

Annual Meeting



**RETIRING GENERAL MANAGER,
SID WILSON, RECEIVING ABC'S
WATER BUFEALO AWARD FROM
BILL PLUMMER**



**PANEL DISCUSSION WITH
TOM DONNELLY (NWRA), JIM ZIGLAR,
AND BOB SZABO (VANNESSE FELDMAN)**

THANKS TO ALL WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE 2009 ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING. TO VIEW MORE PICTURES, PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.AGRIBUSINESSARIZONA.ORG.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings everyone! We recently held our Annual meeting at the Phoenix Zoo on May 8th. The meeting was very well attended with a wide range of speakers and topics including: an update on the creation of an Agribusiness Council in Sonora, Mexico; the current state of the Arizona economy relative to both agriculture and the real estate market; the future of Arizona agriculture; Governor Jan Brewer's agribusiness and water agenda; the status of Bureau of Reclamation projects on the lower Colorado river and current Congressional and Administration happenings in Washington, D.C. We thank our speakers for their valuable information and the time and expense incurred traveling to meet with us.

We also want to recognize our members Reid Teeples and Jim Henness who received the "Lifetime Recognition" award for their many years of service to ABC and to retiring CAWCD General Manager, Sid Wilson who received our "Water Buffalo" award...all three very deserving recipients. Once again, we extend a special thank you to our sponsors: Richard N. Morrison, Salt River Project, Central Arizona Project, the Central Arizona Project Association, Western Growers Association, and Wells Fargo.

Of a more immediate concern to ABC and its membership is the number of bills being introduced in the U.S. Congress. Most of you are well aware of the Oberstar, Feingold and Baucus legislation amending the Clean Water Act. The Arizona Legislature is close to passing a resolution, HCR 2030 to state opposition to the Oberstar concept. More recently, Governor Jan Brewer sent a letter to Senators John McCain and Jon Kyl stating her opposition to the federal legislation.

Now there is a bill which will authorize a new federal organization to "assist" in water resources planning nationwide. This is a clear case of water planning from the top down and likely a case of one size fits all. We will definitely weigh in on this overreaching legislation.

Another concern to all of us is the apparent current policy in Congress to proceed to markup on bills in Committees without first holding hearings. So much for transparency!

Bill Plummer
President

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Well, we're well into the month of June and beyond 150 days into the session and are still awaiting an approved FY 2010 budget; one is passed but has yet to be sent to the Governor for what is a likely veto or litigation. This has been an interesting session to say the least. With time drawing nigh, it remains to be seen what bills will have a chance to be heard in both chambers and signed by Governor Brewer. One bill or resolution we have been supporting is HCR 2030. We are anxious for this resolution to pass and head to the U.S. Congress to provide support in opposing Senator Feingold (D-WI) and Representative Oberstar's (D-M) efforts to negatively amend the Clean Water Act. If passed their efforts would lead to federalizing what currently is state jurisdiction over water permitting and activities in Arizona and throughout the country. The resolution in short puts the legislature on record opposing members of Congress and the Administration's efforts to regulate all waters of the U.S. and define it that way. We look forward to a swift state budget agreement and a window of opportunity to shepherd this resolution quickly on its way to the Secretary of State.

On the federal end, it appears that a markup is scheduled for S 787 (Clean Water Restoration Act) on

June 18th without first holding a hearing. It remains to be seen if efforts by Senator Max Baucus (D-MT) to provide acceptable amendments to the legislation will get any traction. Municipalities, counties (National Association of Counties) and agricultural interests are just a few groups opposed to the legislative effort.

Before the next quarterly newsletter, we will still be actively involved in state and federal legislation; we will also begin working on a collaborative project (one of the last AWI projects approved before closing the doors) with the Arizona Water Institute, researching potential climate change impacts on agriculture in Arizona. The National Water Resources Association will be convening their summer Western Water Seminar conference in New Mexico, July 29-31. We look forward to the dialogue and association with our fellow western states members.

Remember, the door is always open. We hope to hear from you and look forward to a productive summer!

Chris Udall
Executive Director

ARIZONA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION: APPLYING EDUCATION AND RESEARCH TO MEET COMMUNITY NEEDS

Provided by: Edward C. Martin, Associate Director, Programs Cooperative Extension

Like most State supported agencies, the University of Arizona Cooperative Extension is coping with reduced state funding support and working hard to organize our system to meet the new realities of the decade. One aspect we have been diligently working on is to increase our web presence thereby improving access to and reducing costs for our educational programs and products. We are also streamlining our educational program offerings, supporting our successful programs, looking for innovative ways to fund emerging programs and, in some cases, suspending programs for which we do not have the resources needed to maintain them as high quality programs.

Our new web presence starts right at the top, with the new Outreach and Extension portal link that will be available from the University of Arizona's updated website homepage. The new homepage is scheduled to be rolled out this summer and will include a new offering for users to click and learn more about Outreach programs at the University, including Cooperative Extension. We are all very excited and pleased that University administration has supported this effort and that people logging onto the University website will see that the U of A is an active land grant institution that is dedicated to serving the people of Arizona beyond the classroom. In conjunction with the release of the new UA website, Cooperative Extension will be releasing a new Extension website that will highlight our programs and resources. Users will be able to get the same reliable, unbiased, research-based information they have come to expect from Extension, but with a new user-friendly system.

