

Energy, Environment and Natural Resources Commission

February 27, 2019

6:30 p.m.

Sonoran Conference Room, Avondale City Hall
11465 W Civic Center Dr.

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

The meeting was called to order at **6:34 PM**.

1. Roll Call by Staff Liaison.

Members Present: Kovach, Hernandez, Albrigo, Rauscher, Lemmon, Valencia, Upshaw. Jones, Irakoze, Wilson

Not Present: Darden

City Staff: David Janover, Jessica Blazina, Esmie Avila

2. Unscheduled Public Appearances. NONE

3. Legislative Update (Jessica Blazina, Intergovernmental Affairs). DISCUSSED

4. Water Conservation Booth at Tres Rios (Esmie Avila, Water Conservation Coordinator). DISCUSSED

5. EENRC Tres Rios Participation (For Action). NO ACTION TAKEN

6. Youth Commission Update on Recycling Initiatives (Litzy Hernandez, Vice Chair/Youth Commissioner). DISCUSSED

7. Approval of January 23, 2019 Minutes (For Action). APPROVED

8. MSP Update (Staff Liaison). DISCUSSED

9. Green Business Program Update (Staff Liaison). DISCUSSED

10. Discussion of Future Agenda Items. DISCUSSED

11. Adjournment.

Commissioner **Rauscher** moved to adjourn the meeting and Commissioner **Jones** seconded. The meeting adjourned at **8:16 PM**.

Respectfully submitted,

Hether Krause,
Environmental & Sustainability Program Manager

Individuals with special accessibility needs, including sight or hearing impaired, large print, or interpreter, should contact the City Clerk at 623-333-1200 or TDD 623-333-0010 at least two business days prior to the meeting.



Personas con necesidades especiales de accesibilidad, incluyendo personas con impedimentos de vista u oído, impresión grande o interprete, deben comunicarse con la Secretaria de la Ciudad at 623-333-1200 o TDD 623-333-0010 cuando menos dos días hábiles antes de la junta.

Energy, Environment and Natural Resources Commission

February 27, 2019

6:30 p.m.

**Sonoran Conference Room, Avondale City Hall
11465 W Civic Center Dr.**

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 6:34 PM.

1. Roll Call by Staff Liaison.

Members Present: Kovach, Hernandez, Albrigo, Rauscher, Lemmon, Valencia, Upshaw, Jones, Irakoze, Wilson

Not Present: Darden

City Staff: David Janover, Jessica Blazina, Esmie Avila

2. Unscheduled Public Appearances. None

3. Legislative Update (Jessica Blazina, Intergovernmental Affairs).

Jessica introduced herself – responsible for legislative efforts. Discussed Legislative schedule. Have to have a balanced budget to the Governor by June 30, 11:59 PM. This week is crossover week – final day for bills to be heard by the House of origin. All bills needed to have action on them by last Friday. Anything that wasn't heard in Committee by 5 PM last Friday are dead. Starting Monday, Senate bills will go to the House and vice versa. Legislature has been working late this week.

Energy related legislation – media blitz regarding the drought contingency plan – Governor convened a task force to deal with the drought. Need to get something done this year – nothing was done last year. Feds mandated and set a deadline for AZ to sign on to the drought contingency plan – deadline was Jan 31 – just met the deadline. AZ is the last State to sign on. AZ stakeholders included water districts, agriculture community, Tribal communities, paving the way for the conversations. Homebuilders, developers as well. Overall, it was a good compromise.

A few years ago, Bisbee adopted a ban on plastic bags. Legislature felt there should not be statewide bans like this. Recent bill never made its way to the floor. Democrat sponsored bills did not fare well – not looking good for environmental benefitting bills this year. We make little progress each year, but not great strides. Jessica passed around her business cards, asking that members email her if they're interested in receiving the Legislative Update weekly.

