

US Environmental Protection Agency

Local Government Advisory  
Committee (LGAC)  
Small Communities Advisory  
Subcommittee (SCAS)

Meeting Summary 3/27/2012

*The Meeting Summary that follows reflects what was conveyed during the course of the meeting which is summarized. The Committee is not responsible for any potential inaccuracies that may appear in the meeting summary as a result of information conveyed. Moreover, the Committee advises that additional information sources be consulted in cases where any concern may exist about statistics or any other information contained within the Meeting Summary.*

**Local Government Advisory Committee (LGAC)  
Small Communities Advisory Subcommittee (SCAS)  
Teleconference**

**March 27, 2012**

**Meeting Summary**

**I. *Introductions and Welcome***

Mayor Dixon welcomed everyone to the call.

**II. *Review of Meeting Summary from February SCAS call***

The meeting summary was approved without changes.

**III. *Draft Papers from the Decentralized MOU Partnership***

Ms. Kubena gave a brief overview of the papers. The audience is local decision makers. Twenty to twenty-five percent of homes in the country are serviced by on-site wastewater systems. The Partnership is hoping to use the papers to raise awareness.

Commissioner Cope said that in Idaho this issue is under the jurisdiction of the board of health. The information is interesting and the boards of health might be interested in the papers.

Mayor Dixon found the papers very helpful. In Kansas these would be helpful to rural communities that do not have zoning ordinances in place.

Commissioner Cope said that this is not much of an issue in the Snake River Valley area, but in areas with higher water tables, decentralized systems would be very important.

Mayor Peterson noted that in the paper that is an introduction to decentralized wastewater treatment, there is a section titled "What is decentralized wastewater treatment." It would be helpful if this section was clearer about what on-site systems are. The examples are helpful.

Commissioner Cope said that County Zoning Departments would benefit from this information.

Mr. Tiberi suggested some reformatting (e.g., move up the picture at the top of the page) to differentiate the 4 documents from each other.

Mayor Peterson suggested adding some captions to each of the pictures.

Mr. Tiberi suggested adding pictures with people in them to grab the reader's attention. He also suggested taking out the word "strict" in the introductory paper in the second to last bullet under "What is Decentralized Wastewater Treatment." He said it would be convenient if people could go to a website to find examples of these types of systems in their area. He suggested that EPA add Conservation Districts to the MOU partnership. He said that overall these are very effective pamphlets and that he and the rest of the committee would help with the distribution of these tools.

Ms. Tooke said that assistance in bringing on Conservation Districts would be appreciated. Mr. Tiberi said he would send a note to the governmental affairs person to get in touch with Maureen.

Mr. Cope recommended also adding local boards of health to the MOU partnership and offered to forward information to the president of the national association, who is in Idaho.

Mayor Peterson had some grammatical edits. Mr. Tiberi said that the words in the oval in the upper left hand corner should be crisper. He also said that if captions are added, they should be consistent throughout the documents.

Mayor Dixon said that this is a great resource and that everyone on SCAS is extremely willing to help with outreach. Mr. Tiberi and Mayor Peterson agreed.

Mayor Murrell said that the papers are very timely for her community. She is currently dealing with a question related to a new restaurant being built. The information in the papers will be very helpful in discussions with Oklahoma DEQ to open up the conversation about options. The restaurant would provide employment opportunities and economic growth in the community.

Mr. Tiberi agreed that people in small communities love to see these kinds of resources out there.

Mayor Dixon said if people think of more edits to send them to Ms. Kubena. Ms. Kubena said that she will also be joining LGAC in Denver. Ms. Davis asked that people copy her if they email Ms. Kubena. Mayor Dixon said that we can continue the conversation in Denver.

#### IV. ***Draft agenda for SCAS April 18<sup>th</sup> in Denver***

Mayor Dixon asked for questions or comments on the draft agenda.

Commissioner Cope made a point that his community has been dealing with pesticide permits in riparian areas. Ms. Eargle said that Jim Hanlon, Director of EPA's Office of Wastewater Management, will be attending the LGAC meeting and the Water Workgroup meeting; Mr. Hanlon could speak to that issue. LGAC has also addressed this issue in the past. Ms. Eargle thanked Commissioner Cope for bringing our attention to the issue. It affects other states with NPDS authority as well and probably tribal nations, too.

Mayor Murrell asked for a brief summary of the issue to look over before the meeting. Commissioner Cope said that he would send a write up something of what's going on in his area. He often talks with Fish and Wildlife but hasn't gotten concrete guidance from them. He said we could continue this discussion in Denver.

Mayor Peterson brought up TMDLs, particularly in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Ms. Eargle said that she did not know about any upcoming activities regarding TMDLs, but she had heard that people across the nation were concerned about the issue.

Mr. Tiberi said that we are making good progress on Chesapeake Bay issues.

Ms. Eargle said that she would ask OW to address these issues when they talk to LGAC. The LGAC Water Workgroup will hear from a speaker on water quality improvements thanks to Mr. Tiberi.

Mr. Tiberi said that USDA/NRCS has money available for small farmers and ranchers for spill prevention programs.

Ms. Davis reminded everyone that the Water Workgroup meeting is on the morning of the 20<sup>th</sup> and everyone is welcome to attend. She said that we will pull together some informational materials on these issues.

Ms. Eargle thanked the SCAS for their advice. Without it, EPA is not able to address many issues fully, and EPA needs the SCAS's help to continue to address these kinds of issues.

Ms. Davis said that the SCAS could have a follow up call on these issues or could include this in the SCAS meeting. She said that she would draft a revised agenda for the 18th to fit in a discussion on these issues.

V. **Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

VI. **Wrap up and Next Steps**

EPA's Region 8 will be hosting a listening session for local officials from small communities. The conference call will be on April 17<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Davis will send the information to the SCAS, and she encouraged the SCAS members to call in.

Ms. Davis will send the revised agenda for April 18<sup>th</sup> and the draft letter regarding the MOU partnership papers to the SCAS for review. EPA will also send background material on the pesticides general use permit question.

Commissioner Cope asked if there are any other comments. There were none, and Commissioner Cope adjourned the meeting.

---

*We hereby certify that, to the best of our knowledge, the foregoing minutes are accurate and complete.*

*Submitted by:*

*Catherine M. Davis* 4/27/201

Signature Date  
Catherine M. Davis, EPA DFO

*Robert A. Dixon* 4/27/201

Signature Date  
Mayor Robert Dixon, Chairman, SCAS

**Participants**

**LGAC Members**

Mayor Bob Dixson

Mr. Jeff Tiberi

Commissioner Robert Cope

Mayor Marilyn Murrell

Mayor Carolyn Peterson

**EPA Representatives**

Catherine Davis, Designated Federal Officer, SCAS, OCIR

Frances Eargle, Designated Federal Officer, LGAC, OCIR

Kellie Kubena, Branch Chief of Sustainable Communities Branch of Office of Water Management

Maureen Took, Sustainable Communities Branch of Office of Water Management

Elizabeth Stoner, Intern, OCIR