

**Environmental Affairs Commission**  
Regular meeting –Agenda  
Pedro Castro Public Works Administrative Building  
July 27, 2016

**CALL TO ORDER** - The meeting was called to order at 3:30 PM

**ROLL CALL**

Members Present: Bernie Stalman  
Tom Kennedy  
Dennis Ehrenberger  
George Monken  
Tait Wilcox  
Ron Faulkner  
Norm Patten

Associate Members Present: Amy Carter  
Gene Fenstermacher

Associate Member Absent: Joanne Roberts

Council Liaison Present: Hank Husking

Staff Liaison Present: Sharon Flissar, Director of Public Works

Others Present: Chuck Potucek, Sierra Vista's City Manager  
Jing Luo, Sierra Vista City's Engineer  
Tricia Gerrodette – Huachuca Audubon

**ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA**

Commissioner Kennedy moved to accept the agenda for the meeting. Commissioner Ehrenberger seconded the motion.

The motion was approved.

**ACCEPTANCE OF THE JUNE 22, 2016 MEETING MINUTES**

Commissioner Kennedy moved to accept the meeting minutes of June 22, 2016. Commissioner Ehrenberger seconded the motion.

The motion was approved.

**COUNCIL LIAISON'S COMMENTS**

General Information on City Council Environmental Related Activities - Councilperson Husking provided information about the West End Improvement Project. She suggested that the EAC look into the Urban Forestry program which could have an impact on the Fry Corridor Study.

**Potential Commission Improvements / Changes - Nothing to Report**

**Suggested Projects for the EAC** - Councilperson Husking suggested the EAC look into developing a battery recycling program that is "year round" verses just when EAC sets up a booth at some event.

This topic will be on August EAC meeting agenda for "brain storming". Commissioner Monken be will working on an outline of a "year round" program.

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**STAFF LIAISON COMMENTS**

Sharon Flissar echoed Councilperson's Husking comments about the West End Improvement Project being an exciting project.

**GUEST SPEAKER** - City Manager Chuck Potucek spoke to the EAC on the following topics:

**Solar Energy** - Mr Potucek stated solar energy is not currently part of the Council Strategic Plan. He provided historical background and ongoing issues connected with solar energy. He will ask City Procurement staff to develop a Request for Qualification for qualified utilities consultants. About 10 years ago, the City had a study done and at that time, it was not cost effective for the City to invest in solar energy. Since then there have been a lot of changes in technology and increases of the City's energy usage which may make use of solar energy by the City beneficial. The Request for Qualification would provide the City Council with an idea of what it would cost to start looking at the use of solar energy.

**Commission's recommendations to the City Council** - Mr. Potucek recapped that the Commission works for the Council. The Council discussed this issue at a recent Work Session. He discussed with the Council that the Council Liaison and Staff Liaison work with the Commissions during the Fall to bring 2-3 topics that the City Council should consider for the Council's Strategic Plan for the next 2 years. City Staff is working on the process for Commissions to bring forward their ideas. Once the Council develops the Plan, any of the Commission's recommendations that became part of the Plan would then become priorities for the Commissions to develop recommendations for the City Council.

**Water Conservation** - Mr. Potucek recapped what historically has been happening with Water Conservation. Ft Huachuca is working under a Biological Opinion from Fish and Wild Life Service for a couple of years which has not been legally challenged.

We are probably still at a deficit of using more water than is being put back into the aquifer. It is hard to determine exactly what the deficit is but measurements taken currently at the EOP show that there has been no growth and even reduction of water going through the recharge process.

The emphasis has shifted away from The Biological Opinion to the Gila River Adjudication.

The adjudication process has been going on for a long time. It now has reached the phase where it is going to begin to have an impact on the various entities who have an interest in the results of the Adjudication. There are a large number of stake holders and interested parties concerned with the Gila River Adjudication process such as ranching, mining, farming, municipalities, manufacturing, etc.

The first entity being adjudicated is Ft Huachuca which has been determined to have the senior water rights in the area. Ft Huachuca has provided input concerning their Federal Water Rights needs. Their needs included water needs for use in case of national emergency or increased mission growth, etc. The Adjudication Authority (Special Master) will allocate a specific amount of water (Federal Water Rights) to Ft Huachuca.

The City has developed a partnership with PDS Water Company and Liberty Water Company to look at adjudication issues and share the legal cost of addressing these issues in the adjudication process.

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The next step will be the adjudication of the BLM needs for the San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area (SPRNCA). BLM water needs will be much greater than Ft Huachuca. The City is looking at the BLM's requested water numbers, methodology used to establish their water needs, lack of a conservation resource plan, etc. for San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area (SPRNCA).

Mr. Potucek thinks that Ft Huachuca will be adjudicated in the short term while the BLM adjudication will take much longer.

Commissioner Kennedy asked the question, "What issues as City Manager would you recommend the EAC look at?" Mr. Potucek responded (1) look at water conservation techniques the City could undertake, (2) look at current water conservation codes the City Council has adopted.

