

**PHOENIX ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY and SUSTAINABILITY
COMMISSION MINUTES**

June 10, 2021

Phoenix City Hall
Online Using Webex

Commission Members Present	City Staff Present
Barr, Kelly via phone	Nancy Allen, Office of Environmental Programs (OEP)
Chapman, Darren via phone	Mark Hartman, Office of Sustainability (OSS)
Franquist, Timothy via phone	Cynthia Campbell, Water Services Department
Groman, Kevin via phone	Eric Wilson, Street Transportation Department
Knoop, Kathy via phone	Alexis Yapple, Public Works Department
Lobo, Caroline via phone	Matthew Potzler, OEP
Odegard-Begay, Andrea via phone	Katrina Gerster, OEP
Porter, Sarah via phone	Cindy Salazar, OEP
Sainz, Columba via phone	
Sandweg, Bill via phone	
Torres, Ginger via phone	
Tetreault, Colin via phone	
Commission Members Not Present	Community Members Present
Allee Taylor, Penny	David Hondula
Ruht, Kimberly	Lance Watkins
	Mary McGillicuddy
	Wayne Warrington

1. Call to Order/Roll Call and Announcements:

The meeting of the Environmental Quality and Sustainability Commission (EQSC) was called to order with a roll call at 3:03 p.m. There were 9 members present at roll call. The following commissioners arrived after the initial roll call:

- Kelly Barr at 3:07 p.m.
- Kevin Groman at 3:05 p.m.
- Columba Sainz at 3:05 p.m.

Chair Colin Tetreault announced that the draft climate action plan would be available for review in the coming weeks.

Commissioner Bill Sandweg announced that he resides in and represents District 7.

2. Review and approval of May 13, 2021 Minutes

ACTION:

Commissioner Kevin Groman made a motion to approve the May 13, 2021 minutes. Vice Chair Ginger Torres seconded the motion and it carried 12:0.

3. Public Comment – One person spoke.

Chair Colin Tetreault indicated that attendees wishing to offer comments to feel free to do so.

Mary McGillicuddy wanted to hear more information regarding the new Office of Heat Response and Mitigation. Chair Tetreault offered that the position was posted online for the Office.

4. Water in Phoenix

Cynthia Campbell, Water Resources Management Advisor, presented information regarding the city of Phoenix's sources of water, long-term planning being undertaken to ensure the 100-year water supply, and the effects of possible water shortages on Phoenix's water supply using a PowerPoint presentation. Water Resources Management Advisor Campbell also spoke about the water conservation actions that have achieved a reduction in per capita water use, even as the city continues to grow.

Commissioner Timothy Franquist inquired as to what air quality concerns might arise in Phoenix from decreased water use on agricultural lands in Pinal County. Water Resources Management Advisor Campbell offered that yes, a reduction in water availability would increase the amount of land that would remain fallow and that discussions on lower water use crops were occurring.

Commissioner Darren Chapman asked about the reductions in other states and cities and if Phoenix would be assisting these areas. Water Resources Management Advisor Campbell clarified that Arizona was a junior recipient of water from the Colorado River and that the cuts will not be proportional among all users. Water Resources Management Advisor Campbell added that infrastructure included a "drain" in Lake Mead to access as much of the water as possible, as well as in California where investments are being made to allow California greater access to local water in exchange for their portion of Colorado River water.

Water Resources Management Advisor Campbell's presentation included information about snowpack remaining high and Vice Chair Torres inquired as to

the benefits of the snowpack for the Navajo region of Arizona. Water Resources Management Advisor Campbell indicated that the snowpack was located in the Colorado Rockies mountain range and that it appears to be evaporating and absorbed by the ground in Colorado before reaching Arizona. Vice Chair Torres also asked about the preparations being made by Phoenix and greater metro area. Water Resources Management Advisor Campbell mentioned coordination between municipalities, including the Arizona Municipal Water Users Association. Vice Chair Torres asked about possible increased water use as the region warms and the water/energy nexus. Water Resources Management Advisor Campbell said there were lots of opportunities and Chair Tetreault noted the award-winning 91st Ave Wetlands.

Chair Tetreault inquired as to what role that the commission could take in the future to prudently approach these complex water issues. Water Resources Management Advisor Campbell indicated that working together would be the best way to move forward. The subcommittee's work on shade and canopy would be a good place to take water use into consideration.

Commissioner Sarah Porter echoed that all these efforts are connected and then asked if investments in centralized vs. decentralized systems would work best. Water Resources Management Advisor said that larger scale projects may be more helpful in Phoenix. Commissioner Porter and Water Resources Management Advisor Campbell also discussed developments being established without an assured water supply and possible implications for those communities. Commissioner Porter then referred to the "10 Tenets of Water Equity" published by the Kyl Center at ASU and the considerations that need to be made to keep operating the water system, while providing water access.

- 5. Urban Heat Island and Tree and Shade Subcommittee (UHITS) Update**
Vice Chair Torres, Chair of the Subcommittee, informed the Commission that a meeting did not occur this month, but that information was distributed regarding the upcoming climate action plan the heat mitigation opportunities included within the America Rescue Plan Act. Vice Chair Torres also informed the Commission that the first heat-related death was recorded for this summer and reminded the Commission that last year had the highest number of heat-related deaths in Maricopa County.
- 6. UHITS Cool Corridors Policy Recommendation**
Vice Chair Torres and Dr. Dave Hondula, Associate Professor at Arizona State University, reviewed the Subcommittee's Cool Corridors Policy Recommendations including the comments submitted prior to the meeting by Commissioners Knoop, Lobo, and Odegard-Begay, for the Commission to consider and provide support to present to City Council for consideration.

ACTION:

The following motion by Commissioner Odegard-Begay was made: Based on the City Council approval of the 2021-22 City Budget for the Streets Department Cool Corridors program(\$1.5M) and Office of Heat Response and Mitigation (\$500K), effective July 1, 2021,

Our hope is that EQSC will vote to advise the Phoenix City Council to:

1) develop an official Cool Corridor Policy based these recommendations which present a wholistic approach to creating a network of connected "Cool Corridor" routes throughout the city, and

2) formally adopt these recommendations as the road map for a citywide Cool Corridors Program implementation.

3) ask for a reply date

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Knoop. The motion carried 10:0.

7. Announcements and Review of Future Agenda Items for Information Only

Future possible agenda items include:

Status of AZ Recycling Industry - TBD

Permitting for Rooftop Solar: City and State - TBD

Batteries / Storage & Fire Codes - TBD

Rio Reimagined – TBD

EQSC Branding – TBD

Air Quality Update – TBD

Opioids in water – TBD

Increase in population of individuals facing homelessness – TBD

Walkability throughout the city – TBD

Draft Climate Action Plan Review – TBD

Clean Water Act and Waters of Arizona – TBD

Chair Tetreault asked for Water Resources Management Advisor Campbell to return to a future meeting. Chair Tetreault also asked that once the draft climate action plan is published, to discuss it as a Commission.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:53 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dr. Matthew Potzler, Environmental Quality Specialist