



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

**DRAFT Minutes of the
Shannon Road/El Camino del Cerro Water Quality Assurance Revolving Fund (WQARF)
Community Advisory Board (CAB) Meeting – 31st Meeting**

April 2, 2008, 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Nanini Library, Large Meeting Room
7300 N. Shannon Road
Tucson, Arizona

CAB Members Present: Randy Abbey, Gary Burchard, Marc Herman, Terri Hutts, Al Pesqueira, Ellie Towne

CAB Members Absent: Marty Drozdoff, Bob Ornelas

ADEQ Staff Present: Sherri Zendri, Project Manager; Melissa Hayes, Community Involvement Coordinator

Members of the Public Present: Robert Adkins, John Doncsecz, Pete Laplander, Grant Parker, Rick Smith, Kevin Walsh

The meeting began at 6:00 p.m.

1. Call to Order/Introductions

CAB co-chair, Randy Abbey, welcomed members and conducted introductions.

2. Approval of Minutes for 11/28/07 CAB Meeting

Marc Herman had some revisions to the minutes from the 11/28/07 CAB meeting. On page two, the first full paragraph, the last line, "sweep" should be "suite." In the next paragraph, in the middle, it should read, "Arizona Pollutant Discharge Elimination System." On page three, second line, it should read, "...she said that site might be looked at." Gary Burchard motioned to approve the minutes with the revisions made; Marc Herman seconded. All CAB members were in favor; none were opposed.

3. Vote on Applications for the CAB from: Robert Adkins, Grant Parker, Kerry Xhaferi

Randy Abbey said that only one of the applicants, Grant Parker, was present, but the CAB could still discuss the other two applications if they choose. Terri Hutts motioned to table the discussion on the applications for Robert Adkins and Kerry Xhaferi until they were present at a meeting, but to discuss the application for Grant Parker since he was present; Al Pesqueira seconded the motion. All CAB members were in favor; none were opposed. Melissa Hayes said that Kerry Xhaferi called to say that she was unable to attend the meeting because she was ill. Randy Abbey mentioned that Marty Drozdoff and Bob Ornelas could not attend this meeting because of other commitments.

The CAB reviewed Grant Parker's application and asked why he wanted to join the CAB. Grant Parker said that he lives near the area, he has been in Tucson for seven years, owns a company that manages homeowner association meetings, and has a water operator certificate from when he lived in Colorado. He said that he was aware that the desert relies on well (ground) water as our main source of drinking water, and would like to contribute to the community. He confirmed that Wednesday meeting times work for him. Terri Hutts motioned to vote Grant Parker on to the CAB; Al Pesqueira seconded the motion. All CAB members were in favor; none were opposed. [The discussion on Robert Adkins' application later took place in agenda item #10, when Robert Adkins was present at the CAB meeting.]

4. Nomination/Election of CAB Co-Chairs for Next Term

Randy Abbey asked for nominations for co-chairs for the next term. Al Pesqueira nominated Randy Abbey for another term; Gary Burchard seconded the motion. Terri Hutts nominated Al Pesqueira, but he declined the nomination. Al Pesqueira nominated Marty Drozdoff for another term; Ellie Towne seconded the motion. Randy Abbey said that he would accept the nomination, and he believed that Marty Drozdoff would accept the nomination as well. All CAB members were in favor of reelecting Randy Abbey as co-chair for the next term; none were opposed; Randy Abbey abstained from voting. All CAB members were in favor of reelecting Marty Drozdoff as co-chair for the next term; none were opposed. Gary Burchard mentioned that in Roberts' Rules, the chair does not vote at all; Melissa Hayes said that the CAB can choose whether to formally follow Roberts' Rules.

5. Site Investigation Update/Q&A

Sherri Zendri showed a new map with the updated site boundary for the Shannon Road/El Camino del Cerro CAB, but said that it will be revised for the next meeting to show the boundaries based on levels of contamination at five parts per billion or higher.

She then reviewed the locations of the newly installed groundwater monitor wells and the results of the recent sampling. She said that well W-49 (in the Meadowbrook neighborhood) came back with no contamination, and the W-48 well, which was a replacement well for a well that had gone dry, showed contamination, as did the W-46 and 47 wells. She then showed the water elevation map, based on sampling in January. She said that seasonal recharge from spring melt and a wet winter is altering what is normally seen, but will likely change again as the year goes on. There has been a rise in the water level of three to five feet since July 2007.

