



# Staff Report

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**Agenda Item:**           **PRESENTATION REGARDING YAVAPAI COUNTY WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE'S (WAC) ROLE IN WATER STUDIES**  
– John Rasmussen, WAC Coordinator, presentation on water and Yavapai County Water Advisory Committee's role in water studies.

**Submitted By:**           Mayor Von Gausig

**Meeting Date:**           August 31, 2010

**Background:** "The Yavapai County Water Advisory Committee (WAC) has been the principal water advisory and research organization in Yavapai County for more than 10 years. WAC is supported by all of the incorporated communities in Yavapai County and the county itself. Dues are set at \$1.00 per citizen. The WAC has a paid coordinator, Mr. Rasmussen, and holds monthly board meetings that alternate between Prescott and Cottonwood. There are two Co-chairs on the board, and they are currently Councilman Mike Flannery, of Prescott Valley, and Mayor Von Gausig. The board consists of elected officials or their representatives from all incorporated communities and the three County Supervisors. It operates on a "consensus" basis.

WAC has been responsible for coordinating and contributing to several important USGS and consultant-conducted studies that have helped us define our water resources, and allow us to make more accurate decisions based on water usage patterns. WAC also supports several public education campaigns, including the "Project WET" classes and field days given to our area primary school students.

Funding for WAC studies is generally leveraged by grants from USGS, DWR and other agencies who cooperate with WAC. The WAC Technical Advisory Committee has members from "both sides of the mountain" and consists of water managers, hydrologists and other water professionals. The TAC advises the WAC board on technical issues and provides analysis of studies performed by the organization. The TAC members are appointed by the board.

WAC's is currently involved in two major projects. The "Northern Arizona Groundwater Flow Model" is just being completed. It will provide us with the most accurate available data on how the groundwater in our area is flowing and allow us to make more informed decisions about the effects of pumping on our groundwater resources. WAC is also a major contributor and cooperator in the Central Yavapai Highlands Water Resource Management Study (CYHWRMS) currently being coordinated by the Bureau of Reclamation. This study will help predict population patterns for the next 40 years and provide guidance regarding the supply and demand of our current and future water resources."

The Arizona Wildlife Federation (AWF) is a non-profit organization dedicated to educating, inspiring, and assisting individuals and organizations to value, conserve, enhance, manage, and

protect wildlife and wildlife habitat. The AWF was founded in 1923 to take politics out of fish and game management and to promote the management of Arizona's natural resources on a scientific basis. Each year, the AWF selects an Arizona organization to receive their Conservation Organization of the Year Award. Organizations are selected in recognition of their efforts towards conservation of Arizona's wildlife and natural resources for the preceding calendar year.

**Recommendation:** This agenda item is a report only, and requires no formal action by the Town Council.