

ARIZONA WATER PROTECTION FUND COMMISSION

Executive Committee Meeting – October 15, 2025

Virtual Meeting via Cisco Webex

Meeting Number (Access Code): 2533 442 9414

Meeting Password: GRujVmkJ422

1-415-655-0001 US Toll

Final Meeting Minutes

ATTENDANCE

Executive Committee Members Present

Rodney Held – Chairman

Stephen Turcotte – Vice-Chairman

Commissioner Brian Biesemeyer

Arizona Water Protection Fund Staff

Lizette Fuentes

Reuben Teran

Executive Committee Members Absent

None

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Rodney Held called the meeting of the Arizona Water Protection Fund (AWPF) Executive Committee to order at 3:01 p.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER ROLL CALL

Mr. Reuben Teran called the roll of the AWPF Executive Committee. Executive Committee members present at the time of roll call included Chairman Rodney Held (via Webex) and Vice-Chairman Stephen Turcotte (via Webex), and Commissioner Brian Biesemeyer (via Webex). A quorum of the Executive Committee members was present.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Chairman Held made a call to the public. No public comments were made.

REVIEW AND CONSIDERATION OF ACTION TO APPROVE THE OCTOBER 1929, 2024, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Chairman Held called for any comments or discussion on the meeting minutes. No comments were made from the Executive Committee. Mr. Teran stated there was a typo on the agenda regarding the date of the meeting minutes where the date should have stated October 29, 2024 and not October 19, 2024. He then referred to the draft meeting minutes where the October 29, 2024 date was referenced. Vice-Chairman Turcotte made a motion to approve the October 29, 2024 Executive Committee meeting minutes, with a second from Commissioner Biesemeyer. Chairman Held called for a vote on the motion:

Chairman Rodney Held Aye

Vice-Chairman Stephen Turcotte Aye

Commissioner Brian Biesemeyer Aye

The motion passed unanimously.

22-213WPF – DYE RANCH EROSION CONTROL AND WETLAND IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

Mr. Teran stated that as part of the meeting materials provided for this agenda item the grantee has provided a written explanation of the current situation and the request for a 1-year grant award contract extension. He then introduced Audrey Owens, Ranid Frogs Project Coordinator, with the Arizona Game and Fish Department. Commissioner Biesemeyer inquired if anyone has been to the site recently and what the site conditions are after the recent rainfall. Ms. Owens responded that she was at the property on October 2, 2025 and the wetlands are holding water right now, and is hopeful that next year there will be suitable habitat for Northern leopard frogs. Commissioner Biesemeyer made a motion to approve a 1-year contract extension for this project, with a second from Vice-Chairman Turcotte. Chairman Held called for a vote on the motion:

Chairman Rodney Held	Aye
Vice-Chairman Stephen Turcottte	Aye
Commissioner Brian Biesemeyer	Aye

The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Held requested the Executive Director to provide an update on the action taken on this agenda item at the next scheduled full Commission meeting.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Chairman Held made a call to the public. No public comments were made.

ADJOURN

Vice-Chairman Turcotte made a motion to adjourn the meeting, with a second from Commissioner Biesemeyer. Chairman Held called for a vote on the motion:

Chairman Rodney Held	Aye
Vice-Chairman Stephen Turcottte	Aye
Commissioner Brian Biesemeyer	Aye

The motion passed unanimously, and Chairman Held adjourned the meeting at 3:08 p.m.

Commission Members

Rodney Held, Chairman
Stephen Turcotte, Vice Chairman
Brian Biesemeyer
Shelley Blackmore
Rolando Flores
Pat Jacobs
Frank Krentz
John Ladd
Tina Thompson

Arizona Water Protection Fund Commission

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**Ex-Officio Members**

Thomas Buschatzke
Director
AZ Department of Water Resources

Robyn Sahid
Executive Deputy Commissioner
AZ State Land Department

Executive Director

Reuben Teran

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

Pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.02, notice is hereby given that there will be a meeting of the Arizona Water Protection Fund (AWPF) Commission Executive Committee on **Wednesday, October 15th, 2025 at 3:00 p.m.** This meeting is open to the public. The AWPF Executive Committee will be conducting this meeting in a virtual format. The meeting information and agenda are described below.

