

Governor's Agricultural Best Management Practices (AgBMP) Committee Meeting

Monday, March 2, 2026, 1:00 p.m.

Zoom Link:

<https://azdeq.zoom.us/j/86819283281?pwd=1drppyoZzi6jrycVYGtxqcQ4mh1Yqo.1>

Meeting ID: 868 1928 3281; Passcode: 947466

In-Person:

Arizona Rock Products Association 916 W Adams St # 1, Phoenix, AZ 85007

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Paul Ollerton, Chairman, Cotton Producer

William Thelander, Grain Producer

William Heiden, Beef Cattle Feedlots

Kimberly Butler, County Air Quality Department or Agency

James Boyle Jr., Dairy Operations

Robert Boyle, Alfalfa Producer

Harold Payne, Citrus Producer

Sheldon Jones, AZ Department of Agriculture Director or Designee

Keisha Tatem, State Conservationist, USDA NRCS Director or Designee

Jamilah McCoy, State Resource Conservationist, USDA NRCS Director or Designee

Daniel Czecholinski, AZ Department of Environmental Quality Director or Designee

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Alfredo Sotomayor, Swine Facilities

William Paul Heiden, Beef Cattle Feedlot

Dr. Joseph Blankinship, Soil Taxonomist of the College of Agriculture at University of Arizona

Vacant, Vegetable Producer

Vacant, Poultry Facilities

Vacant, Dean of the College of Agriculture at University of Arizona

OTHER MEETING ATTENDEES:

Matthew Poppen, Maricopa Association of Governments

Anita Lee, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9

Lisa Beckham, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9

Douglas Bushey, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9

Jennifer Williams, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9

Laura Ballard, Maricopa Association of Governments

Bas Aja, AZ Cattle Feeder's Association

Jadee Rohner, AZ Cotton Grower's Association

Nicole Clements, Maricopa County Farm Bureau

Cheryl Koury, Arizona Nursery Association

Russell Van Leuven, AZ Department of Agriculture
Hether Krause, AZ Department of Environmental Quality
Chelsey Fenton, AZ Department of Environmental Quality
Kelly Poole, AZ Department of Environmental Quality
Sean Sandy, AZ Department of Environmental Quality
Steven Burr, AZ Department of Environmental Quality
Lisa Tomczak, AZ Department of Environmental Quality
Dennise Flanigan, AZ Department of Environmental Quality
Lexi Ahmad, AZ Department of Environmental Quality
Tara Ousley, AZ Department of Environmental Quality

I. CALL TO ORDER:

A. Introduction of Committee Members and Roll Call.

At 1:09 p.m., Chairman Ollerton called the meeting to order. Hether Krause called roll and a quorum was established.

II. REVIEW AND APPROVE PRIOR MEETING MINUTES:

A. Review and approve April 10, 2025, meeting minutes. Chairman Ollerton asked for a motion to approve the April 10, 2025 meeting minutes. Robert Boyle moved for the Committee to approve the April 10, 2025 meeting minutes, seconded by Keisha Tatem and the motion passed.

III. DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST:

A. There were no disclosures of conflicts of interest.

IV. HISTORY AND OVERVIEW OF THE WEST PINAL COUNTY PM-10 NONATTAINMENT AREA:

A. Matthew Poppen, Director of Environmental Planning, Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG), gave a presentation on the history and overview of the West Pinal County PM10 Nonattainment area. Mr. Poppen said that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) initially designated the West Pinal County PM10 Nonattainment Area as a Moderate area in 2012. Mr. Poppen said that the area was required to attain the PM10 standard by December 31, 2018. Mr. Poppen said that the EPA PM10 standard is to have no more than one exceedance per monitor over a three-year period and anything above that is a violation of the PM10 standard. Mr. Poppen discussed the planning and regulatory actions timeline from 2015 to present. Mr. Poppen discussed why EPA's approval of the Agricultural Best Management Practices (AgBMP) rules matter. Bas Aja, Executive Vice President, Arizona Cattle Feeder's Association, asked if the EPA will need to complete a Federal Implementation Plan (FIP) before issuing the sanctions or can they issue the sanctions without a FIP. Matt Poppen said that the sanctions are issued immediately by the EPA after final disapproval of the 5% Plan and then a FIP would follow.

