MINUTES

Coconino Plateau Watershed Partnership
501 (c)(3)
Coconino Plateau Water Advisory Council
501 (c)(4)
Joint Meeting
Friday, March 27, 2026
10:00 A.M.

In Person Meeting at:
Flagstaff Public Works Department
3200 W Route 66 Flagstaff, AZ 86001

Present
Austin Aslan, City of Flagstaff
Don Bills, USGS
David Newlin, LCR RC&D
Pete Furman, City of Sedona
David Gressly, Friends of the Verde River
Ron Doba, CPWAC/CPWP
Emily Melhorn, City of Flagstaff
Zach Ferrie, NRCE
Kira Russo, Global Water Policy
Lisa Kim, BIA
Tom Osterday, BRDWID
Kevin Black, consultant
Jeronimo Vasquez, Coconino County
Hannah Chamblis, NPS
Abby Hill, Friends of the Verde River
David Newlin, Little Colorado Plateau
Valerie Swick, Reclamation
Mike Macauley, Rancher
Elizabeth Mora, Spheros Environmental
Coral Evans, Senator Kelly's Office
Dana Tilley, Jacobs Engineering
Chris Kuzdas, EDF
Kira Russon, Global Water Policy
Kevin Black, Consultant
Lisa Kim, BIA
Erin Young, City of Flagstaff

Approx twenty-six people were in attendance.

Emily Melhorn read the Land Acknowledgement

1. **Welcome and Introductions**
   Chair Austin Aslan called the meeting to order at approximately 10:00 AM. Self introductions were made by all along with their special favorite location in Arizona.

2. **Approval of Joint Meeting Minutes – Meeting of February 27, 2026**
   Pete Furman made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Emily Melhorn and carried.

3. **Action Items**
   a. **None**

4. **Non-Action Items**
   a. **Presentation: "Verde River Watershed Report Card"**
   David Gressly gave the presentation on the subject. The presentation is posted on the CPWP web site.

5. **Committee Reports**
   c. TAC
   Don updated the group on the planned 2nd Groundwater Resiliency Workshop that will be held April 9th at the NACET facilities in Flagstaff. Don also reviewed potential field trips for 2026. The TAC is considering a Lower Clear Creek Kayak Float or a tour of the CC Cragin Reservoir project. The TAC also had a discussion on the impact of data centers on communities.

   b. GAC
   Ron reported on the recent lobbying day spent at the legislature and several bills that are still active of interest to the group and Cities and Counties.
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   a. POC
   Pete reported on World Water Day at Oak Creek last weekend. It was a great success, tabled by Don, Pete, Anthony, and Emily. Emily reported on the status of the 4th Grade Water Ethics Contest awards and had copies of the winning artwork and essays available to those present. The winners will also be at the library for the month of April. Next Saturday is Science Saturday at Willow Bend. Classroom parties for winners are being scheduled. Earth Day is coming up as well and she is looking for help. Kira volunteered.

6. **CPWP Members Roundtable**

   Chris Kuzdas reported on the Governors Award of Distinction awarded to Cochise County for their AMA work.
   Emily reported on events going on for Water Awareness Month.
   David Gressly reported on their annual Bird and Nature Festival.

Valerie reminded the group on the grant opportunities available from Reclamation.
Valerie will be a judge for high school students in Prescott.
Supervisor Vasquez reported the County approved the economic impact recovery plan from the Dragon-Bravo Fire.
Kira reported on her work publishing a paper she is working on dealing with water policy.
Tom Osterday mentioned HB2758 on the McMullen Valley water transfer issue.
Erin reported on the water professionals bowling event coming up.

7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:20 PM.