



# PINAL PARTNERSHIP

*Uniting the Vision for  
Pinal County*

*Quarterly Newsletter*

*May 2011*

## **The Past, Present and Future!**

Welcome to our 4<sup>th</sup> Newsletter Edition! The year 2011 has been moving and shaking and we have been running to keep up. We started out the year talking about Medical Marijuana and how this will be implemented in Arizona. In February we had a sold out event with the new County Manager Fritz Behring who is helping shape Pinal County into an even better place to work, live, and play. In March we were honored to have Congressman Paul Gosar as our speaker. In April we had an Economic Development update with an all star lineup featuring Barry Broome, Chris Brady, Mayor Bob Jackson and Barry Albrecht.

This past month we were excited to hear from top solar experts as well as Arizona Corporation Commission Chair Gary Pierce. Looking ahead we will be adding more breakfasts that are informational and thought provoking.



---

### *IN THIS EDITION*

Chairman Message	2
President Message	3
Membership	4
Committee Updates	5-9
Upcoming Events	9

---

Pinal Partnership is uniting the vision for Pinal County by living up to our mission which is to “improve research, planning and coordination of private and public efforts related to infrastructure, nature resources, and community development in Pinal County.”

We have 7 very active committees that are working hard to accomplish great things in Pinal County. We would invite you get actively involved by joining and participating in one of our committees.



## FROM OUR CHAIRMAN – Edward Farrell

Pinal Partnership Board of Directors will continue to work with the respective governments as well as the private sector to help position Pinal County to be ready as the economy slowly rebounds. It is through the efforts of public/private partnerships that we will be able to address the many issues that will continue to face one of the fastest growing counties in the nation – growth issues such as the “Sun Corridor”, Transportation issues such as the I-11 from Nevada south to the west of Maricopa to State Highway 8, the North South Freeway from Apache Junction south to State Highway 10 near Eloy, State Land, Superstition Vistas, Open Space/Trails, Quality Jobs and Education – The list goes on and on.

Pinal Partnership addresses current affairs and issues through the monthly breakfast meetings and through committees established by the Board of Directors.

The Following Committees are working on their respective topics:

- Economic Development
- Education
- Government Affairs
- Health and Human Service
- Parks, Trails, Open Space and Public Lands
- Renewable Energy
- Transportation and Infrastructure

These committees also refer topics to the Board of Directors as recommendations for Breakfast Panels. In certain instances they also recommend that the Board of directors support or oppose legislative issues and request that Pinal Partnership take a position and advocacy. In addition, when the need arises, special committees are formed to address specific issues to research and advocate solutions. The committees are made up of representatives from the government and the private sectors. Should you wish to join any of these committees and be on their meeting notification list send that request to Heather Hedelius at [Heather@pinalpartnership.com](mailto:Heather@pinalpartnership.com). We welcome your participation.

Government alone cannot solve the multitude of challenges coming our way, the private sector alone cannot solve the multitude of challenges coming our way, but together we can.

Edward Farrell

Chairman

Pinal Partnership

## FROM OUR PRESIDENT& CEO – Sandie Smith

In my travels throughout Pinal County I am reminded daily of the beauty of our county. I also meet and work with a multitude of committed government and private sector individuals who want to create a place where the residents of Pinal County can live, work and play. To do that we have to commit ourselves to economic development and creating jobs while preserving our “quality of Life”. As we work toward that goal, we have to keep in mind that we need to resolve the issues of transportation, education and the overall “quality of life” topics that need to be addressed. Each area within Pinal County has some shared issues and some areas have unique issues that apply mostly to their area.

We have agriculture, equestrian property, urban areas, rural areas, Indian Communities and a massive amount of State Land. In addition we have Federal Forest Properties as well as land managed by the Bureau of Land Management. The needs shared in all these areas are for adequate transportation routes and transportation means, services such as public safety, health care, education, trails and open spaces. Some of our areas are more rural and some are becoming more urban in nature. Some of our areas are surrounded by public lands and some by ranching and farming. Pinal County is bordered by the two largest counties in Arizona – in fact – Pinal County is right in the middle and these two counties and their citizens affect us and our way of life. Pinal County is large and diverse with 5,386 square miles of land. One quarter of the 5,386 square miles is currently in private hands. One third of Pinal County’s land mass is State Land – land that has the possibility of being sold to private interests. There is also the challenge – and opportunity to provide for trails and regional parks. However the challenge remains in how do we pay for it and how do we provide for the maintenance of these public lands. But as with any challenge there are opportunities that need to be explored to address and solve the problems.

