

Citizens' Water Advisory Committee

P.O. Box 27210

Tucson, AZ 85726-7210

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Meeting Administrator

(520) 837-2105

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CITIZENS' WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE
(CWAC) Conservation & Education Subcommittee

Monday, May 13, 2024, 2:00 p.m.

Hybrid Meeting – Microsoft Teams

Legal Action Report and Meeting Minutes

1) **Call to Order / Opening Statement:**

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m.

2) **Roll Call:**

Those present and absent were:

Present:

Lisa Shipek (Chair)

Representative, Ward 3

Andrea Gerlak

Representative, City Manager

Val Little

Representative, City Manager

Raul Ramirez

Representative, Ward 1

Absent:

3) **Announcements** – None.

4) **Review and approval of April 8, 2024, Legal Action Report and Meeting Minutes** - Member Little moved to approve the Legal Action Report & Minutes. Member Ramirez duly seconded the motion. The motion passed on a voice vote of 4 – 0.

5) **Call to the audience** – None.

6) **Ornamental (Nonfunctional) Turf Rebate Update** – Candice Rupprecht presented a comprehensive update on the progress of the ornamental or non-functional turf removal and replacement rebate. The ordinance passed by the Tucson City Mayor and Council to prohibit new non-functional turf for commercial customers. She also discussed the funding and implementation of a turf removal program, which aims to incentivize customers to remove ornamental turf at a rebate of \$5 per square foot, with a cap of 20,000 square feet per site. The reduction of turf at parks was also discussed, The meeting also involved a

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detailed discussion on the criteria for tree planting, with a focus on the shape of the square footage and the development of a shorter preferred list of plants. Mrs. Rupprecht emphasized the importance of considering the shape of the square footage, while Mrs. Ogata (Tucson Water, project Manager) is leading the component and looking at locally developed plant lists, including those from Tucson Clean and Beautiful, to ensure desert-adapted plants that are commercially available in the Tucson area. Additionally, Mrs. Rupprecht provided context on the launch date of July 1st and the approval to hire a position,

Mrs. Rupprecht presented the outreach strategy to identify potential customers for turf removal, emphasizing the use of irrigation and reclaimed meters. She also outlined plans for new resources, including a cost-benefit estimator and a turf removal and replacement guide.

No action was taken on this item.

- 7) **Call to Audience** – Mark Day voiced apprehensions about the financial implications of a program, emphasizing income disparities between Tucson and Phoenix. He expressed surprise at the approach and concluded his remarks.

8) **Future Agenda Items**

The committee engaged in a discussion about future agenda items, with a focus on conservation budget planning and the timeline for the annual report. Val brought up the need to address the mix of rebates versus professional services, as well as the allocation of grants from Tucson Clean and Beautiful, proposing a recommendation to the mayor and council based on equitable distribution.

- 9) **Adjournment** – The meeting ended at 3:32 p.m.