

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 3:02 p.m. There were eight members present at roll call. The following members joined the meeting after roll call:

- Kevin Groman 3:06
- Eric Grosegner 3:11 pm

2. Review and approval of August 10, 2023 Minutes

Commissioner Franquist made a motion to approve the August 10, 2023 minutes. Commissioner Bettis seconded the motion and it carried 8-0.

3. Public Comment

Chair Lobo opened the floor for public comment, and there were no members of the public wishing to speak.

4. Maricopa Association of Governments Climate Pollution Reduction Grant

Chair Lobo introduced Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) Air Quality Project Manager, Elias Toon.

Mr. Toon gave an update on the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) including background information, CPRG deliverables, upcoming phases and program contact information.

Chair Lobo asked what baseline year would be used for greenhouse gas emissions.

Mr. Toon replied 2020 would be used as the baseline year because it aligned with national emissions reporting and was the most recent data available.

Chair Lobo asked if 2020 was an anomaly because of the pandemic.

Mr. Toon replied yes, but 2020 was the most recent data available. The next available data was from 2017, which would be too outdated. He noted there would be more uncertainty impacting projections the further back in time data was pulled.

Commissioner Chapman asked about the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) and Request for Proposal (RFP) and how interested parties could get more information.

Mr. Toon responded with an overview of entities who would be eligible such as municipalities and air pollution control agencies. He noted individuals who coordinate with MAG, or have signed up to participate in the listserv, would receive more information about the application.

Aspen Ford began to make a public comment.

Office of Environmental Programs (OEP) Environmental Quality and Climate Specialist Matthew Potzler noted public comment period had passed for this meeting and there would be another opportunity at the next Environmental Quality and Sustainability Commission meeting.

Chair Lobo asked if the \$1 million grant was primarily for staffing.

Mr. Toon explained the budget breakdown including staffing, travel to conferences, contractor services, community engagement, regional analysis and more.

Chair Lobo asked for clarification on community engagement.

Mr. Toon replied MAG would use outreach channels, the business community, interested stakeholders and others to help get the word out.

5. The Nature Conservancy Climate Program Overview and Sustainability Plans

Chair Lobo introduced The Nature Conservancy Climate Program Director Nicole Hill.

Ms. Hill gave a presentation on The Nature Conservancy (TNC) organization including 2030 goals, TNC Arizona Strategic Plan and TNC's Climate Program.

Commissioner Franquist asked how different climate action plans could harmonize from a regional perspective.

Ms. Hill replied there was potential for the State to take on some leadership and elements of climate action plans could help shape State plans. She also commented on the importance of peer-to-peer networking.

Commissioner Gorsegrner added it was important to find areas where plans overlap.

Ms. Hill commented on avenues for TNC to help with coordination efforts.

Commissioner Gorsegrner asked about state policy initiatives and if TNC would be working on any initiatives in the upcoming legislative session.

Ms. Hill responded TNC may weigh in on certain bills and commented on areas where there was momentum and opportunities for TNC to contribute.

Commissioner Chapman asked about community engagement.

Ms. Hill asked for clarification on Commissioner Chapman's scope of community.

Commissioner Chapman replied he was referring to communities that were marginalized from a climate perspective.

Ms. Hill replied Commissioner Bettis specialized in community work and could potentially provide a presentation in the future. She also commented on Justice40 concepts, and the importance of expanding the Justice40 reach to more programs and services.

Commissioner Bettis noted she would be happy to give a presentation to the committee.

Chair Lobo asked for Arizona Thrives Alliance summary data and documents.

Ms. Hill responded she could share resources with the group and spoke about key findings in areas such as the built environment, emissions, economic assessments for clean energy and more.

Chair Lobo asked if Mark Hartman was the only City of Phoenix representative involved in the Arizona Thrives Alliance.

Ms. Hill replied Willa Altman-Kaough from the City of Phoenix Mayor's Office was also involved.

Chair Lobo asked about the relationship between TNC and cities, specifically for the Arizona Thrives Alliance.

Ms. Hill responded the Arizona Thrives Alliance was winding down and transitioning to the Climate Program. She added TNC got data from sources that were commonly known and closely related to topics TNC wrote about.

Chair Lobo asked for recommendations on other industries that would be helpful to bring to the table.

Ms. Hill mentioned companies such as Intel, Goodmans and more. She also recommended reaching out to Commissioner Tetrault for more insight.

Commissioner Gorsegrner asked how white papers could be turned into legislation.

Ms. Hill replied white papers could offer perspectives on legislation, and TNC wrote white papers in areas where they could add value.

Chair Lobo asked if any of the TNC white papers were used to inform the City of Phoenix's Climate Action Plan.

Dr. Potzler responded some of TNC's work had been used to review information about green jobs as a result of climate action.

6. Announcements and Review of Future Agenda Items

The next Commission meeting is scheduled for October 12, 2023.

Chair Lobo suggested inviting larger corporations to come speak and help fine tune the City's Climate Action Plan update.

Commissioner Cazarez announced the Urban and Community Forestry Inflation Reduction Act Grant. He noted it may be helpful to have awardees, such as the Office of Heat Response and Mitigation, present on their scope of work and what would be accomplished by the funding.

Commissioner Gorsegrner asked about the City's Office of Heat Response and Mitigation grants.

Commissioner Cazarez provided an update on the Office of Heat Response and Mitigation grants and noted there had been a good roll out so far.

Commissioner Bettis added a group of stakeholders would be on the committee to select grant recipients.

Chair Lobo asked if Commissioner Bettis would be willing to serve as a speaker at a future meeting.

Commissioner Bettis replied yes.

Commissioner Franquist commented MAG could provide updates as they became available on the CPRG and related programs.

Chair Lobo asked if there was a target date available for the City's Climate Action Plan Update.

Environmental Programs Coordinator Julie Riemenschneider responded the City was working towards completion but there was not a set date yet.

Chair Lobo asked commissioners to email Office of Environmental Programs staff if they had recommendations for future agenda items.

Commissioner Gorsegner asked for clarification on the Climate Action Plan update.

Ms. Riemenschneider replied with more information about the CAP update.

7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:23 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Danielle Vermeer, Administrative Assistant II