Although I have listed many challenges here, I know there are others that can be added to the list. But through good planning up front and multiple partnerships we can address each one. To do this we must work with Government, the Development Community and the Citizens of Pinal County in partnership to create the solutions to our challenges and identify and take advantage of the opportunities that abound within the wonderful 5,386 square miles of beauty that is Pinal County.

Join Pinal Partnership as a member and serve on the committee of your choice. It is easy to be a part of this effort. To find out how, you can reach me at the contact numbers below.

Vince Lombardi once said, “Individual commitment to a group effort - that is what makes a team work, a company work, a society work, a civilization work.”

Sandie Smith

President and CEO

Cell: 480-528-9747 or email: [Sandie@PinalPartnership.com](mailto:Sandie@PinalPartnership.com)

**FEATURED MEMBERS**

- ASU Polytechnic
- Banner Health
- Casa Grande Regional Medical Center
- Central Arizona Association of Governments
- Central Arizona College
- HCentral Arizona Regional Economic Development FoundationH
- Circle G Development
- Curis/Florence Copper Project
- East Valley Partnership
- El Dorado Holdings
- Elliott Pollack
- EPS Group (Engineers, Planners, Surveyors)
- Global Water Resources
- HDR Engineering
- Langley Properties
- LeSueur Investments
- Rose Law Group pc
- Salt River Project
- Walton International Group
- Waste Management

**Help Make a Difference Today!!**

On April 30<sup>th</sup> of this year Pinal Partnership hosted their first Thank You event to our Platinum Members at the Chase Field as we watched the Diamondbacks vs. the Chicago Cubs. It was a homerun event that we hope to continue as a yearly tradition. If you are member now and would like to increase visibility on our website and all publications you may want to consider upgrading your membership to our Platinum level.

**Benefits of Membership**

- Help create the future of Pinal County
- Be informed about local happenings and plans
- Meet and interact with public officials
- Contribute to committees on important issues
- Make a difference!!

It is through our membership that we are able to accomplish great things. If you are already a member – THANK YOU for your continued support. If you are not yet a member your help is needed – please consider joining us today. Please contact [Heather@pinalpartnership.com](mailto:Heather@pinalpartnership.com) for more information.

**Special Committee Activity:**

Pinal County Water Resource Task Force
Lower Santa Cruz Alliance
Superstition Vistas
Pinal County Zoning Regulations Subcommittee



## COMMITTEE UPDATES

### Government Relations Committee: Steve Veitch and Katherine Gordon-Wheat Co-Chairs

The goal of the Government Relations Committee is to “Improve communication between the communities while fostering education and a common, growth-oriented focus throughout Pinal County and its neighboring Counties.”

The Committee has continued to present topics of interest to the Partnership. Meetings in 2011 have focused on Pinal water, the 2011 legislative session, Pinal County redistricting, and Central Arizona Project/Navajo Generating Station issues. Additionally, the Committee sponsored a special “meet and greet” reception with Pinal County legislators.

Upcoming meeting topics include the Gila River Indian Community Comprehensive Plan and Transportation Study (with the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee), Superstition Vistas, a post-session legislative review and the Pinal County Comprehensive Plan Water Element.

Long-time Committee Chair Janeen Rohovit has become a member of the Pinal Partnership Board of Directors. She continues to serve as Board Liaison to the Committee as Katherine Gordon-Wheat and Steve Veitch assume their roles as new Committee Co-Chairs.

The Government Relations Committee meets on the fourth Tuesday of every month, at 7:30 a.m., at SRP, 1521 N. Project Drive, Tempe.

### Health and Human Services Committee: Craig Jensen and Lisa Garcia Co-Chairs

The Health and Human Resources Committee is working to identify and prioritize the areas where the Committee needs to focus. We held an initial brainstorming session on March 15 to discuss the healthcare needs of Pinal County. A wide variety of parties – both public and private – who are involved in healthcare in Pinal County contributed. The lively discussion did identify many areas where the Committee could get involved and improve the healthcare in the County.

At the well attended March 15<sup>th</sup> 2011 meeting, many people who wanted to attend had conflicting meetings. We will have a second brainstorming session in the next 1 to 2 months to gather their input. This will include the schools, law enforcement and fire (the first responders), economic development directors, chambers of commerce and more healthcare providers. After the second meeting, we will consolidate our findings and report back in detail to the Partnership and offer a recommended plan for the Committee work.

At that point, we will actively recruit additional Committee members. The prioritized list of needs will help us target the right Committee membership. Anyone who wants to volunteer to serve on this Committee should contact Heather Hedelius at [Heather@pinalpartnership.com](mailto:Heather@pinalpartnership.com).