V. AGENDA ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION AND DISCUSSION:

- A. Pre-BMP notice-identifying which BMPs will be selected for the year. There was no discussion on this topic.
- B. Post-BMP notice-indicating which BMPs were actually implemented. There was no discussion on this topic.
- C. Direct submission of BMP forms to the Department with the name and mailing address of the commercial farmer, location of the commercial farm, signature and BMP information. Russell Van Leuven, Air Quality Program Manager, Arizona Department of Agriculture (AZDA), reviewed the two different draft versions of the Regulated Grower Permit (PGP) New Application that included BMPs for selection by the grower on the second page. Mr. Van Leuven said the development of these draft PGP's was a joint effort between AZDA, Chairman Ollerton and Jadee Rohner, Executive Director, Arizona Cotton Grower's Association. Chairman Ollerton said the purpose of the draft PGP forms are for growers to be able to purchase chemicals for their farm. Steven Burr, Sr. Environmental Consultant, Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ), asked Chairman Ollerton a question about concerns that the PGP submitter's contact information, mailing address and farm location (map or legal description) are not currently listed on the second page of the draft PGP forms, which would be the page that is submitted to ADEQ. Chairman Ollerton said he would correct the draft PGP forms to include the submitter's contact information, mailing address and farm location (map or legal description) on the second page of the form. Dennise Flanigan, Inspector, ADEQ, said that farmers often have several farms that are spread out and sometimes even in different counties so having a parcel number or the geographical coordinates of the farm on the PGP form would be helpful to ADEQ. Keisha Tatem, State Conservationist, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) said that the USDA has created a new pilot program called 'One Farmer, One File', scheduled to start rolling out in phases in April 2026. The program will allow farmers to access all of their farm files across different federal agencies in one centralized location. Daniel Czecholinski, Air Quality Division Director, ADEQ said that the purpose of the PGP form is to increase accountability for AgBMP which will help improve air quality.
- D. Review and discuss possible amendments to the Arizona Administrative Code (A.A.C.) R18-2-610.03 Agricultural PM General Permit for Crop Operations; Pinal County PM Nonattainment Area. Steven Burr said that the previously suggested edits have been made in the draft rule titled, "Agricultural PM General Permit for Crop Operations; Pinal County PM Nonattainment Area". Mr. Burr discussed the additional suggested edits and said that he would add them. Chairman Ollerton said that a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) will be needed between AZDA and ADEQ to address the sharing of data. Anita Lee, Acting Director of the Air and Radiation Division, EPA discussed the timeframe of the rule revisions and why the

-
- timeframe is important to EPA. Ms. Lee said that EPA has been working closely with ADEQ, MAG and other organizations to discuss a path forward for the attainment plan that will hopefully result in EPA approving the plan. Ms. Lee said the timeline is tight because the attainment date for the area is December 31, 2026. Ms. Lee said the current data shows the area will not attain by the attainment date and that is why the revised plan is important to show increased enforceability of the AgBMP revised rules to account for the nonattainment.
- E. Future meeting. Chairman Ollerton said that the AgBMP Committee will schedule a follow-up meeting in late March or early April 2026 to vote on the draft PGP form that includes BMPs and discuss related draft rule revisions.
 - F. Committee vacancies. Chairman Ollerton said there are currently two vacant positions on the AgBMP Committee, which are the roles of Vegetable Producer and Poultry Facilities. Chairman Ollerton asked the AgBMP Committee if they know anyone that is interested in serving on the AgBMP Committee to let Hether Krause know.

VI. CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

- A. No members of the public spoke.

VII. ADJOURNMENT:

- A. Chairman Ollerton asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Robert Boyle moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Sheldon Jones and the motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 2:37 p.m.

