

**U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Local Government Advisory Committee  
(LGAC)'s Small Community Advisory  
Subcommittee (SCAS)**

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March 10, 2015

Meeting Summary

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**U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)  
Local Government Agency Committee (LGAC)'s  
Small Community Advisory Subcommittee (SCAS)  
Spring 2015 Meeting  
March 10, 2015  
1:00 – 2:00 PM (ET)  
Washington, D.C.**

**Meeting Summary**

**Call in number- 1-866-299-3188, Conference Code-202-564-3115#**

March 10, 2015

**SMALL COMMUNITY ADVISORY SUBCOMMITTEE (SCAS)**

**I. Introduction/Welcome**

**Commissioner Robert Cope, Chair**, called for introductions and called the meeting to order. He also acknowledged **Commissioner Don Larson, Vice-Chair**.

**II. EPA Updates**

**Mark Rupp, Deputy Associate Administrator OCIR, Intergovernmental Relations**, was introduced and asked to make opening remarks.

**III. Remarks of the EPA Agriculture Advisor**

**Ron Carleton, Agriculture Advisor to the Administrator**, provided remarks. He explained that the Administrator is committed to work with the rural communities. She meets with Secretary Vilsack on a regular basis. The Administrator and the EPA have a strong partnership with the U.S. Department of Agriculture and we are working with them to strengthen our partnership to serve rural and agricultural communities. This is an exciting time and the issues are critical. Ron Carleton then expressed that he and Chairman Cope are both from the West so they understand the importance of water and its importance to not only agriculture but to the nation. In 2012 there was severe drought conditions in Colorado where Ron Carleton served as Deputy Agricultural Secretary. He witnessed first-hand its impact on agricultural production and rural communities. When farmers and ranchers were not able to get sufficient quantities for agricultural production everyone suffers. EPA has a Farm Ranch and Rural

Community Federal Advisory Committee that has been dormant for a while. However, they had their first meeting recently, and there are a number of issues that they will be addressing of interest to the SCAS. Ron Carleton then commended the work of the SCAS, Mr. Chairman and Members of SCAS. He also thanked Commissioner Larson for his service on the SCAS, as vice-chair and the LGAC. Ron Carleton especially commended Commissioner Larson's work to advocate for rural communities and the appreciation for your hard work over the decades. We hope we will find opportunities to work with him going forward. Ron Carleton then described future opportunities for forming partnerships in the face of many challenges and working to build a bridge between the advisory committees to work so that we can best utilize their advice in a clear and concise way.

**Jeff Tiberi** said that he commended the EPA for working on the partnership to address drought issues. He said that he put forward a description for a transition agriculturalist, which could be helpful to address these issues. The SCAS is putting forward a Letter of Recommendation to the Full Committee advising the EPA to augment the EPA Strategic Plan by adding a Rural Strategy to address some of these critical issues in rural communities.

**Ron Carleton** closed his remarks by thanking Chairman Cope, Vice-chair Larson and the subcommittee for having this opportunity to speak to the SCAS.

#### **IV. Public Comments**

Commissioner Cope opened the time on the agenda for any members of the public to address the SCAS. No participants came forward and the public comment period was closed.

#### **V. SCAS Business Actions**

##### **A. Draft Rural Strategy**

In January 2014, the SCAS and LGAC did a comprehensive review of EPA's Strategic Plan, and made recommendations to EPA to consider the small communities when looking at regulations, grants, climate change, water infrastructure and affordability. The issues of small communities came up again during the LGAC's review of the Clean Water Rule-especially looking at the impacts of the rule on small communities-particularly rural and agricultural communities. We also were asked by Sue Hann, chairwoman of Protecting America's Waters asked the SCAS to review and provide input on the agricultural issues surrounding the Clean Water Rule. We did that, and we discussed then, that a Rural Strategy is really needed to address the unique and complex issues of rural America and small communities. Administrator Gina McCarthy discussed with me some of these recommendations and asked whether we would take this on.