She then reviewed the tetrachloroethene (PCE) and trichloroethene (TCE) plumes in the three levels that ADEQ is monitoring, which are the shallow, middle and deeper level. She said that in the deep level (about 360 feet below ground surface), PCE was only found in well 30 and TCE was found in wells 28 and 40. She reviewed the sampling results for the three depths. There were no major increases in levels of contamination since the last round of sampling. She said that well W-31 is now being sampled quarterly, since it is the sentinel well between the South Shannon well and the DeConcini well.

Grant Parker asked about the source of the contamination. Sherri Zendri said that one identified source is the former El Camino del Cerro Landfill west of Interstate 10 (I-10). Pima County is responsible for that portion of the site and is currently doing an investigation there. The industrial areas along the eastern portion of I-10 had historic activities that could have contributed. In the mid-1990s, the owner of the former Arizona Wrecksperts property was excavating on the property and came across a black

substance oozing from the ground, which started the investigation. The property's historical uses had long been considered as a source. ADEQ conducted soil excavations and removed most of the contamination. Based on ADEQ site investigative work on and around the property, it appears that the property is not significantly, if at all, contributing to the continuing plume. This points back to the El Camino del Cerro Landfill as the source, but the plume of contamination seems larger than coming from just the landfill. She said that ADEQ is not actively searching for any other sources, but is now characterizing the plume.

She said that ADEQ developed a draft risk assessment for the former Wrecksperts property, which was reviewed by a risk assessor in the Phoenix ADEQ office. Sherri Zendri will finalize the risk assessment, which indicates that the property does not pose a risk to people living on the property. The risk assessment assumed that the property would be zoned residential. The property is in two parcels, with the eastern parcel broken in two again. The easternmost area is zoned homestead, meaning that a trailer or some other residential structure could be put on it. The other parcels are zoned commercial/industrial. There is still some contamination there, but due to time and funding constraints, and because it is not posing a risk, ADEQ will not focus on it as much.

ADEQ was running a soil vapor extraction (SVE) system at former E.C. Winter property, but it has been turned off. She said that it may be kept off permanently now since the small amount of contamination being removed does not make it cost effective to keep running it.

She anticipates having an internal draft Remedial Investigation (RI) Report in summer 2008; it may be available for public comment in 2009, as well as the draft Feasibility Study (FS).

She then reviewed the status of the South Shannon treatment system. The carbon was changed at the end of February. The system had treated 70 million gallons of water since the last carbon change-out. The system has treated 216.5 million gallons since the upgraded system has been in operation. As of the end of February, it has removed 55.8 pounds of Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs), which equates to about one pound of VOCs for every four million gallons of water. Grant Parker asked what happens to the carbon after it is used. Sherri Zendri said it is sent back to the company, the volatiles are burned off at very high temperatures, then the carbon is reused. At this site, since it is a drinking water system, she believes new carbon is used each time it is replaced.

She then gave an update on the work being done by Pima County at the former El Camino del Cerro Landfill. Pima County is planning to install a treatment system in the area and discharge the water. Pima County has found that obtaining a wastewater discharge permit for the system may be prohibitively expensive, and they may request an Arizona Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (AZPDES) permit. Pima County Wastewater can charge per gallon of water discharged into their system, and the system would have discharged about 250 gallons a minute for 24 hours a day.

Sherri Zendri said that one of the questions from the last meeting was how the depths of Pima County's monitor wells correspond to the depths of ADEQ's monitor wells. She said that almost all of Pima County's monitor wells correspond to the ADEQ shallow level, their extraction well corresponds to ADEQ's middle level, and one of their wells corresponds to the deep level.

She then showed the Santa Cruz basin map, which includes the Silverbell Landfill, Miracle Mile and Shannon Road/El Camino del Cerro WQARF Sites. ADEQ will do another round of sampling in April.

6. Presentation on Monitored Natural Attenuation

Sherri Zendri then presented on Monitored Natural Attenuation (MNA), which the CAB had requested at the last meeting, and she distributed a fact sheet on MNA from the Environmental Protection Agency. She said that most aquifers have a natural ability to remediate themselves, but MNA is a lengthy process. MNA monitors the practices, most of which are biological, and biodegradation which is the breakdown of contaminants by microbes naturally in the soil. She clarified that MNA is not a do-nothing approach, and the key is to do the monitoring to make sure the contamination is degrading and there is no migration. MNA is not appropriate for all sites. Long-term operation and maintenance of MNA is cheaper than operating treatment systems, but the up-front characterization can be more expensive. ADEQ emphasizes that if MNA is included in site feasibility studies, continued monitoring is needed. MNA is less intrusive and disruptive than some other technologies, since there is no transfer of waste, and there is in-ground destruction of contaminants, but the process does take a lot longer. She said that there has to be source control to make sure that the source is no longer contributing. MNA on chlorinated solvents and petroleum sites is different in the chemistry and biological breakdown. Gary Burchard said that MNA has to be appropriate for the land and water use.

