



Environmental Planning Advisory Committee (EPAC)

Minutes of October 2, 2009, Meeting (REVISED 11-9-2009)

Committee Members

Sheila Bowen, AzSCE
Jennifer Christelman, Town of Marana
Ed Curley, PC RWRD
Stephen Dean, Oro Valley Citizen
David Godlewski, SAHBA
Marilyn Hanson, Marana Citizen
Darren Horstmeier, DMAFB
Kendall Kroesen, Tucson Audubon Society (Alt.)
Roxanne Linsley, ADEQ
Melodee Loyer, Tucson Water
Grant McCormick, UA
Lynsey Miller, Rincon Institute
David Parker, Town of Oro Valley
Dennis Skelton, Town of Sahaurita, Chair
Linda Smith, Tucson Water
Janine Spencer, Town of Marana (Alt.)
Betsy Woodhouse, City of Tucson Citizen

Public/Agencies

Joanna Bate, UA WRRRC
Officer Shawn Benjamin, OVPD (presenter)
Michael Block, Metro Water
Howard Dutt, COT (presenter)
Justin Dykstra, Olsson Assoc. (presenter)
Julia Fonseca, PC NRPR
John Hucko, Olsson Assoc. (presenter)
Paul Kramkowski, Raytheon
Julie Parizek, COT (presenter)
Sandi Richey, GVCCC
Sgt. Amy Sloane, OVPD (presenter)

Staff

Malini Banerjee
Lee Comrie
Robert Done
Steve Matthews
Mead Mier
Joan Reedy
Claire Zucker, PAG Lead

1. Call to Order and Introductions

The meeting was called to order by Chair Dennis Skelton at 9:30 a.m. and introductions were made.

2. In-Kind Form

An in-kind form was routed among attendees.

3. Approval of Minutes

Motion was made by Ed Curley to approve the minutes of Sept. 4, 2009, and seconded by Betsy Woodhouse. Approved.

4. EPAC Chair, Committees, Members and PAG Staff Reports

Lee Comrie, Air Quality Planning Manager, reported that the next meeting of the Air Quality Subcommittee is scheduled for Tuesday, Oct. 6, 2009, at 1:30 p.m. The meeting will focus on greenhouse gas emissions and PAG's update to the inventory for the City and County.

On Sept. 16, the EPA announced that it is going to be reconsidering the ozone standard that it modified in March of last year. The standard that was set was not as protective of public health as the one suggested by the scientific committee that reports to the EPA. It is hoped that by Dec. 2009 the EPA will come out with any recommended changes to that standard. Ms. Comrie said they expect that it will be strengthened from where it is today which could again put us on the edge of potentially in non-attainment. There will be a public review process, with standards finalized by Aug. 2010 and plans due to the EPA by 2013.

Malini Banerjee, Senior Watershed Planner, said the Stormwater Management Working Group hasn't met since the last EPAC meeting but may meet later this month. Ms. Banerjee said that an online survey is available at www.PAGstorm.com for comments and feedback to assess success of the Stormwater Outreach.

Ms. Banerjee attended the De Minimus Permit stakeholder meeting which took place last month in Tucson. The formal comment period closed on Sept. 28 and a permit is expected by the end of this year.

The EPA is expected to come out with an Insecticide General Permit next year and ADEQ will follow.

Ms. Banerjee is attending the informal Pharmaceutical Group meetings held once a month to share program information from around the county. This is an effort headed by Pima County Wastewater with participation from the jurisdictions, water providers, Oro Valley Police Department and various other groups. PAG and Pima County Wastewater jointly prepared a flier "Don't Flush Your Meds," which discourages flushing of medications and gives other disposal alternatives. The flier includes the dates for Oro Valley sponsored Take-Back Events.

Mead Mier, Watershed Planner, said the Watershed Planning Subcommittee will meet again on Oct. 26, 2009.

Claire Zucker, Watershed Planning Manager, reported that the Statewide Water Quality Management Working Group will meet on Tuesday, Oct. 13, in Phoenix. At that meeting they will consider three different 208 amendments for the Central Arizona Association of Governments (CAAG) in Pinal County. These amendments are for wastewater facilities located just north of Pima County.

At the last Marana DMA 208 Amendment Scope of Work Task Force meeting it was decided to hold the next meeting after the County and Town of Marana attend an evidentiary hearing in November. Ms. Zucker said given the results of the hearing there may be some changes in the amendment. In the meantime, the Town also will incorporate its financial report and other revisions into the amendment.

Member Updates:

Mr. Skelton announced that the Town of Sahuarita applied for and received a \$32,000 grant from the Tohono O'odham Nation for buffelgrass removal. Discussion with the town manager indicates that they intend to hire contract labor to do some of the road clean-up work.

Ed Curley announced that Pima County Wastewater and members of the Western Coalition of Arid States (WESTCAS) are sponsoring the fall meeting in Tucson. The theme is "ABC's for Sustainability of Water and Wastewater in the 21st Century." The conference will be held at Westward Look Resort, Oct. 28-30, 2009. More information can be found at www.westcas.org

HANDOUT: EPAC Chair, Committees, Members and PAG Staff Reports.

HANDOUT: "Don't Flush Your Meds," flier prepared by PAG and Pima County Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department.

5. EPAC Administration

Ms. Comrie explained that in EPAC's strategic plan one of our roles is to inform the members on priority issues facing the PAG region. Typically these are issues that benefit the jurisdictions and the region as a whole. She referred to the 2009 Environmental Issues List handout which currently includes seven categories. The categories and document are updated every year; committee input is requested. Watershed Planning and Air Quality Subcommittees will also be asked to add input. This list is used as a guide to develop meeting agendas for EPAC and the subcommittees. The goal is to get document approval from the Committee by December and to present the Environmental Issues List to the Management Committee and Regional Council as an informational item in January.

EPAC meeting attendance of 50 percent will be reviewed in December. Ms. Zucker said if you need to have an alternate; it should be an alternate that's recognized and on the list.

Ms. Zucker announced that Chair Dennis Skelton and Vice Chair Robert Medler are at the end of their two-year term. The Bylaws state that: new officers will be elected in January by the Committee and that, whenever practical, the officers will be citizen representatives. Ms. Zucker asked that anyone interested in these positions contact her.

Ms. Zucker presented the status of current membership vacancies as follows:

Member Jurisdiction:

- City of Tucson Transportation – needs a representative
- Town of Sahuarita – Proposed - Sara More, new Planning Director or Orlanitha Henderson as primary and/or alternate representatives
- Tohono O'odham Nation – in conversation with them

Interest Group:

- Agencies & Departments – Proposed - University of Arizona – Mark Novak, Primary Representative and Grant McCormick, Alternate Representative

Ex-Officio Members:

- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency – sorting out

Mr. McCormick presented a brief background about himself and Mr. Novak. He works with Mr. Novak on campus.

Motion was made by David Godlewski to endorse the nomination of Mark Novak as primary representative and Grant McCormick as alternate representative to fill the Agencies and Departments position, and seconded by Ed Curley. Approved.

HANDOUT: PAG Event Announcements

HANDOUT: Environmental Planning Advisory Committee (EPAC), Environmental Issues in Pima County 2009.

6. Oro Valley Police Department Pharmaceutical Take Back Program

Sergeant Amy Sloane, Community Resource Unit of the Oro Valley Police Department, and Officer Shawn Benjamin, Amphitheatre School District, Canyon Del Oro (CDO) High School, spoke about their Prescription Drop-off Program. Sgt. Sloane discussed the program from a law enforcement and administration perspective. The Oro Valley Take-Back Program began when Officer Benjamin organized with the Meth Free Alliance earlier this year to do a Pharmaceutical Take-Back Program in the City of Catalina. It was well received and got the attention of Pima County Wastewater which later formed a stakeholders group to address the issue. After attending the first meeting, Sgt. Sloane and Officer Benjamin decided to pursue a program in Oro Valley.

Officer Benjamin described why Oro Valley is doing this program and why it's so important to them. She described the loss of three students at CDO High School; one to heroin and the other two to prescription meds. She feels it is an epidemic. Teens are using prescription medications and they don't know what they are using; they will try anything. Sgt. Sloane described the link between heroin and prescription meds, but said that prescription meds are easier to get a-hold of and ready to use. Officer Benjamin said parents don't even realize that drugs are in their house.

Sgt. Sloane told the committee about the take-back program. Businesses donated their office paper boxes which are used as evidence bins. Once they are full, the boxes are taped up, and put into property. According to the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA), there is an allowance for prescription medications and controlled substances to be turned in to law enforcement officers and law enforcement officers only. Because drugs have a resale value, supervision and control over these substances must be maintained at all times. She said their officers don't ask what the drug is or who is surrendering the drug, it remains anonymous. The meds are subsequently incinerated by DEA. By next summer, the goal is to have a permanent take-back program in Oro Valley with receptacles in the police substation and main station. The Optimist Club is helping financially by purchasing and installing the receptacles. They will take this program idea to a national conference to see if the Optimist Club will back this program nationally.

Revised by Dave Parker 11-6-09:

Dave Parker stated that the Town of Oro Valley Stormwater Utility was supporting the Oro Valley Police Pharmaceutical Take Back Events by procuring advertising in Town water bills that would list the future take back dates and locations plus highlight the water quality benefits of disposing of your pharmaceuticals properly."

Ed Curley reported that Pima County recently gave a presentation to the Water Study Committee on water quality issues and emerging contaminants and would be glad to give that presentation to this group. There is a package of recommendations that the City and County are working on that include things like working with national groups, DEA and legislation, to try to make take back programs easier. He said this is a big problem in every community. Today's presentation is an excellent program; we hope other people will follow the model.

