

Meeting Minutes Accepted by Chairman Ollerton on 1/14/2025

Agricultural Best Management Practices (AgBMP) Committee Meeting

Wednesday, September 27, 2023, 10:00 a.m.

Arizona Rock Products Association (ARPA)

916 W. Adams Street, Phoenix, 85007

ARPA Board Room

Zoom Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83486442540?pwd=NmpLTFUvbXZmcS93dkQ0T2lyeIMzd09>

Meeting ID: 834 8644 2540 Passcode: 044614

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Paul Ollerton, Grain Producer

Anu Jain, Pinal, County Air Quality Department

Robert Boyle, Alfalfa Producer

Dr. Joseph Blankinship, Soil Taxonomist

James Boyle Jr., Dairy Operations

Paul Heiden, Beef Cattle Feedlot

Alfredo Sotomayor, Swine Facilities

Glenn Hickman, Poultry Facilities

William Heiden - Beef Cattle Feedlots

Harold Payne, Citrus Producer

Jamilah McCoy, USDA NRCS Director or Designee

Russell VanLeuven, AZ Department of Agriculture Director of Designee

Daniel Czecholinski, AZ Department of Environmental Quality Director or Designee

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Ethan Orr, Dean of College of Agriculture at UofA or Designee

Vacant, Cotton Producer

Vacant, Vegetable Producer

OTHER MEETING ATTENDEES:

Bas Aja, AZ Cattlemen's Association

Jeremy Gerlach, Veridus LLC

Jeff Sandquist, Veridus LLC

Timothy Franquist, Maricopa Association of Governments

Elias Toon, Maricopa Association of Governments

Ana Otto, AZ Farm Bureau

Jadee Rohner, AZ Cotton Growers Association

Hether Krause, AZ Department of Environmental Quality

Kelly MacKenzie, AZ Department of Environmental Quality

Steven Burr, AZ Department of Environmental Quality

Lauren Allison, AZ Department of Environmental Quality
Tara Ousley, AZ Department of Environmental Quality

WELCOME:

At 10:04 a.m., Chairman Paul Ollerton called the meeting to order. Paul Ollerton welcomed everyone and Hether Krause called roll and a quorum was established.

REVIEW AND DISCUSS THE DRAFT 2023 FIVE PERCENT PARTICULATE PLAN FOR PM-10 FOR THE WEST PINAL COUNTY NONATTAINMENT AREA:

Elias Toon, Air Quality Project Manager, with the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) gave a presentation titled, "Five Percent Particulate Plan for PM-10 for the West Pinal County Nonattainment Area". Paul Ollerton asked Elias Toon what is the difference between unpaved road dust in public roads versus private roads? Mr. Ollerton said that previously, they were just listed as roads and did not differentiate between a public or private road. Elias Toon said that about 70% of the emissions are attributed to unpaved road dust within the nonattainment area. Elias Toon said that as for the classification of those individual roads, that he would have to consult with MAG's emissions inventory team to see how the different roads were delineated within the attainment model and provide a response to the Governor's Agricultural Best Management Practices Committee (Committee) after the meeting. Bas Aja asked Elias Toon what is the difference between the annual overall PM-10 emissions and the annual controlled PM-10 emissions inventory. Elias Toon said that the 2017 inventory reflects the emissions inventory in the area before any of the back-up control measures were put in place. Elias Toon said that MAG has modelers on staff who work with the development of the emissions inventory and the attainment modeling; however, for this particular project, MAG used an outside contractor that performed some of the attainment modeling for this plan. Paul Ollerton asked if anyone involved in agriculture was consulted for input on this plan. Paul Ollerton's second question was if the consultant that MAG used for this plan, Trinity Consultants, is from Arizona or from out-of-state. Elias Toon said that extensive outreach on this plan has been previously conducted by MAG and the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ). Paul Ollerton said that one irrigation district that he is farming in right now has lost 18,000 to 20,000 acres of farmland to new housing communities in the last 10 years. Paul Ollerton said he is also concerned about all of the new solar farms that are being built in Pinal County, which also reduces agricultural lands. Jadee Rohner asked where solar is included on this chart. Elias Toon said that this report does not quantify earth moving activities from the installation of solar farms in a particular area. Elias Toon said that the Pinal County Air Quality Department (PCAQD) is responsible for the enforcement of fugitive dust regulations as they relate to solar farm construction sites and after-installation of the solar farms. Paul Ollerton said that solar farms should be considered moving forward due to the increasing number of solar farms being installed in Pinal County.

