

# The Daily Courier

Friday, May 07, 2010

## **Column: CWAG watches out for our water**

By CHRIS HOY Special to the Courier

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Will we eventually exhaust our supply of fresh, clean water? Can we expect our water bills to skyrocket in the coming years?

Do economically viable, politically acceptable and environmentally safe solutions exist for our current and future water issues? What can we do to help reduce demand on our finite water resources? What should we do with the "new water" created by conservation or other means?

The Citizens Water Advocacy Group (CWAG) is offering occasional columns that will try to answer those and other water questions of interest to the general public. We also will answer specific questions from readers.

The columns will provide both facts and informed opinions about water science, water management and water policy pertinent to our region. CWAG thanks the Daily Courier for providing this forum to discuss this important topic.

CWAG was founded in 2002 and is a non-profit 501(c)(3) all-volunteer organization. This is CWAG's mission statement: "In recognition that water is a limited resource, Citizens Water Advocacy Group (CWAG) promotes a sustainable water future in the Upper Verde River Basin and the Prescott Active Management Area by educating the public, encouraging citizen action, and advocating for responsible governmental decision-making."

And this is our vision statement: "Our vision is that all residents of the Upper Verde River Basin and the Prescott Active Management Area have a sustainable supply of clean water, flows in the springs and streams are maintained, and the biodiversity of plant and animal communities is preserved."

CWAG has approximately 100 dues-paying members and over 400 people who subscribe to our electronic publications (a calendar of local water meetings and events and a News and Views newsletter).

CWAG has a 10-member board of directors and two standing committees - Public Policy and Education. The President of CWAG is John Zambrano, a retired environmental engineer whose entire career was devoted to the field of water resources in both private consulting and state government.

CWAG Vice President Leslie Hoy is a retired small business owner and was technical editor for the Water Resources Research Institute at the University of Wyoming. Treasurer Charlene Craig, owner of a graphic design business, and Secretary Nancy Shelton, paralegal, are both longtime members

of CWAG.

Other board members include Chris Hoy, retired businessman and immediate past president; Ken Janecek, retired chemical engineer and board member at large; Dr. John Danforth, retired economist and board member at large; Art Manburg, retired marketing and sales manager, board member at large and chairman of the Education Committee; Howard Mechanic, entrepreneur, board member at large and chair of the Public Policy Committee; and Delores Manburg, former educator and businesswoman, board member at large and manager of CWAG's Speakers Bureau. (Organizations that wish to arrange for a CWAG speaker can contact Delores at 445-6872).

On the second Saturday of each month, CWAG plays host to an educational open-to-the-public meeting from 10 a.m. until noon at the Granite Peak Unitarian Universalist Congregation Building, at 882 Sunset (two blocks behind True Value Hardware). Speakers include elected officials as well as both private and government experts.

CWAG's website is [www.cwagAZ.org](http://www.cwagAZ.org). It includes archives scientific papers, maps, articles and videos of our most recent monthly meetings. The easy-to-navigate site lists links to virtually all important local, state and federal water-focused web sites. The reports section contains a selection of introductory documents, especially for people new to our water issues. Samples of the CWAG Calendar and News and Views publications are on the site, as well.

In addition to answering questions from our readers, topics we expect to write about in the coming months include safe yield, the Big Chino Pipeline Project, water districts, and water conservation.

Each month we will discuss an important water issue that significantly affects our region.

We also will look at subjects such as defining mitigation, Arizona water laws, computer groundwater modeling, the Prescott-Prescott Valley-SRP water agreement, the value of a future Wild and Scenic designation for the Upper Verde River, and the implications of the region-wide supply-and-demand water study the Bureau of Reclamation is conducting.

We look forward to receiving your questions, opinions and observations. Please submit them to [info@cwagAZ.org](mailto:info@cwagAZ.org).

## Related Links: