

Mayor's Report
3/12/08 - 3/26/08

Wednesday 3/12/2008 - 11:30a - 1:00p: Gayle and I attended the Verde Valley Mayors and Managers meeting at the Yavapai-Apache Nation in Camp Verde. Thomas Beauty, the Tribal Chairman, told us that he would like to see a greater participation in regional affairs on the part of the tribe, and that he'd like to see the tribe included more in decisions made by regional governments. We all spoke about what was going on in our towns and ways that we could all work together more effectively.

Thursday 3/13/2008 - 8:00a - 9:30a: Sherry Bailey and I attended the Clarkdale Chamber of Commerce meeting at St. Thomas Parish Hall in Clarkdale. The primary topic was economic development, so Sherry and I discussed our perspectives on Clarkdale's development, both short and long-term. When asked what the Chamber could do to play a bigger role in the Town's government, I said that it needed to be a positive organization that was relevant to the Town's future development. I told them that their regular representatives to the Council were often negative and that their negativity often got in the way of our relationship. I also told them that the council would want to see concrete ideas for projects that would benefit the economic growth of Clarkdale in the future, and that the projects needed to be realistic, relevant and affordable. After our talks they discussed their plans for an SR89a museum in Clarkdale. They were thinking of asking Ray Selna for a donation of land at Clarkdale Parkway and 89a for the museum. They had not yet spoken to Mr. Selna, so I advised them to make that contact their first step.

2:30p - 4:00p: I met with Arizona Dept. of Water Resources Director Herb Guenther, Mayor Gioia of Camp Verde and the Mayors and Town Manger of Williams to talk about HB 2772. Here is the result of that meeting, addressing each of the points in Clarkdale's letter: I'll address each of the points in my letter of March 5th to Lucy Mason et al., and our resolution to each in the meeting:

1. Fire protection exceptions: No amendment or action needed, since the bill as currently written specifies that the Director of DWR must approve any fire safety exceptions, and a declaration of emergency must be made. This puts DWR in the position of ensuring that any exceptions to the 700 a-f limitation are for legitimate fire emergency situations.

2. Monitoring at Parsons, Summer and Mormon Pocket Springs: This will be handled and facilitated by an IGA between The City of Williams and other stakeholders, in which the City agrees to participate in the expense of future spring monitoring installation and maintenance. Suitable entities for the IGA signatories may be the municipalities in the Verde Basin, Verde River Basin Partnership, SRP, DWR...

3. Population limitation: The group settled on a population limit of 8000 for municipalities benefiting from the legislation. Cities whose population exceeds 8000 would, therefor, lose the right to pump from the wells. *This provision should make it into the final legislation.*

4. Impact mitigation: Director Guenther's opinion was that there would never be a valid way to assign impact to the Verde River to the wells being used by Williams. His opinion was that there are too many wells in the Redwall Limestone formation for impact to the

river to be assigned to any single user. If a mitigation requirement were in the legislation, the legal and legislative problems would probably outweigh the benefits.

5. Use all other sources first: This provision calls for any municipality benefiting from the legislation to use any and all other potable water sources to their maximum safe extent before *any* water is used from the wells in question. Williams' wells use 780 hp pumps that cost in the neighborhood of \$20,000 per month to run, so they will have a natural incentive to use all other sources first. *This provision met no resistance and should make it into the final legislation.*

6. Sunset: Neither Director Guenther nor the City of Williams could accept a "sunset" provision in the legislation. The primary concerns centered around adequacy declarations that may need the wells' production to meet the law, especially if Coconino County or the City of Williams adopts 1575 adequacy requirements. A sunset provision would effectively mean that the next small development in Williams, in order to get a certificate of adequacy, would have to drill wells that would be cost prohibitive, thus severely limiting Williams' ability to grow in healthy ways.

