



Charter

Mission

The mission of the Verde River Basin Partnership (VRBP) is to produce the deliverables as specified in “Verde River Basin Partnership Deliverables” and to accomplish all the goals of Title II of Public Law No: 109-110. This will be accomplished through existing and new U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) studies and reports, and other resources, financed by various monetary and in-kind appropriations in order to develop water management options.

When this charter is accepted at a general meeting the Interim Planning Committee is dissolved and replaced as described in “Verde River Basin Partnership Structure.”

The VRBP shall request appropriations of the sums necessary to accomplish the required studies and reports to the Secretaries of the U.S. Departments of Agriculture and Interior for each fiscal year beginning 2007.

These water management options may be used by state and local jurisdictions in their water management plans.

Membership of the Verde River Basin Partnership

Membership in the VRBP shall consist of federal, state, tribal and local governments and agencies, and economic, environmental and community water interests in the Verde River Basin who are signatories to this Charter.

The VRBP shall only have those powers, duties and obligations specifically identified in Title II legislation (of Public Law No: 109-110).

Guiding Principles

1. The guiding framework for all partnership work is Title II of Public Law No. 109-110. Any questions regarding scope of work will be resolved by using Title II to decide whether or not the item is in scope or out.
2. The work of the partnership will be science-based and accepted scientific practices and approaches will be used.
3. All meetings will be open to the public. All meetings will be posted on the website calendar and meeting summaries or minutes will be published for all meetings on the website (www.vrpartnership.com).
4. Collaboration among stakeholders will be encouraged.
5. The partnership will continue to keep the door open to new members.

6. The partnership will educate the public about its work through the use of presentations and other methods.
7. Members of the partnership will maintain high ethical standards – avoid personal attacks and unsubstantiated opinions.

Verde River Basin Partnership Deliverables

Sections 204 and 205 of Title II define what the VRBP must deliver. This adds details regarding minimum requirements for these deliverables.

Studies (section 204)

The Partnership shall prepare a plan for conducting water resources studies of the Verde River Basin that identifies:

- “ The primary study objectives required to fulfill water resources planning and management for the Verde River Basin.
- “ The water resource studies, hydrologic models, surface and groundwater monitoring networks, and other analytical tools that would help to identify and quantify long-term water supply management options within the Verde River Basin.

The plan shall include the following requirements at a minimum:

- “ List of specific studies and analysis that are needed to support Partnership planning and management decisions (ongoing, completed and new studies or analysis needed).
- “ Compile a list of any ongoing or completed water resource and riparian studies that are relevant.
- “ Detail resources needed, time, cost and interrelationships (dependencies) of proposed studies.
- “ Set a high priority for compilation of a water budget analysis of the Verde River Basin within the Verde Valley under the direction of the Technical Advisory Group using U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and Arizona Department of Water Resources (ADWR) and other resources. That analysis is to be completed as a report within 14 months, subject to available appropriations, and will summarize information available on the:
 - Ø Inflow and outflow of surface water and groundwater for the Verde River Basin within the Verde Valley
 - Ø Annual consumptive use
 - Ø Changes in groundwater storage, and
 - Ø Provide an analysis of the potential long-term consequences of various water use scenarios on the Verde River flows

Preliminary Report and Recommendations

- “ Within 16 months using the information provided by the Verde River Basin water budget analysis, prepare and submit a report to the Secretary, USDA, the Governor of Arizona, and representatives of the Verde Valley communities the preliminary report containing the findings and recommendations of the Partnership regarding the long-term water supply of the Verde River Basin.
- “ The USDA may take into account the recommendations in the report with respect to decisions affecting any future sales or exchanges of Federal land in the Verde River Basin.

Final Report (Section 205)

- “ Not later than 4 years, the Partnership shall submit to the USDA and the Governor of Arizona a final report that:
 - Ø Includes a summary of the results of water resource assessments done under Title II.
 - Ø Identifies any areas in the Verde River Basin that are determined to have groundwater deficits or other current or potential water supply problems.
 - Ø Identify long-term water supply management options for communities and water resources within the Verde River Basin.
 - Ø Identifies water resource analysis and monitoring needed to support the implementation of management options.

Verde River Basin Partnership Structure

Committees

Partnership Structure Committee: The Committee will select a Chair and Vice-chair from its membership. This committee will dissolve upon the establishment of a permanent organizational structure. The Committee will report to the general partnership the final version of the structure, charter and by-laws developed by the committee for its approval..

Technical Advisory Group: May work with other agencies to determine what is required to meet the reporting requirements of Title II. Identifies gaps in current knowledge and proposes actions necessary to fill those gaps. Defines the working relationship between the other agencies and the permanent technical advisory group that will be a component of the Partnership. Committee selects Chair and Vice-chair. Reports to the general partnership.

Communication Committee: Develops effective methods for communication within the Partnership and between the Partnership and elected officials, the general public and the media. Committee selects Chair and Vice-chair. Reports to the general partnership.

Coordinating Committee: At the direction of the Partnership this committee will: schedule meetings of the general partnership, call for and set the agenda for meetings, hold its own periodic meetings, serve as a clearinghouse for communications between committees, and coordinate any required funding activities. The chairman of the Coordinating Committee chairs the general meetings. At the direction of the Partnership this committee may form additional committees. Membership would include the Chairs of the other committees and a number of at-large members so as to make the committee size nine. The committee shall elect a Chair and Vice-chair. Future selection of at-large members shall be done by the Partnership.

This committee continues until establishment of a permanent Partnership structure.

Verde River Basin Partnership Charter – Signatory’s Page

Pursuant to and in furtherance of the purposes of US Senate Bill S.161, which provides for the creation of a Verde River Basin Partnership:

- *Among federal, State and Local agencies; and other entities with responsibilities and experience in water including economic, environmental and community water interests*

And recognizing that the purpose of the Partnership:

- *Is to coordinate and cooperate in the identification and implementation of science-based policies, projects and management activities relating to the Verde River Basin in Arizona.*

We, the undersigned organizations, do hereby certify our interest in being considered a “Member”

- *And are willing to aid the Partnership through our named representative who recognizes that there may be as much as 3 hours of work each week.*
- *Understand that the attached Charter will evolve during future meetings, addressing issues as: goals, size and composition, leadership and structure, financial contributions, etc.*
- *And furthermore understand that we can withdraw from this understanding at any time.*

ORGANIZATION:

REPRESENTATIVE:

EMAIL:

PHONE/DATE:

WEBSITE:

Note: If there are additional representatives from your organization please provide their information on a separate page so that we can register each for website access.

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Thank you for your participation in the process of organizing a Verde River Basin Partnership.

Comments

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