

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

Wednesday, March 26, 2025, 9:00 a.m.

Virtual Meeting – Microsoft Teams

Legal Action Report and Meeting Minutes

1) Call to Order / Opening Statement:

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m.

2) Roll Call:

Those present and absent were:

Present:

Lisa Shipek (Chair)	Representative, Ward 3
Val Little	Representative, City Manager
Andrea Gerlak	Representative, City Manager

Absent:

Raul Ramirez	Representative, Ward 1
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3. Announcements – Mrs. Rupprecht shared Cody Wooden's hire as the Commercial Conservation Program Manager for Tucson Water

4. Call to the Audience – None.

5. **Review and approval of February 25, 2025, Legal Action Report and Meeting Minutes - Member Little moved to approve the Legal Action Report & Minutes. Member Gerlak duly seconded the motion. The motion passed on a voice vote of 3 – 0.

6. **Reconsideration of the 2025 Meeting schedule—staff proposed the subcommittee meets virtually on the fourth Wednesday of each month from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. The option did not work for all of the members. Staff suggested additional options in previous emails for Wednesday and Thursday afternoons. The subcommittee members would provide availability via email for staff to review; afternoons are the most common options. The committee agreed to potentially look for a new afternoon time to reschedule the April meeting via email. No action was taken on this item.

7. Turf Removal Update - Candice Rupprecht, Tucson Water Program Superintendent, and Cody Wooden Commercial Conservation Program Manager for Tucson Water discussed the progress, challenges, and strategic considerations surrounding the turf removal rebate program. Mr. Wooden highlighted the high financial incentive for turf removal in Tucson (\$5/sq. ft), comparing it to other cities like Scottsdale and Phoenix. He noted that while HOAs

often need to see the financial benefit ("dollars and cents"), there's growing interest in the environmental impact of water conservation. Mrs. Rupprecht shared that the team has adapted by offering virtual presentations to overcome challenges in gathering stakeholders. This also fostered stronger collaboration with the planning department and improved efficiency through the city's new permitting system. Mrs. Rupprecht confirmed the rebate cap is \$100,000 per customer (roughly 20,000 sq. ft.), and acknowledged that while uptake was initially slow, momentum is building. Four projects are already underway, with 20 more expressing interest. Mr. Wooden's proactive outreach, including to commercial property managers, is seen as a potential multiplier for scaling the program. There was also discussion on winding down the Smartscape HOA transformation program after this fiscal year. While some HOAs from that initiative are continuing with turf removal, future HOA education and outreach efforts are on hold until current funding is spent and program capacity is stabilized. The conversation ended positively, recognizing the early successes and ongoing progress in moving projects forward. No action was taken on this item.

9. **Call to the Audience** – None.

10. **Future agenda Items**

- a. Conservation Budget
- b. Business plan

11. **Adjournment** at 9:57 a.m.