Distracted driving, texting while driving bill – Senate Bill 1165 may be adopted this year. Governor has indicated he would sign it when it gets to his desk. Six to Nine-month education period initially, then people can be pulled over and fined.

Member Jones asked for the website for legislative bills. Jessica responded it is AZLEG.GOV. Can go online and watch the action on the floor. Jessica stated that she is happy to respond to any questions by email.

4. Water Conservation Booth at Tres Rios (Esmie Avila, Water Conservation Coordinator).

Esmie introduced herself as the Water Conservation Coordinator for the City, housed in Public Works. There was a staff meeting today – 2 20x10 tents with 5 tables Watershed Model, Groundwater Model, Wetlands Staff, Wastewater Treatment Plan Staff, Conservation Table (Water, Use it Wisely) campaign. Will be handing out information. Another table for anyone wishing to join – recycling will be at that table and anyone else here that would like to attend. Where we get our water, how it gets to the homes. This is on Saturday. On Sunday, the State will be there speaking about Water Resources.

Event is from 10-4 on Saturday and Sunday. Will be meeting at office to load up at 7 PM, and arrive at event to set up by 8 AM. All exhibitors should arrive by 9 AM. Parking will be at the south end, but if anyone wants to leave early, should park on the north end. Booths close at 4 PM. Concert until 6:30, and other activities. Staff will leave at 4 PM. All are welcome. Esmie handed out a folder with information, including a map of the venue, and a sheet listing the programs the City offers. Information on City Landscape classes are also included. There was also a flyer on the Littleton Water Festival for 4th graders, Thursday, March 21, 2018. Hands on learning about watershed, water cycle, and water conservation. Looking for volunteers and invited members. There is a training session on March 19. Food, snacks and water will be available at the festival.

There was also information provided on a Water History Exhibit at the Litchfield Park Society Museum. Excellent info on Arizona Water dating back to 500 BC. Free admission. Now through October.

Member Kovach asked what type of feedback Esmie would get from citizens. Mainly if rebates would be offered, activities for school kids, is the water in the river wastewater or clean water, and recycling questions.

Not all cities get their water from Groundwater. Avondale does. We put SRP water in the ground then we use that.

Esmie stated that tables and chairs will be available for members of EENRC to attend and assist during the Tres Rios. Being advertised on the radio, canoeing, fishing, ziplining, spring training fans, so lots of attendees expected. Members can stop by for an hour or two as desired.

5. EENRC Tres Rios Participation (For Action).

Members plan to attend at random times. Members can call Esmie to let her know they are coming in advance. No action taken, but Kovach asked members to attend if they can.

6. Youth Commission Update on Recycling Initiatives (Litzzy Hernandez, Vice Chair/Youth Commissioner).

Vice Chair Hernandez brought members of the Youth Commission from various High Schools. Vice Chair introduced the Recycle Logo (High 5) Stickers were made, shirts, other marketing materials for outreach. Outreach will start at the Schools. How to get the recycling picked up at Agua Fria and setting up the program. Wearing the shirts on certain days at La Joya HS. Will be getting more bins, for additional recycling. Have been emailing teachers who have not been using the bins properly. Westview – same issues – not enough recycling bins. Their student Gov't lined up blue recycling bins for pick up – time consuming and not efficient. Agua Fria – educational outreach on campus. Tomorrow, meeting to create a video. Principal is not very responsive, but the students are very involved. Printing Banners for the classrooms (pricey). Trying to get bins back into the classrooms. New logo would be on the bins, to make it easy to determine what can be placed in the bins. Will add information about plastic bags not being allowed, as well as food stained plastic. Survey done at Agua Fria – 433 respondents – plastic bags were not an issue, but should be brought to the student attention.

Chairman Kovach mentioned that there is someone who crochets plastic bags together to create sleeping mats for the homeless.

