



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

Summary Minutes – July 17, 2013
Bank of America Building, Conference Room, 8th floor
33 N. Stone, Tucson, AZ
1:30 p.m.

Members Present:

Mr. Warren Thompson
Dr. Mark Witten
Dr. Curt Lueck
Dr. Eric Betterton
Mr. Jeff Yockey
Mr. Peter Livingston
Mr. Richard W. Murphy

Members Absent:

Mr. Daniel G. Rowe
Ms. Linda Hanson
Dr. Curtis Lueck

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Others Present:

Ursula Kramer, Director, PDEQ
Richard Grimaldi, Deputy Director, PDEQ
Marie Light, Principal Hydrologist
Vicki Bennie, Council Secretary, PDEQ
Heather Spitzer, Raytheon

I. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

Dr. Betterton called the meeting to order and a quorum was established.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Dr. Betterton led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. APPROVAL OF THE MARCH 20, 2013 MINUTES

Mr. Richard Murphy's name was omitted from the March minutes and will be added. A motion was made by Mr. Murphy, seconded by Mr. Thompson, to approve the minutes as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. STORMWATER REPORT

Marie Light, PDEQ's Storm Water Manager, provided information about PDEQ's storm water program including the results of the recent telephone survey.

Most transportation modes are reliant on fossil fuels such as oil and gas. This presentation outlines key environmental concerns relating to vehicular impacts on our water and soil and what we can do to improve our surface water quality.

PDEQ's mission is to identify and respond to environmental issues by providing public service including:

- Air, water and soil monitoring;
- Permitting;
- Compliance inspections;
- Enforcement; and
- Education and outreach.

Storm water management maintains the integrity of surface water in our washes through flood control and pollution prevention.

We need clean water! It is essential for life support and vitality (hydration about 2 liters/day), hygiene (about 35 liters/day), food (about 2,825 liters/day for vegetables, fruit, fish, poultry, and meat) and is important for aesthetics and recreation.

Our nation's waters are protected by the following: Constitution of United States, Clean Water Act (Pollution Prevention), National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System, and Arizona Pollutant Discharge Elimination System.

Storm water pollution occurs when runoff carries pollutants into our desert washes, such as:

- Oil and grease
- Pet waste
- Gasoline
- Trash
- Paints and other liquids

Ms. Light cited two case studies: the 1969 fire at the Cuyahoga River and the Kinder Morgan gasoline pipeline spill of 2003.

In 1969, fats from rendering plants along the Cuyahoga River, as well as tires, fuel and chemical spills caught fire. The area was remediated and this inspired the Clean Water Act (CWA). The river once extremely polluted is now clean enough for kayakers.

In 2003, Kinder Morgan had a gasoline pipeline spill in Tucson. Over 64,000 gallons of gasoline covered five homes (which had to be destroyed), contaminated soil and groundwater. The cleanup included soil vapor extraction and pumping groundwater to remove fuel. The pipeline was fixed within 24 hours. The public did not know the pipeline was repaired and worried they would run out of gas. When they rushed to the gas stations, the amount that was normally delivered was not enough to supply the rush – and then it became a public issue.

Ms. Light asked, "what does all this have to do with each one of us?" Well, we know why storm water is important; we know laws protect our water. What can we do to make a positive difference? Ms. Light stated that we should know what to look for, the tell-tale signs such as the rainbow marker, easy detective work to identify presence of fossil fuels in water.

How does storm water become polluted? It starts in roadways from vehicular leaks of oil, grease and gas. Eventually, in rains in the desert! PDEQ's sampling shows that some areas (medium density neighborhoods) have a low amount of oil and grease (0.8 mg/L) while other areas (high density residential) have higher amounts (87 mg/L). Wherever there is a concentration of cars, such as parking lots...toxins from fossil-fuel powered vehicles collect. Sometimes oily gas can accumulate hundreds of yards or even miles from its source.

