



Pima County Cooperative Extension Advisory Board

Thursday, September 7, 2022, 11:30 am

Meeting was hybrid, attended in-person and via Zoom

Meeting Minutes

Attendees

Advisory Board

Micaela McGibbon (serving as Chair)

Celia Burkel

Alana Mozar

Amanda Ruboyianes

Absent

Rick Frey

PCCE Staff

Claire Zucker, Director

Connie Callahan

Karen Hanshaw, Smartscape Program Manager

Parker Filer, Horticulture Agent

Public Attendees

None

Item 1. Call to Order and Welcome

Micaela McGibbon called the meeting to order at 11:35 am

Item 2. Pledge of Allegiance

Ms. McGibbon led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance

Item 3. Approval of June 7, 2022, Meeting Minutes

Amanda Ruboyianes moved for approval of June 7, 2022, Pima County Cooperative Extension (PCCE) Advisory Board minutes. Celia Burkel seconded the motion, and all voted to approve the minutes.

Item 4. Call to the Public

No members of the public were in attendance.

Item 5. Agriculture and Natural Resources Smartscape Program

PCCE Agent Parker Filer provided context for Smartscape within the Agriculture and Natural Resources program at Pima County Cooperative Extension (PCCE) and introduced Program Manager Karen Hanshaw. Ms. Hanshaw described the history of the Smartscape program including program development, recognition in the community, and funding history over the time. The Smartscape program is funded under contract with the City of Tucson Water Department and a new 5-Year contract was signed this summer.

The Smartscape program provides education about water conservation practices including rainwater harvesting, low water use irrigation, plant selection, and various xeriscape practices. Over the past few years, a landscaping professionals education program has been developed and recognition of those professionals will be incorporated into the new website, to be launched this Fall. A recent development has been a pilot project to work with Homeowners Associations to help them transform landscaping in their neighborhoods so that low water use options are promoted and implemented. Another key effort is the annual Sustainable Landscapes Expo. This event occurs in March each year but was cancelled during 2021 because of COVID. Last year's event was very successful, and plans are already underway for 2022.

Item 6. Pima County Water Fact Sheet

Claire Zucker distributed the Pima County Water Fact Sheet, which was produced by the UArizona Water Resources Research Center (WRRC) in 2022. The WRRC is in the process of creating water fact sheets for many counties in Arizona. Ms. Zucker described water resources in broad terms and then reviewed the fact sheet including providing a statewide context and then focusing on where water comes from and how it is used in Pima County. Discussion followed about the percentage of water used for irrigated agriculture in Pima County, which is much less than used in the state overall.

Item 7. Director's Report

Ms. Zucker presented highlights from July through August for all PCCE programs. This included an update on the two new 4-H programs, Juntos and 4-H Ranch Stewardship. She also reported that Tucson Village Farm had just completed 16 weeks of summer camps engaging 421 youth. She followed with an update on the PCCE e-newsletter, The Round-Up, which was distributed to 7,637 people with an open rate of 51% in July. Business Manager Sr. Connie Callahan Provided an overview of staffing changes, and recent and upcoming job postings. She also presented a new financial projections graph to help board members and others understand how funding fluctuates with grants, cost recover, and donations. Finally, Ms. Zucker noted that meetings with the Pima County Board of Supervisors had been scheduled for July.

Item 8. Meeting Discussion and Future Agenda Items

At the next meeting, there will be a presentation on one of the other PCCE programs.

Item 9. Adjournment

Ms. McGibbon adjourned the meeting.