



## TOWN OF PRESCOTT VALLEY STAFF REPORT

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**DATE:** December 8, 2022

**TO:** Mayor & Town Council

**THROUGH:** Gilbert Davidson, Town Manager

**FROM:** Neil Wadsworth, Utilities Director

**DEPARTMENT:** Utilities

**AGENDA TYPE:** New Business (for Review, Comment, And/or Possible Action)

**SUBJECT:** Agreement Biozone Stormwater Management Plan - Consideration & Possible Action (Approve) [Tracy Lund, Water Resources Project Manager]

**STRATEGIC PLAN FOCUS AREA:** Water Stewardship means responsible planning for and management of sustainable water resources.

Development of an Upper Verde Watershed Stormwater Management Plan with the goal of enhancing recharge within the basin through improved stormwater management.

### SUMMARY/BACKGROUND:

The Town of Prescott Valley (Town) is a founding member and fiscal agent of the Upper Verde River Watershed Protection Coalition (Coalition). Created in June 2006, the Coalition's objective includes protecting the base flow of the Upper Verde River to the maximum extent possible and reaching Safe Yield in the Prescott Active Management Area.

On August 25, 2022, the Town Council approved a grant agreement (on behalf of the Coalition) in the amount of \$150,000 from The Nature Conservancy (TNC) to develop a Stormwater Management Plan for the Upper Verde River Watershed. The project period is two years. It is now proposed that the Council approve an agreement with local consultant Biozone, Inc. in the amount of \$124,000 to facilitate the planning process over the two-year period. [Note: this agreement with Biozone has been approved by the Upper Verde River Watershed Protection Coalition.]

The Stormwater Plan will be developed by convening stakeholders to identify priority projects and address any legal concerns. The Plan will list design concepts, project partners, and project benefits, and will summarize costs and possible funding

mechanisms for each project. The final Plan will identify at least 20 different projects in the Big and Little Chino sub-basins and will be an important resource for the Coalition to secure funding for the projects listed.

The original funding from The Nature Conservancy will be leveraged as match for additional federal grants that the Coalition will be applying for over the next year. Potential grants include the Bureau of Reclamation Drought Contingency Fund and Water Environmental Resource Projects.

The Nature Conservancy is committed to a long-term relationship with the Coalition. We expect that additional grant funding will be made available for joint Conservancy-Coalition projects in the future.

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**RECOMMENDED MOTION:**

Motion to approve an Agreement with Biozone, Inc. on behalf of the Upper Verde River Watershed Protection Coalition in the total amount not to exceed \$124,000 for a Stormwater Management Plan, **OR** Motion not to approve this Agreement with Biozone, Inc. **VOTE.**

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**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends approving the Agreement with Biozone, Inc. on behalf of the Coalition in the total amount not to exceed \$124,000 for a Stormwater Management Plan in the Upper Verde River Watershed.

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**FISCAL ANALYSIS:**

There is no direct cost to the Town. The Town will administer the funds according to requirements of the grant in collaboration with The Nature Conservancy on behalf of the Coalition (with assistance from the Coalition's Grant Manager).

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**Council Action at the Meeting:**

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**ATTACHMENTS:** Yes