

MEETING SUMMARY NOTES

Technical Advisory Group Meeting #1

Date: Wednesday June 20, 2007
3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Location: Pinal County Government Complex; 31 N. Pinal; Bldg. F
Purpose: Comprehensive Plan Process Overview and
Compendium Review

Handouts: Agenda, Public Involvement Plan, Comprehensive Plan Overview,
Project Schedule, Draft Compendium on CD

Participants:

Kristin Busby, Commerce	Linda Taunt, ADEQ	Greg Bernosky, APS
Jim Hartdengen, ED-3	Brian Betcher, MSIDD	Dhruv Patel, APS
Scott Lee, Global Water	Vern Sullivan, Southwest Gas	David Wilson, ED-2
Cliff Cauthen, Hohokam Irrigation & Drainage District	Michelle Green, ASLD	Terri Sue Rossi, CAP
Russ Haughey, AZ Game & Fish	Jeff Creedon, APS	Brian Davidson, ADEQ
Dianne Kresich, ADOT	Jim Nelson, SRP	Peggy Fiandaca, PSA
Audra Koester Thomas, PSA	Jerry Stabley, Pinal County	

Meeting was called to order at approximately 3:10 p.m.

Welcome and Project Overview

Jerry Stabley, Pinal County Project Manager welcomed everyone and thanked them for agreeing to serve on the Pinal County Comprehensive Plan Technical Advisory Group (TAG). Jerry gave a PowerPoint presentation about the thought process leading to the initiation of the Vision and Comprehensive Plan update.

Recognizing that Pinal County is one of the fastest growing counties in America, the Board of Supervisors felt the time was right to determine what it would take to be a distinctive, livable, and competitive County. Last Fall, Morrison Institute for Public Policy at Arizona State University was retained to conduct research to determine the possible future for County residents to consider. The research is intended to be thought-provoking and will assist in developing a county-wide vision to manage growth and preserve the area's quality of life. To take the visioning effort forward, Partners for Strategic Action, Inc. (PSA), was hired this past spring. PSA will be working closely with

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residents, stakeholders, landowners, and elected/appointed officials to develop the Pinal County Comprehensive Plan Update—a roadmap for the future of Pinal.

The Pinal County Comprehensive Plan is a statement of policy and an expression of the county's vision. The Pinal County Comprehensive Plan Update will amend the current plan developed in 2001.

When completed, the plan will be a tool to help guide and shape the county's future growth. The intent of the Comprehensive Plan is to achieve a sustainable future for Pinal County. The Comprehensive Plan will include:

- ✓ The vision statement that will guide decision-making;
- ✓ A plan for managing anticipated growth and development including all modes of transportation;
- ✓ Strategies to create employment centers so residents can live and work in close proximity;
- ✓ Goals and policies related to economic development, housing, infrastructure, and environment;
- ✓ An implementation plan to realize the vision.

Jerry introduced Partners for Strategic Action, Inc. (PSA) the planning consultants that are leading a team that will be producing the Comprehensive Plan. Peggy Fiandaca, PSA President gave an overview of the company and asked everyone to introduce themselves. She also provided an overview of the team of consultants and professionals that will be working on the planning effort.

Overview of Plan Process and Schedule Overview

Peggy gave an overview of the various steps in the planning process. She stressed the tremendous amount of public outreach that will occur throughout the process.

Audra Koester Thomas briefed the group on the youth element of the project.

Roles and Responsibilities

A strong working group structure is critical to the success of a Comprehensive Plan. The Pinal County Comprehensive Plan program identifies three standing committees and two task forces with specific responsibilities:

Comprehensive Plan Advisory Group (CPAG) – The CPAG is composed of representatives from each of the county planning areas and serves as the project steering committee. The CPAG will meet regularly.

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Technical Advisory Group (TAG) – The TAG is composed of agency representatives (e.g., Arizona State Lands Department, Arizona Department of Transportation, Bureau of Land Management), and utilities that meet at key project milestones.

Regional Planning Team (RPT) – The RPT is composed of the municipal planning directors within Pinal County or their representatives, for the purpose of coordinating development planning that will occur during the Comprehensive Plan process.

Topic Specific Task Forces – The Economic Development Task Force and the Transportation Task Force consist of individuals representing groups and agencies focused on the particular topic (e.g., various economic development organizations and Chambers of Commerce would be represented on the Economic Development Task Force).

The group noted several organizations not represented at the current meeting, including: Arizona Department of Housing, Sonoran Institute, Institute of Biodiversity, Sierra Club, The Nature Conservancy, Lincoln Institute, and Trust for Public Lands.

Pinal County Compendium Presentation

Audra presented the compendium to the TAG. The purpose of the Compendium is to provide a comprehensive snapshot of the county. The GIS maps will be used to determine development suitability and provide the foundation for land use planning. All TAG members received a Compendium CD and were asked to review and provide comments directly to Audra.

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Next Steps

The TAG will meet at key intervals within the process from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. at the Pinal County Government Complex in Florence. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:50 p.m.

These meeting summary notes reflect the notes taken by Partners for Strategic Action, Inc. during the meeting. If corrections are needed, please provide those recommendations as soon as possible, preferably within two weeks of receipt of these notes.

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy A. Fiandaca, AICP
Project Manager