



ARIZONA STATE SENATE
Forty-ninth Legislature, First Regular Session

PROGRAM PRESENTATION
Arizona Water Institute

Background

The Arizona Water Institute (AWI) was established in 2006 as a partnership among Arizona State University, Northern Arizona University and the University of Arizona to collect, organize and disseminate resources and information relating to water research, resource management, technology and sustainability. The partnership also includes a collaborative effort with three Arizona state agencies – the Department of Water Resources (ADWR), the Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) and the Department of Commerce (ADOC).

As part of its mission, the AWI facilitates research, community assistance and analytical support to serve as a research clearinghouse regarding water resources. The AWI also provides education and training to the state, local and tribal governments for conserving and managing water in environments that are arid or semi-arid.

The AWI funded 34 collaborative projects on various hydrological issues in its first two years. These projects address water quality, water and energy conservation, water reuse, drought planning, support for tribes and watershed issues among others.

The AWI has an executive committee that provides direction and oversight to AWI. The committee includes the Vice-President of Research from each university, the Chief of Staff of the Governor's office, the chairperson of a 38-member external advisory board and the Director of the ADWR.

Fiscal Information

Laws 2006, Chapter 350, expressly appropriated \$1.5 million in state General Fund monies to the universities for use by AWI. In addition, 15 FTE positions were created and divided evenly among the universities. The majority of the funding has been used to support collaborative projects that support water sustainability in the state.

In FY 2007-2008 and FY 2008-2009, funding was reduced to \$1.2 million and 12 FTE positions. For those years, AWI funding became part of each university's operating budget.

In addition to university funding, the AWI receives outside contributions from water and energy utilities, cities and counties. It has received grants from the Arizona Community Foundation and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. The AWI also conducts fundraising activities to help defray the costs of its research.

PROGRAM PRESENTATION

Arizona Water Institute

Page 2

Committee Activity

Kathy Jacobs, director of AWI, provided an overview of the program to the NRIPD Committee on February 9, 2009. Topics of discussion included:

- An overview of AWI and research projects;
- Impact of budget reductions to AWI;
- Outside contributions and funding;
- The future of the AWI.

FY 2008-2009 Budget Action

Because funding for AWI comes from each university's operating budget, Kathy Jacobs reported that AWI funding will be eliminated as a result of the budget reductions to university funding.

Attachments

- AWI 2007 and 2008 Funded Projects At-A-Glance
- AWI handouts to the NRIPD Committee

Prepared by Senate Research

February 16, 2009

TD/jas