



*Visalia Environmental Committee informs and advises the Visalia City Council and Citizens  
on preserving and improving environmental quality for the benefit of the community.*

**MEETING MINUTES (Draft)**  
**December 9, 2020**

**1. Welcome & Introduction**

The Visalia Environmental Committee (V.E.C.) meeting was called to order at 5:46 p.m. by Chair Melkonian.

**Members Present:** Maile Melkonian, Kathy Falconer, David Shelburne, Mark Wall and Dustin Johnson were present by Zoom teleconference; Steve Sanders present in person.

**Members Not Present:** None

**Members of the Public:** None

**City Staff:** Andrew Munn

**2. Public Comment**

None

**3. Approval of November 18, 2020 Meeting Minutes**

Chair Melkonian asked that all members review the draft meeting minutes from the November 18, 2020 monthly meeting. After review of the minutes, Member Falconer made the motion to accept the meeting minutes; Member Johnson seconded, the motion carried 6-0.

**4. Low Water Land Use Landscape Award Judging Criteria Subcommittee: Draft Low Water Use Landscape Design Certification and Awards Program**

No Action taken. Discussion as follows:

Members Wall and Sanders reported to the Committee on their work, with Member Wall presenting a revised proposal (attached), that incorporates suggestions the Committee made at the November meeting.

- The number of awards presented will be at the discretion of the Committee; to facilitate public awareness of the program (provide more opportunities for promotion of the low water use landscaping), the awards would be issued quarterly.
- The Committee would review and evaluate the applications. Applications for the Design Awards category may also be subject to field inspection.
- Two categories of award recognition would be available to participants; the Low Water Land Use Certificate and the Low Water Use Landscape Design Award
- Applicants would submit a utilizing a form developed by the subcommittee (attached) that awards points for meeting criteria listed on a V.E.C. created scoresheet similar to the MWELO prescriptive guidelines.
- To receive either the Certificate or the Award, applicants would need to meet the minimum requirements listed on the form.

Member Wall suggested that the form be reviewed by the Community Development Department for review, and also that the application be produced and made available by the City in brochure form and also in pdf format online.

**5. 2020-21 Committee Goal Planning Subcommittee**

No Action taken. Discussion as follows:

The Subcommittee submitted a revised list of the Committee's goals and for 2021(attached):

**Goal 1, Earth Day "Plus 1":** Provide coordination for Visalia Earth Day 2020 "Plus 1" scheduled for April 24, 2021, contingent on the lifting of COVID-19 restrictions on public assembly. Members Deniston-Sheets and Johnson suggested that in the event Earth Day cannot be held in a public space, consider creating a virtual event online with City assistance. Member Wall suggested that in the event that Earth Day can proceed in a public space, creating a modest Pre-Earth Day online event to increase interest.

**Goal 2, Battery Recycling:** Continue to provide support for the Battery Recycling Program. The Committee learned that based on their request for consolidation of drop off to one location, battery drop-off shall now occur at the Administration Building.

**Goal 3, V.E.C. Environmental Awards:**

- Low Water Landscape Awards to potentially be issued quarterly, depending on the number of applicants to the program.
- Commercial Environmental Recognition Awards to be issued to 3 parties; work with Nathan Garza in Public Works to identify candidates.

**Goal 4, Environmental Communications:**

- Look into feasibility of developing an Environmental Calendar on the City's website. Content may include webinars on environmental topics done by community partners, showcase City environmental accomplishments, highlight how climate change impacts the community.
- Post a series of "Go Green" resolutions (attached) on the City web platform that provide simple tips to residents to reduce their carbon and water footprint.

**Goal 5, Stage 3 Water Ordinance Support:** Encourage the City Council to consider innovative ways to assist residents and businesses comply with the stricter water regulations:

- Find state and/or city funds for a program to provide funds to allow encourage landscape conversion from turf to low-water use.
- Encourage the City to develop Public Relations program utilizing Public Service Announcements and other means of communication.
- Promote the California Water Service water conservation programs that are available to residents and businesses.

**Goal 6, Air Quality:** Encourage the City Council to promote Clean Air policies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and sequester carbon dioxide, with a view to meeting or exceeding State goals.

**6. Climate Safe California Rapid Decarbonization Campaign Platform Endorsement (member Falconer)**

No Action Taken, Discussion  
Presentation attached.

**7. The Committee was in agreement to hold a special meeting on December 17<sup>th</sup> to complete work on the V.E.C. Low Water Landscape program and the 2020-21 Goals, however staff couldn't commit to a meeting in that timeframe**

**8. Adjourn**

Chair Melkonian adjourned the meeting at 8:05 pm.