



Community Advisory Board (CAB) Meeting
Highway 260 and Main Street
Water Quality Assurance Revolving Fund (WQARF) Site

Wednesday, May 26 2021
6:00 p.m.
1380 E River Front Road, Cottonwood, AZ and Zoom

Meeting Minutes

CAB Members Present: Roger Biggs, Debbie Breitreutz, Andy Groseta, Melissa Franklin, Michael Mathews, David Mongini, Bill Wade

CAB Members Absent: None

ADEQ Staff Present: Barbara Boschert, Mary McGillicuddy, Morgan O'Connor (virtual), Gianna Trujillo

Members of the Public: Karis Nelson (virtual), Mike Ploughe (virtual)

1. Call to Order/Introductions:

ADEQ staff Mary McGillicuddy called the meeting to order at approximately 6:00 p.m. and conducted introductions.

2. Review and approval of February 2021 meeting minutes

CAB co-chair Debbie Breitreutz motioned to approve the minutes; seconded by David Mogini. Motion passed unanimously.

3. CAB Membership update:

McGillicuddy announced Michael Mathews resigned from the CAB, and Roger Biggs will resign after the meeting. The CAB thanked both members for their service.

4. ADEQ Presentation on the Highway 260 and Main Street Site Feasibility Study, updates, next steps:

ADEQ project manager Gianna Trujillo reviewed site boundaries, contaminants of concern, and activities since February 2021 meeting, which include two remediation pilot studies. Trujillo described the site's Feasibility Study (FS) and the three cleanup strategies evaluated. Trujillo said the FS should be published in summer or early fall 2021.

Trujillo shared updates on existing and new ERA treatment systems. She then shared the results of private well sampling from January to May 2021. Trujillo concluded with upcoming site activities.

5. CAB Discussion on ADEQ Presentation:

CAB co-chair Bill Wade ask if any of the contaminated private wells could cause vapor intrusion. Trujillo said vapor intrusion is not a concern for any of the private wells; soil vapor extraction could mitigate this risk in the future.

The CAB and Trujillo discussed remediation options for private well owners with contaminated water, including connecting to City of Cottonwood water. Trujillo explained to the CAB that ADEQ does not have the authority to regulate private wells or provide treatment to wells with contaminant concentrations below Aquifer Water Quality Standards.

CAB member Andy Groseta asked how much ADEQ has spent on the site so far; Trujillo said she could provide the expense estimate after the meeting.

Co-chair Breitzkreutz asked if ADEQ maintained chronological data on each well in map form. Trujillo said each well has its own data table; Trujillo is working on graphing the data to visualize trends.

CAB member Melissa Franklin asked if any private well owners have reported health concerns to ADEQ. Co-chair Breitzkreutz pointed out that ADEQ samples well water before it is treated by an ERA system; well owners are not drinking the sampled water.

Co-chair Wade asked how private wells downgradient of a contaminated well may be affected. Trujillo explained that these downgradient wells will always be sampled quarterly to make sure they are not impacted.

Co-chair Breitzkreutz asked about the logistics of well abandonment if a well owner wants to connect to City of Cottonwood water. Trujillo replied that ADEQ will need to create a process if this occurs; however, ADEQ cannot tell a private well owner to abandon their well.

Groseta asked how many wells are routinely sampled; Trujillo stated ADEQ samples 80 to 90 wells with varying sampling frequencies.

Groseta asked if ADEQ has investigated north of Mingus Road. Trujillo stated that ADEQ sampled wells in this area during the site's preliminary investigation and did not detect contamination; all ADEQ data suggests the contamination is moving south toward the river, not north. Trujillo added that well owners north of Mingus can contact ADEQ if they are concerned about contamination.

The CAB and Trujillo discussed the site's geology how it affects the plume boundary estimates. The CAB and Trujillo discussed the relationship between the depth of a well, pumping rate, and contaminant concentrations.

6. (5a) CAB discussion on ADEQ community involvement materials

McGillicuddy asked the CAB for feedback on the site's community involvement plan, mailed public notices, and outreach efforts. Groseta encouraged ADEQ to shorten mailed public notices to a half-page of text. Co-chairs Wade and Breitzkreutz emphasized that Cottonwood residents are more likely to get their news from the newspaper rather than social media. Franklin added that site news should be on the newspaper's front page, not in the legal section. Franklin also added that younger Cottonwood residents use Facebook and shared the names of popular local Facebook groups.

Co-chair Wade asked if ADEQ technical staff could be interviewed instead of the public information officer. McGillicuddy and ADEQ staff Barb Boschert explained ADEQ's media policies. Co-chair Wade and the CAB discussed ways to engage the media through an informal meeting.

McGillicuddy asked for other outreach ideas. Co-chair Wade suggested hosting a meeting just for private well owners. Trujillo responded that ADEQ invites well owners to CAB meetings; Trujillo added that she frequently meets with well

owners on an individual basis. Co-chair Wade offered ideas for tailored communication to well owners. CAB member Roger Biggs encouraged the messaging to be balanced and not cause panic.

Co-chair Breitzkreutz suggested tabling at the Verde River Days in September. McGillicuddy said she would follow up on this idea.

7. 6(b) Future meeting and agenda discussion

The CAB preferred meeting after the release of the FS report in the summer or fall. Boschert reminded the CAB they can also meet whenever they want to, independent of the FS report release.

8. Call to the public

No comments received.

9. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:51 p.m.

*This meeting was recorded as a record of the proceedings. To listen to recording, or for additional information about the content of this meeting, contact:
ADEQ: Wendy Flood 602-771-4410.*