulations and travel management plans on federal lands. The Council will be putting forward priorities and recommendations for legislation and budget for the Governor's review. In order to better position the state to be effective in the administrative and judicial areas, the state needs to create an inventory of plans/projects around the state. This process includes proper notification to the state through a clearinghouse. This approach may assist state agencies that may have a plan affected by a federal decision and protect their interests.

**Action taken:** The Council established a subcommittee to identify various local/state plans and interests that may be impacted or affected by proposed federal actions. The subcommittee will identify current federal actions, evaluate each deliverable and identify potential approaches. Participants on the subcommittee include ASLD, ADWR, ADEQ, ASF, ADOT, AGFD, and ADA.

- c) The third deliverable that was discussed included the development and implementation of a document review Clearinghouse. In order to better organize within the state, there is a need to establish a mechanism that would ensure all appropriate agencies are getting information and that all agencies are able to respond to the proposed action. A clearinghouse will serve as the coordination point for the federal government to request state review and comment, which will meet their requirements for coordination with the state. An automated system would be desirable for the agencies.

**Action taken:** The Council established a subcommittee to identify and develop a process for coordinating federal actions with the state and state agencies. The Subcommittee should evaluate a subscription services format, similar to the current Westlaw process, as an example. Subcommittee member agencies include AGFD; ADEQ; ADWR; ASLD, ASF. Bob Broscheid (AGFD) will serve as lead and will coordinate with Governor's Office on additional assistance.

- d) The Council discussed the final deliverable for recommendations for a statewide Mitigation and Conservation Banking program. Tim Wade (AGFD) provided a presentation that outlined mitigation and conservation programs that currently exist in other states. The presentation outlined the potential issues to overcome for a program for Arizona, and whether this could or should be developed as a free market system. The Council agreed that the development of a mitigation and conservation banking program would benefit the state, but there are some potential legal questions with the program.

**Action taken:** The council established a subcommittee to evaluate the potential for such programs more thoroughly and identify any potential legal challenges with each agency's statutory responsibility and mandate. The Subcommittee will be comprised of members from AGFD, ASLD, ADA, ADOT, ADEQ, and ASP. The Council members will be contacted for names of participants of this subcommittee.

## 5. Organizational Approaches to Accomplishing Deliverables of Executive Order

The Council discussed how to best integrate with other interested entities, such as Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO) and industry. Although the benefit of including these entities was recognized, the Council decided to create more structure within the tasks of the Council and subcommittees before these entities were invited to participate.

**6. Establishment/Membership of Subcommittees**

There is the potential to establish an executive committee, however, membership is currently organizing and will evaluate this need in the future.

**7. Council Logistics**

Subcommittees are structured as informal working groups and any decisions would be accomplished in the open public meeting. AGFD has made some organizational changes- Bob Broscheid will become Special Assistant to the AGFD Director on Natural Resources Review Council matters in the future. A Council website has been developed under the Governor's website. Meetings will be likely monthly through the end of the fiscal year. AGFD will coordinate future dates with Council members.

**8. Federal Actions Impacting State Resource Conservation and Management**

The Council had a general discussion of some recent federal actions that are impacting or complicating state management. The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process and regulations involving the level of mitigation; wildland fires and suppression actions resulting from reduced management on federal lands; uncoordinated fire restrictions; new air/water quality standards and requirement for new state plans; 404 permitting; Land Development and special land designations and the lack of assessments of mineral potential; impacts of potential Endangered Species Act (ESA) listed species, Critical Habitat; Non-attainment areas and associated mitigation; federal reserve water rights; Federal budget sequestration impacts on state programs; federal land management planning.

**9. Arizona's Land Conservation Overlays Concept**

a. General Discussion

The Council discussed working more closely with the Counties on a more coordinated approach to ensure mutual priorities are identified in state and local planning processes. The Council needs to ensure that the counties feel they are part of the process. However, priorities should be first developed among the agencies. As a result of these discussions, the Council member agencies will develop a list of priority areas and/or threats to those areas, and present that information at the next Council meeting

**10. Expected outcomes of this process**

a. Roundtable Discussion

The Council discussed their respective views of the expected outcomes of this process. The Chairman summarized that the outcome of the process needs to ensure an inclusive view of economic development and natural resource management.

**11. Wrap-Up and Review Action Items/Timelines**

The Council reviewed the actions items and agenda items for the next meeting.

**12. Adjourn**

The Council adjourned the meeting at 4:30pm

Minutes prepared by: Arizona Game and Fish Department