7. Call to the Public

There were no further comments from the public. Randy Abbey thanked the audience for coming.

8. CAB Outreach/Membership Discussion

Randy Abbey said that the CAB's duties are two-fold: to understand what ADEQ is doing at the site and to convey it to the community, and vice versa. Randy Abbey thanked Gary Burchard for putting the article about the CAB and recruitment of members in the Metro Water District newsletter. Ellie Towne said that the Flowing Wells Neighborhood Association and Community Coalition has information about the CAB on their Web site, with a link to ADEQ's Web site. Randy Abbey said that he explained the WQARF site to neighbors at a yard sale. Ellie Towne said that at the last CAB meeting, she had said that she had to resign from the CAB, but she has decided to stay on the CAB.

Grant Parker said that he is seeing a lot of concern for water conservation and water harvesting in the homeowner's association business, and is happy to put the word out there about these issues. He offered to put it on the Web site for the Southern Arizona Home Builder's Association (SAHBA), and Al Pesqueira asked that information about the CAB be included in newsletters. Melissa Hayes said that there are seven WQARF sites in Tucson, so this is a Tucson-wide issue, but she reiterated that no one is drinking contaminated water.

9. Discussion on Moving Meeting Location to Ellie Towne Flowing Wells Community Center

Melissa Hayes said that the CAB had previously discussed changing the location of the CAB meetings to the Ellie Towne Flowing Wells Community Center, but the hours did not work for the CAB meetings. The Center's hours have changed, and she asked the CAB if they would want to now consider moving locations; it would mean changing the dates of the meetings to a Tuesday or Thursday. Randy Abbey said it would bring the CAB closer to the community affected by the WQARF site, and make outreach easier. The CAB agreed that they would like to try moving and discussed what days work for them. Terri Hutts motioned to try to meet on the first or third Tuesday of the month at the Ellie Towne Flowing Wells Community Center at 1660 W. Ruthrauff; Ellie Towne seconded the motion. All CAB members were in favor; none were opposed.

10. Other Administrative Business

Melissa Hayes said that ADEQ distributed four doorhangers in January and February for site work; she brought hard copies. She also brought copies of the new ADEQ Waste Programs Division (WPD) brochure. She thanked the Metro Water District for including an article about the CAB and recruitment in their January 2008 newsletter; they also had an article about the ADEQ monitor well drilling in the Meadowbrook neighborhood in their December 2007 newsletter. She told the CAB that ADEQ would be hosting the second CAB/CAG Co-Chair Workshop on May 7 in Phoenix; an invitation would be mailed soon, and she said that she hoped the co-chairs could attend (Randy Abbey attended last year). She also told the CAB about the Tucson Earth Day Festival which would take place on April 19 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Reid Park; ADEQ is a sponsor of the event.

Robert Adkins was now present at the CAB meeting, so Grant Parker rescinded the motion of tabling the review of his application; Terri Hutts seconded the motion. All CAB members were in favor; none were opposed. The CAB asked Robert Adkins to explain why he is interested in joining CAB. He said that he has always been interested in water. He served on a similar board in Florida in the past, and he has environmental interests and a B.S. in Chemistry. He is interested in clean water, how the contaminants get in aquifers, how to remove them and leave clean water for future generations. Terri Hutts motioned to accept Robert Adkins' application and vote him onto the CAB; Al Pesqueira seconded the motion. All CAB members were in favor; none were opposed. Robert Adkins said that he prefers to go by Keith.

11. Next Meeting Date/Agenda Discussion

The next CAB meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 15, 2008. The meeting will take place at the Ellie Towne Flowing Wells Community Center at 1660 W. Ruthrauff, Tucson, 85705, from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Call Melissa Hayes, ADEQ Community Involvement Coordinator, at (520) 770-3309 or e-mail at hayes.melissa@azdeq.gov for meeting details and proposed agenda. Agenda topics for the next meeting proposed by the CAB include a vote on Kerri Xhaferi's application, a site update and an update on the site budget.

12. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m. Gary Burchard motioned to adjourn the meeting; Grant Parker seconded the motion.

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

Minutes prepared by: Melissa Hayes 6/13/08
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