

**NOTICE OF A REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
OF THE TOWN OF CLARKDALE**

**AMENDED AGENDA**

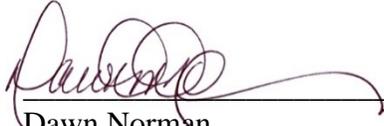
In accordance with Resolution #215 of the Town of Clarkdale, and Section 38-431.02, Arizona Revised Statutes,

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the Parks and Recreation Commission of the Town of Clarkdale will hold a Regular Meeting on Wednesday, March 12, 2014, at 5:30 p.m., in the Men's Lounge of the Clark Memorial Clubhouse, 19 N. Ninth Street, Clarkdale, Arizona. All members of the public are invited to attend.

The undersigned hereby certifies that a copy of this notice was duly posted on the Community Development Building bulletin board, located at 890 Main Street, Clarkdale, Arizona on the 11<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2014, at 5:15 p.m.

Dated this 11<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2014.

By:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Dawn Norman  
Community Services Supervisor

ALL ITEMS ON THIS AGENDA ARE SCHEDULED FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION, UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

- 2. PUBLIC COMMENT** – The Parks and Recreation Commission invites the public to provide comments at this time. Members of the Parks and Recreation Commission may not discuss items that are not specifically identified on the agenda. Therefore, pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.01 (G), action taken as a result of public comment will be limited to directing staff to study the matter, responding to any criticism or scheduling the matter for further consideration and decision at a later date. Persons interested in making comments on a specific agenda item are asked to complete a brief form and submit it to the Parks and Recreation Supervisor during the meeting. Each Speaker is asked to limit their comments to five minutes.

**THE MEETING WILL RELOCATE TO THE LOWER TAPCO RAP SITE, 3400 N. Sycamore Canyon Road, Clarkdale, Arizona. The Parks and Recreation Commission and Town Staff will carpool to the site. Members of the public are welcome to attend the site tour.**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- 3. LOWER TAPCO RAP SITE TOUR** – A walking tour and discussion of the Lower TAPCO RAP site.

**Following the tour, THE MEETING WILL RELOCATE TO THE MEN’S LOUNGE OF THE CLARK MEMORIAL CLUBHOUSE, 19 N. Ninth Street, Clarkdale, Arizona.**

- 4. RULES FOR USE FOR THE LOWER TAPCO RAP SITE** – Discussion and possible action on Rules of Use for the Lower TAPCO RAP site.
- 5. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS** – Listing of items to appear on future agendas.
- 6. ADJOURNMENT**

Reasonable accommodations may be requested by contacting Town Hall at (928) 639-2400 (TTY: 1-800-367-8939) at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting.



# Staff Report

**Agenda Item:** TAPCO River Access Point - Discussion and Possible Action Relating to Rules for Use of the Lower TAPCO River Access Point

**Staff Contact:** Gayle Mabery, Town Manager

**Meeting Date:** March 12, 2014

**Background:** In April 2013, the Town of Clarkdale secured a river access location in the historic TAPCO (The Arizona Power Co. plant) area north of Clarkdale from Freeport-McMoRan Copper & Gold Inc. The License Agreement designated a 90-acre site and allowed the Town of Clarkdale to use the property for Verde River access for public recreation and education purposes. Intended uses included the development of access drives, parking and trail facilities, restrooms, fencing, modest shade structures, and other facilities that are desirable for a day-use recreational facility.

