

Commission Members

Pat Jacobs, Chairman
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Shelley Blackmore
Frank Krentz
John Ladd
Tina Thompson
Stephen Turcotte

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Ex-Officio Members

Thomas Buschatzke
Director
AZ Department of Water Resources

Lisa Atkins
State Land Commissioner
AZ State Land Department

Advisory Members

The Honorable Sine Kerr
AZ State Senate

The Honorable David L. Cook
AZ House of Representatives

January 9, 2023

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND ARIZONA WATER PROTECTION FUND
GRANT APPLICATION GUIDELINES REQUEST FOR COMMENTS**

The Arizona Water Protection Fund (AWPF) is a competitive state grant program that provides funding to interested parties for maintaining, enhancing, and restoring river and riparian resources throughout Arizona, including projects that benefit fish and wildlife that are dependent on these important resources. The distribution of grant funds from the AWPF is authorized pursuant to A.R.S. § 45-2101 *et seq.* and is overseen by the Arizona Water Protection Fund Commission (Commission). The program is administered through the Arizona Department of Water Resources.

Pursuant to A.R.S. § 45-2105 *et seq.* the Commission is required to develop guidelines for applicants for funding, and is seeking input from interested landowners, state and federal agencies, local government entities, non-profit organizations, and the public.

Specifically, the Commission is requesting comments related to:

- Current grant application structure and processes, and suggestions on streamlining and/or simplifying the grant application;
- Geographic areas in the state where protection and restoration should be prioritized (e.g., particular watersheds or streams; feature categories such as stream headwaters; etc.);
- Issues of concern that the AWPF should focus on across the state or in specific areas;
- Types of measures to address the issues of concerns identified;
- Relevant science related to designing and implementing effective riparian and watershed protection and restoration projects; and
- Published technical articles and experience with applied conservation/restoration practices with upper watershed and forest treatment projects that provide water quality and quantity benefits.

The most recent version of the AWPF grant application may reviewed online at <https://www.azwpf.gov/> or in person at the Arizona Department of Water Resources office (address listed below).

A public hearing to receive comments, with a virtual attendance option, will be held on **Wednesday, February 15, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.** at the following location:

Arizona Department of Water Resources
Thunder River Conference Room
1110 W. Washington Street, Suite #310
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Cisco Webex Hearing Information

Link: https://adwr.info/3GfgQGE Meeting Number (Access Code): 2591 097 3725 Meeting Password: XfyqRzZt763

or

Join by Phone

1-415-655-0001 US Toll	Access Code: 2591 097 3725
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Any person may appear at the public hearing, either in person or by representative, and submit oral or written comments. Any person attending via webinar may present oral comments. Persons presenting comments at the hearing or via webinar may be subject to a time limit to ensure all who wish to speak receive an opportunity to do so. If, because of a disability, you need a reasonable accommodation to participate equally at this public hearing, contact Lizette Fuentes at 602-771-8472 or lfuentes@azwater.gov. Please make requests as soon as possible to allow time to arrange the accommodation.

Comments not submitted at the public hearing may be submitted during the 45-day public comment period, which begins January 17, 2023 and ends March 3, 2023 at 5 p.m. Written public comments must be received no later than 5 p.m., on March 3, 2023. Written comments can be hand-delivered, or sent via email or fax. If mailed, written comments must be postmarked no later than March 3, 2023. Please send written comments electronically or in writing to:

Mailing Address

Arizona Department of Water Resources
Arizona Water Protection Fund
Attn: Reuben Teran
1802 W Jackson St. Box #79
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Email

rteran@azwater.gov

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(602) 771-8686

Physical Address

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