



DRAFT

**\*SUMMARIZED MEETING MINUTES\***

City of Scottsdale

Environmental Quality Advisory Board

Regular Meeting

5:30 p.m., Wednesday, October 19, 2016

One Civic Center Community Development Conference Rooms 1, 2, & 3  
7447 E Indian School Rd., Scottsdale, AZ 85251

**PRESENT:** Alisa McMahon, Chair  
Steven Schlosser, Vice-Chair (left at 6:40 p.m.)  
Candice Gimbel, Board Member  
Bruce Travers, Board Member  
Dane Englert, Board Member  
Arnold Siegel, Board Member

**ABSENT:** Michel Hulst, Board Member

**STAFF PRESENT:** Tim Conner, Office of Environmental Initiatives  
Sam Brown, Office of Environmental Initiatives  
Anthony Floyd, Office of Environmental Initiatives  
Chris Mercer, Office of Environmental Initiatives  
Chris Hassert, Scottsdale Water  
Jennifer Davidson, Scottsdale Water

**Call to Order:**

Chair McMahon called the regular meeting of the Environmental Quality Advisory Board (EQAB) to order at 5:33 p.m.

**Roll Call:**

A formal roll call took place confirming the members present as stated above.

**Public Comment:**

No members of the public were present. No public comment was received.

1. [Scottsdale Water Salinity Presentation](#): Informational item provided by Chris Hassert, Scottsdale Water Planning and Engineering Director, regarding an update to the City's activities to attempt to reduce salinity in the water and treated wastewater. – Discussion and possible action Chris Hassert

\* Note: These are summary action minutes only. A complete copy of the meeting audio is available on the Environmental Quality Advisory Board web page located at [Scottsdaleaz.gov](http://Scottsdaleaz.gov), search "Environmental Quality Advisory Board"

No action was taken.

Vice-Chair Schlosser commented that when he arrived in Arizona he installed a TAC System. However, he stated that to be successful the cost of the transition from tradition to new technology systems needs to be cost neutral for the public to accept the new technology.

Board Member Gimbel asked Mr. Hassert which of the new technologies are preferred.

Mr. Hassert stated the Template Assisted Crystallization (TAC) is the best salt free technology that he has found. He went on to say that today, most companies who sell these units tend to try to up sell add on products, so the industry tends to confuse the consumer.

Board Member Gimbel noted the canister exchange system was one also recommended in the rebate and asked if there were multiple exchange companies.

Mr. Hassert replied there are about three in the valley.

Vice Chair Schlosser brought up an international article related to salinity he had distributed at the last Board meeting. He went on to ask is Scottsdale Water is looking at this topic from an international level. Mr. Hassert said yes, Scottsdale Water is attempting to keep up with the various efforts around the world for this issue.

Board Member Siegel asked if the City had targeted commercial water softener activities. He listed a number of commercial building types. Chris said commercial is on their radar. The issue is rapid payback is one of the most important determinates in commercial businesses technology selection processes.

Board Member Siegel asked if Scottsdale Water knows what is going on in other Arizona communities. Mr. Hassert said to the best of his knowledge Scottsdale is the only City that has developed a rebate program in Arizona. Most Cities are not really active in the issue.

Mr. Hassert explained the full cycle of our waste water treatment process. He said salts were concentrated into slurry and the slurry is blended with additional waste water and sent to the 91<sup>st</sup> Avenue

regional treatment facility. The treated effluent is then used by the Palo Verde Nuclear Power Plant for cooling the reactors. Plant uses the treated effluent until the salt concentrations reach a point where it no longer cools efficiently. Then the brackish water goes into evaporation ponds and finally the salts are placed in a landfill.

Board Member Englert asked where the exchange system companies discharge the salts in their process. Mr. Hassert said much of the salts are used to regenerate the resin needed for the process. The end product eventually does end up in the sanitary sewer system, but none of the facilities are in Scottsdale.

Board Member Englert asked if the water softener tune up concept something that would change the technology from the time clock system to a demand based regeneration system. Mr. Hassert said actually, the new softeners are only being fabricated as demand based, but often times the softeners are installed and set by a third party, such as a handyman, who really doesn't know how to set the appliance appropriately.

Chair McMahan asked Mr. Hassert does the source level of the salinity vary throughout the year. Mr. Hassert replied, not so much with the CAP, but SRP does vary somewhat.

Chair McMahan asked how California dealing with the product labeling since they have several laws requiring high efficiency units. Ms. Davidson said the products have a switch for efficiency for California.

Chair McMahan asked when the Water Quality Association (WQA) required timer based units no longer be manufactured. Ms. Davidson said it took place about ten years ago, but there is still one manufacturer in Utah who is producing time clock units.

Chair McMahan asked the Scottsdale Water Staff to stay for the second agenda item.