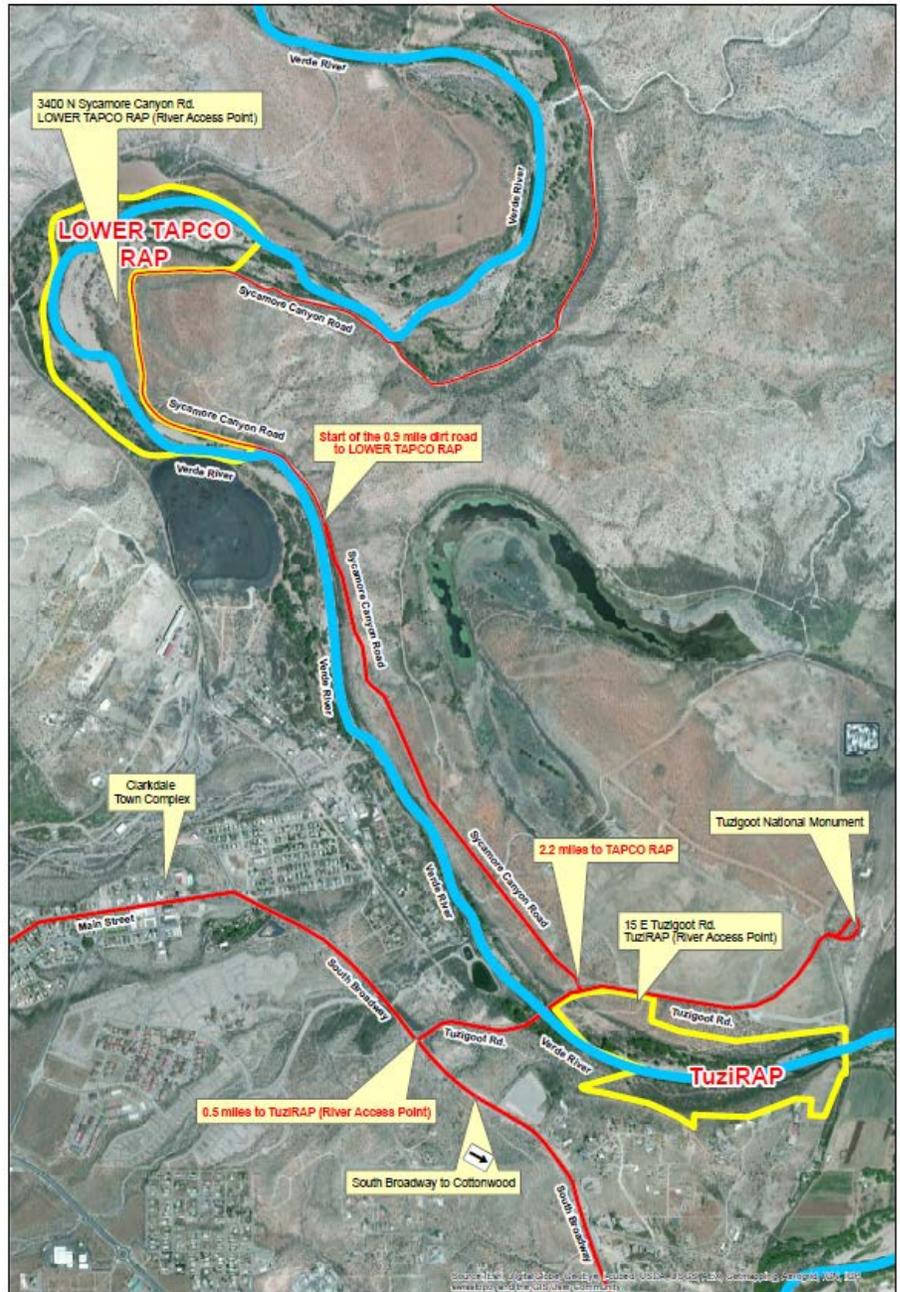
In February 2014, before opening the site to use by the public, representatives of the Town of Clarkdale discovered a nesting pair of Bald Eagles at the 90-acre site. The Town of Clarkdale is excited about the discovery and committed to working with Freeport-McMoRan and the Arizona Game and Fish Department to limit potential impacts to the breeding cycle of the eagles. The Town of Clarkdale has received approval from Freeport-McMoRan to relocate the access point within a new license area located downstream on the Verde River to limit potential impacts to the eagles.

The new site, called the Lower TAPCO River Access Point (Lower TAPCO RAP), is located on approximately 110 acres on Sycamore Canyon Road, roughly 2.3 miles north of Tuzigoot Road. The Lower TAPCO RAP will still serve as the upper anchor on the Verde River @ Clarkdale project, and will provide boaters with a 3.3-mile float trip between this site and the Tuzigoot RAP. The Lower TAPCO RAP will be included in a Master Planning process that the Town of Clarkdale will undertake in May 2014 to involve the public and other stakeholder groups in a process to define the improvements desired on this and other the Verde River @ Clarkdale sites.



