

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 8 members present at roll call. The following commissioners arrived after the initial roll call:

- Darren Chapman at 3:08 p.m.
- Kevin Groman at 3:09 p.m.

Chair Colin Tetreault announced that the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Assessment Report 6 (UN IPCC AR6) Working Group I Physical Science Basis was available. This report addresses the most up-to-date physical understanding of the climate system and climate change, bringing together the latest advances in climate science, and combining multiple lines of evidence from paleoclimate, observations, process understanding, and global and regional climate simulations. Chair Tetreault highlighted three key themes: mankind is responsible for change in climate, the train has left the station regarding increased global temperature, and that rising to the occasion is doable. The Summary for Policymakers that can be found here

https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg1/downloads/report/IPCC_AR6_WGI_SPM.pdf

Dr. Potzler mentioned that the “Climate Indicators of Community Vulnerability to Extreme Events: Considering Sites and Waste Management Facilities” is a study focused on effects of climate change on Maricopa County and Phoenix. The study by RTI International in collaboration with EPA and City of Phoenix Office of Environmental Programs’ Rosanne Albright and Julie Riemenschneider that describes community vulnerability in Maricopa County and the city of Phoenix to extreme events, like extreme heat, wildfire, flooding, drought, dependent on greenhouse gas emission scenarios. Representative Concentration Pathways (RCP) 4.5 and 8.5 were selected as intermediate and extreme greenhouse gas emissions scenarios to model and compare to historical averages. The report is focused on community exposure to waste sites and waste facilities and includes demographic information. This will be useful when talking about climate hazards particular to Phoenix (instead of worldwide or regional assessments, which were also reviewed as part of the climate action planning process and included in the draft climate action plan) and also possibly when talking about the intersection of items like water availability and water quality in cases where a waste site is in an area that is predicted to be more prone to something like flooding due to climate change. To find the document, please visit

https://www.phoenix.gov/oepsite/Documents/UrbanVulnerability_R9_July2020_Clean_v2.pdf

Commissioner Bill Sandweg spoke about a video called “How we Adapt: Climate change on the West Coast with Marketplace’s Molly Wood.” The video describes the varying challenges being faced by different communities along the West Coast due to climate change. To view the video on Youtube, go to

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1jT47d8-w3M>

This item was re-addressed following Agenda Item 3.

Commissioner Porter spoke about a UN IPCC AR6 Wall Street Journal Opinion Piece by Steven Koonin, physicist, author of “Unsettled” and former undersecretary for science of the Department of Energy in the Obama Administration. To read the article, please go to <https://www.wsj.com/articles/intergovernmental-panel-climate->

[change-ipcc-un-united-nations-global-warming-floods-wildfire-stevens-palmer-koonin-11628631428](https://www.phoenix.gov/waterservicessite/Documents/2021%20City%20of%20Phoenix%20Water%20Resource%20Plan.pdf)

2. Review and approval of July 8, 2021 Minutes

ACTION:

Commissioner Caroline Lobo made a motion to approve the July 8, 2021 minutes. Vice Chair Ginger Torres seconded the motion and it carried 8:0.

3. Public Comment – No one spoke.

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

No one spoke.

4. Urban Heat Island and Tree and Shade Subcommittee (UHITS) Update

Agenda Item 1 was re-addressed, then followed by this item.

Vice Chair Torres, Chair of the Subcommittee, informed the Commission that a meeting occurred in August, where cool rooftops recommendations, Heat Awareness Booklet, artist solicitation for shade for public spaces, like bus stops, from the Office of Arts and Culture. Chair Tetreault asked if the Subcommittee was able to provide the rooftop recommendations by the sunset period in December. Vice Chair Torres indicated that the recommendations could be drafted in the next couple of months. Commissioner Lobo informed the Commission that the city does not specifically stipulate cool roofs in the commercial sector, but it does require meeting energy performance standards that may include cool roofs. Vice Chair Torres listed the future topics for the Subcommittee: cool roofs, heat equity policy recommendations, green infrastructure, low-impact development, artificial shade and structures, long term sustainability regarding trees, shade, and heat. Chair Tetreault asked for the Subcommittee to recommend how the city can provide engagement with residents in the future.

5. Draft Climate Action Plan Update

Dr. Matthew Potzler, Environmental Air Quality and Climate Specialist, gave an update to the climate action planning process, while highlighting community engagement and how equity is addressed within the plan using a PowerPoint Presentation. Vice Chair Torres asked if the plan would be made available in Spanish at the same time as English, with Dr. Potzler confirming it would be available at the same time. Commissioner Chapman spoke about Dr. Potzler participating in an event at Spaces of Opportunity that brought awareness to the climate action plan, there were concerns among the community about water availability. Dr. Potzler referenced the 2021 Phoenix Water Resources Plan (<https://www.phoenix.gov/waterservicessite/Documents/2021%20City%20of%20Phoenix%20Water%20Resource%20Plan.pdf>) that “attests that Phoenix maintains sufficient water supplies to serve existing customers and all anticipated growth occurring through the year 2025 (the furthest date considered by the State at that time) for at least 100 years.” Commissioner Sarah Porter spoke about the Colorado River water shortage and that one-third of Phoenix’s supply is from Central Arizona Project, with the direct impacts from the shortage on farmers in Pinal County. Commissioner Porter mentioned the source of that water being from Colorado snowpack will be reduced in a hotter, drier future, and how Phoenix has made investments in water security, like the Drought Pipeline Project, while some cities may need to pump from the groundwater supply.

Commissioner Franquist and Commissioner Porter then spoke about Waters of the United States (WOTUS) and water quality of the remaining water supply. Arizona Department of Environmental Quality is working on a WOTUS-like program from Arizona.

Commissioner Groman, echoed by Chair Tetreault, voiced his appreciation for all the work done so far on the climate action plan. Vice Chair Torres asked if the material presented already within the plan with Dr. Potzler responding that the material presented was within the plan, except for the call to action to build back equitably with good quality jobs.

Chair Tetreault and Dr. Potzler spoke about the timeline and other climate action commitments that the plan will fulfill with the plan being finalized in September with the Commission requesting additional opportunities to review the plan before it is finalized and requesting additional metrics to be included.

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

Chair Tetreault asked for announcements. Chief Sustainability Officer Mark Hartman spoke about sequestration of carbon in trees and soil, especially in farming, with Commissioner Franquist wanting to connect offline to further discuss. Vice Chair Torres asked about the plan for the update to the climate action plan and spoke about the importance to commit to keeping the public informed, with Environmental Programs Administrator Nancy Allen indicating that the plan will be updated every two years with some portions getting an update and others may not depending on the progress or time constraints of those particular actions and goals. Chair Tetreault requested an update be provided every 120-180 days to the Commission.

Commissioner Lobo and Administrator Allen then spoke about environmental equity and that this piece may be addressed after the Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion is formed early next year.

Future possible agenda items include:

- Status of AZ Recycling Industry – TBD
- Sustainable Finance – TBD
- Permitting for Rooftop Solar: City and State – TBD
- Cool Corridors – TBD
- Green Infrastructure and Low-Impact Development – 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. Commissioner Porter spoke about the “Kyl Center for Water Policy Ten Tenets of Water Equity:

Considerations for Community Water Systems Report” that describes the realities of financing and operating a community water system that is safe, reliable, and accessible to all members of a community. To view the report, please go to https://morrisoninstitute.asu.edu/sites/default/files/water_equity_2021.pdf

7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:24 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dr. Matthew Potzler, Environmental Quality Specialist