

ARIZONA STATE LEGISLATURE**STUDY COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE LAND ACQUISITION**

**Minutes of the Meeting
November 29, 2017
10:00 a.m., Senate Hearing Room 109**

Members Present:

Senator Gail Griffin	Representative Brenda Barton
Senator Sylvia Allen	Representative Rosanna Gabaldón
Paul Petersen, Maricopa County Assessor	Representative Thomas R. Shope

Members Excused:

Senator Robert Meza

Staff:

Jeffrey Ong, Senate Research Staff
Sharon Carpenter, House Research Staff

Senator Griffin called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. and attendance was taken.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Senator Griffin welcomed everyone to the meeting, distributed and explained the following handouts:

- "Who Owns Arizona?" (Attachment A)
- A map entitled "Federal Public Land Surface & Subsurface" (Attachment B)
- A map entitled "State of Arizona Surface Management Responsibility" (Attachment C)
- A map entitled "Private Lands in Arizona" (Attachment D)

Senator Griffin requested for the Committee members to introduce themselves.

REVIEW OF LAND DATA

Jeffrey Ong, Senate Government Analyst, distributed and explained the following handouts:

- Chapter 188, SB 1345, 52nd Legislature, 1st Regular Session 2015 (Attachment E)
- SB 1247, 53rd Legislature, 1st Regular Session 2017 (Attachment F)

Zack Dean, Senate Research Assistant Analyst, distributed and explained "Chapter 168, SB 1432, 52nd Legislature, 2nd Regular Session 2016" (Attachment G).

Mr. Ong distributed and explained the following handouts:

- The results from the property status studies performed by the fifteen county assessors in 2012 (Attachment H)
- Conservation Easement Registry (Attachment I)

The Committee discussed conservation easements, tax rolls, land classifications, land transfers and the differences between how the counties handle the land status.

Paul Petersen, Maricopa County Assessor, distributed and explained Idaho Statute 55-2109 (Attachment J).

COMMENTS AND COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee discussed conservation easements, municipalities, counties and the state needing better communication.

Representative Barton moved that the Study Committee recommend to the full Legislature the adoption of legislation that does the following: Extends the Study Committee on Private Land Acquisition for two years beyond the October 2018 sunset date; Requires the full disclosure of conservation easement records including the property owner, easement holder and the property value or appraisals prior to acquisition.

The Committee further discussed the importance of an appraisal for full disclosure on a conservation easement.

Senator Griffin call for a vote on the motion. The motion CARRIED by voice vote.

Senator Griffin made closing statements.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Shelley Ponce
Committee Secretary

(Audio recordings and attachments are on file in the Secretary of the Senate's Office/Resource Center, Room 115. Audio archives are available at <http://www.azleg.gov>)