



For our LáSolana owners who may not receive emails from Sun City Grand, this is an informative article written by Bob Akin, Sun City Grand Board President. Jim Kauth, who Bob mentions in this article, is the person Larry Truett and I were in contact with 4 years ago and whose expertise we relied on for our own landscaping and water management.

We will invite Mr. Kauth, to speak in the fall at a Townhall meeting for LaSolana.

Jan Smith, LáSolana Board President



The Hot Corner

Water Sustainability; Today and Tomorrow

For the past several years we have become more aware of our use of water, a natural resource taken for granted by many.

As the news continues to warn us of impending loss of this resource, I asked Jim Kauth, our water “expert” to provide a brief report at our last Board Workshop. Jim came to Grand in 2016, at the urging of several of us to begin working on ways to save money on our annual water expenditures for both our golf courses and our common areas.

At that time, our annual budget for water was just short of \$1.2 million. This year, the budgeted amount to be spent on water is about \$640,000. That is a savings of better than \$500,000 each year for the past five years.

Jim Kauth is one of five “Water Managers” in Arizona and works with many municipalities coaching them on conservation. He is truly an asset for Grand.

At the workshop, Jim provided information he has gathered in an attempt to help us understand what lies ahead – particularly the 22.5 acres of turf grass in our common area. Our golf courses use surface water drawn from Lake Pleasant through Maricopa Water District – a different “pot” of water. That source, while strictly monitored, is currently either on or under budget.

Turf grass uses the most irrigation water at Grand, as is common with most communities. Arizona Department of Water Resources (ADWR) provides water allotments for two defined uses; turf and plants. ADWR’s Management Plan No. 5 will demand lowering those allotments by 7% for turf and 40% for plants (trees and shrubs) in 2025.

That seems reasonable until one realizes we have been “stealing” about half the current water allotment for plants and using it on our turf so we may enjoy the beauty of green grass. It is important for us to begin planning now.

As this drought continues, the date of required reduction of water allotments may be moved up.

It is certainly within reason that a “Management Plan 6” may be issued if the drought worsens and Lake Mead continues to drop. In the next five years the state of Arizona may require removal of all turf grass except for parks, golf courses, and ball parks.

So, what to do? We will be working this month to plan a series of Town Hall meetings later this year. We need to plan for what should be done in the near future and how we can prepare should timing by ADWR be moved up. And, what that may look like so all of us will know what to expect.

Please, do not be alarmed by this. There is adequate water for us now, but we likely will need to change the way we design our common area landscaping. Sourcing additional water from other areas inside or outside of our country is another component of water sustainability. That is a subject for the state and federal government. We need to plan for what we can do, and hope they begin the work necessary to bring added resources to the Southwest United States.

Thank you.

Stay Well, Keep Moving, and Be Kind to Others!