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Regional Transportation Authority Wildlife Linkages Working Group

Administrative Summary/Legal Action Items of 9:00 a.m., May 14, 2010, Meeting

Committee Members

Charles Barclay, ADOT OES NRMG
Carolyn Campbell, CSDP
Jennifer Christelman, Town of Marana
Janice Cuaron, COT DOT
Mike Demlong, AZGFD
Debra Einweck, Town of Sahuarita
Rick Ellis, PCDOT, Chair
Jessica Lamberton, Sky Island Alliance
Christina McVie, Tucson Audubon Society
Phil Trenary, Town of Oro Valley

Public/Agencies

David Grandmaison, AZGFD (presenter)
Shawn Lowery, AZGFD
Scott Richardson, USFWS
Sherry Ruther, PC ES
Ray Schweinsburg, PhD, AZGFD (presenter)

Staff

Jim DeGrood
Steve Matthews
Joan Reedy
Teresa Ruiz

Item 1 – Call to Order and Introductions

The meeting was called to order by Rick Ellis at 9:00 a.m. Introductions were made.

Item 2 - Approval of Minutes of Oct. 9, 2009

Motion was made by Mike Demlong to approve the minutes of the April 9, 2010, meeting, seconded by Christina McVie, and unanimously approved.

Item 3 – RTA Board Updates

Jim DeGrood provided an update of the recent meetings of the RTA Board and the modern streetcar. He also reported that the RTA projects approved to date still stand at 394.

Item 5 – Project Updates

Mr. Ellis requested a change to the agenda order reversing Item 4 and 5, which was approved.

David Grandmaison, Research Biologist, Arizona Game and Fish Department, presented an update on two RTA projects he has been working on, the Pima County Wildlife Movement

through Culvert Study and Wildlife Fencing Studies. It is anticipated that the studies will be completed and a final report given later this year.

Item 4 – Project Proposals for Consideration

Ms. Siobhan Nordhaugen requested to table the proposal distributed in the meeting packet on the Comprehensive Monitoring of Wildlife Crossing Structure Effectiveness on SR 77 (Tortolita – Santa Catalina Linkage) and the University of Arizona Budget Final Version. This proposal is sponsored by ADOT, Pima County and the Town of Oro Valley. She suggested having more of a discussion instead of a review. Her recommendation was accepted with no action taken.

Dr. Ray Schweinsburg, Program Manager, Arizona Game and Fish Department, Research Branch, presented the Pima County Wildlife Connectivity Assessment (Workshop) Proposal sponsored by the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) and Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD). Dr. Schweinsburg explained that this workshop would focus on connectivity of areas in Pima County building on the work that has already been done by the Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan (SDCP). Clarity and refinements to the document will be made and brought before the Working Group at a future date.

Item 10 – Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:17 a.m. by Chair Rick Ellis.