



PIMA COUNTY

PIMA COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ADVISORY COUNCIL

33 N. Stone Avenue, Suite 700

Tucson, AZ 85701

Summary Meeting Minutes – November 29, 2018

Conference Room, 7th floor

33 N. Stone, Tucson, AZ

2:00 p.m.

Members Present:

Dr. Eric Betterton
Mr. Jeff Yockey
Ms. Kylie Walzak
Mr. Tom Ellis
Ms. Leslie Katz
Mr. Garth Bowers

Members Absent:

Mr. John Kozma
Dr. Paloma Beamer
Ms. Leah Proffitt

Others Present:

Ursula Nelson, Director, PDEQ
Richard Grimaldi, Deputy Director for EQ Div.
David Eaker, Deputy Director for SW Div.
Jennifer Lynch, Env. Quality Manager
Rupesh Patel, Env. Quality Manager
P. Scott Porter, Env. Quality Manager
Vicki Bennie, PDEQ
Roxanne Lindsey, ADEQ
Kim Tham, Pima County Health Department

I. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

Dr. Betterton called the meeting to order and introductions were made.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The pledge of allegiance to the United States of America was recited.

III. APPROVAL OF THE SEPTEMBER 27, 2018 MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Yockey, seconded by Mr. Ellis, to pass the minutes as written. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. EXPANDED PDEQ STAFF REPORT

Ms. Nelson stated that she asked PDEQ staff managers to explain what their programs do. The first was Dave Eaker, Deputy Director for the Solid Waste Division.

Historically, the Solid Waste Division was an enterprise department under the Pima County Wastewater Management Department. The Tangerine Landfill provided most of the revenue to fund solid waste operations. When Waste Management Inc. opened their transfer station, it resulted in a drastic reduction in revenue to the County.

When Solid Waste was moved to PDEQ, it was operating at a deficit. Ms. Nelson hired a consulting company to conduct an audit of solid waste operations. The recommendation was that it was not cost effective to continue to operate the County's solid waste facilities since we could not charge enough to cover the operating costs. The County subsequently hired a contractor, Tucson Recycling and Waste Services (TRWS), to operate its solid waste facilities, including landfills, transfer stations and rural collection sites. At the time, the County's Solid Waste Program was operating at a loss of \$3 million dollars a year. Subsequent to the contract with TRWS, the County's costs to operate solid waste facilities are approximately \$2 million per year including the contract with TRWS and internal operating expenses.

The Tangerine Landfill has been closed. The Ina Road Landfill is initiating closure activities. The Sahuarita Landfill is not at capacity but is no longer accepting municipal waste; TRWS, at their cost, has constructed a transfer station at Sahuarita. There are currently three transfer stations: Ryan Field, Catalina and the Sahuarita. There are only two remote locations: Arivaca and Arivaca/Sasabe Junction. Mr. Eaker showed some pictures of solid waste locations.

Staff has begun the closure process for the Ina Road Landfill, which may become a bike park. Currently, there is a tire recycling program at the Ina Road location next to the landfill, run by a contractor, Crumb Rubber Manufacturing (CRM). This program, supported by ADEQ through a tax placed on the sale of new tires, provides all funding to pay CRM. It is a very successful program.

Mr. Grimaldi explained that there were organization changes to the EQ Division of the department. Zoning code compliance functions previously performed by Development Services were moved to PDEQ.

Mr. P. Scott Porter, Environmental Quality Manager for the Code Compliance Program, provided the following statistics:

- Illegal dumping cases are enforced by Pima County Code, Title 7. Between July and December of 2017, there were 425 illegal dumping cases. During January through June in 2018, there were 460 illegal dumping cases. We are currently at 355 illegal dumping cases for the period of July through December 2018. We expect to exceed the total number of complaints in 2017 by the end of December. These types of complaints include private, unpermitted mini-landfills, trashed businesses/residences and wildcat dumping.
- Zoning and Building Codes enforcement cases are enforced by Pima County Code, Title 18 (Zoning) and Title 15 and the International Building Codes (Building). During the last six months of 2017, staff received 370 Code cases. During January through June in 2018, there were 464 code cases. We are currently at 289 code cases for the period of July through December 2018. We expect to be at relatively the same amount of code complaints vs. illegal dumping complaints by the end of the year. Code complaints include regulation of open

storage, home occupation, inoperable vehicles, unpermitted structures, stockpiling, grading, unsafe buildings, lighting code, and fencing.

- Staff received 130 homeless encampment complaints so far in 2018. PDEQ follows the Pima County Administrative Procedure which requires PDEQ to initiate and coordinate the county protocol to assure outreach, remediation and the sharing of data with other county departments for tracking purposes.

Mr. Porter showed pictures of examples of the types of cases above for discussion.

Ms. Jennifer Lynch, Environmental Quality Manager for the Water and Waste Program, talked about the following powerpoint presentation:

[Water&Waste Presentation November2018](#)

Mr. Rupesh Patel, Environmental Quality Manager for the Air Program, provided the following powerpoint presentation:

[Air Program Presentation2018](#)

V. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

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

VI. NEXT MEETING AND AGENDA ITEMS

The next meeting will be on January 24, 2019, at 2:00 p.m. in the PDEQ conference room.

If you have any agenda items, would you please email Vicki at PDEQ. Currently, the agenda items include:

“All Electric” and Clean Cities – Colleen Crowninshield

Climate change-more green infrastructure-county owned facilities

VII. ADJOURNMENT