The SCAS took up this issue in a workgroup setting in December and January. And before you is a draft letter of recommendation. This letter has been circulated to the EJ Workgroup, the Water workgroup, the Executive Committee, and in highlights you will see the changes made. A motion was made to forward it to the LGAC. **Vice-chairman Larson** made a motion to put it forward to the LGAC, and seconded by **Tiberi**. Motion was accepted.

B. *Draft E-Enterprise Letter of Recommendation*

**Commissioner Cope** stated that the purpose of the letter going forward to the LGAC was to support the concept of a Local Government Portal on EPA's website. However, the SCAS would like to work further with the EPA on its functionality and how it can best address the needs of small communities. There have been discussions among the SCAS about how some small communities may not have access to these web-based materials. Commissioner Cope expressed interest in moving the letter forward while still recognizing that some small communities do not have the capacity to utilize these advances. **Commissioner Peterson** made a motion to accept the letter and **Mayor Dixon** seconded it. The motion passed.

C. *Draft EJ Best Practices Report and Transmittal Letter*

**Commissioner Peterson** presented the action to accept the Draft EJ Best Practices for Local Government Report and transmittal letter. It was agreed that it was important to put forward the voices of small communities in the Report and that the Report also acknowledges many of the challenges of small and low-income communities.

**Mayor Dixon** suggested that the SCAS might want to co-sign the letter given the importance to small communities. **Mayor Dixon** made the motion to move it forward with the SCAS to co-sign. **Commissioner Larson** seconded it. The motion passed.

D. *Protecting America's Waters Workgroup*

**Commissioner Peterson** presented the Water Finance Center letter of recommendation. Commissioner Peterson then made a motion to accept the letter with SCAS as a co-signor. It was seconded by **Mayor DuPree** and also **LGAC Member Councilor Jill Duson**. The motion passed.

E. Draft Letter-Drought Initiative

**Commissioner Peterson** presented the letter of recommendation commending the EPA on the interagency partnership to address drought issues. The SCAS discussed the importance of addressing this issue. Commissioner Peterson made a motion to accept and **Executive Director Jeff Tiberi** seconded it. The motion passed.

F. Draft Letter-Ozone

**Commissioner Peterson** presented the Air, Climate and Energy's Draft Letter of Recommendation on the ozone standard. She stated that the EPA is currently revising the ozone standard to address critical public health concerns, which were not addressed by the more lenient standard. It is currently under review. This letter is supportive of revising the ozone standards and also supports ways for communities to meet the standard protective of public health. The letter was changed to draw attention to the USDA and DOI to work with the EPA on prescribed burnings in order to prevent catastrophic wildfires. Commissioner Peterson called for the motion. **Mayor Dixon** seconded. The motion passed.

G. Cleaning Up Our Communities Workgroup

The Cleaning Up Communities Workgroup put forward two letters: the Definition of Solid Waste-EJ Analysis and the proposed Dispersant Rule.

1. Letter of Recommendation on EPA's Definition of Solid Waste rule on the EJ Analysis

**Councilor Duson** presented the letter, stating that the workgroup focused on the EJ analysis and explaining how this analysis targeted the specific needs of vulnerable communities, including the cost-benefit analysis for small communities. She also stated that this is a final rule issued by the EPA. **Commissioner Peterson** entered a motion to accept, followed by **Mayor DuPree** to second the action. The motion was approved.

2. The Draft Letter of the Dispersant Proposed Rule

**Councilor Jill Duson** presented the Letter of Recommendation on EPA's Proposed Dispersant Rule. The letter addresses rule making to register chemical dispersants and the process for their use. Councilor Duson stated that it also acknowledges that local government voices are very important during response and recovery efforts. She also stated that following the BP Deepwater Horizon oil spill the LGAC was vital in convening the

recommendations of local governments and addressing the impacts of the oil spill on communities along the Gulf. EPA and those communities greatly benefited from the dialogue and recommendations that came forward. The LGAC is therefore recommending that LGAC recommendations be sent forward to the EPA to consider these recommendations and incorporate those recommendations into the dispersant rule where applicable. The LGAC comments are not about expanding the rule but more about how local governments are engaged in recovery efforts at the local level.

