

**Regional Plan Focus Group 2**  
***Conservation of Water, Energy and the Environment***  
**AGENDA**

**September 24<sup>th</sup> 2009**

***Coconino Community College – Lone Tree Campus***

***2800 S. Lone Tree Rd.***

***Flagstaff, AZ 86001-2701***

***4:00p.m. to 7:00 p.m.***

***\*\* Parking Passes will be provided at sign-in at entrance to CCC (see map next page) – you will need to put this parking pass on your car, so please allow a few minutes for that. \*\****

**4:00– 4:15 p.m. (15 min.) Welcome & Opening Remarks**

*Paul Babbitt, CAC Chair*

The Commons Room

**4:15 – 5:45 p.m. (90 min.) Three break-out Groups:**

*Bill Towler, FAICP (instructions)*

**- Water & Water Conservation – Board Room**

*Brad Hill, Sue Pratt & Kim Sharp*

1. ARS requirement
2. Existing policies
3. Current conditions
4. SWOT Analysis
5. 1-3 policy statements

**- Energy & Energy Conservation – APS Room**

*- Rebecca Sayers, Amanda Acheson, Tiffany Antol*

1. ARS requirement
2. Existing policies
3. Current conditions
4. SWOT Analysis
5. 1-3 policy statements

**- Environment & Environmental Conservation – The Commons Room**

*- Sarah Reif, Bill Towler, Bob Hoffa, April Laliberte*

1. ARS requirement
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5. 1-3 policy statements

**5:45 – 6:00 p.m. (15 min.)**

**BREAK – *Light food will be provided***

**6:00 p.m. – 7:00 (60 min.) Reconvene in Multipurpose Room**

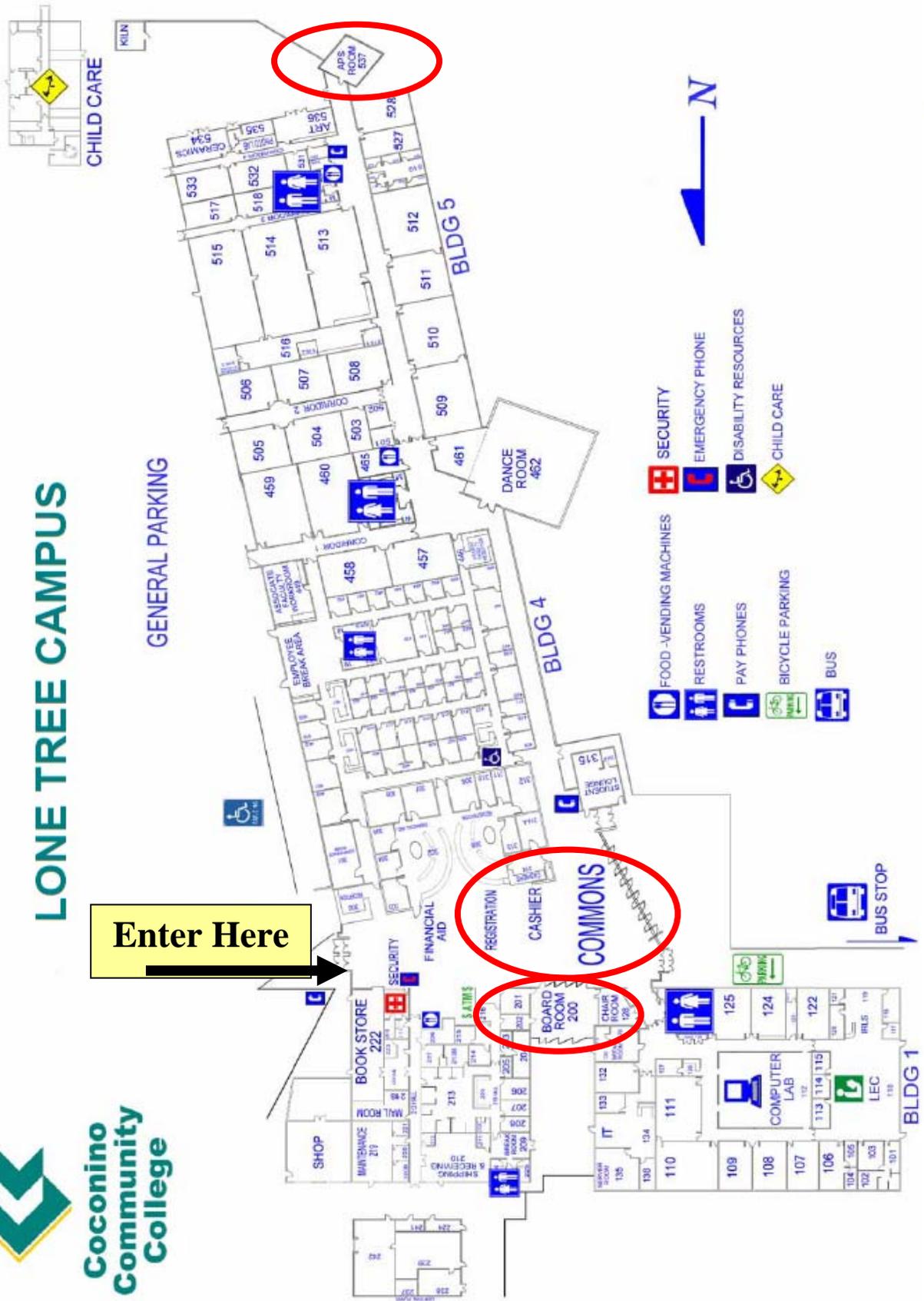
*Planning Staff facilitation*

*Jim Cronk, Planning Director*

- Group highlights
- Overlap / conflicts
- Next Steps

[www.flagstaff.az.us/regionalplan](http://www.flagstaff.az.us/regionalplan)

# LONE TREE CAMPUS



# Break-out Group 1: Water & Water Conservation – Board Room

Brad Hill & Sue Pratt

## I. ARS 9-461 requirement - A water resources element that addresses:

- (a) The known legally and physically available surface water, groundwater and effluent supplies.
- (b) The demand for water that will result from future growth projected in the general plan, added to existing uses.
