



**Southern Regional Office (SRO)
400 W. Congress, Suite 433, Tucson, AZ 85701**

**Draft Minutes from the
Public Meeting to Provide Information to the Southern Arizona Water Quality Assurance
Revolving Fund (WQARF) Community Advisory Board (CAB) Members and the Public**

March 10, 2010, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.
State of Arizona Regional Complex
400 W. Congress, North Building, Conference Room 158
Tucson, Arizona

ADEQ Staff Present: William Ellett, Superfund Programs Unit Manager, Southern Regional Office; Eileen Palese and Melissa Hayes, ADEQ Community Involvement Coordinators

CAB Members Present: Randall Abbey, Robert (Keith) Adkins, Fred Bass, Justin Berkompas, Mike Block, Bob Brobeck, Gary Burchard, Judy Burns, Richard Byrd, Marc Herman, Alison Jones, Bill Petroustson, Jean Sabo, Jacky Turchick, Menachem Turchick, Mario Villarreal

Members of the Public Present: Molly Collins, Nathan Bunker, Scott Sapp, Monica Ramirez, Harlan Agnew, Jeff Drumm, Tom Kimmel

The meeting began at 6:35 p.m.

1. Call to Order/Introductions

William Ellett, Superfund Programs Unit Manager, ADEQ Southern Regional Office, introduced himself and then invited the WQARF Community Advisory Board (CAB) members present and the public participants attending to introduce themselves. He thanked everyone for coming. He said ADEQ appreciates the continued interest of the CAB members and their input has made a significant difference in how ADEQ goes about the cleanup of the WQARF sites.

He said that members are attending this meeting from all of the Tucson CABs – the Miracle Mile CAB, the Shannon Road/El Camino del Cerro CAB, the Broadway-Pantano CAB, and the Park-Euclid CAB. He said the purpose of the meeting is to provide an update on the current status of the state budget and the impact this has had on the WQARF program. He also said that the meeting will also provide updates on all of the Southern Arizona sites with CABs.

Mr. Ellett said ADEQ does not anticipate holding regular CAB meetings in the near future due to resources, but meetings will be held when something of significance arises at a site. He said ADEQ management is aware of all of the efforts that went into forming the CABs and that is why the agency wanted to hold this meeting, since no meetings have been held since last spring.

Mr. Ellett said he will address agenda item 3, *Update on WQARF Program Funding*, before agenda item 2, *Site Updates*.

He reviewed what has taken place regarding the WQARF budget since January 2009. He said that although ADEQ issued a stop-work order in January 2009 to all of the contractors working on the sites, funding was still made available to the WQARF program to keep treatment systems operating through June 2009.

In late June 2009, the fiscal year 2010 budget was still unknown, so all treatment systems throughout the state had to be shut down except for those serving drinking water. Those that were not shut down included Flowing Wells Irrigation District (Miracle Mile Site), Metropolitan Domestic Water Improvement District (Shannon Road/El Camino del Cerro Site), and a system at a site with tetrachloroethene (PCE) contamination in Nogales, Arizona. He said this is not a WQARF site yet, but a wellhead treatment system was installed by ADEQ for public health and safety. All of these sites are managed though the ADEQ Southern Regional Office.

Mr. Ellett said that on July 1, 2009, the start of the 2010 fiscal year for the state, the WQARF program received funding to turn all of the non-drinking water treatment systems back on. However, the budget was still in a state of uncertainty, so it has been difficult to plan future work. ADEQ thought it had about \$400,000 for high-priority WQARF sites. Management came up with eleven sites throughout the state where work could be done.

One of these sites was Broadway-Pantano where ADEQ proceeded to complete the groundwater modeling. There were other sites throughout the state that also needed attention. He said ADEQ continues to work on drafting the Remedial Investigation (RI) reports in-house without consultant help, as well as prepare other documents. He said that brings us to where we are today--the funding for the WQARF program is still uncertain and it is unclear at this time if ADEQ will have the same amount of funds in our budget as last fiscal year.

Randall Abbey, Shannon Road/El Camino del Cerro CAB co-chair, asked what the normal budget for the WQARF program is supposed to be and what percentage was cut. Mr. Ellett said for last year's budget, a little more than half was cut. A part of the budget does pay for salaries. He said at this time, ADEQ is only able to operate treatment systems and provide funds for a few other high priority sites.

2. Site Updates

Mr. Ellett provided updates on the following sites:

Miracle Mile WQARF Site: He said the Flowing Wells Irrigation District's treatment system is still operating. It is a granular activated carbon system to remove trichloroethene (TCE) and it also has a system to remove arsenic from the groundwater. ADEQ has performed no site investigation work or groundwater monitoring at this site since October 2008. The RI is being finalized in-house.

Park-Euclid WQARF Site: The last sampling event took place in November 2008. At that time, the University of Arizona (UA) drinking water wells were testing below the Aquifer Water Quality Standards (AWQS) level for PCE contamination. Mission Linen ran a pilot Multi-Phase Extraction System at the facility off and on from April 2008 to June 2009. In six months of operation they treated 30,850 gallons of water and removed 1,400 pounds of volatile organic compounds (VOCs). The system also removed 750 gallons of free product (diesel) in the groundwater.

He said ADEQ is in the process of finalizing a work share agreement with the Haskell Trust to continue the RI/FS work. This agreement could be in place in the next few months. Regarding the UA drinking water wells, he said federal regulations require these wells to be sampled every three years, and that is taking place at this time by the university. ADEQ has not sampled the monitor wells since November of 2008.