There was a question concerning the impact of growth such as Tribute would have on the City's sewage system. The capacity of the EOP is 4 Million gallons with the current intake at 2.5 million. The impact of Tribute would not be as great as the same number of "current" houses since there are additional requirements for water conservation, reuse of water, etc. for new construction.

**EAC CHAIR COMMENTS:**

Election of EAC officers for 2016-2017 - Commissioner Stalman made a motion that 2016-2017 EAC officers be, Tom Kennedy, Chairman, Tate Wilcox Vice Chairman, George Monken, Secretary.

Commissioner Ehrenberger second the Motion.

The motion passed (4 yea, 3 abstentions)

Commissioner Kennedy asked Sharon Flissar to provide insight on Associate Membership. She was surprised at the number of Associate Members of the EAC since the Airport Commission has only 1 Associate Member. She recapped how Commission members were selected. Associate Members serve at the will of the Commission. She had a discussion with Jill Adams. There is no limit on the number of Associate Members and there is no written description of the duties and responsibilities. There was some discussion concerning the role of Associate Commission members and who should decide the role of Associate Commission members. Commissioner Kennedy stated this topic will be on the August EAC agenda for brain storming discussion.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Property Clean Up** - Commissioner Patten was looking at the suggestions Councilperson Husking had provided for the EAC to examine such as multi-use paths. He wanted some more guidance concerning this subject.

Sharon Flissar stated that Victoria Yarbrough, Director of Leisure & Library Services, had been working on "Adopt-a-Park" and "Adopt-a-Pathway" programs. Ms. Flissar received an email from Mike Cline in Community Development suggesting moving all the "Adopt" programs to

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Community Development rather than have them spread over several different City Departments. There was no time frame for the programs to be consolidated under one Department. There was a discussion concerning how the public would be able to find out information concerning the City's "Adopt" program. During the discussion, it was also learned that the City web site is being revamped. Commissioner Patten will provide the type of information that should be accessible via the City web site. He will send the information to Councilperson Husking who will pass it on to the appropriate City staff.

**PV Solar** - Commissioner Kennedy stated Mr. Potucek's comments concerning Solar "said it all".

A question was asked concerning the up-front cost of obtaining Hoover Dam electricity. Councilperson Husking will find the answer.

**EAC Public Awareness** - Commissioner Wilcox reported the next Public Awareness event will be "Breakfast in the Garden". Commissioner Monken volunteered to assist him. Commissioner Wilcox also reported that he will not be available for Disability Day. He will provide a "sign up sheet" for future events at the next EAC Meeting.

**Environmental Merit Award Proposal** - Nothing to report

**Battery Recycling Update** - EAC's battery recycle bin will be at the Breakfast in the Park. Sharon Flissar will ask the PAO to announce that there will be an opportunity for battery recycling.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Water Conversation** - The purpose of this discussion was based upon Councilperson Husking and Mayor Mueller comments suggesting that EAC look at this issue. There was a lively discussion concerning how Water Conservation and Net Zero Water were related as well as Associate Member Fenstermacher's proposal of having a program for Developers to get "Net Zero Water" certified. This topic will be included on the next EAC meeting.

It was agreed EAC would use the following definition for Net Zero:

Net Zero Water(NZW) is defined as a condition where 100% of the water that is used by a home, by a business, by a development, or by any identifiable entity, is replaced in the aquifer by a combination of wastewater treatment plants, detention basins, wells, water importation, and other processes. Net zero water equilibrium is achieved when the amount of water put back into the aquifer is at least equal to the amount of water withdrawn from the aquifer.

The following list are potential topics for the EAC to possibly investigate. It is anticipated this list will be modified after future discussions.

1. What are other cities doing in regards to water conservation?
2. What is Sierra Vista doing in regards to water conservation?
3. Develop a checklist for P&Z to use for new developments.
4. Investigate what can the City of Sierra Vista do to encourage compliance with voluntary or mandatory water conservation requirements.
5. Promote providing more education opportunities (i.e. get the word out).
6. Investigate water leaks in the various water companies.

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7. Develop tracking system for net zero water compliance.
8. Investigate what water companies are doing for water conservation.
9. Investigate ways to eliminate high water usage plants in the Community.

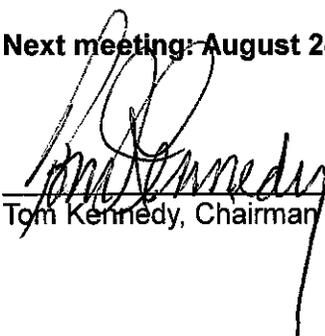
**FIELD TRIPS OR OTHER FUTURE ACTION ITEMS:**

Bisbee solar water works in the fall.

**CALL TO THE PUBLIC-REQUESTS OF THE COMMISSION - None**

**ADJOURNMENT:** Meeting was adjourned at 5:02 PM

**Next meeting: August 24, 2016 3:30 PM**



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Tom Kennedy, Chairman