

**Gila Watershed Partnership
Minutes of the October 8, 2008 meeting**

The Gila Watershed Partnership held its September 10, 2008, meeting in the Graham County General Services Building. Chairman Philip Ronnerud called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

Welcome and Introductions:

The following people attended the meeting: Chairman Ronnerud, Greenlee County; Robert Porter, City of Safford; Mel Taylor, ADEQ; Bill Brandau, Cooperative Extension; John Fortune, ADWR; Drew John, Graham County; Jennifer Varin, NRCS; Dick Kaler, Greenlee County rancher; Melvina Adolf, Greenlee Cooperative Extension; Steve Marlatt, Pinaleno Partnership; Jay Howe, City of Safford; and Jan Holder, GWP.

Call to the Public: There were no speakers.

Approval of the Minutes: Approval of the September minutes was tabled until the next meeting, as the minutes were incomplete.

Financial Report: Melvina Adolf moved to approve, and Drew John seconded the motion. The motion was approved. The financial statement was approved as corrected.

Presentation: Mr. John Fortune gave a fascinating presentation on the Flood Plain Insurance Program.

Grant Status Report: A vote was held to see if the GWP would develop a grant to research the septic systems in York Valley. Jay Howe made a motion to develop the grant and Bill Brandau seconded the motion. The motion passed. Jan Holder gave a status report on our open grants.

Reports from our advisors:

ADEQ: Mel Taylor said that if anyone knew about any underground abandoned gas tanks, to let him know. There may be funds available to help with remediation. If the current owners did not put in the tanks, or take gas out of the tanks, there is no cost to them. Phil Ronnerud said there is one in Sheldon.

Pinaleno Partnership – Steve Marlatt said that the festival on Mount Graham turned out great. He remarked that Friday was a better day than Saturday.

Graham County Cooperative Extension – Bill Brandau reported that they are advertising for a water conservation person. It will be a part-time position. He said that the BLM's Healthy Lands Initiative proposal is still being developed. He remarked that they have approximately 140 animal entries in the county fair – which is a lot more than in previous years. They also have a great collection of vintage 4H memorabilia.

Adjournment: A motion was by John Fortune at 9:50 to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Melvina Adolf. The motion was passed.