- (c) An analysis of how the demand for water that will result from future growth projected in the general plan will be served by the water supplies identified in subdivision (a) of this paragraph or a plan to obtain additional necessary water supplies.

## II. Existing policies

*Under “Natural/Cultural Resources and the Environment”*

**Policy NCR1.2—Sustainable Levels of Water Use.** Support Plan support on-going analyses to identify the sustainable levels of water use that can be maintained relative to development and the community living within its resources.

Strategy NCR1.2(b) - use reclaimed water

Strategy NCR1.2(c) - promote joint use of water features

Strategy NCR1.3(a) - initiate appropriate and time-sensitive water use programs

Strategy NCR1.3(b) - initiate and maintain ground water monitoring program

Strategy NCR1.3(c) - pursue a naturalized greenbelt channel with Flagstaff Urban Trails System accesses wherever possible

*No Goals or Policies under “Water Resources”*

## III. Current conditions

See ‘Water’ Cliff Notes + Additional materials / maps:

## IV. Discussion Questions:

1. (Review existing policies) – Do we do these things? How well?
2. Should there be a link between development and water supply?
3. What are the biggest water resource challenges we must address?
4. Where are opportunities for water resource management for our area?
5. What are the threats to our water resource management?
6. What is an appropriate level of conservation that should be required—e.g. should all homes and businesses be required to use greywater and rain water catchment for certain uses such as water closets and landscaping? Any difference for city/county areas of the region?
7. Should the City develop a level of redundancy in its water supply and production facilities for drought protection and reliability?

## V. SWOT Analysis

Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats – these comments are usually being formulated by a planner in the back in reflection to main discussion.

