

New Castle Climate & Environment Commission Minutes for August 21, 2025

Attendees: Commissioner Bruce Leland, Commissioner Myrna Candraia, Chair Sharon Morris, Commissioner Julia Koch, and Commissioner Nancy Barnes

Chair Morris called the meeting to order at 4:08 p.m.

Budget Update of Expenditures and Remainder of Budget

Chair Morris reviewed the 2025. The CEC was allocated \$1,000 and has spent 33.85% to date. Members should discuss how to use the remaining funds at the next meeting.

Community Trash Pick-up (reschedule to October 10th)

Members discussed the trash pick-up project plan. The goal for the event is to clean public spaces and raise awareness about the “leave no trace” principle. Once confirmed, the CEC will reach out to the Boy Scouts for help.

The CEC will provide lunch and gift cards to volunteers. Volunteer registration will be arranged with Kelly.

Action: Nancy will confirm the date and logistics with Public Works Director John Wenzel. Myrna will handle lunch arrangements and gift cards.

Burning Mountain Festival and Parade Logistics

The CEC will receive the *Volunteer Organization of the Year* award on Sept. 12 at 7pm at the Burning Mountain Festival award ceremony. The award includes \$50 for use at CEC’s discretion. Members will participate in the parade on Sept 13th, distributing seeds and promoting the “Nature Guardians of New Castle” slogan with wristbands/stickers.

Action: Chair Morris will confirm times for the award ceremony and parade.

Triple-R Business Grant Applications and Next Steps

The CEC reviewed the grant applications and voted to approve funding.

Motion: Commissioner Barnes move to approve grant funding for the two applicants and to double Salon West’s grant award. Commissioner Candraia seconded. Approved unanimously.

Fall Projects and Activities

The CEC will work on logo ideas for the “Nature Guardians of New Castle” slogan. Chair Morris will explore Micro-Plastics services. Commissioner Koch will pursue design support from a CMC student. Future potential partnerships discussed:

- Rides & Reggae (2026 aluminum can recycling)
- New Castle Trails (spring 2026 replanting)
- Library (2026 film/panel education program).

Approval of June Minutes

Motion: Commissioner Candraia moved to approve the June minutes. Chair Morris seconded. Approved unanimously.

Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Koch is excited to welcome Ryan Deyarmond to the commission and noted his expertise on xeriscaping.

Commissioner Barnes proposed sponsoring a Sustainable Business award in 2026.

Commissioner Candraia is thankful for the new members and the ongoing work of the CEC.

Commissioner Leland commented on nearby fires and noted everyone should be “wildfire ready.” Leland announced that Steve Rippy’s memorial will be held Saturday morning at Burning Mountain Park.

Chair Morris encouraged members to think strategically about CEC’s role and expertise. She suggested extended planning time in November to discussion vision and strategy.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 5:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Commissioner Nancy Barnes

Commission Chair Sharon Morris