Cooperative Extension is conducting a strategic planning process. We have held internal strategic planning workshops and then surveyed stakeholders across the state to get input to help formulate our future programming priorities. More than 350 responses were collected from the survey and the data is now being analyzed. The information from the workshops and survey has helped us identify our strategic goals, which align with the mission of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, as well as the mission of the University of Arizona. We have also identified Signature Program Areas where we will be concentrating our efforts and support to assure that we serve the people of Arizona as effectively as possible during these unprecedented financially challenging times.

Arizona Cooperative Extension has been offering educational programs and serving the people of Arizona for more than 85 years. We serve all 15 counties and all of the Indian Reservations in Arizona. In 2008, we had over 9,000 trained volunteers, who contributed an estimated \$1,800,000 worth of donated time, and had over 300,000 participants in our educational programs. Our 4-H youth development and afterschool programs had over 100,000 participants. Arizona Cooperative Extension is focusing its efforts during these challenging times and continues to meet the needs of our clientele, to help foster healthy lives and sustainable communities in Arizona and beyond.

NWRA NEWS

Provided by Adrian Coffey

In 2001, the United States Supreme Court ruled on two critical cases for the water community, which have come to be known as SWANCC and Rapanos. Both cases dealt with Clean Water Act (CWA) jurisdiction and CWA 404 permitting

and were ultimately meant to clarify the scope of the CWA. However, the nine Justices delivered a split verdict and so, many groups have since argued that the cases did nothing but muddy the waters even further. In an attempt to clarify the jurisdiction of the Clean Water Act once and for all, Congressman Jim Oberstar (D-MN) introduced the Clean Water Restoration Act, as HR 1356, for the first time in the 109th Congress. HR 1356 attempted to clarify the confusion by removing the word "navigable" from the original CWA and inserting the phrase "waters of the United States". The National Water Resources Association as well as many other water organizations and industry groups developed grave concerns with the legislation and began a full fledged opposition effort.

At the dawn of the 110th Congress, now Chair of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, Rep. Oberstar reintroduced his Clean Water Restoration Act, this time with the number HR 2421. Senator Russ Feingold introduced an identical companion bill in the Senate which received very little attention during the 110th Congress. Fearing the worst, water and industry groups ramped up opposition efforts to HR 2421 and were joined by the Blue Dog Democrats in the House of Representatives. Chairman Oberstar held a series of marathon hearings on the legislation, but ultimately, was not able to advance the legislation any further forward.

As the 111th Congress began, all eyes were on Oberstar as most groups expected him to make the first move on the issue. However, that was not to be the case, as Senator Feingold quickly reintroduced S 787, with a few slight changes. On April 28, the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee announced plans to mark up the legislation and report it out of committee. Republican Senators and opposition groups alike immediately mobilized and a letter signed by all Republican members of the committee was sent to Chairwoman Boxer (D-CA) urging her to postpone the markup due to the fact that a hearing had not yet been held on the new bill.

During all the markup commotion, a new player began to emerge on the issue. Senator Max Baucus (D-MT) came forward with a "compromise" amendment to the bill which was based on a proposal made by the Environmental Council of the States (ECOS) last summer. Baucus had previously been identified as a committee member who was uncomfortable with the Clean Water Restoration Act and was likely to vote against Senator Feingold's version. Under pressure from Democratic committee leadership to develop language more amenable to both he and his colleagues, Senator Baucus' compromise aims to provide further exemptions, however it still does not reinstate the word "navigable". Baucus' office plans to continue negotiations with "Senators from both sides of the aisle" until they have comfortably won the support of all Democrats on the Committee (In addition to Sen. Baucus, Sen. Klobuchar (D-MN) has widely been identified as "on the fence"), and as of yet have not yet rescheduled a firm markup date. For her part, Boxer has made public statements asserting her belief that a compromise is looming and the markup will occur in the very near future but has not announced a specific date, but will likely be in June. Despite these assurances that a compromise among committee members will be reached before the legislation goes forward, Republican members have vowed that they will do everything in their power to hold up the legislation and will remain staunch in their opposition to any variation of the Clean Water Restoration Act.

If the legislation does pass through the EPW committee, it faces an even tougher and more uncertain future on the floor, with many Senators, including Sen. Jon Kyl (R-AZ), vowing to place a hold on the bill.

NWRA is working in conjunction with numerous other organizations to educate Senators about the possible negative impacts and crippling economic effects this legislation could have on water providers throughout the West and the CWA legislation remains NWRA's top legislative priority. All NWRA members are strongly encouraged to submit letters to their Senators and Representatives expressing their opposition to the Clean Water Restoration Act. The tremendous grassroots involvement on this issue has made all the difference and these letters carry a huge weight.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Date	Event	Place
June 19, 2009	Executive Committee Meeting	Pebblecreek, Arizona
July 29-31, 2009	NWRA Western Water Seminar	Santa Ana Pueblo, New Mexico
August 13-14	Executive Committee Meeting	Pinetop, Arizona