## VI. 1-3 policy statements

## Break-out Group 2: Energy & Energy Conservation – APS Room

*Rebecca Sayers, Amanda Aacheson, Tiffany Antol, APS representative, Southwest Windpower representative*

### **I. ARS 9-461 requirement - The energy element will include:**

- (a) A component that identifies policies that encourage and provide incentives for efficient use of energy; and
- (b) An assessment that identifies policies and practices that provide for greater uses of renewable energy sources.

### **II. Existing policies**

*No existing Energy policies in RLUTP 2001*

### **III. Current conditions**

See 'Energy' Cliff Notes + Additional materials / maps:

### **IV. Discussion Questions:**

1. What are the strengths we have in this region for energy efficiency?
2. What are the strengths we have in this region for renewable energy?
3. What are the weaknesses for both?
4. What are the opportunities for both?
5. What are the threats for both?
6. What are the broader benefits of writing an energy policy?
7. What is the effect of water on this energy discussion? (lifecycle of energy needed to provide clean water at a sustainable capacity)
8. How does land use planning relate to energy efficiency and renewable energy?
9. How is energy related to transportation/new development?
10. How do energy and water efficiency codes impact the broader picture?

### **V. SWOT Analysis**

Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats – these comments are usually being formulated by a planner in the back in reflection to main discussion.

### **VI. 1-3 policy statements**

## Break-out Group 3:

### Environment & Environmental Conservation – Multipurpose Room

- Sarah Reif, Bill Towler, Bob Hoffa

#### I. ARS 9-461 requirement -

An **environmental planning element** that contains analyses, policies and strategies to address anticipated effects, if any, of plan elements on air quality, water quality and natural resources associated with proposed development under the general plan. The policies and strategies to be developed under this element shall be designed to have community-wide applicability and shall not require the production of an additional environmental impact statement or similar analysis beyond the requirements of state and federal law.

A **conservation element** for the conservation, development and utilization of natural resources, including forests, soils, rivers and other waters, harbors, fisheries, wildlife, minerals and other natural resources. The conservation element may also cover:

- (a) The reclamation of land.
- (b) Flood control.
- (c) Prevention and control of the pollution of streams and other waters.
- (d) Regulation of the use of land in stream channels and other areas required for the accomplishment of the conservation plan.
- (e) Prevention, control and correction of the erosion of soils, beaches and shores.
- (f) Protection of watersheds.

#### II. Existing policies

##### Goal of the Natural and Cultural Resources and the Environment Element

*High standards will be maintained for protection and improvement of the region's quality of life offered by its natural and cultural, historic and archaeological resources and its natural environment.*

Policies in existing Regional Plan:

- NCR1.1 Improve Air Quality
- NCR1.3 Sustainable Levels of Water Use
- NCR 1.5 Address Natural Hazard Areas
- NCR 1.6 Abate Noise Impacts
- NCR1.7 Minimize Waste
- NCR1.8 Address Hazardous Materials Disposal and Reduction
- NCR1.9 Protect Dark Skies
- NCR1.10 Protect Archeological and Cultural Resources
- NCR 1.11 Promote the Community's Cultural Diversity
- NCR1.12 Plan within an Ecosystem Framework
- NCR1.13 Maintain and Restore Natural Processes and Systems
- NCR1.14 Promote Forest Restoration and Sustainable Management
- NCR1.15 Protect Hillside and Ridgelines
- NCR1.16 Identify Natural Hazardous Areas and Control Development
- NCR1.17 Address Flood Hazards
- NCR1.18 Inventory Eradicate or Control Noxious Weeds, and Restore Native Vegetation
- NCR1.19 Create a "FireWise" Community
- NCR1.20 Encourage Energy Conservation Measures

### **III. Current conditions**

See 'Environment' Cliff Notes + Additional materials / maps:

### **IV. Discussion Questions:**

Purpose: To obtain feedback on the current plan and desired changes/future direction. How do we allow our community to grow while conserving natural resources? How do we live sustainably in our community without degrading or using up our natural resources over time? How can we make the Flagstaff region "greener"?

