



**PIMA COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ADVISORY COUNCIL**  
**33 N. Stone Avenue, Suite 700**  
**Tucson, AZ 85701**

Summary Minutes – March 20, 2013  
Bank of America Building, Conference Room, 7<sup>th</sup> floor  
33 N. Stone, Tucson, AZ  
1:30 p.m.

Members Present:

Mr. Warren Thompson  
Ms. Linda Hanson  
Dr. Curt Lueck  
Dr. Eric Betterton  
Mr. Jeff Yockey  
Mr. Richard Murphy

Members Absent:

Mr. Daniel G. Rowe  
Dr. Mark Witten  
Mr. Peter Livingston

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Others Present:

Ursula Kramer, Director, PDEQ  
Richard Grimaldi, Deputy Director, PDEQ  
Sarah Walters, Program Manager, PDEQ  
Vicki Bennie, Council Secretary, PDEQ  
Misael Cabrera, ADEQ  
Amanda Stone, ADEQ  
Roxanne Linsley, ADEQ  
Claire Zucker, PAG  
Robert Harris, Pima County Citizen  
Roy Zeagler, Pima County Citizen  
Brian Zeagler, Pima County Citizen  
Gregory Shinsky, Pima County Citizen

**I. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Mr. Thompson called the meeting to order and introductions were made.

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mr. Thompson led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**III. ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR FOR 2013**

Dr. Lueck made a motion, seconded by Mr. Yockey, to nominate Dr. Betterton for Chair. A motion was made by Ms. Hanson, seconded by Dr. Lueck to close the nominations for Chair. The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Lueck made a motion, seconded by Ms. Hanson, nominating Mr. Yockey for Vice Chair. A motion was made by Dr. Lueck, seconded by Ms. Hanson, to close the nominations for Vice Chair. The motion passed unanimously.

**IV. APPROVAL OF THE NOVEMBER 12, 2012 MINUTES**

A motion was made by Dr. Lueck, seconded by Mr. Yockey, to approve the minutes as written. The motion passed unanimously.

**V. ADEQ FIVE-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN**

Mr. Misael Cabrera, ADEQ Deputy Director, explained that prior to being hired as the Deputy Director, his background was in civil engineering.

A few years ago, ADEQ faced its greatest hurdle in its 25 year history. The economic downturn was beginning and decisions had to be made in order to maintain their core programs. The Strategic Plan supports: 1) Stabilize Funding; 2) Prioritize Programs; and 3) Reduction in Force.

The years between 2014 and 2018 are the planning portion of the Strategic Plan focusing on:

- Unleash human potential – consider employee input, conduct skills inventory, implement a relevant training program for staff;
- Deploy Lean - look at processes and identify what works and what does not work;
- Leverage E-Technology – develop online permitting, reporting and notification tools, prepare 5-year technology roadmap;
- Increase Outreach – voluntary stewardship program, small communities environment compliance assistance program, produce/update program brochures; and
- Strengthen Core Programs – implement fee-for-service model, identify stable revenue sources to fund vital operations not supported by fees or grants.

The planning process began with an assessment of the recent past and reality of the present. ADEQ leadership meets regularly with staff, the regulated community, citizen groups and representatives from both the executive and legislative branches of government. This constant contact allows ADEQ to better understand the stakeholders' needs and how decisions the agency makes affects them.

In envisioning a future that is rooted in ADEQ's mission and vision and supported by its values and principles, the future was viewed in current and long-term planning horizons. These planning horizons are the final ingredients in the overall strategic direction. The near-term planning horizon is a five-year period and the basis for ADEQ's goals, strategies and performance measures. The long-term planning horizon, which extends beyond five years, is not addressed in the Strategic Plan.

**ADEQ's Goals**

The key concepts in ADEQ's Five-Year planning horizon can be summarized in the following three goals that apply to the three environmental programs (air quality, water quality and waste programs):

- Support environmentally responsible economic growth;
- Enhance Arizona's unique environment; and
- Accelerate cleanups.

One additional goal was added for ADEQ's administrative program:

- Fully support and champion the ADEQ mission

Next, performance measures were developed for every major function at ADEQ. These performance measures are checked every quarter.

