

**MINUTES DRAFT**  
**Special Session**  
**THE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION**  
**TOWN OF CAMP VERDE COUNCIL CHAMBERS**  
**THURSDAY APRIL 5, 2012**  
**6:30 PM**

Minutes are a summary of the actions taken. They are not verbatim.  
Public input is placed after Commission motions to facilitate future research.  
Public input, where appropriate, is heard prior to the motion

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

**2. Roll Call**

Chairperson Butner, Vice Chairperson Blue, Commissioners Norton, Parrish, Hough and Freeman were present; Commissioner Hisrich was absent.

**Also Present:** Community Development Director Mike Jenkins, Asst. Planner Jenna Owens and Recording Secretary Margaret Harper.

**3. Pledge of Allegiance**

The Pledge was led by Blue.

**4. Consent Agenda** - All those items listed below may be enacted upon by one motion and approved as Consent Agenda Items. Any item may be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered as a separate item if a member of Commission so requests.

**a. Approval of Minutes:**

March 1, 2011 Regular Session

**b. Set Next Meeting, Date and Time:**

As Needed

On a motion by Freeman, seconded by Hough, the Consent Agenda was unanimously approved as presented, and as corrected.

Asst. Planner Owens noted that the Minutes of March 1, 2012, incorrectly identified the Vice Chairperson as Commissioner Norton; the record should reflect that Greg Blue is the Vice Chairperson.

**5. Call to the Public for Items not on the Agenda**

There was no public input.

**6. Discussion, Presentations and possible direction to staff relative to a Water Conservation Plan, with guests:**

- **Mr. John Rasmussen of Yavapai County Water Advisory Committee**
- **Ms. Kim Schonek the Verde River Project Manager with the Nature Conservancy**
- **Counselor Bob Kovacovich of the OK Ditch**
- **Mr. Al Dupuy of the Verde Ditch**
- **Former Mayor Tony Gioia**

*Staff: Mike Jenkins*

There was no action taken.

**John Rasmussen**, from the Yavapai County Water Advisory Committee, gave a comprehensive presentation outlining the basic knowledge of the regional water issues in the Verde Valley, and illustrating the regional planning studies and estimated projections of the future Camp Verde and Verde Valley water demands, and alternatives for unmet water demands. Mr. Rasmussen confirmed that Yavapai County has incorporated into its

current Comprehensive Planning process some of the data he had presented. Some of the alternatives being evaluated to meet future demands include the local ground water elements, more wells, Big Chino pipeline, treated effluent, flood waters capture, pipeline from the Colorado River, surface water, waste water, and other conservation measures such as rain water harvesting. During the brief discussion that followed, Mr. Rasmussen said he would be happy to provide the Commission with the draft document that includes an in-depth description of the alternatives. Mr. Rasmussen noted that education is an important element in water conservation, trying to get the public to understand that water is a limited resource.

**Kim Schonek** explained that she works with the Nature Conservancy which is a private non-profit that focuses here in the Verde program primarily on the watershed, working on surface water management issues. An important part of their work is about increasing efficiency of delivery of the water. Ms. Schonek cited examples of efforts working with ditch companies to determine how much water does a ditch actually need and how much does it take, and how to get those two components closer together. Ms. Schonek confirmed that the goals of the Conservancy are about flow in the river in the Verde Valley, monitoring the consumptive demand on the river in cooperation with the ditch managers, and increasing efficiency, including the use of pump stations and automated gate control. The Commission discussed with Ms. Schonek the issue of riparian vegetation removal that she said has not necessarily been found to increase flow in the river.

**Bob Kovacovich**, representing the OK Ditch, explained that the ditch irrigates about 600 acres and originally had 9 users and now serves over 100 users; volunteers help to maintain the section of the ditch that is on Forest Service land. Mr. Kovacovich said that it is difficult to convince property owners that they can maintain their pastures and trees with less irrigation. Education is the main goal, letting people know they can go longer times between irrigations, as well as teaching them to appreciate the water that they use. In response to a question regarding the issue of water rights underneath paved roads, Mr. Kovacovich said that there has been no determination made as yet.

**Al Dupuy**, of the Verde Ditch, said that it is about 18 miles long, serves approximately 1400 acres and has about 650 users. He said that the Verde Ditch has been working with the Nature Conservancy on water conservation, and described the changes made to help accurately monitor by periodic readings the water being taken in and turned out. Mr. Dupuy described various projects that the Verde Ditch has undertaken to conserve water, including developing a website as well as sending out mailings to help educate the property owners. They are also working with SRP, getting help to identify water rights under the roadways. Mr. Dupuy said that the Verde Ditch Company owns no land and has no water rights; actually, the Master of the Ditch is an Arizona Superior Court Judge, and the Ditch Company are court-appointed agents operating under rules and regulations.

**Tony Gioia**, former Camp Verde Mayor, said that at the time he was on the Yavapai County Water Advisory Board, a booklet had been drafted on options for water conservation strategies; he has asked Mr. Rasmussen to provide copies of that booklet. Mr. Gioia also offered to have representatives from the Verde River Basin Partnership speak to the Commission. Mr. Gioia noted that the current General Plan lists water quality/quantity as the main future concern, and the Verde River as the first strongest asset. With the knowledge of the scientific calculations being developed, the policy makers will be setting the future. In 2006 the reported total water supplies in the Camp Verde area indicated a surplus of 115 acre feet; there is currently an equilibrium between demand and supply. Mr. Gioia commented that it is important to be ahead of the curve to avoid government intervention. He also referred to the efforts of the Town to create and maintain a water portfolio, and the current negotiations with SRP regarding surface water rights. Mr. Gioia outlined the distinction between minor and major amendments to the General Plan, and highlighted some suggested water conservation strategies.

Commissioner Hough expressed concern about possible negative consequences of including a water segment in the General Plan. Butner assured him that the Commission is simply being asked to consider doing that; at this point the Commission will be getting educated about water as well as the General Plan.

Freeman thanked all the speakers for taking extra time to come to this meeting to help the Commission better understand the water concerns and issues; it was very much appreciated by all in the Town.

**7. Commission Informational Reports:**

**Parrish** announced that the American Legion is planning to have a Fourth of July Parade in Camp Verde.

**8. Staff**

There was no Staff report.

**9. Adjournment**

On a motion by Hough, seconded by Freeman, the meeting was adjourned at 8:41 p.m.

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Joe Butner, Chairman

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Planning & Zoning

**CERTIFICATION**

I hereby certify that the foregoing Minutes are a true and accurate accounting of the actions of the Planning & Zoning Commission of the Town of Camp Verde during the Special Session of the Planning & Zoning Commission of the Town of Camp Verde, Arizona, held on the 5<sup>th</sup> day of April 2012. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held, and that a quorum was present.

Dated this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2012.

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Margaret Harper, Recording Secretary