**Chairman Cope** stated that the involvement of local officials were absolutely critical in the Gulf Coast recovery. Without the involvement of local governments, we would not have had recovery. There is much to learn from what we heard and learned from local government officials in New Orleans ([http://www.epa.gov/ocir/scas\\_lgac/lgac\\_reports.htm](http://www.epa.gov/ocir/scas_lgac/lgac_reports.htm)).

The Water Workgroup met on March 4 and made a motion to co-sign. **Commissioner Peterson** made a motion to accept. **Mayor DuPree** seconded. The motion passed.

## VI. Next Steps/Action Items

**Chairman Cope** thanked Mark Rupp and Ron Carleton for their remarks. He then thanked all of the SCAS for their hard work on the Rural Strategy and the E-Enterprise Letters of recommendation. He also thanked Robert Stewart for representing the Rural Communities Assistance Program.

**Commissioner Cope** asked for a motion to enter the October 10<sup>th</sup> SCAS Meeting Minutes into the record. **Commissioner Peterson** indicated that there needed to be edits to change the population of SCAS' focus from 50,000 to 10,000. **Mayor Dixon** made a motion to accept minutes with Commissioner Peterson's edits. Commissioner Peterson seconded. A motion was passed to approve October 10 Meeting minutes.

**Commissioner Peterson** discussed that residential wood heaters are an issue for small communities in New York State and the Northeast. Entire states are taking actions to not follow the rule. Rural communities will likely need to continue to heat with wood. Affordability and low-income communities are perhaps a concern with the new rule.

**Mayor Johnny DuPree** reported out that a group of small community mayors met with all of the federal agencies and their regional directors on February 5 in Atlanta sponsored by EPA Region 4. He had a follow up meeting with Senator Cochran on prior discussions on best practices for small communities in Mississippi. He was eager to address the water infrastructure needs and to talk

about multi-year strategy for funding to address these issues. He commended the EPA staff for organizing this meeting.

**Chairman Cope** called on **Joyce Frank, Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations**, to give brief closing remarks to the SCAS. She thanked the subcommittee for the tremendous work. She also commended Chairman Cope and Vice-chairman Larson for their leadership and for all of the work going forward.

## **VII. Adjournment**

**Commissioner Cope** called for a motion to adjourn. **Mayor Dixon** made the motion, and seconded by **Mayor DuPree**. The motion was carried. The meeting was adjourned at 1:58 ET.

**Environmental Protection Agency  
Local Government Advisory Committee  
Small Community Advisory Committee  
March 10, 2015**

**MEETING PARTICIPANTS**

**LGAC Members**

Commissioner Robert Cope, SCAS Chair  
Commissioner Don Larson, SCAS Vice-Chair  
Mayor Bob Dixson, LGAC Chair  
Executive Director Jeffrey Tiberi  
Mayor Johnny Dupree (in person)  
Commissioner Carolyn Peterson  
Councilor Jill Duson, Esq. (in person)

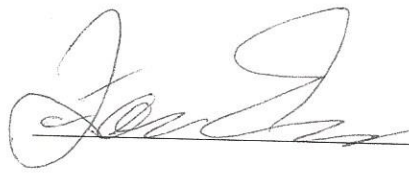
**EPA Representatives**

Fran Eargle, DFO, LGAC  
Mark Rupp, Deputy Associate Administrator, OCIR  
Joyce Frank, Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, OCIR  
Ron Carleton, Agriculture Advisor to the Administrator  
Ellen Gilinsky, Senior Advisor, Office of Water  
Charles Lee, Office of Environmental Justice



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

*Respectfully submitted:*



Frances Eargle  
Designated Federal Officer  
Local Government Advisory Committee  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

*Jun 02, 2015*

Date



Commissioner Robert Cope  
Chairman  
Local Government Advisory Committee's  
Small Community Advisory Subcommittee (SCAS)  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

June 02, 2015

Date

