



PIMA COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ADVISORY COUNCIL
150 W. Congress Street, Suite 109
Tucson, AZ 85701

Summary Minutes – May 21, 2008
Conference Room, 6th floor
130 W. Congress Street, Tucson, AZ
1:30 p.m.

Members Present:

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

Members Absent:

Mr. Jeff Yockey
Mr. Ben Dorris
Mr. Peter Livingston

Others Present:

Ursula Kramer, Director, PDEQ
Richard Grimaldi, Deputy Director, PDEQ
Vicki Bennie, Council Secretary, PDEQ
Sue Keith, ADEQ Southern Regional Office
Claire Zucker, Pima Association of Governments
Melaney Seacat, Regional Wastewater Reclamation Dept.
Gary Sullivan, Green Valley Coordinating Council
Tom Miller, Green Valley Coordinating Council

I. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

Mr. Thompson called the meeting to order and introductions were made. Mr. Thompson requested a moment of silence to remember Bill Reilly, EQAC. Mr. Reilly recently passed away.

II. APPROVAL OF THE MARCH 19, 2008, MINUTES

Mr. Yockey submitted changes by email which were made since the minutes were distributed.

Mr. Rowe made a motion, seconded by Dr. Witten, to approve the March 19, 2008, minutes. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

III. THIRSTY FOR ANSWERS: WATER SUPPLY IN THE DESERT: MYTHS AND REALITIES

Ms. Claire Zucker, Pima Association of Governments, stated that PAG presented the Thirsty for Answers: Water Supply in the Desert: Myths and Realities at five public forums in Pima County in 2007. The presentation was originally funded through a grant from the Central Arizona Water Conservation District. The general public is fearful about the water supply and appreciated the information and the opportunity to ask questions. The presentation provides a foundation for water management and explains various ways to conserve water such as water harvesting. The power point presentation was excellent and is available online at <http://www.pagnet.org/documents/water/WQThirstyForAnswers.pdf>.

VI. PDEQ STAFF REPORT

Solid Waste Division Report

The Department still plans to close the Tangerine Landfill in 2009. Staff is looking at various options. We will close the Tangerine Landfill before we reach capacity for safety reasons.

Staff plans to prepare an ordinance to increase tipping fees for commercial haulers in the near future. Staff will evaluate the possibility of other increases for commercial and residential haulers later.

Historically, we have always had at least two people working at the Ajo Landfill at all times for safety reasons. OSHA told us that we could reduce that number to one person. We are talking with other County Departments in the Ajo area to see if we could have them check on SW staff periodically.

Solid Waste equipment has been breaking. Staff is exploring the possibility of leasing, rather than fixing or replacing equipment.

Environmental Quality Division Report

The Board of Supervisors decided that staff should keep the delegated functions that the Department was evaluating returning to the state. Staff is working with Development Services so that they can take over the review of swimming pools from the Health Department.

The Board of Supervisors approved new air quality regulations that adopt and update incorporations by reference of the following federal regulations: Acid Rain, National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP), New Source Performance Standards (NSPS), and other parts of Title 40, Code of Federal Regulations.

Staff continues to perform air monitoring at Sunnyside School, near the Brush Ceramics facility. This was part of the air quality permit for Brush. We have been collecting data for several months and are not seeing anything above the method reporting level.

Ms. Kramer stated that the standard for lead is part of the Clean Air Act Amendment. EPA is proposing to reduce the lead standard to protect public health. EPA is finding that lower levels of lead are impacting health, especially in children. Even with the lower standard, we would still be in compliance. Part of the new standard would require fence line monitoring at mines and airports. EPA is currently in the public comment period for the new standard.

PDEQ Budget Report

Ms. Kramer stated that the Board of Supervisors adopted the tentative budget on May 15, which sets the ceiling for spending. There was no discussion regarding PDEQ. There will be another budget hearing on June 17, to adopt the final budget. The tax levy adoption will be on August 18.

Due to the downturn in the construction industry, PDEQ has reassigned some staff members to other duties. There is a hiring freeze, with any requests being reviewed and approved by the County Administrator. There is also a freeze on business-related travel for staff.

VII. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Mr. Thompson made a call to the public. Ms. Kramer asked Ms. Seacat to report on the joint City, County study of wastewater. Ms. Seacat stated that this was a multi-phased study. The purpose of the first phase of the study is to inventory water infrastructure and supplies. Both government agencies will compare data and prepare templates so that water providers can also be included. From that foundation will come a picture of the water quality, supply and goals and for both the City and County. Phase two will involve the development of rules, policies, conservation, etc. More information is available at www.tucson.pimawaterstudy.com.

VIII. NEXT MEETING

The next EQAC meeting will be on July 16, 2008, at 1:30 p.m. in the large 6th floor conference room, 130 W. Congress, Tucson.

July Agenda items are:

Sorghum Topic – Peter Livingston

Davis Monthan AFB Energy Report

Arizona Rise – Solar Consortium at U of A (tentative)

September Agenda items:

Joint City/County Wastewater Study – Melaney Seacat

Sustainability Report – Tedra Fox

Western Climate Initiative Report – Jeff Yockey

Arizona Rise – Solar Consortium at U of A (tentative, if not on July agenda)

Future Agenda Items

Ozone – Andrew Comrie

Riparian Habitat Presentation

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Having completed all meeting agenda items, the Council adjourned.