

**Environmental Affairs Commission**  
Regular meeting – Minutes  
Pedro Castro Public Works Administrative Building  
February 22, 2017

**CALL TO ORDER**

**ROLL CALL**

Members Present:

Ron Faulkner  
Tom Kennedy  
Tait Wilcox  
George Monken  
Dennis Ehrenberger  
William Hargis

Members Absent:

Norm Patten – conference call unsuccessful

Associate Members Present:

Joanne Roberts  
Amy Carter  
Gene Fenstermacher

Council Liaison

Gwen Calhoun, Council Member

Staff Liaison Present:

Sharon Flissar, Director of Public Works  
Jing Luo, SV City Engineer

**ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA**

Commissioner Kennedy made a motion to accept the agenda for the meeting.  
Commissioner Wilcox seconded the motion.

The motion was approved.

**ACCEPTANCE OF THE January 25, 2017 MEETING MINUTES**

Commissioner Kennedy made a motion to accept the meeting minutes of 25 January 2017. Commissioner Tait seconded the motion.

The motion was approved.

**COUNCIL LIAISON'S COMMENTS**

Councilperson Calhoun stated that there would be major changes in communications with the commissions. The changes may need to be improved as they are implemented. Councilperson Calhoun was asked about associate members and if they were required. She will look into this topic and provide an answer at the next EAC meeting. It was mentioned to Councilperson Calhoun that all the council members as well as the Mayor were sent two separate emails from EAC Commissioners with comments and questions concerning changes to the commissions. Neither of the EAC commissioners has received any reply, or even an acknowledgement that they were received.

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Councilperson Calhoun apologized for not responding and will let the city council and mayor know about this situation. She agreed that some sort of response should have been sent. She will see that appropriate council members respond to the e-mails.

A question was also asked about the change in terms of commission members and what was the transition plan for those commissioners whose term would be up before January. Councilperson Calhoun will look into this issue and get EAC members an answer.

**STAFF LIAISON COMMENTS**

Director Flissar reported that the council has started talking about commission annual reports which will probably be in April. No schedule or format has been discussed. She will keep EAC informed of future developments. Commissioner Kennedy stated that nothing had changed from last year's annual report.

Director Flissar also talked about the 14 February article in the Sierra Vista Herald. She stated that the Herald admitted they make a mistake. A draft article had been written and the reporter had called to her for comments. She was unable to accept the call. The draft was in a shared file. The draft was read by someone and thought it was ready for release. The person did not check with the author to verify that it was in fact ready to be printed. There were several erroneous statements in the article.

Commissioner Kennedy asked about the solar street light. Director Flissar replied that the city had installed a few solar street lights in the past, and that any future street light installations would simply be a continuation of the past program. Commissioner Kennedy also expressed his concern that the forth coming energy audit of the EOP would do nothing to foster solar power development at the EOP.

**EAC CHAIR COMMENTS**

Nothing to Report

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Property Infill/Redevelopment** - Nothing to report

**PV Solar** - Commissioner Kennedy felt that the city needs to gather more information about solar power. Associate Member Roberts reminded everyone that Commissioner Kennedy had previously met with the mayor who indicated that the city needed to update previous information it had concerning feasibility of the city using solar energy. Director Flissar stated the forthcoming energy audit at the EOP was a Phase II audit, and that a follow-on Phase III audit would help refine use and consider alternatives to include solar.

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**EAC Public Awareness** - Commissioner Tait stated that a Public Awareness Committee meeting will be held in the main conference room of the Pedro Castro Public Works Building at 3PM on 28 February to discuss events the EAC would support.

**Environmental Merit Award** - Commissioner Ehrenberger asked if the city council had approved the Environmental Merit Award. Director Flissar said she would post the proposal to the city council reading file. The assistant city manager had told Director Flissar that the council did not have to formally approve the proposal. City council members could make comments which would need to be reviewed, but once comments were reviewed, the proposal could be implemented. Commissioner Ehrenberger was concerned that once the proposal was to be implemented, that the Environmental Merit Award be made available to the public and some sort of public announcement be made. Commissioner Ehrenberger will draft a letter and provide it to Director Flissar who will give it to the appropriate city staff for action. She will keep Commissioner Ehrenberger informed when the Environmental Merit Award is no longer a proposal, and its announcement to the public.

**Battery Recycling** – Commissioner Monken reported that the Battery Recycling Committee had met (see attached minutes). He reviewed the discussion by the committee. He stated he would like for the EAC to have a working discussion to finalize specific recommendations to the city council for battery recycling. This will be an agenda item at the March EAC meeting.