Member Wilson asked if the students were being incentivized to participate in the recycling program. Funding is an issue. Public Works gave the Youth Commission \$1k for the logo creation and marketing. Schools could possibly be recognized, similar to the Green Business program – the school itself could be incentivized – (the school that recycles the most gets an award, etc.) Banner signs are \$30 each, but there are 90 classrooms. Applied for a keep America beautiful grant through Coca Cola – should hear back by March. If granted, they would receive 100 recycling bins, about 30 per School. Bins are very expensive.

Will have a Chipotle Night with Avondale to raise funds (for Youth Commission in general). Member Wilson will check with Lauren Twigg to see if the HOA can make a donation. Chair Kovach will speak with Hether to see if the EENRC could encourage the Council to increase funding.

Member Valencia mentioned that parents have a lot of pull, and if they speak up at the school, that would get the Principal to be more engaged.

Bins were removed from the Schools because of contamination by the City. (weren't being used properly). Still a limited number remain at the schools.

Member Upshaw suggested that the Youth Commission reach out to Waste Management to see if they would have to offer for paper and plastic recycling bins. He also heard that recycling is just burned, and not really doing anything for the environment. Some of the students heard the same thing – might be burned for energy.

7. Approval of January 23, 2019 Minutes (For Action).

Motion to Approve minutes made by Lemmon

Seconded by Irakoze

Passed unanimously

8. MSP Update (Staff Liaison).

David provided an update on the MSP, stating that Hether obtained all of the final numbers she needed from staff for the report, and that final edits were given to the City's Graphic Designer and the final print version should be completed soon. Member Albrigo asked how soon. David responded that if it will be available after the next EENRC meeting, Hether would reach out to the Chair and let him know.

9. Green Business Program Update (Staff Liaison).

David provided an update on the program, stating that St. John Paul II High School is our newest Green Business, and that we expect the Equine School to come in with their application shortly.

The current list of Green Businesses includes:

- Farmers Insurance
- Hilton Garden Inn
- Homewood Suites by Hilton
- ISM Raceway
- King Coil
- St. John Paul II Catholic High School
- Stotz Equipment
- We Olive & Wine Bar

Member Albrigo asked if Hether needed additional help with approaching and communicating to get more green businesses.

10. Discussion of Future Agenda Items.

Kovach brought up to Wilson regarding HOAs removing turf. Garden Lakes is removing about 20% of their turf and replacing with drought tolerant plants (done voluntarily). No more lawn mowers damaging the walls. Will speak with Hether. Raucher's HOA added plants and trees, not necessarily with the community's buy-in. Does City of Avondale monitor the HOAs water usage. What is the threshold for sending out a high water usage letter? Ties into the drought and water conservation issue. Can the City require a maximum number of plantings/trees?

Recycling is a bi-monthly agenda item – that can skip next month.

HOA discussion – what's working, what's not working. Another update on the MSP. Should spend time going through the MSP at a future meeting. Have the City HOA discussion, and maybe bring someone **in from the**

City to speak to that. Also, how water conservation effects Avondale. Trash production. Zero waste discussion. How is City annually monitoring HOAs usage. Can City invite property managers one on one for a discussion on proper water usage, and alternative plantings. Other item is what can be done to help draft a statement to Council to encourage providing funding and/or support to the student recycling efforts. Member Wilson mentioned a City Wide Leave your car at home day (Tempe has one).

11. Adjournment.

Commissioner Rauscher moved to adjourn the meeting and Commissioner Jones seconded. The meeting adjourned at 8:16 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Hether Krause,
Environmental & Sustainability Program Manager

Individuals with special accessibility needs, including sight or hearing impaired, large print, or interpreter, should contact the City Clerk at 623-333-1200 or TDD 623-333-0010 at least two business days prior to the meeting.

Personas con necesidades especiales de accesibilidad, incluyendo personas con impedimentos de vista u oído, impresión grande o interprete, deben comunicarse con la Secretaria de la Ciudad at 623-333-1200 o TDD 623-333-0010 cuando menos dos días hábiles antes de la junta.