



*Pima County Environmental Quality Advisory Council
150 W. Congress, Suite 109
Tucson, AZ 85701*

Summary Minutes
Main Library Fourth Floor Conference Room
101 N. Stone, Tucson, AZ

January 17, 2007
1:30 p.m.

Members Present:

Mr. Warren Thompson
Mr. Allan MacDonald
Mr. Peter Livingston
Dr. Roger Caldwell
Mr. William R. Reilly
Mr. Ben Dorris
Mr. Daniel G. Rowe
Dr. Eric Betterton

Members Absent:

Dr. Mark Witten
Mr. Antonio Gomez

Others Present:

Ursula Kramer, Director, PDEQ
Richard Grimaldi, Deputy Director, PDEQ
Vicki Bennie, Council Secretary, PDEQ
Dennis Dickerson, PAG
Colleen Crowninshield, PAG
Sara Rajca, PAG

I. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

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

- PAG's Clean Cities Presentation Handout
- PAG's 2006 Greater Tucson Region Indicators Report, dated Jan. 2007

II. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

It was moved and seconded to nominate Warren Thompson as Chair. It was moved and seconded to nominate Roger Caldwell as Vice Chair. Both motions passed with unanimous votes.

III. APPROVAL OF THE NOVEMBER 20, 2006, MINUTES

Mr. Rowe made a motion, seconded by Mr. Livingston, to approve the November 15, 2007, minutes as corrected. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

IV. RECOGNITION OF EQAC MEMBERS

Ms. Kramer presented glass awards to the EQAC members recognizing their contribution to Pima County by serving on the Environmental Quality Advisory Council. Their time is very much appreciated. Thank you to:

Dr. Roger Caldwell, serving for 23 years;
Antonio (Tony) Gomez, Jr., serving for 21 years;
William Reilly, P.E., serving for 20 years;
Daniel Rowe, serving for 20 years;
Warren Thompson, P.E., serving for 16 years;
Peter Livingston, P.E., serving for 8 years;
Dr. Mark Witten, serving for 8 years;
Ben Dorris, serving for 6 years;
Dr. Eric Betterton, serving for 6 years; and
Allan MacDonald, serving for 5 years.

V. ETHANOL FUEL AND DIESEL IDLING

Ms. Colleen Crowninshield of PAG provided information regarding ethanol fuel. Pinal Energy, an ethanol facility being built in Pinal County, is in the final stages of construction and plans to be producing by April, 2007. To start, Pinal Energy will be producing 55 million gallons a year, with the capacity to produce 150 million gallons a year, if necessary. The facility has committed to keeping their ethanol in Arizona for use in E85 fuel, first. After that market is captured, other markets will be considered. The plant will be owned and operated by Arizona Grain Inc.

Currently, there is no E85 retail site in Maricopa County. There have been several news articles written asking which station will be the first to sell E85 fuel. Ms. Crowninshield has a chart showing the location of registered flex fuel vehicles registered in Arizona since 2004.

Mr. Livingston added that he worked with Ms. Crowninshield on the ethanol project at the U of A. The University is using sweet sorghum instead of corn. Grain sorghum, corn are alternative grains that go into the standard ethanol. Sweet sorghum is similar in appearance to sugar cane and is crushed. The juice goes straight to fermentation and distillation, eliminating the need to cook the product to extract the sugars. Growing this crop is very well suited to Arizona, producing four times the yield as the typical corn crop.

Ethanol is a good alternative. At the Detroit Automobile Show, it was announced that every major American auto manufacturer is going to produce a third of their vehicles “flex fuel-ready”.

Ms. Crowninshield also reported on Truck Stop Electrification. IdleAire, a company with truck stop locations in Arizona, provides a separate power source for trucks to keep their heating or cooling system on without idling the truck’s engine. The truck stop offers electricity, internet, and cable television channels and accepts various credit and debit cards. In order to use this system, the truck has to be retrofitted. Ms. Crowninshield has a map of IdleAire station locations in the U.S.

VI. LEUKEMIA CLUSTER UPDATE

Due to a conflict, Dr. Witten was unable to attend. The item was tabled to the March meeting.

VII. OPTIONS FOR A NEW ENERGY FUTURE – GREATER TUCSON STRATEGIC ENERGY PLAN UPDATE

Dennis Dickerson, PAG, provided information on the status of the Greater Tucson Strategic Energy Plan (GTSEP). In April, 2006, this process was being initiated. Today, a final document was given to PAG's Management Committee. The intent of the document is to provide a "snapshot view" of the entire regional community across a wide array of environmental indicators.

Mr. Dickerson highlighted the main areas from the Greater Tucson Strategic Energy Plan:

- Natural Resources
Good progress in preserving land in the future;
Pima County Open Space Bond Measures; and
Invasive species encroaching natural areas.

- Air Quality
Overall air quality looks positive
Ozone is uncertain, will depend upon the regulations
Visibility date indicates nearly continuous high visibility

- Water
Shifting away from using potable water for irrigation
Water conservation measures (ordinance, enforcement, drip irrigation, education)

- Transportation/Energy
More alternative fueled vehicles being used
Alternative fueling stations statistics
Mass transit, commuters and Travel Reduction Program

- Community/Economy.
LEED Certified Buildings
Use of Solar power
Graffiti
Recycling
Population
Cost of Living

Mr. Dickerson asked for additional ideas for inclusion. EQAC suggested:
Greenhouse gas emissions; and
Recognizing environmentally sensitive buildings that are not LEED certified.

VIII. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Mr. Thompson asked if anyone wished to speak. There was no response.

IX. PDEQ STAFF REPORT

Ms. Kramer announced that the air quality permit for Brush Ceramic, Inc. was issued on November 7. Two appeals were received and the Air Quality Hearing Board heard testimony on December 21. The AQ Hearing Board voted to uphold the permit.

Pima County bought the Bank of America Building. PDEQ's air quality program plans to move to the 7th floor of the Bank of American Building in March.

X. NEXT MEETING

The next EQAC meeting will be on Wednesday, March 21, 2007, at 1:30 p.m. in the Main Library fourth floor conference room, located at 101 N. Stone, Tucson.

March, 2007, EQAC agenda items:

Tucson Electric Power presentation – Tom Hanson, VP of TEP Technical Services (30 min. presentation with time for questions and answers following presentation)

LEED Presentation – Dr. Yves Khawam, PhD, PC Chief Building Official and Dan Ice, Green Building Program Manager

Leukemia cluster Update – Dr. Witten

May, 2007, EQAC meeting

Dust Modeling Update – Mike Leuthold (requested spring meeting)

Light Pollution (health, plant and animal life)

Rainwater Harvesting requested by Beth Gorman

Clean Cities – Sierra Club Representative

Rosemont Mine – possible agenda item

Bufflegrass Report – D. Dickerson, PAG

July, 2007 EQAC meeting

Rapid growth of Arizona and implication on AQ – requested by Mr. Thompson