

**PHOENIX ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY and SUSTAINABILITY
COMMISSION MINUTES**

August 10, 2023

Phoenix City Hall
Online Using Webex

Commission Members Present	City Staff Present
Kelly Barr	Nancy Allen, Office of Environmental Programs (OEP)
Andrea Odegard-Begay	Julie Riemenschneider, OEP
Orlando Cazarez, via WebEx	Matthew Potzler, OEP
Darren Chapman, via WebEx	Katrina Gerster, OEP
Timothy Franquist	Joshua Uebelherr, OEP
Kevin Groman, via WebEx	Danielle Vermeer, OEP
Caroline Lobo	David Hondula, Office of Heat Response and Mitigation (OHRM)
Bill Sandweg, via WebEx	Kayla Killoren, OHRM
Penny Allee Taylor, via WebEx	Mary Wright, OHRM
Ginger Torres, via WebEx	Alicia Arauz-Orozco, OHRM
Commission Members Not Present	Community Members Present
Anna Bettis	Mark Carlisle
Eric Gorseger	Todd Komaromy
Kathy Knoop	Lori Singleton
Sarah Porter	Grant Smedley
Colin Tetreault	Kenny Young

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 3:05 p.m. There were eight members present at roll call. The following members joined the meeting after roll call:

- Penny Allee Taylor at 3:10 p.m.
- Kelly Barr at 3:13 p.m.

Chair Lobo asked the group for announcements.

Environmental Programs Administrator Nancy Allen announced National Planting for Monarchs month in September and Urban Wildlife Conservation Day on October 7. She noted more information about these events would be available online.

Vice Chair Ginger Torres announced she was serving on the General Obligations (GO) Bond Committee and invited Commissioners to support with feedback for the GO Bond package.

Chair Caroline Lobo replied interested Commissioners could email Ms. Allen if interested.

2. Review and approval of July 14, 2023 Minutes

Vice Chair Torres made a motion to approve the June 15, 2023 minutes. Commissioner Groman seconded the motion and it carried 8-0.

3. Public Comment

Chair Lobo opened the floor for public comment.

Kenny Young commented he wished there were more individuals at the meeting.

4. Salt River Project (SRP) Sustainability Goals

Chair Lobo introduced Grant Smedley from SRP.

Ms. Allen noted SRP was an important partner for community quality of life and movement towards sustainability goals.

SRP Director of Resource Planning Grant Smedley gave an update on SRP's resource plans and progress toward 2035 sustainability goals.

Commissioner Kelly Barr applauded Mr. Smedley for his leadership at SRP and asked how often the new flexible natural gas turbines would operate.

Mr. Smedley responded the engines were highly flexible, could be converted to hydrogen in the future and would run 5-10 percent of hours per year.

Commissioner Barr commented on the importance of reliability and the need to balance the system.

Commissioner Darren Chapman asked about inclusivity, specifically in the context of vehicle electrification.

Mr. Smedley replied many federal grants were available to implement public charging infrastructure and SRP was working on making the grid ready for electric vehicles to support charging at low costs.

Chair Lobo asked how transitioning infrastructure would work and costing components.

Mr. Smedley responded customers were responsible for costing and summarized studies for repurposing coal plants.

Commissioner Groman asked for clarification on SRP's 2035 goals.

Mr. Smedley replied with a discussion of SRP's portfolio and progress towards goals.

Commissioner Kevin Groman recommended partnering with the business community to make goals more attainable.

Mr. Smedley responded with areas it would be helpful for partners to help promote sustainability goals.

Chair Lobo asked if there could be an opportunity to connect with the business community and brainstorm solutions.

Ms. Allen replied the request was possible. She also discussed the lack of a public facing portfolio and requested APS and SRP write a report with portfolio basics to help communicate the scope of their work.

5. Arizona Public Service (APS) Sustainability Goals

Chair Lobo introduced Todd Komaromy from APS.