Shannon Road/El Camino del Cerro WQARF Site: Mr. Ellett said he first wanted to announce that there has been a change in the Community Involvement Coordinator for the site. He said that Melissa Hayes, who they have been working with for several years now, has been moved to two other positions--Community Liaison for Southwest Arizona and Project Manager for the Office of Border Environmental Protection. Eileen Palese will now cover this CAB as your community involvement coordinator. She has been in community involvement with ADEQ for over ten years.

He said the Shannon Road/El Camnio del Cerro WQARF site has a well-head treatment system installed which is operated by Metropolitan Domestic Water Improvement District (Metro Water). That system pumped 214.2 million gallons of groundwater and removed 40.5 pounds of VOCs last year. As of February 2010, 662.8 million gallons of water were treated and 138.8 pounds of VOCs were removed.

He said that Pima County installed a shallow tray air stripper in 2009 at the former El Camino del Cerro Landfill. As of January 2010, 54.2 million gallons of groundwater were treated and 26.7 pounds of VOCs removed since startup in June 2009. He said Pima County plans to operate the system for a year. Pima County Community Services is also contacting business properties along Highway Drive to conduct a Phase I investigation which will be part of an area-wide Brownfields evaluation. The goal is to demonstrate the marketability of these properties. Developers would then have to purchase the property and conduct their own Phase II investigation.

Broadway-Pantano WQARF Site: The Western Containment System is still operating. In January 2009, ADEQ and the City of Tucson installed three new groundwater monitoring wells at western edge of the contamination plume and the city has been sampling these wells since that time. The city asked ADEQ if a few other wells that needed monitoring could also be sampled and ADEQ agreed. Sampling took place four times between February 2009 and November 2009. He said the BP-21 monitoring well has showed a small concentration of contamination in the past. Looking at the data, levels varied from non-detect to low levels of contamination—in November 2009, WR-

702A was 9.0, WR-703A was 0.9, WR-704A was 5.7, and BP-21 was 6.7 ppb of PCE. He said these data are difficult to compare because the sampling of the new wells was done near the water table.

He said this site was one of eleven for which extra funds were set aside, and ADEQ was able to keep the contractor, Clear Creek Associates, onboard to complete the groundwater modeling. He said Stantec was also able to finish a risk assessment on vapor intrusion on the Broadway North Landfill. He reported that the RI is being finalized in-house which should be completed this year.

He said that the purchase of parcels of land at the Broadway North Landfill took place last year. A Prospective Purchaser Agreement (PPA) was also applied for by the property owners. The next step is for the owners to apply for a Declaration of Environmental Use Restriction (DEUR) to be placed on each of these parcels. The purpose of the use restriction is to ensure that any future property owner will know about the WQARF site. The DEUR is an institutional control that requires property owners report to ADEQ on how they plan to engineer any building on the site, such as how they plan to deal with methane at the site.

Jean Sabo, Broadway-Pantano CAB member, asked if the risk assessment has to be done before the PPA is finalized. Mr. Ellett said that it will be. They have not yet submitted the DEUR applications.

Tom Kimmel, resident near the Broadway-Pantano WQARF site, asked what the designation was on the second monitoring well that had the increase at the Broadway-Pantano site. Mr. Ellett explained that data from the BP-21 well, which was installed several years ago, prompted the installation of the additional wells. WR-704A, the well that is farthest west of BP-21, is difficult to explain because monitoring resulted in data going from non-detect in Feb 2009, to 5.7 ppb in Nov 2009.

Jean Sabo asked if Tucson Water is still monitoring those wells. Mr. Ellett said yes, those wells plus four others at the site.

Alison Jones, Miracle Mile CAB member, asked what the monitoring showed at various depths and how thick the plume might be. Mr. Ellett said the depths are mostly shallow, approximately in the first 70 feet.

Jean Sabo asked what ADEQ needs from the CAB members now. Mr. Ellett said that any CAB member can write a letter as a citizen, but he said he cannot encourage any official request of the legislature by the CAB. He explained that ADEQ is part of the Executive Branch and we have been trying to help with this serious budget crisis. All state agencies have had funds cut.

Jean Sabo asked how the CABs will be informed without meetings being held, and how the public will be informed. Mr. Ellett said that the ADEQ Web site is being kept up-to-date and ADEQ will call a CAB meeting if significant developments occur, such as the finalization of a Feasibility Study or a final remedy. He said he thinks it would be a good idea to have a public meeting like this once a year. He realizes it was a huge effort to establish the CABs and ADEQ does not want to see them disbanded. Hopefully, meetings will be able to be held again in the future.

Gary Burchard, Shannon Road/El Camino del Cerro CAB member, asked what the status is of federal Superfund sites at this time. Mr. Ellett said those sites are very active, especially the sites

around the Tucson International Airport and others in the state. He reported that many of the WQARF project managers and hydrologists are now working on federal sites. Federal funds have not been affected.

Gary Burchard asked what will happen if this current budget situation goes on for five or ten years, and asked if the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) would eventually look to cleanup non-funded State of Arizona WQARF sites. Mike Block, representing Metropolitan Water District, said that this has been one of the tactics in the past during discussions with the legislature that the state could lose local control to the federal government. Mr. Ellett said he does not know the answer to that question.

Mr. Ellett asked if there were any further questions. He said he wished he had better news, and again said how much ADEQ appreciates the involvement of the CAB members. He looks forward to getting back to a place where work can be done on the sites and where ADEQ can hold regular CAB meetings again.

3. Update on WQARF Program Funding

This agenda item was addressed before agenda item 2.

4. Call to the Public

No one wished to comment.

5. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

This meeting was recorded on a digital device as a record of the proceedings. To listen to a recording, or for additional documents mentioned in these minutes, contact ADEQ's Southern Regional Office, Community Involvement Office, 520/628-6712.