



*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

May 16, 2007
1:30 p.m.

Members Present:

Mr. Warren Thompson
Mr. Allan MacDonald
Dr. Mark Witten
Dr. Roger Caldwell
Mr. Daniel G. Rowe
Dr. Eric Betterton
Mr. Ben Dorris

Members Absent:

Mr. Peter Livingston
Mr. Antonio Gomez
Mr. William R. Reilly

Others Present:

Ursula Kramer, Director, PDEQ
Dave Eaker, Deputy Director, PDEQ
Vicki Bennie, Council Secretary, PDEQ
Dennis Dickerson, PAG

I. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

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

II. APPROVAL OF THE MARCH 21, 2007, MINUTES

Mr. MacDonald made a motion, seconded by Dr. Betterton, to approve the March 21, 2007, minutes. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

III. BUFFELGRASS PRESENTATION

Dennis Dickerson of Pima Association of Governments provided information to EQAC regarding buffelgrass. Slides were shown of various locations where buffelgrass is growing.

On February 9, 2007, a summit was held to educate the public about the unique threat that buffelgrass poses to the Tucson region. The event was a success and many federal, state and local agencies and community representatives attended. Senator Tim Bee and Representative Bedford were among the 120+ in attendance. Participants of the Summit adopted a "Sense of the Summit Resolution" and developed an Action Plan.

The impacts of unchecked buffelgrass colonization are:

- Slow but inevitable ecological transformation
 - Loss ecosystem diversity
 - Loss of "signature" plants, e.g., saguaro cactus
 - More species listed as endangered
- Threat of fire
- Tourism impact

Volunteers removed the weed at the Weed Whackers Buffelgrass Cleanup in February, 2007.

BUFFELGRASS PRESENTATION (Continued)

PAG Regional Council adopted the Buffelgrass Resolution on March 29, 2007. Some of the points included in the Resolution are:

- Recognizes the serious nature of the threat posed by buffelgrass;
- Recognizes that a long-term and coordinated program of buffelgrass control will be required; and
- Encourages each member jurisdiction to evaluate areas affected and pursue buffelgrass removal or treatment.

In addition, the Buffelgrass Resolution urges Governor Napolitano to prioritize and fund buffelgrass control efforts and effectively remove buffelgrass from state rights-of-way by 2009. It also directs PAG staff to lend support and seek financial assistance to sustain the regional effort to control buffelgrass.

In April, the Southwest Coordinating Center (SWCC) for the Forest Service issued a Fuel and Fire Advisory to all federal agencies regarding buffelgrass. They identified the area near Snyder and Kolb as an example of an area with extensive buffelgrass and a potential fire threat. PAG issued a press release and sent copies of the advisory to nearby homeowner associations.

PAG's current efforts are to continue to raise awareness about the problem. Mr. Dickerson is personally managing a buffelgrass website, www.buffelgrass.org. PAG has developed a new brochure and a training program is being developed this summer for homeowners' associations and landscape contractors. In addition, PAG is in the process of adopting a resolution establishing a buffelgrass eradication day on March 1, 2008.

IV. LEUKEMIA CLUSTER UPDATE

Dr. Witten provided the latest information on the research into the leukemia clusters in Sierra Vista, AZ and Fallon, NV. There have been more cases of Leukemia in Sierra Vista. He is contemplating doing a health survey in Sierra Vista, similar to one that was done in Fallon. This time they would like to have the public complete the survey online in libraries, shopping malls, etc. Dr. Witten stressed the importance of having this information from the surveys because physicians are not required to report cancer until a year after it has been diagnosed, making the information out of date.

V. SUSTAINABILITY

Ms. Kramer reported that the Board of Supervisors adopted a Resolution In Support of New County Sustainability Initiatives on May 1, 2007. Copies of the Resolution were distributed. EQAC also requested that the link be emailed to them for the document.

The Resolution includes the following categories: Water, Energy and Climate Change; Alternative Fuel Vehicles; Waste Reduction and Green Purchasing; Water Conservation; Green Building and LEED Standards; Additional Energy Conservation Commitments; Green Building; and Energy and Water Conservation and the Private Sector.

Dr. Witten was interested in knowing how the goals in the Resolution will be implemented. EQAC requested that staff report on this item for the July, September and November meetings.

VI. SOLID WASTE

Ursula Kramer and Dave Eaker, Deputy Director for SW, provided a power point presentation that included an overview of the existing Pima County Solid Waste (SW) facilities, status of previously authorized bonds and proposed bonds. Handouts of the power point slides were distributed.

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Staff is requesting PDEQ/SWM future bond funding:
Tangerine closure - \$6 Million
Sahuarita Landfill Development - \$4.8 Million
Solid Waste Management Office - \$2.5 Million
Ajo Landfill Development - \$.05 Million
Ina Road Landfill Development - \$5 Million

The Board approved an increase in tipping fees at the May 1, 2007, hearing. The rate increase goes into effect on June 1, 2007 except for Ryan Field Transfer Station, which goes into effect on August 1, 2007.

R. W. Beck, the County's consultant that performed a financial audit of the SW Division, is going to do a study on the best way to manage the landfills.

VII. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Mr. Dickerson announced a series of briefings on "Water Supply in the Desert: Myths and Realities" that Pima Association of Governments is hosting. The dates and locations are:

June 7, 2007 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. Councilwoman Carol West's Office 7575 E. Speedway Blvd, Tucson	June 9, 2007 10:00 – 11:30 a.m. Councilwoman Karen Uhlich's Office 1510 E. Grant Road, Tucson
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June 12, 2007 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. Nanini Branch Public Library, small conf. Room 7300 N. Shannon Road, Tucson	June 14, 2007 2:30 – 4:00 p.m. Joyner Green Valley Library, conf. room 601 N. LaCanada Dr., Green Valley
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June 14, 2007
6:00 – 7:30 p.m.
Rancho Resort Ballroom
15900 S. Rancho Resort Blvd., Sahuarita

Mr. Dickerson reported that Pima Association of Governments is also organizing an alternative energy expo on September 14 and 15 at the Tucson Convention Center. This will be a significant event with speakers, exhibits, book signings by published authors, etc. One of the sponsors will be the Solar Store. PAG is inviting vendors and groups that will showcase energy alternatives.

VIII. PDEQ STAFF REPORT

Ms. Kramer was elected Co-President of National Association of Clean Air Agencies (NACAA) recently. This group was formerly named STAPPA/ALAPCO.

The Air Quality Program of PDEQ moved to the Bank of America Building, 7th floor.

IX. NEXT MEETING

The next EQAC meeting will be on Wednesday, July 18 2007, at 1:30 p.m. in the Main Library fourth floor conference room, located at 101 N. Stone, Tucson.

July, 2007 EQAC meeting

Rapid growth of Arizona and implication on AQ – requested by Mr. Thompson at March meeting
High Resolution Weather Modeling Project (tentative) – Mike Leuthold
Pima County Sustainability Resolution Report