APS Director Todd Komaromy gave a presentation on APS' priority sustainability challenges and goals.

Commissioner Timothy Franquist asked for clarification on APS' carbon free goal.

Mr. Komaromy replied technology would need to be advanced to support this goal for 2050.

Commissioner Franquist asked about specific technologies needed.

Mr. Komaromy discussed best possible options and noted future funding available to support this work.

Commissioner Barr asked if quick start combustion turbines would be added to the portfolio.

Mr. Komaromy responded quick start combustion turbines were important to maintain reliability in the system and APS is issuing a Request for Proposal.

Commissioner Franquist asked about useful life of the turbines.

Mr. Komaromy replied the useful life was 40 years.

Chair Lobo asked why the goal for emission reductions from SRP was 90 percent and not 100 percent.

Mr. Smedley responded the goal was made based on what would be realistic to achieve.

Commissioner Barr added the technology was not available to support the last 10 percent.

Ms. Lobo asked about knowledge sharing between SRP and APS.

Mr. Komaromy replied there was sharing of information and collaboration to work towards similar goals.

Commissioner Groman noted respect for SRP for the goal transparency and recommended the goal should be 100 percent in the future.

Commissioner Chapman expressed appreciation for the presenters.

Vice Chair Torres asked about initiatives to support tree canopy cover.

Mr. Komaromy and Mr. Smedley responded they would follow-up with more information about programs.

Commissioner Groman thanked SRP and APS for presenting and expressed support for looping in the business community.

Commissioner Barr commented on how the Climate Action Plan was dependent on SRP and APS to reach sustainability goals and thanked the presenters.

Chair Lobo asked about consumption between businesses and residential sectors.

Mr. Komaromy responded with a summary of trends in Commercial, Industrial and Residential (CRI) growth.

Mr. Smedley added APS was seeing similar trends.

Commissioner Orlando Cazarez discussed community engagement with utilities. He noted the Arizona Sustainability Alliance and Trees Matter non-profit organizations were working with APS and SRP on tree programs.

Commissioner Bill Sandweg thanked the presenters and expressed appreciation for tree work in the valley.

6. Arizona Forward Overview and Mission

Arizona Forward Chief Executive Officer and President Lori Singleton gave an overview of Arizona Forward.

Commissioner Barr noted Arizona Forward was a good place to convene people around issues.

Commissioner Cazarez commented on the Environmental Excellence Awards and recommended adding a category to highlight the business community working towards sustainability goals.

Ms. Singleton announced the Environmental Excellence Awards would take place on March 23, 2024 and noted this would be considered in the discussion for the categories.

Commissioner Groman asked how the Commission could be more effective and connected.

Ms. Singleton replied she had not thought about this topic before but would be open to having a discussion.

Chair Lobo asked how Arizona Forward could help brainstorm strategies for the Climate Action Plan.

Ms. Allen responded she wanted stakeholders to become more active in the Climate Action Plan and become co-goal owners.

Chair Lobo replied the Commission needed to think about next steps and execution.

Commissioner Groman expressed support for bridging the Climate Action Plan with the business community.

Commissioner Barr discussed Arizona Thrives, which is now part of The Nature Conservancy, and noted it may be helpful to have a representative give a presentation. She also asked for an update from Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) on the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG)

Commissioner Franquist provided a brief update on the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) and the work Maricopa Association of Governments has been doing to prepare.

Commissioner Barr commented on the CPRG and upcoming deadlines.

Commissioner Franquist discussed the Priority Action Plan (PCAP), which is a component of the CPRG and is due March 1, 2024.

Ms. Allen stressed the importance of community engagement for this plan and recommended MAG give a presentation on the CPRG at a future EQSC meeting.

7. Announcements and Review of Future Agenda Items

The next Commission meeting is scheduled for September, 14 2023.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:52 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Danielle Vermeer, Administrative Assistant II