We all can do simple things that really help to improve our water quality such as:

- practice good housekeeping in our garages and storage areas. The basic idea of keeping things organized goes a long way toward keeping fluids used for vehicular maintenance (and gardening and cleaning chemicals) out of our storm sewers.
- fix your leaky vehicle.
- scoop the poop
- car washes use less water and have collection systems to properly treat the waste water.
- harvest rainwater (individually or with neighbors such as creating landscaped areas)
- reduce, reuse, recycle
- dispose of hazardous wastes properly
- apply pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers after rainfall
- take the opportunity to teach your kids about protecting their water supply now and for generations to come.
- do not be a litterbug

June 2013 Phone Survey

Ms. Light talked about the results of the June 2013 telephone survey. Five hundred households were randomly selected by zip code and population density to participate in the survey. Participants were both men and women, age 16 or older. The telephone survey was available in English and Spanish. They were asked questions about both air quality and storm water perceptions and practices.

The following were the storm water questions asked and the multiple choice responses:

- 1) Where does the storm water that flows into drains end up?
Responses: river or wash 44%, sewage plants 12%, groundwater 7%, water plants 6%, canals 4% and not sure/don't know 35%
- 2) Which of the following, if any, has been implemented or installed at your home or work?
Responses: landscaping with native plants 41%, landscaped depressions that collect storm water 16%, connecting runoff to basin to water plants 14%, natural areas protected from clearing and grading 12%, water harvesting using rain barrels or cisterns 12%, gravel-filled trench to collect storm water 11%, porous pavements or bricks 10%, other 6%, not sure/don't know 33%
- 3) How much of a problem do you think there is in the Tucson area with polluting materials entering storm drains?
Responses: serious problem 41%, moderate problem 42% not a problem 16%
- 4) How much do you think each of the following contributes to the problem of storm water pollution in the Tucson area?
Automotive fluids such as oil, gas and brake fluid?
Responses: serious 45%, moderate 34%, no problem 21%
Chemicals and materials from industrial facilities?
Responses: serious 40%, moderate 38%, no problem 21%
Chemicals materials from construction sites?
Responses: serious 39%, moderate 42%, no problem 19%
Household products such as cleaning fluids, detergents, paints, degreasers and bleaches?
Responses: serious 38%, moderate 39%, no problem 23%
Pesticides, fertilizers and debris from lawns and gardens?
Responses: serious 37%, moderate 42%, no problem 22%
Animal waste from household pets?
Responses: serious 23%, moderate 36%, no problem 41%

- 5) Tell me if you or someone in your household uses this method to dispose of household chemicals, automotive fluids and lawn and garden chemicals?
Responses: HHW collection site 47%, auto parts store 46%, put in the garbage 39%, service station 21%, landfill 19% pour in the sink or down the drain 11%, recycle 1%, some other method 2%, don't use these products/use them up 10%, not sure/don't know 8%
- 6) If you saw someone dumping trash or chemicals into a storm drain or a wash and wanted to report them, who would you call to report the incident?
Responses: 911/Police Department 28%, city government 8%, county government 7%, sanitation department 6%, water department 5%, health department 4%, would not report 4%, government agency 3%, not sure/don't know 35%

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

VII. PDEQ STAFF REPORT

Ms. Kramer, Director of PDEQ, reported on events occurring since the last EQAC meeting in March 2013, 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

There has been a slight cut in EPA 105 grant funding to the department's air program due to sequester.

EPA changed the PM2.5 standard which had no effect on Pima County. The new ozone standard is due to come out December, 2013.

Staff continues to participate in intense meetings that involve looking at each of our programs' functions for the Accela Project.

b. Solid Waste Management Division

The County entered into a contract with Tucson Recycling and Waste Services to operate the County's landfills and transfer stations, which became effective June 1, 2013. So far, the transition has been going smoothly.

Staff is proposing landfill and transfer station fee increases which will go before the Board of Supervisors on August 6, 2013. Seventeen Solid Waste staff members were reassigned to other County departments, one retired and one resigned to take a position with the contractor.

The Tangerine Landfill will close approximately November, 2013. The new Marana Landfill will be open at that time.

VIII. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Dr. Betterton made a call to the audience. There was no response.

IX. NEXT EQAC MEETING AND AGENDA ITEMS

The next meeting will be Wednesday, September 18, 2013 at 1:30 p.m. Ms. Bennie was asked to circulate the list of future agenda items to all members. Agenda items for the September meeting will be announced.

X. **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Mr. Yockey, and seconded by Dr. Livingston, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.