**Glass Recycling** - Commissioner Ehrenberger reported Richard Cayer, Operations Manager stated that there is no plan to discontinue the current glass recycling. Commissioner Ehrenberger is still investigating the availability of a local market for crushed glass. There was discussion from Commissioner Tait on CEMEX and using it in asphalt to which Director Flissar indicated that incorporating it into blacktop is not a problem but it should not be used on walking paths.

Councilwoman Calhoun inquired about what other communities/counties are doing to recycle glass.

**Water Management** – Commissioner Faulkner reported he attended a Feb 15th SACA meeting which reviewed programs fostered by Cochise Water Project. Cochise Water Project is slated to cease October 2017 due to expiration of funds. During the SACA meeting, Commissioner Faulkner asked what effect various water saving efforts had on the aquifer deficit. Pat Call said the deficit is now near net zero. An email from Commissioner Faulkner requesting clarification of Call's statement has not been received.

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Commissioner Faulkner introduced Tricia Gerrodette who provided information concerning water usage and replenishment. She provided water sources in the area defined as the Sierra Vista sub watershed. She monitors Sierra Vista and adjacent water use by area water companies as it is problematic to separate water pumping quantities within and outside of Sierra Vista. She stated that water companies must report twice a year the amount of water they pump. One is an annual report to the Arizona Corporation Commission and to the Arizona Department Water Resources. Sometimes the numbers don't agree between the two reports. Arizona Water Company reports are not as clear as the other companies since Arizona Water also pumps to Naco and to Bisbee which is not part of the SV sub watershed.

The information for many years was consolidated by the San Pedro River Water Partnership to be put into a report to the U.S. Congress, however, this report is no longer required. The last report covered the year 2012 and was submitted last year. There are also what are called exempt wells which are unregulated. They are wells that are supposed to pump no more than 35 gallons per minute. For those that have been monitored, some pump less than 35 gallons per minutes to many times above that amount. The difference varies upon the number of residents and crop and livestock issues. Due to the inconsistency between exempt wells usage, is hard to come up with an average of water usage by these rural wells.

Fort Huachuca asked for 7500 acre feet per year at the Gila River Adjudication hearing. This is about seven times more than current use. Arizona State Lands, Freeport Minerals, City of Sierra Vista with Liberty Utilities and one other party were trying to get the Fort's need down to 1300-acre feet per year. Departments of Justices and Interior and a tribal authority support the Fort's request.

Ms. Gerrodette stated that the amount of recharge due to sewage treatment and septic tanks was documented in the 321 Report. The amount of recharge due to residential septic tanks is very low.

U.S. Geological Survey (USAG) and Agricultural Research Service under the US Department of Agriculture monitors some of the basins in the area and provide a report to the San Pedro Partnership Technical Committee. She will attempt to get specific data for the EAC. She did comment that some reports include infiltration which is different than recharge. Only 30% of infiltration amounts can be considered being recharged into the aquifer. She was asked if there were any maps showing recharge areas. She did not know of any.

A question was asked about the why the Fort asked for so much. We think the large fort request was based on military contingencies and expansion of mission.

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**NEW BUSINESS**

**Commission Gathering** - Commissioner Ehrenberger led a discussion concerning EAC sponsorship of an informal gathering of commissions in April. The discussion included concerns of number of people attending and need for RSVP, process and procedures for holding an event similar as the city council, and concerns about formalizing the event with an agenda. Whatever the form the event takes, it must be publicly announced. Commissioner Ehrenberger will talk to Rose Mackey who booked the Landmark for a previous commission get together and see what her experience was using the Landmark for their event

**ADOT streets in Sierra Vista** - ADOT will begin paving Highway 92 from the Fry Blvd intersection to Glenn Road. Commissioner Kennedy will talk with a contact within ADOT to see if he can obtain more information about additional plans to ADOT pave streets within Sierra.

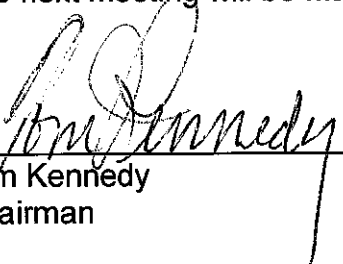
**FIELD TRIPS OR OTHER FUTURE ACTION ITEMS:**

Nothing to report.

**CALL TO THE PUBLIC** – Associate Member Carter announced that the county animal rescue and others will have a gathering 18 March. She would like to have the battery recycle bin at the event. She will coordinate with Commissioner Wilcox who currently has the bin.

**ADJOURNMENT** - Commissioner Kennedy adjourned the meeting at 4:55 PM

The next meeting will be March 22, 2017 at 3:30 PM

  
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Tom Kennedy  
Chairman