



**CITIZENS' WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
CONSERVATION & EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE**

Wednesday, April 8, 2015, 3:00 p.m.  
Director's Conference Room  
Tucson Water, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
310 W. Alameda Street, Tucson, Arizona

**Summary Minutes**

Approved 05/13/15

**1. Call to Order/Roll Call**

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Amy McCoy at 3:05 p.m. Those present and absent were:

**Members Present:**

Amy McCoy	Chairperson, Representative, Ward 2
Mark Murphy	Representative, Mayor
* Jean McLain	Representative, City Manager
Catlow Shipek	Representative, City Manager

\* Member McLain arrived at 3:10 p.m.

**Members Absent:**

Mark Lewis	Representative, Ward 5
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**Tucson Water Staff Members:**

Melodee Loyer	Chief Planner
Fernando Molina	Public Information Supervisor
Daniel Ransom	Water Conservation Supervisor
Candice Rupprecht	Public Information Specialist
Valerie Herman	Public Information Specialist
Kris LaFleur	Staff Assistant

**Others Present**

Ann Marie Wolf	SERI
Flor Morales	SERI
Steve Arnquist	Ward 1
Katie Bolger	Ward 3
Brian Wong	CWAC
Placido dos Santos	CWAC
Chuck Freitas	CWAC

- 2. Announcements** – Member Shipek announced a presentation that would take place Thursday, April 9, during the PAG 2015 Low Impact Development workshop. The presentation would demonstrate results of a recent study of green infrastructure's projected hydrologic and economic impact in southern Tucson watersheds near Airport Wash. He indicated that the study's findings showed a community return of six dollars for every dollar invested in Green Infrastructure in the area.

## **Citizen's Water Advisory Committee, Conservation & Education Subcommittee**

### Summary Minutes

April 8, 2015

Mr. Molina announced that Tucson Water would hold a series of water rate Town Hall Meetings to share information with ratepayers and answer questions about proposed water rate changes for FY 2016. Information about the Town Hall Meetings is available on the Tucson Water website, <http://www.tucsonaz.gov/water>.

3. **Call to Audience** – There were no audience comments.
4. **Review of March 11, 2015, Legal Action Report and Meeting Minutes** – Member Shipek moved to approve the Legal Action Report and Meeting Minutes of March 11, 2015. The motion was seconded by Member Murphy and carried by a vote of 3-0.
5. **Monthly Report** – Mr. Ransom presented Tucson Water's conservation program report for FY15, through the month of March. He indicated that changes had been made to the report's format in response to members' suggestions. Members and staff discussed incentive programs that have exhausted or nearly exhausted their budget allocation for FY15, and proposed the transfer of funds to those programs from less-utilized programs.

6. **Sonora Environmental Research Institute (SERI): Working with low-income groups** – Ann Marie Wolf, SERI president, and Flor Morales Gallegos, SERI operating manager, presented a summary of their organization's work with Tucson's low-income communities, primarily as it relates to implementation of rainwater harvesting techniques and tree care.

Ms. Wolf briefly discussed SERI's history, its mission, and its community partners, as well as current projects. She discussed Tucson Water's grant of \$20,000, which the group is using to help low-income households implement Rainwater Harvesting (RWH) practices. Ms. Morales explained that SERI customers must complete a tree-care workshop and a RWH workshop prior to installation of RWH systems and planting of free trees. Customers must also verify low-income status, and must be customers of Tucson Water.

Ms. Wolf indicated that SERI would be using EPA grant funds to establish a pilot revolving loan program for low-income families to participate in Tucson Water's RWH rebate program. She explained that SERI would seek input from University of Arizona researchers, community focus groups, stakeholders, and the C&E subcommittee to determine the program structure, with an expectation to begin work in June. The subcommittee expressed an interest in receiving updates as SERI's pilot program is developed.

Discussion ensued, with questions by subcommittee members, staff, and audience members.

Member McCoy departed at 3:42 and returned at 3:44.

7. **Ward 1 comments re: 3/3 M&C motion** – Steve Arnquist led a discussion on the intent of Mayor & Council's March 3 Study Session action. Mr. Arnquist read the motion, which directs Tucson Water and the C&E subcommittee to discuss allocation of \$300,000 for a low-income conservation assistance fund and \$350,000 for the creation of neighborhood or

## **Citizen's Water Advisory Committee, Conservation & Education Subcommittee**

### Summary Minutes

April 8, 2015

arterial rainwater harvesting demonstration projects. Mr. Arnquist indicated that Mayor & Council preferred quick initial action on the demonstration projects, with additional time dedicated to planning and implementation of the low-income assistance fund. Discussion ensued between Mr. Arnquist, members and staff.

Mr. Molina explained that the M&C request occurred late in the budgeting process for FY2016. He indicated that conservation funds would be made available for pilot projects in FY16. He also indicated that, during the summer and fall of calendar year 2015, Tucson Water administration and conservation staff will create a master plan for fully implementing the programs and for allocating the full budgets of \$300,000 and \$350,000 in FY17.

Mr. Arnquist indicated that, in the short term, Mayor & Council expect to receive correspondence from the Subcommittee and Tucson Water staff, providing a timeline for program implementation. Members and staff agreed to provide M&C with such correspondence prior to CWAC's summer recess.

Member McLain departed at 3:56 and returned at 3:57.

#### **8. Future Meetings/Agenda Items –**

- SERI pilot program update
- May: short presentations related to identification of RWH demonstration sites
  - Shipek: process for identifying Green Infrastructure sites
  - COT Transportation: identifying neighborhoods or arteries prone to stormwater flooding
  - PAG: presentation of vulnerability index maps
- June: C&E communication to M&C re: progress on March 3 motion

#### **9. Adjournment –** The meeting was adjourned at 4:17 p.m.