Before leaving the presentation Mr. Hassert discussed the SROG 91<sup>st</sup> Ave. Wastewater Treatment Facility efforts to sell bio-digester gas utilizing a regional Kinder Morgan pipeline next to the plant. The project is organized by Ameresco, and involves all of the cities in the SROG.

Mr. Hassert also explained the Federal Government made Hoover Dam hydroelectricity available to cities. The City of Scottsdale will be able to direct about 5 megawatts of power through APS to our water operations.

Mr. Hassert described the Solar City / Tesla 2.3 megawatt system using a solar lease agreement that will combine the Tesla battery technology combined with solar generation units to lower the demand rate, saving the City money on the demand and normal rate charges.

Board Member Gimbel asked if these programs had been recognized through any environmental awards. Mr. Hassert said no, the projects are still in the development stage.

Chair McMahon noted Mr. Hassert has invited the board for a tour when the solar project is finished.

Chair McMahon asked Mr. Hassert to explain the Cities attempt to use micro-turbines. Mr. Hassert stated the conditions of the opium scenario location changed, so the project no longer made sense and was abandoned.

2. [White Paper for alternative water softener technologies](#): **Update progress for the final draft white paper “*Scottsdale Unsalted*”: A Review of Alternative Salt-Free Water Treatment Technologies for Effective Salinity Management and the Board’s Cover Memo to City Council. Discussion of recommendations provided by Vice-Chair Schlosser, and an overview by Board Member Englert of Arizona Revised Statute Title 14 Article 19 Appliances and Equipment Energy Efficiency Standards §44-1375 – §44-1375.03 specifically related to multi-speed residential pool pump standards. – Discussion and possible action**

Chair McMahon,  
Vice-Chair  
Schlosser, &  
Board Member  
Englert

No Action was taken.

Chair McMahon stated she has been talking with the WQA about having the house bill for high efficiency water softeners reintroduced into the State legislator this year. She said the WQA was interested and was considering this action. Chair McMahon said that possibly having the City support this effort could be an additional recommendation added to the list that had been generated by Vice-

Chair Schlosser.

Chair McMahan asked Mr. Hassert if he had any additional recommendations to add to the list developed by the Vice-Chair. Mr. Hassert replied possibly the addition of establishing a water softener “tune-up” rebate program could be useful.

Board Member Gimbel asked if there is a sense of how many timer based softeners are in the City today. Ms. Davidson said that several of the softeners denied in the rebate program were situations where people were trying to replace existing demand based units. Mr. Hassert said going into the rebate program the assumption was there were many more time clock units than was seen in the numbers of the rebate program.

Chair McMahan stated the concept of legislation requiring high efficiency softeners should be a state law, as it would not be feasible for a single jurisdiction to enforce this concept in a major metropolitan area.

Chair McMahan suggested asking Council to support the WQA’s efforts to bring the bill forward requiring high efficiency water softeners in this year’s legislative session. She stated there seems to be momentum in the legislature and support for the WQA’s recommendations.

Chair McMahan also referred to individual City’s past efforts to legislate an issue in one city has caused the state to react by passing legislation to deny cities to carry out their individual legislation. An example is the proposed plastic bag ban.

Board Member Gimbel asked if the standards in the draft bill are considered normal levels efficiency. Chair McMahan stated some standards in California are a bit higher. Chair McMahan asked Mr. Hassert if Scottsdale Water would be supportive of this legislation. Mr. Hassert stated they would.

Chair McMahan asked Mr. Hassert if the standards in the rebate program should be used, noting California used a slightly higher standard. Mr. Hassert stated if the standards were close either will be better than what the industry is using now.

Board Member Gimbel said she felt the higher efficiency standards

are good, but expressed disappointment the program will not go far enough to induce the usage of salt free systems. She asked Mr. Hassert if a technology would actually remove scale from pipes in her home. Mr. Hassert stated a softener would not accomplish this, but a Template Assisted Crystallization (TAC) would. She asked if the TAC systems might affect human consumption. Mr. Hassert explained no, it does not; in fact the TAC system is drinkable, where you do not want to drink water softener water.

Board Member Gimbel expressed her frustration with her attempts to obtain a Pelican TAC system. Mr. Hassert said the TAC units need to have their resin replaced about every three years. His attempt to get his unit serviced was also difficult and expensive.

Chair McMahon asked Mr. Hassert his opinion on recommendations from the Board for items:

#3. "That the City Council of Scottsdale recognize that the salinity issue is a Maricopa County wide problem and that the Council have City resources engage with other county entities to insure any programs or regulations that apply to the waste water stream be uniform throughout the County."

#6. "That the City Council – through ordinance or by creating incentive programs- encourage builders, trades persons and residents to consider salt free systems to replace existing salt based systems for generating soft water; as outlined in the body of the report."