Cisco Webex Meeting Information

Link: https://azwater.webex.com/azwater/j.php?MTID=mf0e18bc796ddfa54e2387999607f2c73 Meeting Number (Access Code): 2533 442 9414 Meeting Password: GRujVmkJ422

or

Join by Phone

1-415-655-0001 US Toll	Access Code: 2533 442 9414
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NOTICE OF POSSIBLE QUORUM

Pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.02, notice is hereby given to the general public that a QUORUM of the Arizona Water Protection Fund Commission may be present during the AWPF Executive Committee meeting on Wednesday, October 15, 2025 at 3:00 p.m. AWPF Commission members that are not part of the AWPF Executive Committee will not participate or vote on business discussions, in accordance with the Open Meeting Law.

Dated this 10th day of October 2025

Arizona Water Protection Fund Commission Executive Committee Meeting Agenda

- I. Call to Order – Chairman Rodney Held
- II. Executive Committee Member Roll Call – Executive Director
- III. Call to the Public – Chairman Rodney Held
- IV. Review and Consideration of Action to Approve the October 19, 2024, Executive Committee Meeting Minutes – Chairman Rodney Held

Arizona Water Protection Fund Commission
Notice of Public Meeting, Notice of Possible Quorum, and Wednesday, October 15, 2025 Meeting
Agenda (continued)

V. 22-213WPF – Dye Ranch Erosion Control and Wetland Improvement Project – Arizona Game and Fish Department

- The Commission will discuss and may take action to approve a grant award contract extension.

VI. Call to the Public – Chairman Rodney Held

VII. Adjourn – Chairman Rodney Held

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- *The Arizona Water Protection Fund Commission may elect to go into Executive Session for the purposes of obtaining legal advice from its attorney on any of the listed agenda items pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A)(3). Executive sessions are not open to the public.*
 - *Agenda items may be taken out of order. No action may be taken on items unless specifically noted on the agenda.*
 - *Members of the Arizona Water Protection Fund Commission may appear virtually or by telephone.*
 - *Agenda and backup/supporting documents can be obtained by contacting Lizette Fuentes at 602-771-8472 or lfuentes@azwater.gov.*
 - *People with disabilities may request reasonable accommodations such as interpreters, alternate formats, or assistant with physical accessibility. If you require accommodations, please contact Jennifer Marteniez at (602) 771-8426 or by e-mailing jkmarteniez@azwater.gov. Please make requests as soon as possible to allow time to arrange the accommodation.*

ARIZONA WATER PROTECTION FUND COMMISSION

Executive Committee Meeting – October 29, 2024

Virtual Meeting via Cisco Webex

Meeting Number (Access Code): 2533 662 7734

Meeting Password: WPF2024

1-415-655-0001 US Toll

DRAFT Meeting Minutes

ATTENDANCE

Executive Committee Members Present

Pat Jacobs – Chairman

Stephen Turcotte – Vice-Chairman

Arizona Water Protection Fund Staff

Lizette Fuentes

Reuben Teran

Executive Committee Members Absent

Brian Biesemeyer

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Pat Jacobs called the meeting of the Arizona Water Protection Fund (AWPF) Executive Committee to order at 10:00 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER ROLL CALL

Mr. Reuben Teran called the roll of the AWPF Executive Committee. Executive Committee members present at the time of roll call included Chairman Pat Jacobs (via Webex) and Vice-Chairman Stephen Turcotte (via Webex). A quorum of the Executive Committee members was present.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Chairman Jacobs made a call to the public. No public comments were made.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE OCTOBER 13, 2022 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Vice-Chairman Stephen Turcotte made a motion to approve the meeting minutes, with a second from Chairman Jacobs. Chairman Jacobs called for a discussion on the motion. No comments were made, and Chairman Jacobs called for a vote on the motion.

Pat Jacobs – Chairman Aye

Stephen Turcotte – Vice-Chairman Aye

The motion passed unanimously.