When planning for the TAPCO RAP began last year, the Town's intent was to keep the area closed to the public until site improvements could be built and a comprehensive site host and operations plan could be put into place. Access management was achieved through the installation of a gate at the entry road location, and strategic placement of boulders at wash sites where trespassing was most prevalent.

Access control at the Lower TAPCO RAP will be more challenging. Although this is private property and has been posted as such for years, the land owner has struggled to prevent people from trespassing on the property in order to access the river. Although no fencing has been used, the landowners has taken a series of steps, including trenching and berming, in order to prevent unauthorized vehicle access. The breadth of the site, along with its proximity to Sycamore Canyon Road, make it an easy target for people to drive cross country to access the site. This type of access leads to negative impacts to natural vegetation and wildlife (including loss of habitat), causes erosion and can introduce invasive species to the site. While there are some instances on the site of dumping garbage and other forms of vandalism, the greatest challenge is unauthorized vehicle access on the site.



The Town of Clarkdale plans to begin some special events and licensed activities on the site this spring. Most notably, the Town of Clarkdale is in the process of issuing a Special Use Permit to an outfitter who will begin offering commercial kayak tours on the river soon. In addition,

Lower TAPCO RAP will be the launch point on April 19 for the Verde River Poker Run. With these uses imminent, the Town Council has prioritized the opening of the Lower TAPCO RAP to the general public, and has asked the Staff and the Parks and Recreation Commission to put forward recommendations for Rules for Use so that the public has a clear understanding of the expectations on the site, and the Town Staff has enforcement authority in cases where rules are violated.

While the Town will be moving rapidly to set up a Park Host program (which will allow for an on-site presence of volunteers at the site), there will be an interim period of time where the site will not have the presence of staff or volunteers on a regular basis. Town staff is recommending that the site be posted immediately as a fee area, and that a Self-Pay station be instituted as one of the first steps in opening the site so that the public is well aware of the intent for user fees to help offset the cost of site improvements and maintenance.

The following are the rules the Town Staff has proposed for posting at the site at this time:

1. Fee Area—Please help us keep this area open to the public by depositing your fee at the Self-Pay station.
2. Hours of Operation—This is a day-use facility. Please limit your use to the hours between sunrise and 1 hour after sunset.
3. Tread Lightly—Vehicles must drive on designated roadways and parking areas only. Off road vehicle access and driving vehicles in the Verde River bed damages existing and downstream habitat and is strictly prohibited! Please report violations to phone numbers listed below.
4. Respect Wildlife – Observe wildlife from a distance using binoculars or cameras. Never feed wildlife. Avoid wildlife during sensitive times, such as when they are breeding, nesting or raising young.
5. Respect and our Natural and Cultural Heritage – Preserve the past; examine but do not remove cultural or historic artifacts. Leave rocks, plants, animals and other natural objects as you found them.
6. Pack It In/Pack It Out—Keep this area litter free. Pack out any litter that you create, and properly dispose of it in refuse containers. If you see someone else’s litter, please pick it up!
7. Respect Private Property—Much of the adjacent land is private property. When floating downstream, enter and exit the river at designated launch sites only. See posted site map for Lower TAPCO RAP boundaries.
8. Fishing, Hunting, Trapping and Firearms. Fishing is permitted in accordance with State regulations. Hunting, trapping and discharging firearms are not permitted at the Lower TAPCO RAP.

9. Pets. Keep pets on leash at all times. Always clean up after your pets and dispose of waste in appropriate trash receptacles.
10. Campfires—Campfires are permitted in designated areas with metal fire rings only! Make sure fires are monitored at all times. Fire must be dead out and all contents cold to the touch before leaving. Fire restrictions at this location are common due to drought, high winds and our desert environment. Contact the Clarkdale Fire District at (928) 282-7101 to verify any current burning restrictions.
11. Fireworks—Fireworks are prohibited.
12. Report any violations of these rules to: Clarkdale Police Department, (928) 649-7700 or Clarkdale Public Works Department (928) ddd-dddd
13. In an emergency, call 9-11 The address of this facility is listed on this sign.

Town Staff is seeking input from the Parks and Recreation Commission relating to these proposed rules for use. Based on the input received, staff will draft an ordinance for the Town Council's upcoming consideration.

**Staff Recommendation:** Staff recommends that the Parks and Recreation Commission provide guidance and input relating to the rules for use of the Lower TAPCO RAP.