7. DWR's NOI Notices: The Director has already instituted changes to DWR's procedures by putting all NOIs for wells that plan to pump over 35 gpm ("non-exempt wells") on a web site where anyone can see what new wells have been noticed in their basin. The first basin covered will be the Verde. The Director also stated that there would be a mechanism for people to register to be notified of any non-exempt applications in their basin. DWR has also amended their procedures such that driller must certify that a proposed well is in a particular basin and that GPS locations for the well are included in the NOI. His department is working to automate the database in a way that will automatically indicate the basin that the well's coordinates are in. These changes are intended to see that no well in the future is placed incorrectly outside the basin that will benefit from it. They will also allow other users in the basin to be forewarned of proposed production wells that may affect their own.

Saturday 3/15/2008 - 9:30a - 10:30a: I rode in the Sedona St. Patrick's Day parade with Mayor Colquitt, then sat in the VIP review stand to watch the rest of the parade. Also at the parade were Tom O'Halleran, Chip Davis, Tony Gioia, and Coconino County Supervisor Matt Ryan. I had lots of opportunity to talk with Tom O'Halleran about HB2772 and about water in general, especially about the feasibility and advisability of water importation projects.

Wednesday 3/19/2008 - 10:00a - 11:30a: Janet Perry and I had our regular Mayor/Manager meeting, after which I spent time with Sherry Bailey getting caught up on various projects in town.

2:00p - 4:30p: I attended the WAC Meeting in Cottonwood. The main topics were a report from DWR's Doug Dunham on the DWR rule making process for SB1575, which is the water adequacy legislation that allows counties of municipalities to adopt adequacy requirements. Since DWR will be responsible for administering the adequacy portions of that bill, they have entered into a new rule making process which will define how they will define adequacy in 1575 situations. They are holding meetings in several cities in the state about the process, and will be adding the Verde Valley to their itinerary now, after being urged to do so by WAC members. In the process they will be taking public

comment about the rules, and it seems that most of the Verde Valley's WAC members will be at these meetings. So far only Cochise County has adopted 1575, the rest are apparently waiting for the rule making to be finalized, so that they know exactly what they're signing up for. One notable provision of 1575 says that once a County adopts the provisions they cannot be rescinded, in other words, they are permanent. This does not apply to municipalities, though. A second major topic was a report from Hoyt Johnson on his scenario development program for WAC. This is essentially a water/population model that looks at growth and water needs projections from now until 2050. The model that he'll develop will look at populations, where they will grow, what water sources are available, and what future water needs will be in all areas of the County. Primary emphasis is around the "Tri cities" and Verde Valley areas. Scenario development looks at several different possible futures and how each of them will affect water supplies and needs. The end product will be a planning tool for all of us to use when we try to gauge future needs and resources. Hoyt's model will be ready to run soon, and it will dovetail with the USGS groundwater flow model that we heard about in the last Council meeting. It will also be used as an "in kind" payment participation in the new Bureau of Reclamation appraisal level study that we also discussed at the last meeting.

Friday, 3/21/08 - 10:00a - 11:30a: I'll attend the NAMWUA TAC meeting in Prescott Valley.

11:30a - 2:30p: I'll attend the Yavapai Mayors and Managers in Prescott. The guest speaker will be Herb Guenther and he'll be talking about regional water issues and the future of water in Yavapai County. Should be interesting.

Friday, March 21st

9:00-11:15am: I attended the NAMWUA TAC meeting in Prescott Valley. The main topic was refining water augmentation strategies for Northern Arizona.

11:30am-2:00pm: I attended the Yavapai County Mayors, Managers, Representatives, and Supervisors meeting in Prescott. The program was a presentation by DWR Director Herb Guenther about the current state and future of Northern Arizona water, with concentration on Big Chino issues.

He stated that he believes that some sort of arrangement between NAMWUA (or other entity) and CAP would be the most expeditious way to obtain water rights and bring importation plans to fruition. He said that 1st priority Indian right and 2nd or 3rd Yuma ag rights were the most likely targets. He also stated that the 90,000 a-f reallocation would be highly competitive and he didn't seem encouraging about Northern Arizona's chances to obtain any. He didn't say it was impossible, of course, just was not encouraging. His guesstimate of \$700 million on the cost of the Navajo pipeline took few by surprise. On a further horizon, he mentioned de-salination plants on the Pacific as an upcoming viable alternative to Colorado River waters. Current de-sal costs are about \$600/a-f. Essentially he was saying that we might help finance de-sal in exchange for California river rights...

