

**Cooper Road and Commerce Avenue
Water Quality Assurance Revolving Fund (WQARF) site
Community Advisory Board (CAB) Meeting**

**Thursday, July 24, 2025 6:00 p.m.
Meeting held virtually via Zoom**

DRAFT MINUTES

CAB Members Present: Pacer Udall (Co-Chair), Michael Evans (Co-Chair), Eric Braun, Bruce Friedrich,

CAB Members Absent: Carrie Lewis, Anne Landers

ADEQ Staff Present: Barbara Boschert, Community Involvement Coordinator; Brittany MacBain, Community Involvement Coordinator; Kyle Johnson, Project Manager; Tom Titus, Unit Manager

Members of Public Present: Michael Kraus (SRP), Edward Meza, M. Theis, Patty Jordan, and Laura

1. Call to Order/Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m. and introductions were held.

2. Presentation by ADEQ on Cooper Road and Commerce Avenue WQARF site

Project Manager Kyle Johnson walked the CAB through the WQARF process, reminding the CAB that the site is currently in the operations and maintenance phase, which consists of operating and maintaining the remedy. This presentation also focused on tetrachloroethene (PCE), trichloroethene (TCE) and per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) groundwater sampling results from 2024 and 2025.

The most recent groundwater monitoring event at the site took place in April 2025 and included eight wells. Results from the event indicated westerly groundwater flow and a maximum detection of PCE at 11.9 ug/L at monitoring well MW-124. TCE was not detected above its Aquifer Water Quality Standard of 5 ug/L. These results were consistent with those over the past 5 years.

In September 2024 ADEQ collected groundwater samples for PFAS analysis from seven monitoring wells at site. The monitoring wells included in the sampling event were selected such that they would represent locations

within, upgradient, down gradient, and cross gradient of the PCE/TCE source area. Analytical results indicated PFAS, including the two regulated compounds Perflourooctane-sulfonic Acid (PFOS) and Perflourooctanoic Acid (PFOA), were present in all sampled monitoring wells, depleting as samples moved away from the source area.

In the previous meeting the CAB asked for information on the cumulative contaminant mass removal of the soil vapor extraction system present at the site. Mr. Johnson provided a plot graph of showing both the daily rate of contaminant removal and the cumulative contaminant mass removed from 2009 – 2025.

3. Discussion of the ADEQ Presentation by the Board

Mr. Friedrich asked if the PFAS was 40 times higher than the limit, how they are tested, and if they pose a health risk for the community. Mr. Johnson confirmed that the source area groundwater monitoring wells are over by 40 times the limit, noting ADEQ did not sample drinking water wells, but that drinking water providers were likely already sampling drinking water wells in preparation for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's upcoming enforcement of promulgated PFAS regulations.

Mr. Braun asked what the treatment for PFAS is and if ADEQ will engage in that through the WQARF process. Mr. Johnson said that the PFAS compounds will likely come under the purview of WQARF, but was not sure when or if a new PFAS-specific WQARF site will be started. Mr. Titus elaborated that it is something ADEQ is investigating at the moment, and has initiated sampling at WQARF sites to determine the source and extent of the PFAS. ADEQ will report back to the CAB when the Agency can determine the source and extent.

Mr. Udall asked why PFAS was not investigated prior to this year, how many WQARF sites are in the state, and if it is common to find high levels of PFAS at the sites. Mr. Titus told the CAB that the EPA began listing PFAS in the last 12-18 months and issued Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs), which triggered ADEQ to investigate and sample its 37 WQARF sites. Some sites found high levels, low levels, and none. Mr. Evans reminded the CAB that all water providers under the EPA had to test for PFAS.

Mr. Braun discussed that the Town of Gilbert has been testing for PFAS for years to meet the MCLs and the Town of Gilbert is reconstructing the north water treatment plant including a process that will test for PFAS and PFOS in the drinking water. Mr. Braun also asked if Mr. Johnson was familiar with the treatment process for PFAS and if that was feasible for WQARF to treat the contaminants. Mr. Johnson said at the moment he was unsure of a feasible process to treat relatively low concentrations of PFAS *in situ*, but that groundwater could be extracted and treated with carbon at a treatment facility. Mr. Evans reminded the CAB that the Town of Gilbert and ADEQ has an FAQ on PFAS on their websites.

Laura asked in the zoom chat if ADEQ knew the source of the PFAS, ADEQ does not know the source.

Ms. Boschert reminded the attendees that they can contact herself, Mr. Johnson, or Ms. MacBain if they have any questions. A recording of the meeting will be on the ADEQ website as well. Ms. Boschert will also send meeting materials to CAB members.

Mr. Braun asked about the preliminary investigation on Arizona Avenue & St. Angelo St., a mile away from this site, would this CAB be involved in any updates for that site? Mr. Titus is unsure, but ADEQ will be able to give an update once there is more information.

4. CAB Co-Chairs Nomination and Vote

After discussion, Mr. Friedrich made a motion to re-elect Mr. Udall and Mr. Evans as CAB co-chairs. The motion was seconded by Mr. Braun, and unanimously approved by the present CAB members.

5. Review and approval of September 2023 meeting minutes

Mr. Evans made a motion to accept the minutes. Mr. Friedrich seconded the motion and the CAB voted unanimously to approve the minutes.

6. Future CAB Meeting/Agenda Discussion

- Mr. Evans will conduct the next CAB meeting.
- Mr. Evans would like to see another report and presentation from Mr. Johnson regarding future testing and investigation of PFAS.
- Ms. Boschert informed the CAB that the 20th anniversary of the CAB will be next spring. She suggested an in-person celebration in spring or summer 2026. Mr. Udall suggested after March with a presentation and site update from the project manager, as well as a PFAS and PFOS update.

7. Call to the Public*

No comments were provided from the public.

8. Adjournment

Mr. Evans made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Braun seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 7:01 p.m.