PowerPoint: Oro Valley Police Department, Prescription Drop-Off Program

Contact Information: Sergeant Amy Sloane, (520) 229-5081, asloane@orovalleyaz.gov, and Officer Shawn Benjamin, (520) 696-5577, sbenjamin@amphi.com

7. PAG Pharmaceutical Take Back Survey Results

Claire Zucker explained that PAG conducted a survey of long-term healthcare facilities with regard to their disposal of pharmaceuticals. Flushing pharmaceuticals introduces medications into the wastewater system. Water and wastewater providers want to be proactive, because prevention is the best management plan. Ms. Zucker reviewed the survey components. She reported that 80 out of the 126 facilities contacted were either independent living facilities (no nurses managing medication), or they were non-responsive. The key focus of the study was to determine the current disposal methods and to evaluate if there is an interest in participating in a take-back program. A total of 90 percent of the 46 facilities contacted did handle unused or out-of-date medications. The survey showed that hazardous waste disposal and pickup were the primary means of disposal. A total of 83 percent said they would be interested in participating in a pharmaceutical take-back program, but they would prefer drop boxes or pick-up programs. Ms. Zucker said the target for continued outreach are the facilities that did not respond or do not have managing health care nurses.

PowerPoint: Pima Association of Governments, Pharmaceutical Survey Results, Oct. 2, 2009.

8. Pharmaceutical Resolution

Claire Zucker provided a copy of a draft resolution to the Committee and explained why the Committee might want to pass a resolution on pharmaceutical disposal. She said that it would give the group an opportunity to highlight a concern for the region. It is not meant to be a statement that binds the jurisdictions but rather a statement to encourage support of developing take-back programs.

A draft resolution had been sent to the Committee at the beginning of the week. Ms. Zucker suggested that the Committee continue to send her comments, and that PAG bring the resolution back to the November meeting with suggested revisions.

Dennis Skelton suggested that more wastewater treatment background issues could be investigated in preparation for the presentation in Management Committee and Regional Council. David Godlewski encouraged getting input from wastewater and other water providers on what the impact might be for drinking water. Melodee Loyer said that

according to the City/County Water Study, some wells are currently impacted by pharmaceuticals. The group decided to revisit this issue at the November meeting.

9. Planning Tucson's Urban Greenways

Julie Parizek, Project Manager, City of Tucson Parks and Recreation Department, Howard Dutt, Landscape Architect, City of Tucson Parks and Recreation Department, Justin Dykstra, ASLA, Landscape Architect, Olsson Associates; a design consulting firm, and John Hucko, ASLA, Landscape Architect, Olsson Associates, contributed to a presentation about the City of Tucson Urban Trails Program.

Ms. Parizek said the City is working on urban trail corridors and the urban perimeter river park system. Mr. Dutt has been working on an update of the Pima Regional Trails Master Plan. She said that while looking at the trails master plan, they realized it would be great if residents in the inner city had some connection to the trail as well as providing connectivity through town.

Ms. Parizek reviewed the various considerations for putting trails in midtown; such as riparian habitat locations, following existing water courses, providing connectivity between shopping destinations, schools, churches and residential areas. The city sought to provide a user experience, a linear park experience, as well as a transportation link. By creating a formalized trail system, safety can be increased for both pedestrian and bicycle users. The city is developing design standards for urban trails. Ms. Parizek said they have no intention of destroying any of the existing riparian habitats and the hope is to actually include trails to complement and supplement the habitat that's there now. Typically, the paths would be 8 to 12 feet wide.

Mr. Dykstra described a specific trail segment, the Arroyo Chico Urban Greenway, in the Reid Park Loop. It extends from Treat Avenue to Tucson Blvd., and the route includes three schools and the UA Track and Field Center. An underutilized parking area, which will be turned into a "park node," will offer limited parking, an educational area for a water harvesting demonstration area and a native plant garden to support wildlife. The node also will include a plaza area, seating, a Ramada, bicycle parking and amenities. Solar lighting is planned to light the corridor and enhance safety.

Ms. Parizek said they are looking at a whole network of urban greenways which complement one another, as well as the perimeter loop. They face typical challenges of trying to retrofit these trails within the urban fabric.

PowerPoint: City of Tucson Urban Greenways, City of Tucson, Tucson Parks and Recreation, and Olsson Associates.

10. Future Agenda Items

Pima County/City Water Study Summary Report – Nov. 6
Ozone – Summary for the summer
Population Planning Census and GIS Modeling
Water and Energy (CAWCD, ADWR on Solar Power Generation, Bio Fuels) multiple perspectives combined with the Watershed Planning Subcommittee - Dec 4

Relationship Between Pharmaceuticals and Wastewater Treatment – Ed Curley will send Ms. Zucker a link to the 30 min. PowerPoint presentation and 50 paper presentation
Oro Valley Environmental Sensitive Land Ordinance – Jan.
Beat Back Buffelgrass Day in Feb. – Jan.
Update from the jurisdictions on their Habitat for Conservation Plans

11. Call to the Audience

None heard.

12. Adjournment

**Motion to adjourn the meeting by Dave Parker and seconded by David Godlewski.
Approved.**

Meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m.