On other water topics he ran down the "over allocation" of the Big Chino sub-basin. His figures were that, given the current issued and pending permits in the area, plus the ag use, the withdrawals from that sub-basin could equal about 62,000 a-f/year in an area that receives about 31,000 s-f of natural and artificial recharge. The natural discharge is about

16,000 a-f, leaving a potential deficit of about 47,000 a-f/year. He also showed slides depicting the clay area in the Big Chino aquifer and showed and stated that groundwater lows around that clay toward the Verde Springs, and that it is neither impenetrable nor impermeable. This is just another in a long series of debunkings of the omehowpersistent myth that there is a "clay plug" in that basin that protects the Verde River from municipal pumping in the Big Chino.

Monday, 3/24/08

9:30-11:30 am: I toured the Salt River Materials Group with Kristen Mayes, who is a current Corporation Commissioner and is exploring a run for Congress. If elected, she would be filling Rick Renzi's seat. Ms. Mayes has been a champion of renewable energy in Arizona while on the Commission, and her understanding of water issues is pretty good. I've offered to spend some time talking water with her in the future.

Wednesday, March 26th

Gayle and I had our regular weekly meeting. Some of the topics we discussed were future possibilities for the new wastewater treatment plant, potential board and commission self appraisals, and various General Plan processes. My hope for this general plan is that we will be better educated on the topics and more engaged than ever before. We will have excellent staff support this time around, and it's crucial that we get all the stakeholders out to discuss Clarkdale's future. We all need to be thinking about who the stakeholders are, and who will devote some real effort and thought to the process. Good minds will be the key to the plan's success. One of the major topics, as I said at Tuesday's council meeting, will be the future of water in Clarkdale and the Verde Valley. The sessions will include in-depth (no pun intended!) discussions of how we intend to reach sustainable water use, what costs we are willing to bear, and what technologies we intend to adopt. The answers to these questions will permeate all the other discussions, including transportation, economic development, and growth areas. Adoption or rejection of the "1575" provisions for adequate water supply designations will also play a major role, and a regional perspective will be necessary to answer that question. It does not appear that DWR's rule making process for 1575 adequacy is going to produce any unexpected new rules, so this question will no doubt be coming before the council sometime in the next several months. I have also requested that the Clarkdale/Cottonwood Water Wok Group meet again soon to discuss 1575 and other regional issues that need to be addressed. The group has not met in several months, since Cottonwood has been unsettled. Another issue I'd like to see explored in depth is the meaning of "small town." Everyone says they love the "small town" feel or atmosphere or culture of Clarkdale, but nobody ever quite defines what that means to them. I know it means safety, low traffic, low crime, neighborliness, etc., but we need to have those values put down in such a way that we can discuss how to maintain them in the face of growth and cultural changes around us. We will need to find ways to preserve the essence of a small town in the future, so we'll need to know what we're really talking about. Another worthwhile topic: It's often said that a town must either "grow or die." That's pretty much true in the economic system that we have in Arizona. The economy is based on growth and you don't have to look far to see what happens when growth comes to a halt. Are there ways for a small town to remain small and still have economic vitality and a healthy cultural base? There may be, and I

suspect that the answer lies in healthy and diverse economic development. When a community produces, rather than merely consumes, that economy can become sustainable, possibly without having to increase in population. Without that good economic base, growth becomes the economic engine. We need to decide how we want to fund our "small town" in the future, and then we need to get serious about making it happen. Finally, I'd like to explore and institute ways that this new general plan remain relevant to Council and Board/Commission decisions in the future. I do not want it to be another place holder on our shelves, but rather the "go-to" document to future decisions. I know that's always the goal, but it's also seldom the reality. I think that The City of Sedona does a pretty good job of keeping their plan in the fore, and there are other good models out there. Let's have a good discussion of how to make it a living, guiding document. I want to urge all of you to think seriously about these and other issues for the general plan process. This is an opportunity for us to put policies and philosophies in place that will lead to a healthy, sustainable Clarkdale in the future

In addition to the above, I visited Town Hall every business day to take care of official business, and read/wrote/answered approximately 60 e-Mails.