

City Report June 25, 2007

The past four weeks since Cottonwood's new Mayor and three new Council Members were seated have been hectic and productive. Council Members chose Council veteran Karen Pfeifer as the Vice Mayor. Serving on the City Council and attending Tuesday evening Council meetings are only part of the commitment Council members make to the community. They also have accepted assignments to serve on a variety of boards, committees, and organizations in addition to their regular City Council work.

Council Member Duane Kirby will represent the City Council at Northern Arizona Council of Governments (NACOG). Northern Arizona Council of Governments represents local governments in providing many services within the four Arizona counties of Apache, Coconino, Navajo, and Yavapai. They administer important programs like Head Start, economic and workforce development, housing programs, Meals on Wheels, Community Development Block Grants, and distribute federal monies for highways and road construction, including transportation enhancement funds. NACOG assists the Verde Valley Senior Center and administers other programs on aging. NACOG serves a four-county region of approximately 24,000 square miles. NACOG generally meets quarterly on the fourth Thursday at 10 a.m. Information is available at <http://www.nacog.org/>. Council Member Terence Pratt is the NACOG alternate.

Council Member Pratt will serve on the Verde Valley Transportation Planning Organization (VVTPO). This very important regional organization includes representation from the Arizona Department of Transportation, NACOG, Yavapai County, and the cities and towns of the Verde Valley—Cottonwood, Sedona, Jerome, Camp Verde and Clarkdale. Decisions about funding allocations are made at VVTPO, and regional transportation planning is a main objective. ADOT reports on projects like SR 260, SR 179, the I-17 Verde River Bridge Deck, and the SR 89A Cement Plant Road to Black Hills Drive project. The county, cities and towns report on their local projects. This organization meets the fourth Wednesday of every other month at 8 a.m. in the Verde Room of the Yavapai County Annex, 10 South 6th Street. Agendas and minutes are available on the county's Web site, www.co.yavapai.az.us. Mayor Joens is the alternate.

Vice Mayor Karen Pfeifer was selected to represent the Council on the Northern Arizona Municipal Water Users Association (NAMWUA). Participants of NAMWUA include the northern Arizona cities and towns of Cottonwood, Sedona, Chino Valley, Clarkdale, Flagstaff, Prescott, Prescott Valley, Williams and Payson. The various communities recognize that adequate water resources are critical to the quality of life and economic well-being of residents in both incorporated and unincorporated areas, and commit to cooperative efforts to address water resources issues on a regional basis. This board meets quarterly. The next meeting is July 20 at 10 a.m. in Prescott Valley. Mayor Joens is the alternate.

Council Member Linda Norman was reappointed to serve on Northern Arizona Intergovernmental Public Transportation Authority (NAIPTA). NAIPTA is a regional organization including Coconino and Yavapai Counties; the cities of Flagstaff, Sedona, and Cottonwood; and Northern Arizona University that coordinates planning and transportation services. NAIPTA meets the third Wednesday of the month at 10 a.m. Meeting information is available at <http://www.naipta.az.gov/>. Council Member Ron Hollis is the alternate.

Mayor Joens was reappointed by the Council to serve on the Yavapai County Water Advisory Committee (YC-WAC). WAC is committed to preserving sustainable water resources for future generations while enhancing the economic viability of the County. Members are dedicated to meeting the long-term water resource needs of their customers - the citizens of the Yavapai County region. They will accomplish their goals by developing and enacting a total water management strategy through a consensus of their coalition members. This group meets the third Wednesday of the month at 2 p.m. in various watershed communities. Meeting information is available on the County's Web site, www.co.yavapai.az.us. Council Member Tim Elinski is the alternate.

Council Member Eliniski was appointed to the Cocopai Resource Conservation and Development Council. The name Cocopai is a combination of Coconino and Yavapai Counties. The RC&D program is a unique combination of private enterprise and federal assistance that encourages the blending of natural resource use with local economic and social values. Program objectives address improving the quality of life, including social, economic and environmental

concerns; continuing prudent use of natural resources; and strengthening local citizens' ability to utilize available resources of assistance through federal and state agencies, and other public and private entities. The group has worked on a master trails plan process for the Verde Valley, and brought the Wayne Latham Family Grant Resource Database to the Cottonwood City Library for local non-profits' use. They meet the third Monday every other month at 10 a.m. in various communities. www.cocopai.org. Mayor Joens is the alternate.

The Council reappointed Mayor Joens to serve on the Verde River Basin Partnership. President George Bush signed the Northern Arizona Land Exchange and Verde River Basin Partnership Act of 2005 into law on Nov. 22. Title II of this legislation authorizes assistance for a collaborative and science-based water resource planning and management partnership for the Verde River Basin in the state of Arizona, consisting of members that represent federal, state and local agencies; and economic, environmental, and community water interests in the Verde River Basin. Meeting information is available at www.vrpartnership.com. Council Member Pratt is the alternate.

Vice Mayor Pfeifer was reappointed to the Cottonwood Personnel Board. Information about Cottonwood's Boards and Commissions is available at <http://www.ci.cottonwood.az.us/BoardsComm.htm>.

Council Member Elinski was appointed to serve on the Verde Valley Land Preservation Institute (VVLPI). The mission is to develop and implement strategies to preserve and enhance the natural open space of the Verde Valley. The Institute ensures a public collaborative process involving scientific research, education, planning, and land acquisition, management, development, and preservation techniques. Information is available at <http://www.verdevalleyipi.org/>. Council Member Norman is the alternate.

Mayor Joens will serve on the Resolution Committee for the Arizona League of Cities and Towns. At the annual conference, the resolutions process develops League policy for the next Arizona Legislative session. Made up mostly of the state's Mayors, membership votes on the developed policy and adopts a Municipal Policy Statement to guide the League's policies and lobbying efforts for the coming Legislative Session. The League of Arizona Cities and Towns defends the principle that local decision makers, not another level of government, know their communities best. The people of a community voluntarily create their cities and towns to provide local self-government and vital services. Each municipality, acting through its elected governing body, must have the freedom to pursue self-government and local determination. Information about the League of Cities and Towns is available at <http://www.azleague.org/>. The annual conference is scheduled for Aug. 28-31. The Resolutions Committee will meet Aug. 28.

The Cottonwood City Council also created its first Cottonwood Airport Commission. These appointments generated much interest from the community, with 18 people applying for a seat. Congratulations to Donald Thompson, Billy Tinin, Lawrence Minch, Margaret Austell, Jim Moeny, Aleck Gradijan, Jr. and Allyson Waak, who were appointed by the Council on June 19. The first meeting of the new Airport Commission is scheduled for Monday, July 2 at 6 p.m. The meetings are open to the public. Check the City's Web site to verify updates for date, time, location and agenda. <http://www.ci.cottonwood.az.us/BoardsComm.htm>.

Mayor Diane Joens