Daniel Czecholinski said that ADEQ, MAG, and PCAQD will take a possible action item to find out the acreage of solar farms in Pinal County to see how the acreage of solar farms compare to the acreage of other sectors and will report back to the Committee. Steve Burr asked if he could confirm he understood what Daniel Czecholinski was asking and he asked if this question is correct: Is there significant dust emissions from both completed solar installation and the construction of solar installation? Steve Burr said that he agrees with Elias Toon that construction is the same whether it is the construction of a house or a solar panel and it would be subject to PCAQD's fugitive dust rules for construction activities. Steve Burr said that he is unsure for completed solar installations whether there is a regulation that would apply. Steve Burr said he thinks that the vacant land rules would still apply to an area with solar panels but there may be a hole in the regulations and ADEQ should probably consult with PCAQD about the solar panel installations related to fugitive dust emissions.

Robert Boyle asked if the section on private roads is a new category for the 2023 5% particulate plan and if the emission inventory had included private dirt roads and Pinal County dirt roads before. Robert Boyle further questioned whether such a change in methodology eliminated the 30% of dust emissions that Pinal County is responsible for. Robert Boyle asked if PCAQD regulates the percentage of private roads because that is the largest portion now. Elias Toon said that PCAQD has unpaved dust rules that apply to private, agricultural, and public roads. Paul Ollerton asked MAG for an example of what is a private road versus a public County road in the inventory. Elias Toon said that an example of a private unpaved road could be a resident's driveway on private property and he said that he would take this question back to the modelers and get back to the Committee. Elias Toon said the modeling has already been conducted in this area and shows attainment by 2026, so there would not be any future modeling done for this area as long as the area continues to show at the monitor what is in the model and continues to attain the standard.

Elias Toon said that based on the 5% annual reductions at the end of 2026, there would still be 911 tons of excess emissions; however, that is not a large enough increment to provide another 5% for this area. Elias Toon said the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) will be reviewing the design value of 2024 through 2026. Elias Toon said if the area does not attain the standard within that time period, then MAG would need to submit an additional plan that would need to provide that additional 5% increment for 2027 if the area continues to not attain and that excess emissions is not 5%. Elias Toon said that potential additional regulations would be needed in this area to quantify more emission reductions and could potentially be a requirement if Pinal County does not attain over the next three years.

REVIEW AND DISCUSS THE PREPARATION OF COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT 2023 FIVE PERCENT PARTICULATE PLAN FOR PM-10 FOR THE WEST PINAL COUNTY NONATTAINMENT AREA:

Paul Ollerton said he would like the Committee to draft a letter to MAG with the Committee's specific questions and concerns with Jadee Rohner leading that effort. Robert Boyle moved for the Committee to draft a letter by October 5, 2023, to MAG on behalf of the Committee to question the existing inventories in the Plan, seconded by Harold Payne and the motion passed. Bas Aja said he advises against the Committee asking for MAG to conduct a public hearing on October 13, 2023, because it may attract attention by others who want to make changes to the Plan and also due to the short timeframe before the public hearing date. Paul Ollerton said that he agrees with Bas Aja on that issue.

REVIEW AND DISCUSS HEARING REQUEST FOR THE DRAFT 2023 FIVE PERCENT PARTICULATE PLAN FOR PM-10 FOR THE WEST PINAL COUNTY NONATTAINMENT AREA:

REVIEW AND CONSIDER FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

Paul Ollerton said an agenda item for the next meeting should be to elect a new Chairman of the Committee.

ADJOURNMENT:

Paul Ollerton moved to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m.