Transportation Committee: Linda Cheney and Greg Stanley Co-Chairs

The Transportation and Infrastructure Committee along with the co-chairpersons and the board liaison met to discuss objectives and opportunities for 2011. Consideration was given to current relevant topics as well as evaluating those from last year which warranted re-visiting for update. The anticipated topic list for the 2011 meetings includes;

Transportation Updates from County, Cities, Towns and Communities  
Air Quality – EPA Non-Attainment Designation  
Finance Mechanisms – ADOT Guidance (PPP) combined w/ Govt Relations Committee.  
GRIC Transportation Study Update  
Aviation – Agency Update  
Flood Control in Pinal County & the Lower Santa Cruz River Alliance  
Re-Use of Construction Materials  
ADOT Access Control & Management Update  
Rail Development

The committee met at Central Arizona College on March 31<sup>st</sup> and heard updates from various agencies. Mr. Doug Hansen spoke on behalf of Pinal County Public Works and described several anticipated issues being addressed by the County including an area transportation study of the major east-west regional corridor analysis, west from I-10 through Maricopa, in conjunction with the Cities of Casa Grande and Maricopa.

The committee was also updated on the developments of the Lower Santa Cruz River Alliance (LSCRA) which includes many stakeholders such as the County, certain cities, Native American communities, irrigation districts, irrigation districts and other interested parties. The group is seeking other community interest and financial support through several levels of potential participation in the organization. A driving goal is to obtain federal funding to enable much needed flood control improvements along the Santa Cruz River through much of Pinal County. We were informed that dialogue is already underway with the US Army Corps of Engineers and has been favorably received, so far, but the push needs to continue administratively and politically.

At the close of our meeting, the committee heard briefly from Mr Doug Torres of the Gila River Indian Community. He shared that the Community has completed their regional transportation study, they are reviewing it internally, now, and will be presenting it to our Transportation committee, soon. We look quite forward to this, and we intend to combine the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and the Government Relations committees for this topic. This may be an agenda item for a May or June meeting, Stay Tuned!

*Economic Development Committee:* Evelyn Casuga and Tim Kanavel Co-Chairs

Economic development continues to have top attention. Although the need to accelerate economic development efforts and to diversify the economic base of Pinal County is more compelling than ever, the process requires a very long term commitment by many in the public and private sectors.

There are no overnight solutions and the many pieces that need to come together are broad and oftentimes costly in an era of scarce resources. Consider just a few: employees with the appropriate skills and training, land and buildings to accommodate companies that pay living wages, foundational aspects such as transportation, healthcare, telecommunications and education institutions. Formally or informally, we all have a role to play and need to be mindful of the long game.

The Pinal Partnership Economic Development Committee's role is embodied in our Mission Statement:

**To advocate for a sustainable Pinal County economy through the preservation and creation of employment centers, to support organized economic development efforts throughout the region, and to encourage conditions that foster economic growth.**

In 2011 our efforts will be to continue to:

Keep committee members informed on existing organized economic development efforts throughout Pinal County and the State, and seek opportunities to support and leverage those efforts;

Introduce speakers and topics that inform, educate and are potentially impactful to economic development in Pinal County;

Seek opportunities to partner with other Pinal Partnership Committees on complementary topics.

The Committee supports an inclusive and wide-ranging approach to economic development in collaboration with public, private, and non-profit sectors. The following are a few areas of focus where the Committee has and can participate: 1) planning activities and implementation with local and regional entities that support employment centers; 2) infrastructure strategies that consider immediate and long term needs to support existing and emerging industries; 3) higher education to prepare students and residents for the jobs of the future; and 4) legislative advocacy in conjunction with statewide and regional economic development groups to support economic development in Arizona.

If you're interested in joining us, please contact me at [Evelyn.Casuga@aps.com](mailto:Evelyn.Casuga@aps.com), (602) 250-3340.

*Renewable Energy Committee:* Ryan Hurley and John Brakeman Co-Chairs

- Research on renewable energy's current economic impact in progress
- Renewable conference 2011 planning in progress
- Sub-committees established to assist membership and conference planning
- Speakers panels ready for engagement
- Past tours at Power One and ASU Algae Research Lab
- Future Goals to meet with the Economic Development and Education committees

*Parks, Trails, Open Space & Public Lands Committee:* **Cyndi Ruehl Committee Chair**

We have a very active, dedicated and energetic committee coming together to promote the value of existing and planned parks, trails, public lands and open space; and to influence stakeholders and landholders to plan for and provide an interconnected system of parks, trails, public lands and open space countywide.

