



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

Wednesday, September 9, 2015, 3 p.m.  
Director's Conference Room  
Tucson Water, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
310 W. Alameda Street, Tucson, Arizona

**Summary Minutes**

Approved 10/14/15

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

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Amy McCoy at 3:06 p.m. Those present and absent were:

**Members Present:**

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

\* Member Murphy arrived at 3:35 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
Joaquim Delgado	Public Information Specialist
Valerie Herman	Public Information Specialist
Kris LaFleur	Staff Assistant

**Others Present**

Kerry Schwartz	Project WET
Brian Wong	CWAC
Ryan Lee	CWAC

**2. Announcements** – Member Shipek announced that Watershed Management Group's Living Lab would be fully supported by rainwater as of September 9. He explained that plumbing was being completed for indoor use of harvested rainwater. Overall water savings for passive and active systems would total 78,000 gallons (104 cubic feet) per year. Until now, he said, WMG has been using passive and active water harvesting for landscape purposes, rarely using the irrigation system. He indicated that the Living Lab has 10,000 gallons of installed rainwater storage, plus passive basins and greywater systems.

Mr. Molina announced that, during the summer, an outside audit was performed on the previous two years of Conservation Fund usage. He indicated that, as part of a larger City audit, an auditor worked in the Conservation Office for four days. The results of the audit were not immediately expected.

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3. **Call to Audience** – There were no audience comments.
4. **Review of June 15, 2015, Legal Action Report and Meeting Minutes** – Member dos Santos recommended a change to Item 9 of the Legal Action Report, changing the words “for the creation” to “to study the possibility.” Other members supported the change. Member Shipek moved to approve the Legal Action Report and Meeting Minutes of June 15, 2015, with changes as recommended. The motion was seconded by Member dos Santos and carried by a vote of 4-0.
5. **Monthly Report & Workplan** – Mr. Ransom presented Tucson Water's conservation program report for FY16, through the month of August. The report included the first month of data for the Efficient Clothes Washer rebate program, which Mr. Ransom indicated received 38 applications and generated many inquiries. Mr. Ransom and Mr. Molina acknowledged Ms. Rupprecht's work and efforts in launching the program and for raising awareness among retailers and customers.

Mr. Ransom indicated that there were no changes to the current Workplan, which was distributed to members.

6. **FY14-15 Conservation Program Annual Report: review & comment** – Mr. Ransom presented the draft FY15 Conservation Program Annual Report. Highlights of the draft report included a summary of the Conservation Program achievements for FY15, a history of the Conservation Fund and its expenditures over three years, descriptions of new programs for FY16, the Conservation Program financial plan, and an explanation of program goals, policies and objectives.

The draft report demonstrated that Conservation Program objectives were met for FY15, including continued reduction of average GPCD (gallons per capita per day) and increased participation in Tucson Water's rebate and education programs. Mr. Ransom briefly discussed the distribution of incentives and rebates across customer classes, conducted a short review of program summaries and expenditures, including low-income and new programs, and explained the re-categorization of rainwater harvesting programs.

Staff fielded and answered questions from members regarding Conservation Program objectives and GPCD reductions. Members indicated that they would like to see data demonstrating the potential GPCD reductions possible through participation in individual conservation programs, and suggested that such data could be shared with customers to increase program participation. Members also suggested a comparison of GPCD reductions between wards with low participation in conservation programs and wards with higher participation.

7. **FY16-17 Conservation Program Budget Proposal: review & comment** – Mr. Ransom led a discussion of the Conservation Program 5-year financial plan and the draft FY16 budget, with projections that included and excluded the \$650,000 requested by Mayor & Council for proposed Rainwater & Stormwater programs. Mr. Ransom noted that an increase of the Conservation Fee to \$.09/ccf would not be needed until FY18. However, an increase to \$.08/ccf was projected for FY17.

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Mr. Ransom reviewed the FY17 budget, indicating that funding would be available for Stage II drought preparedness, expanded rainwater harvesting rebate programs, neighborhood stormwater projects, and low-income loan programs.

Staff asked members to review the proposed FY17 budget and provide feedback prior to the October C&E subcommittee meeting.

On behalf of the absent Member Lewis, Member dos Santos asked whether it was appropriate to continue dedicating Conservation Funds to programs that demonstrate no observable water savings. Mr. Molina responded that, as of FY16, the Conservation Office had re-categorized rainwater and stormwater programs to indicate that they are not demand-management programs. Member Murphy suggested it was inaccurate to say the programs have no conservation value, but rather the programs lack adequate measurements to demonstrate conservation benefits. Staff and members discussed the topic extensively, with general consensus that further discussion would be necessary to identify and quantify alternative conservation benefits, and to review Mayor & Council conservation policies.

Members briefly discussed the projected agenda for future C&E meetings, and determined that discussion of New Program Ideas & Research would be more effective in the spring, rather than fall. The C&E FY16 Work Plan was updated to reflect this suggestion.

- 8. Proposal for Implementation of Neighborhood Rainwater / Stormwater Projects** – Ms. Rupprecht discussed Conservation Office plans to implement Mayor & Council-directed Rainwater & Stormwater projects. A handout summarized the program model, various projected community benefits, potential primary and secondary community priorities, proposed evaluation metrics, and administration options. Discussion followed between members and staff.

Answering a question from Member dos Santos, Mr. Ransom and Ms. Rupprecht indicated that administration of a proposed low-income grant program would be organized by an outside organization, yet to be determined.

Members and staff discussed the projected scale and intent of these projects, with staff indicating that low-income neighborhood involvement would be a priority, and that projects would be of a larger, neighborhood-scale, rather than individual residential-scale. Mr. Molina indicated that Pima Association of Governments data would be used to identify and prioritize neighborhoods lacking in canopy-cover and exhibiting high ground-surface temperatures.

- 9. M&C Conservation Policies & Formation of C&E Mission Statement** – This item was continued to a future meeting.

**10. Future Meetings/Agenda Items** –

- Mayor & Council conservation policies and formation of a C&E mission statement
- Identification of alternate conservation benefits & measurements for rainwater and stormwater programs

- 11. Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 5:05 p.m.