(5 min) **Sarah Reif** – Welcome and Introduction to Break-out Group

*Describe the process for the next 90 minutes –*

- Hand out existing goals and policies
- Reiterate our purpose, we have 90 minutes to get there
- As one large group, we will tackle Env Quality, Veg and Wildlife in two 30-min. sessions
- Encourage open dialogue, we will be capturing comments as we go, there will be overlap with other groups
- In the last 30 min. we will discuss Strengths, Weaknesses, Threats, and Opportunities (SWOT)

(30 min) **Bill Towler, Bob Hoffa, April Laliberte** – Environmental Quality

*Point out the existing goals and policies on the handout that relate to Environmental Quality*

*Ask Questions –*

- Do the existing policies cover all of the environmental issues, or should the regional plan address others?
- Currently the air quality in the Flagstaff area is excellent, except occasionally. Should more be done to restrict emissions, for example woodstoves and fireplaces, industrial emissions?
- There was recently a letter to the editor requesting more lighting at Wheeler Park (while recognizing the dark sky ordinance). How should we balance safety with the desire for dark skies?
- Many would prefer to leave all floodplains in their natural state, yet most cross private property. Can we balance property rights with the desire to protect floodplains?
- How does development impact our natural resources?
- Should preserving and remediating our environment be considered before development?
- How can the City and County best encourage residents to reduce resource consumption?
- What is a realistic goal for diverting waste from the landfill in the next 5, 10, and 20 years and what techniques should be used to achieve this goal?
- What sort of regulations, if any, should be created to reduce waste production and increase landfill diversion?
- There are currently no policies in place to direct development to infill projects and our greenfields are more likely developed. Is this an area of discussion?

Write group's comments on board

(30 min) **Sarah Reif** – Vegetation and Wildlife

***Point out the existing goals and policies on the handout that relate to Veg & Wildlife***

***Ask Questions*** –

- If Flagstaff were to continue to grow and develop, would our existing policies provide for conservation of wildlife habitats, wildlife movement corridors, and sensitive plant communities?
- What role do you think the City and County should play in terms of forest, stream, and grassland restoration?
- What role do you think the City and County should play in habitat conservation?
- [Describe a Conservation Lands System]. If Flagstaff were to adopt a CLS, what elements would be important for conservation? Examples: wildlife, plant communities, canyons, mesas....
- In order to implement a CLS, the community has to be willing to avoid losses of those elements. What are the trade-offs in terms of land use and transportation? Are there other trade-offs?

Write group's  
comments on board

(30 min) **Bill Towler** – SWOT Analysis

Strengths – What Flagstaff environmental conservation efforts DO YOU LIKE?

Weaknesses – What Flagstaff region environmental conservation efforts ARE LACKING?

Opportunities – The Flagstaff region has the potential to do WHAT for environmental conservation?

Threats – The Flagstaff region's natural environment is threatened by WHAT?

Review group's comments on board

Select one member of the group to present SWOT findings to whole group

## **VI. 1-3 policy statements**

### **RECONVENE – The Commons Room – 6 p.m.**

*Jim Cronk*

1. Ask each group to present their SWOT Analysis and policy statement, if any  
(10 minutes each – 30 min. total)
2. What are the similarities / overlap?
3. What are the conflicts?
4. NEXT STEPS:
  - a. This information will be posted to the website and presented at the October 1 CAC meeting
  - b. There will be a policy survey, through [www.surveymonkey.com](http://www.surveymonkey.com), that all CAC members and folks who joined us today will be invited to participate in. This survey will be based upon what has come out of this focus group.
  - c. Draft policies will be presented at the October 22 TOWN HALL meeting – City Hall, 5:30 p.m.
  - d. Actual drafting of the Regional Plan document is scheduled for this time next year – see full schedule for all of the 'subjects' or elements that must be addressed.
  - e. Thank you.