In order to organize countywide and garner community understanding and support of the value of established open space in Pinal County, the committee worked tirelessly in 2010 on the creation of, and the self-sufficient funding of, the first Pinal Partnership Open Space Initiative Workshop. The all day workshop held at Central Arizona Community College in Coolidge in September 2010 successfully brought together a diverse and action-oriented group of 159 public and private stakeholders and interested parties to begin the collaborative prioritization, preservation and obtaining of open space throughout Pinal County as established by the counties approved Open Space and Trails Master Plan. The purpose of the workshop was to enhance participant awareness and support of the county's Open Space and Trails Master Plan and the open space plans of other local government and non-government organizations; enhance participant understanding of the economic, biological, cultural and "quality of life" values of open space; acquaint participants with a variety of tools available for implementing open space projects; and to inspire participants to collaborate on their implementation efforts. Supervisor Pete Rios welcomed the group and our keynote speaker, Grady Gammage, talked about the economic value of open space to the county and the importance of parks, trails and open space in our everyday life. Success stories from around the state were provided by panelists to show ways they partnered with various stakeholders and agencies to create parks, trails and conservation areas. As an additional means of communication and networking, exhibitors from 15 local groups and agencies displayed their work and projects in the exhibition hall. The participants then began their collaborative work in the afternoon breakout sessions where they discussed their ideas on the value of open space, ideas of projects and networked within regional groups.

The September Workshop, and the follow-up January 2011 workshop, has resulted in a diversely robust large committee of people dedicated to working together toward the realization of providing open space for the future residents of our county alongside and in collaboration with the economic development our county will experience again.

We have a huge resource of folks from ranchers, town parks and rec. commissioners, town planning and zoning commissioners, land conservation organizations, developers and planners, state and federal land management agencies, land trust organizations, citizens committees, the county's planning and development department, city councilmen, the Natural Resource Conservation District, and enthusiastic citizens willing to volunteer their time and resources to see that open space of all types be planned and implemented in our great county, and to not settle for the crumbs that are left over.

We continue to learn in our committee about the wide array of tools and partnerships by which to fund open space projects. We are inviting the County Supervisors to each of our meetings so that they get to know who we are and we have the opportunity to explore their perspective on open space in the county. We will be organizing into regional groups so that we can take the "message" to our neighbors and begin exploring opportunities which these regional groups can address.

We have posted much information and resources on the Pinal Partnership website which you will find under the tab of Park, Trails and Open Space Committee.

We meet the first Tuesday of every month at the Florence Fire Dept. from 9-12:00. If you would like to be involved in the regional organization of a group in your area of Pinal County, contact the Chair, Cyndi Ruehl, at [cyndiruehl@msn.com](mailto:cyndiruehl@msn.com).

Education Committee: Terri Ackland and Gary Nine Co-Chairs

Vision- to influence the P-20 educational community with specific emphasis on;

1. increasing cohesion between school districts, community colleges, and universities
2. becoming intrinsically motivating to their students
3. embracing instructional(s) model geared to challenging every learner academically each hour of every day
4. increasing the percentage of high school graduates choosing to matriculate at community colleges and universities
5. decreasing the high school drop-out rate

Facts-

1. Arizona's high school dropout rate is 30%
2. Approximately 60% of Arizona high school graduates attend community college or university
3. A recent study showed only 43% of students who enroll in college have graduated six years later
4. Student success at the university increases with completion of the Adult General Education Core (AGEC) at the community college, with completion of an associate degree prior to transfer, and with beginning major preparation courses taken early

Quote- from Disrupting Class by Clayton Christensen, 2008, pp 8-9

*"As the U.S. President John Adams famously said: I must study politics and war that my sons may have liberty to study mathematics and philosophy. My sons ought to study mathematics and philosophy, natural history, naval architecture, navigation, commerce, and agriculture in order to give their children a right to study painting, poetry, music, architecture, statuary, tapestry, and porcelain."*

"Adams was on to something..... prosperity can be an enemy to motivation to study topics that are not taught in intrinsically motivating ways."

Implications- Employers often bemoan the lack of skill, shortage of confidence, and lack of reliability of today's graduates, both high school and college. While our prosperity as a nation may be viewed as part of that cause, the challenge is that "schooling can and should be an intrinsically motivating experience."

UPCOMING BREAKFAST EVENTS

June 17<sup>th</sup> – Harrah's

July 15<sup>th</sup> – Central AZ College

September 16<sup>th</sup>- Windmill