

Formation of the Yavapai County League of Unincorporated Communities

BCRC has been invited to join in establishing, along with representatives of other unincorporated communities within Yavapai County, a coalition of community organization called The Yavapai County League of Unincorporated Communities. The representative of each of the unincorporated communities met twice to discuss the need for such an organization and developed and adopted a mission statement for further adoption by each of the member councils/associations. Common areas of concerns to be addressed by such an alliance are:

- Transportation
- Land Use – Open Space, Zoning, Planning, Recreation
- Resource Management – Water
- Education
- Planning for Sustainability
- Economic Development

An initial annual fee of \$100.00 was agreed upon to get things moving.

The Verde Valley side of Yavapai County would include the following organizations representing approximately 35,000 residents:

- Beaver Creek Regional Council
- Big Park Regional Coordinating Council
- Cornville Community Association
- Bridgeport Community Association
- Verde Villages Property Owners Association

The Prescott side of Yavapai County would include the following organizations representing approximately 20,000 residents:

- Williamson Valley Community Organization
- Paulden Area Community Organization

The following communities have not yet responded to the coalition:

- Ashfork
- Skull Valley

The mission statement adopted is as follows:

YAVAPAI COUNTY LEAGUE OF UNINCORPORATED COMMUNITIES

ADOPTED 3/1/2009: The Yavapai County League of Unincorporated Communities, a voluntary membership organization as defined in the bylaws, exists to provide information and tools to all its members and advocate the interests of unincorporated communities regarding public policy to elected representatives, officials, and agencies of government.

Economic Recovery Funds Projects

The unincorporated communities are feeling under-represented in the distribution of stimulus funds and projects of concern to these communities. The Beaver Creek community is no exception. The presidents of the Verde Valley area community organizations are preparing proposals to various County and State departments for this and future rounds of funding.

Coconino Forest Plan Revision

The Coconino Forest is in the early stages of revising the Forest Plan. They are working to complete initial evaluation reports of trends and conditions on the forest, as well as identifying needs for change in the current plan. The public will have an opportunity to provide feedback on the two remaining reports (Ecological Sustainability Report and the Comprehensive Evaluation Report) when they are complete. Afterwards, they will be re-engaging the public more heavily to help develop/refine the revised Forest Plan and hope to start that public engagement process later this year. BCRC Open Space and Transportation Committees will now be receiving update communication on the process.

New organization South of the Confluence of Wet Beaver and Dry Beaver Creek – in Lower McGuireville area.

A new not-for-profit property owners organization is being formed in this location for the expressed purpose collecting, securing and distributing funds, contract for services, maintenance of area crossing and roadways and assumption of the liability of the crossing and public easements in the area on behalf of its membership.

This membership has decided to construct a crossing at the end of Reay Rd along a public easement meeting with Stagecoach road across Beaver Creek exiting at the road leading to Montezuma's Castle National Monument and Middle Verde Road. The cost will be approximately \$100K. Half of the cost of the crossing will be paid by the Beaver Creek Estates LLC, as a member of the organization and the balance paid by the balance of members on a cash and in-kind basis.

Creek Rescue

A dramatic rescue of Heather Coules – a south of Reay Road crossing resident and her boyfriend Terry were rescued after being swept off the Reay Road culvert crossing during a snow melt high water event. The accident happened about 7:30p.m., February 23rd while driving their quad across the crossing. The rescue appeared on Arizona's CBS – NBC – ABC - FOX – National CNN's Lou Dobbs Report & HNN news, the Weather Channel, the Verde Valley News and the Camp Verde Bugle newspapers.

- **The important thing:** Heather and Terry are o.k., suffering minor bruises.
- **The miracle:** They survived the 3 hour ordeal in the water.
- **The scary reality:** It took 3 hours to get to them during the rescue – just less than 50 feet from the crossing and the shore.
- **The irony:** The residents had just met less than 35 hours before the incident to discuss the impact of poor access on safety and emergency response times and some solutions.
- **The tragedy:** IF WE DO NOTHING TO CORRECT THE PROBLEM UNTIL SOMEONE DIES &/or SUES.

This is not just a South of Reay Road Crossing problem, or Lower McGuireville problem or even Beaver Creek Regional problem. It is a problem that exists throughout the State of Arizona rural communities due in major part to 'wildcat developments' that have been ignored for far too long and further impacted by growth. We are merely an example of its effects.