



Staff Report

Agenda Item: VERDE VALLEY LAND PRESERVATION INSTITUTE UPDATE
– Update from Bob Rothrock on the Verde Valley Land Preservation Institute (VVLPI) activities, accomplishments and future plans.

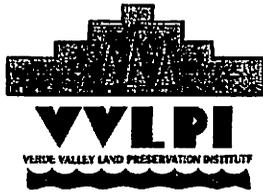
Sponsored By: Pat Williams, Councilmember

Staff Contact: Walt Good, Deputy Town Clerk

Meeting Date: January 13, 2009

Background: VVLPI President Bob Rothrock is presenting to Council an update of the activities and accomplishments of the group. The opportunities and future plans of VVLPI will also be discussed.

Recommendation: This is an update and no action is required.



VERDE VALLEY LAND PRESERVATION INSTITUTE, INC.

"...to preserve and enhance the natural open space setting of the Verde Valley."

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12/1/08

Dear Mayor and Council members,

The Verde Valley Land Preservation Institute would like to share some our activities and accomplishments since our last visit.

- Fourteen parcels identified by municipalities as desirable for open space have been added to the Verde Valley Regional Land Use Plan's base map.
- Continued monitoring of our conservation easement at Fox Ranch.
- Participation with Yavapai County's Sustainable Planning Committee in the drafting of a Conservation Subdivision ordinance which will set aside open space within subdivisions.
- Received a grant from the Yavapai County Community Foundation to conduct a research assessment of areas with open space values in the Verde Valley. As part of this assessment we have begun partnerships with NAU's Ecological Monitoring and Assessment Program and Arizona State Parks.
- Training by the Nature Conservancy in planning for conservation easements and how to develop monitoring tools

As you can see, we have been a busy group. Our plans for the near future include:

- Presenting the results of our research assessment to community leaders and the general public to solicit input and develop support for a detailed regional open space plan
- Use the research information to work with the Regional Planners Group and develop an open space separations/ buffer zone plan. This is a component of the Verde Valley Regional Land Use Plan and reflects a 1998 resolution of all the Verde Valley municipalities.

Our mission is challenging, and compared with the pace of development, progress is slow. The current economic slowdown creates opportunities, difficulties and challenges. For example, we have the opportunity to get open space plans in place prior to the next building boom. The difficulty for the VVLPI lies in moving our agenda forward without an executive director. We have contracted a professional grant writer, but need funds from the municipalities to provide the match that grants require. Current economic conditions make this a challenging request, but we ask that you recognize the opportunity to protect our beautiful Verde Valley.

Our Beautiful Valley – Let's keep it that way!

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