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

* 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, search “Environmental Quality Advisory Board”
No action was taken.

Vice-Chair Schlosser commented that when he arrived in Arizona he installed a Template Assisted Crystallization (TAC) system. However, he stated that to be successful, the cost of the transition from traditional 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 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 that portable exchange service was recommended in the rebate program and asked if there were multiple companies. Mr. Hassert replied there are about three in the valley.

Vice Chair Schlosser brought up an article related to new technologies for salinity reduction in third world countries that he distributed at the last Board meeting. Mr. Hassert said the Multi-State Salinity Coalition looks at what other countries are doing.

Board Member Siegel asked if the City had targeted commercial water softener activities. He listed a number of commercial building types. Mr. Hassert said commercial is on their radar. Businesses look for rapid payback in the technology selection process.

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 wastewater treatment process. Salts are concentrated into slurry and the slurry is blended with additional waste water and sent to the 91st Avenue regional treatment facility. The treated effluent is then used by the Palo Verde Nuclear Power Plant for cooling the reactors. The 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 portable exchange 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 sewer system, but none of the facilities are in Scottsdale.

Board Member Englert asked if the water softener tune-up could be used to change the technology from time clock to demand regeneration. Mr. Hassert said Water Quality Association (WQA) says they are not putting out new softeners with time clocks, but often times the softeners are set wrong, such as by a handyman, who really doesn’t know how to set the appliance appropriately.

Chair McMahon asked Mr. Hassert if the salinity level in source water varies throughout the year. Mr. Hassert replied, not so much with CAP, but SRP does vary somewhat.

Chair McMahon asked how California deals with product labeling since the state has efficiency requirements in areas where softeners are not banned. Ms. Davidson said products sold in California have an efficiency switch that has to be enabled.

Chair McMahon asked when the WQA members stopped manufacturing time clock units. Ms. Davidson said about ten or fifteen years ago, but there is still one manufacturer in Utah who is producing time clock units.

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

Before leaving the presentation, Mr. Hassert discussed the SROG 91st 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 recently 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 next described the solar lease agreement for a 2.3 megawatt Solar City system at the Water Campus. The system will provide about
10% of current Water Campus power use. Combined with Tesla battery technology, the system will lower the demand rate, saving the City money on demand 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 City’s attempt to use micro-turbines. Mr. Hassert stated they had one viable location at the Water Campus. However, that scenario is changing, so the project no longer made sense and has been 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

No Action was taken.

Chair McMahon stated she has been talking with the WQA about having the 2014 house bill for water softener efficiency standards reintroduced in the state legislature in January. She said the WQA is interested and considering this action. Chair McMahon said that having the City support this effort could be an additional recommendation added to the list that had been generated by Vice-Chair Schlosser.

Chair McMahon 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
Chair McMahon stated that any efficiency mandates should be statewide, as it is not feasible for a single jurisdiction in a major metropolitan area to act alone.

Chair McMahon suggested asking Council to support the WQA’s efforts to bring the efficiency standard bill forward in the next legislative session. She stated there seems to be momentum and support.

Chair McMahon also referred to recent examples where an individual city’s action caused the legislature to react by passing legislation to prohibit the city’s action. Examples are state legislation that prohibits cities from banning plastic bags or requiring energy benchmarking.

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

Chair McMahon asked Mr. Hassert if the standards in the rebate program should be used, noting California has 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 expressed disappointment that we are still talking about salt, which the efficiency standards do not go far enough. She had hoped after the two year rebate program, we would be promoting salt-free technologies. She asked Mr. Hassert if there is a technology to remove scale from pipes such as a treatment that could be done periodically to protect appliances. Mr. Hassert stated a softener would not accomplish this, but TAC would. She asked if TAC affected human consumption. Mr. Hassert explained no, it does not; in fact TAC water is drinkable, where you do not want to drink soft 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 difficult and expensive.

Chair McMahon asked Mr. Hassert his opinion on recommendations:

#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 already involved with, even beyond the county level. Mr. Hassert agreed.

Regarding item number 6, Mr. Hassert cautioned that there could be homebuilder opposition; however, there are homebuilders 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 time-clock 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 for the general public to easily understand which softeners meet an efficiency rating. Chair McMahon agreed this needs to happen. The WQA could be that organization. However WQA’s Gold Seal does not currently include efficiency requirements.

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 stage and appear to be supported.

Ms. Davidson stated they have had six removal rebates since the pilot
ended, 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

**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
   - 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

No Action was taken.

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

Rachel Smetana, the Mayor’s Chief of Staff, has suggested the packet be placed on the City Council Consent Agenda and has offered to give it graphic treatment before it goes to Council.

Chair McMahon asked Mr. Conner if the prior vote to send the packet to Council after it is finalized was sufficient, or if another vote was needed. Mr. Conner said no additional vote is necessary unless the board wanted to take additional action.
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

No Action was taken.

The notes apply to items 6 & 7.

Chair McMahon explained that in light of the work the Board has done on school transportation, she thinks the General Plan could be better in this area. With respect to solid waste, she pointed to the redline plan and the major changes made to the transportation section after the new transportation plan was adopted. She stated she would speak with Dan Worth about changes to the General Plan to reflect the Solid Waste Strategic Plan, for example in the Implementation chapter. Chair McMahon and Board Member Gimbel will work on suggestions regarding school transportation.

7. **Potential draft General Plan modifications in light of the Solid Waste Vision and Strategic Plan:** Consider EQAB recommendations – Discussion and possible action

No Action was taken.

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

- 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 be discussed at the November Meeting.

9. **Updates and reminders**

Chair McMahon,
• 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 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.