The Chair suggested item number 3 was something Mr. Hassert was involved with other agencies in the state. Mr. Hassert agreed.

As for item number 6 Chair McMahon asked Mr. Hassert if he felt this was achievable. He cautioned that there could be some homebuilders who would oppose; however, there are home builders who offer green or energy/water efficient new home packages.

The Chair asked Mr. Hassert if it made sense to ask the City Council to pass a ban on timer based softening units. Mr. Hassert said the enforcement would be the challenge. He suggested a statewide ban would be a better approach. Ms. Davidson said the problem is the ability to cross boundaries.

Mr. Englert suggested there could be a statewide tax on salt. Mr. Hassert stated this concept was considered early in the discussions.

Ms. Davidson suggested there be some agency to label softeners simply for the general public to easily understand the softeners meet an efficiency rating. Chair McMahon agreed this needs to happen; however, not even the WQA has been able to establish standards for their gold seal program.

Chair McMahon asked Mr. Hassert if there was anything else in his work program EQAB could support and highlight to Council. He replied at this time most of his programs are in the pilot stages and they appear to be supported.

Ms. Davidson stated there have been a few rebates issued after the pilot, but none were commercial. Board Member Siegel suggested speaking to IREM and BOMA representatives to see if they would be interested in participating. Mr. Hassert said that communication might be helpful. He went on to state the basis of successfully converting commercial systems is based on a quick payback.

3. [Approval of Summarized Meeting Minutes: Regular Meeting September 21, 2016 – Possible action](#) Chair McMahon

**MOTION AND VOTE – ITEM # 2**

Board Member Gimbel provided a motion to approve the September 21, 2016 Regular Meeting Summarized Meeting Minutes as submitted with the correction of a spelling error, Chair McMahon provided a second to the motion; **MOTION APPROVED 5-0**

4. [Administrative Report: Discussion](#) Tim Conner, & Board Members
- Updates and opportunities – Conner
  - Board member preferences about hard copies
  - Green Building Lecture Series update – Conner & Chair McMahon
5. [Idle Reduction Resource Packet: Review of the resource packet for idle reduction during student pick up and drop off at Scottsdale schools and the Board’s Cover Memo to City Council. Discuss next steps for EQAB distribution of final packet. – Discussion and possible action](#) Board Member Gimbel, & Chair McMahon

No Action was taken.

Chair McMahon announced the packet is out for review and she had received some good feedback from Bill Sheaffer, Clean Cities Coalition, and Julie Finke with ADEQ.

Rachel Smetana, the Mayor's Chief of Staff suggested the packet be cleaned up graphically, and then placed on the City Council Consent Agenda.

The Chair stated there was a vote taken to allow the Chair to make changes as need. Chair McMahon asked Mr. Conner if there needed to be another vote. Mr. Conner said only if the board wanted to take additional action, otherwise no additional vote is necessary.

6. [Draft General Plan references to school transportation](#): **Review of goals and policies in the draft General Plan related to school transportation. Consider EQAB recommendation for alternative language. – Discussion and possible action** Chair McMahon

No Action was taken.

The notes apply to items 6 & 7

Chair McMahon felt the Board could do a better job on edits to the General Plan. She pointed to the redline plan and the major changes made to the transportation section. She stated she would speak with Dan Worth to include the Strategic Solid Waste and Recycling plan should be included in the General Plan. Chair McMahon and Board Member Gimbel will work on possible adjustments for the next meeting.

7. [Potential draft General Plan modifications in light of the Solid Waste Vision and Strategic Plan](#): **Consider EQAB recommendations – Discussion and possible action** Chair McMahon

No Action was taken.

8. **Board Members' reports, updates and suggestions for future agenda items – Discussion**

Chair McMahon,  
& Board  
Members

- Board Member Siegel asked if the City was doing anything to reduce grass and possibly consider artificial turf to reduce water consumption. Chair McMahon stated Scottsdale Water was addressing this in their conservation program.
- The Chair acknowledged the Environmental Achievement Recognition Award will also be discussed at the November Meeting.

9. **Updates and reminders –**

Chair McMahon,  
& Board  
Members

- Next EQAB Regular Meeting Wednesday, November 16, 2016 at the Community Design Studio 5:30 p.m. – Documents related to this meeting will be due to Tim Conner – [tconner@scottsdaleaz.gov](mailto:tconner@scottsdaleaz.gov) by the close of business Monday November 14, 2016.
- Next Green Building Lecture Series Thursday, November 3, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. at the Scottsdale Granite Reef Sr. Center – Topic: Green Renovations in Southern Scottsdale.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 7:42 p.m. due to the desired ending time of the board of 7:30 p.m.

Chair McMahon