FISCAL YEAR 2025 GRANT APPLICATION ELIGIBILITY SCREENING

Chairman Jacobs stated that the Executive Director is recommending this application is not eligible for funding for Arizona Water Protection Fund Commission funding pursuant to State statute, and since a new precedent is being made the Chairman has requested review by Executive Committee so this determination would not just be made by the Executive Director and there would be some Commission input.

Chairman Jacobs stated there are two issues before the Executive Committee which are 1) Should we make a precedent that when an application is not eligible because of statutory reasons that we have the Exe. Committee review the ED recommendations and have the Exe. Committee make any recommendation that is appropriate, and 2) that we have the application placed on a separate agenda as an item before all other grant applications are considered. Vice-Chairman asked where staff sees the issues with this application pertaining to statute that would prevent the Commission from letting this application move forward.

Mr. Reuben Teran cited A.R.S. 45-2101(B), and then explained that based on staff review of the application, staff interprets the applicant intends to purchase various human consumable food related seed sources that will be grown out at the applicant's residence and other interested parties' residences to create more seeds, which will then be distributed, given away, or traded for other seed sources from other interested parties. He also stated that it appears the overall purpose of the project is to reduce food insecurity in Arizona and beyond but does not appear to meet any of the goals or objectives of the AWPf program or the purpose of the AWPf stated under A.R.S. 45-2101(B). Vice-Chairman stated that was his assessment also, with concurrence from Chairman Jacobs. Chairman Jacobs further stated that the project may be very beneficial, but it was not in accordance the Commission's statutory mandate.

Vice-Chairman made a motion that the Executive Committee does not let the application go forward in the review process, with a second from Chairman Jacobs.

Chairman Jacobs called for a discussion on the motion. No comments were made, and Chairman Jacobs called for a vote on the motion.

Pat Jacobs – Chairman	Aye
Stephen Turcotte – Vice-Chairman	Aye

Chairman Jacobs stated that this motion should be noted on the next full Commission meeting agenda, and it should be listed before any other grant applications are heard. Vice-Chairman concurred with this action that an introduction of the Executive Committee action prior to engaging on the other grant applications is appropriate.

CALL FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None

FUTURE MEETING DATE(S)

None

CALL TO THE PUBLIC

None

ADJOURN

Chairman Jacobs adjourned the meeting at 10:23 a.m.

extension on agreement?

aowens@azgfd.gov Audrey Owens

Monday, September 29, 2025 at 8:46:41 AM Mountain Standard Time

To: rteran@azwater.gov Reuben Teran

hi Reuben,

The Dye Ranch agreement expires Dec 31, 2025. Because of the drought, we have not been able to release northern leopard frogs into the site as we had planned this monsoon season. Our last visit to the site in June we found the site to be mostly dry due to the prolonged drought (poor 2024 monsoon and lack of significant precip in the 24/25 winter). I am preparing to do post-monsoon monitoring at Dye Ranch in October, but the site will not be ready for frogs this year, even if it is holding water now.

Release of leopard frogs into the site is task 6 in our agreement (attached) and is due Oct 31, 2025. Unfortunately, because of the drought, I cannot predict at this point when conditions will be suitable for a release, but obviously I am aiming for next year if site conditions are suitable. There is no funding tied to the release of leopard frogs since it is something AZGFD will be doing as part of our normal conservation activities for the species. We are not going to be charging any more reimbursements to this grant. I communicated with BCI about that earlier this year and although they may continue monitoring bats at the site, they are not going to be charging to this grant for the work.

I would like to request to extend for 1 year the deadline for the final report (due Nov 30, 2025) and end date on the agreement, with the new dates being:

Final report due November 30, 2026

Contract terminates on December 31, 2026

Please let me know if you are amenable to these modifications or if you would like to discuss. Thanks, Audrey

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Audrey Owens
RANID FROGS PROJECT COORDINATOR
ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT

5000 W. Carefree Highway
Phoenix, AZ 85086

OFFICE: 623-236-7515
CELL: PII [REDACTED]
EMAIL: aowens@azgfd.gov
azgfd.gov

Attachments:

Amendment_22-213WPF_DyeRanchErosionControlAndWetland_SIGNED AGREEMENT.pdf 6.7M