In order to provide connectivity between the agency's mission, goals and performance measures, each team will develop a list of key metrics that feed upward to the performance measures. These metrics will be process that the team controls such as how long it takes to accomplish a certain type of review, etc. The performance measures require controllable performance as well as leadership influence.

Mr. Cabrera explained that ADEQ plans to apply the Deming model: "Plan - Do - Check - Act". The success of the strategic plan will be the result of thoughtful planning, disciplined execution of the current plan, checking data to determine if the plan is working and taking action if it is not. Taking action also requires starting the cycle all over again.

Several members of the public asked questions and Mr. Cabrera offered to meet with them separately to discuss their particular issues.

**VI. PIMA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS' REPORT: SHALLOW GROUNDWATER BASINS IN EASTERN PIMA COUNTY**

Claire Zucker is the Sustainable Environment Director with PAG. The Sustainable Program involves the areas of water, air quality, clean cities, etc.

Ms. Zucker provided information on their PAG's new overview report about shallow groundwater basins in eastern Pima County. The report was done in coordination with Pima County Flood Control District, as a part of the Desert Conservation Plan.

The groundwater level is shallow or within 50 feet of the surface in some areas. Shallow groundwater levels support riparian habitat and that is one reason to identify where they are located and to maintain them. PAG's report includes maps and provides information about the status of groundwater levels in these basins and their sensitivity as they become stressed by drought and climate change. There is also a need to examine areas with declining water levels and determine the best plan of action such as rainwater harvesting, etc. There are a total of 32 shallow groundwater areas in the basin and Tucson is right in the middle. PAG categorized the areas into 10 groups, each with a one mile buffer.

There are approximately 20,000 wells in Pima County and about 2,500 are located in shallow groundwater areas; however, not all are in shallow groundwater areas. About 81 percent are exempt wells. Exempt wells are private, residential and have a maximum pumping capacity of 35 gallons per minute and ten acre feet per year per product unit. There is very limited information on the numerous private wells because there is no reporting requirement. The number of exempt wells is on the rise due to the public having more money, moving out farther from the city and drilling more private wells.

The EQAC expressed their appreciation to Ms. Zucker for her informative presentation.

**VII. PDEQ STAFF REPORT**

Ms. Kramer, Director of PDEQ, reported on events occurring since the last EQAC meeting in January 2012, within each division of PDEQ. PDEQ consists of two separate divisions: Environmental Quality Division (regulatory) and Solid Waste Management (operations for landfills and transfer stations in Pima County).

*a. Environmental Quality Division*

Ms. Kramer reported that there have been some personnel changes in the EQ Division. Scott Porter was hired as the Environmental Quality Manager, overseeing the air permitting and air

compliance, enforcement and RCRA programs. Jennifer Lynch was hired as the Environmental Planning Manager, managing the enforcement programs and Sarah Walters was hired as the Regulatory Program Manager (rule writer).

Upcoming projects include:

- Updating the County's State Implementation Plan;
- PDEQ will be upgrading air quality fees (we are currently lowest in the state);
- Processing a new source review package in the Spring of 2014;
- Looking at the necessity of developing modeling expertise
- Implementation of Acella (land-based permitting database for all County Departments) with kick-off in May, 2013.
- Reduce turnaround times
- Developing a rulemaking newsletter

*b. Solid Waste Management Division*

Ms. Kramer reported that a Request For Proposal for operating the County's landfills and transfer stations has opened and closed. Pima County's landfill activities are losing money each year. At the Sahuarita Landfill, there are approximately 1½ years left before closure. There are plans to build a transfer station at that site. One company has submitted a proposal. All County employees will either have a job at Pima County or be offered a new position with the company taking over landfill operations. The transfer will be effective on July 1, 2013.

**VIII. CALL TO THE PUBLIC**

Mr. Thompson made a call to the audience. There was no response.

**IX. NEXT EQAC MEETING AND AGENDA ITEMS**

The next meeting will be Wednesday, May 22, 2013 at 1:30 p.m. The meeting is one week later than normal due to scheduling conflicts with some of the members. Agenda items are:

- Stormwater – hear more in the future
- Water Harvesting measures (in relation to low impact development)
- Staff Report (EQ and SW Divisions) including Acela and Solid Waste Updates -- Ursula Kramer and Richard Grimaldi

**X. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned.