

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency LGAC Small Communities Advisory Subcommittee

Teleconference

Meeting Summary

Thursday, April 14, 2011
2:30-3:30 pm (ET)

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Meeting Summary: Small Communities Advisory Subcommittee

April 14, 2011, 2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. EST

Call In number: 866/299-3188, access code 202/564-3657

Draft Meeting Notes

2:30-2:40pm Welcome, Introductions & Attendance

Commissioner Robert Cope calls the meeting to order and introduces Ms. Frank to give opening remarks.

Joyce Frank, Principal Deputy, *Associate Administrator for (OCIR)*

-Good afternoon Small Community Advisory Subcommittee Members. I understand there is a great deal to discuss on today's agenda, so I will keep my remarks brief, but I wanted to take a moment and thank you all for your time and effort in providing valuable advice to EPA on small community issues.

-I look forward to hearing how the SCAS Subcommittee progresses in its efforts, especially as you move forward in determining key issues to small communities, and methods to go about strengthening capacity to improve small town environments.

-I very much look forward to reviewing the Subcommittee's recommendations in the future. Thank you.

1) 2:40-3:00pm LGAC Workgroup Focus and Progression

Commissioner Cope recommends that the Committee Review workgroup's draft meeting minutes – discuss and determine key issues that the workgroups are developing that may need special small community focus

-Gulf Coast Restoration –

Commissioner Cope – asks the members to look over the recommendations.

Both Murrell and Tiberi have been keyed into the discussion on the gulf coast. Tiberi says there is a lot they cover in the recommendations but it was well broad spectrum. Cope says that is a good thing because the task force will best be able to pick and choose which suggestions will be most meaningful to their current efforts and in developing suggested strategies.

-Expanding the Conversation-EJ

Mayor Murrell is on that workgroup. The workgroup is still organizing. NEJAC DFO gave presentation that was well received. Other workgroups should include EJ. Mayor Murrell makes note of the EJ conference coming up this month, EJ Environmental America conference – lots of organizations will be present, as EPA sponsored event.

Paula is requested to SEND OUT EJ CONFERENCE LINK TO SCAS.

The EJ Chairwoman is planning to send out a list of proposed issues. Workgroup can take an inventory of issues to narrow down approach and solutions. There was also discussion about an EJ Tool Kit and developing this project more in the Chicago meeting

-Protecting America's Waters

-Based on a Small communities stand point. J. Tiberi believes that storm water issues are most relevant to SCAS and is excited to get participation for April 2012 conference.

-Mayor Smith – make notes to be sure to include on next workgroup meeting. In California, Alameda County is doing well with water and mosquito abatement issues. But the issue is not as big as with Commissioner Cope in Idaho.

-Mayor Murrell states that no specific issues jump out for her in her region of Oklahoma. Various water rights issues, especially small communities' municipality standards and are forced to come into compliance, but have no financial backup to ensure that happens. No solutions have been addressed yet. Many water municipalities in OK do not meet current EPA standards. Arsenic is main issue.

Commissioner Cope asks for clarification on whether those are EPA standards or CDC standards?

-Paula agrees to research information on whether Arsenic levels in water are based on EPA or CDC standards. Regulations stem from? Cope asks if this is a public health or environmental standard; and does SCAS have charge to address that specific issue?

-Mr. Tiberi also mentions: Nutrient Trading – sediment etc. 43 out of 50 states involved in trading regime.

-Commissioner Cope: Offers the specific task of evaluating Nitrate levels.

-Air, Climate, and Energy

-Commissioner Cope makes note that the Air workgroup has considered the hydrofracking issue as it cross over in air, water, and full LGAC. Big topic but that it looks like Water workgroup may focus on this issue.

-Paula: Reminds the Subcommittee of the Air workgroup's interest in focusing on "Exceptional Events" – and is forming a letter soon.

-Commissioner Cope notes that small communities may have a tough time adding to that issue

-Mayor Murrell: Not enough information at this time to say if SCAS can take up but hydrofracking, but could be more of an issue for SCAS

-Paula lists off other Air workgroup discussions - ozone standards, mobile source emissions, and section 105 grant funding.

-Murrell: the ozone standard may be worth discussion, especially if SC are close or downwind of large ghg emitter communities.

-Commissioner Cope: agrees with Murrell's consideration of ozone issues.

-Paula agrees to check into what the 105 grant funding piece may mean to Small Communities.

-Cleaning Up America's Communities

-Paula review CUOC last call meeting summary and also makes mention of their workgroup's call the next week.

-Commissioner Cope: 3 years on hazardous household waste day to collect for free. Very popular in ID. May want to consider other models and encourage for SC.

-Mr. Tiberi: pill collection similar to hazardous waste collection.

-Mayor Murrell: Usually these events are done in larger cities but may be worth discussing how to get small communities taking part of these hazardous waste events. OK has done disposal of tires, need to look at

fees to dispose of tires properly but need to take away disincentives and provide at least free tire recycling events.

-Commissioner Cope asks if there are any further comments.

-Mayor Smith: Standardized label for attachments.

-Mayor Murrell: Requests that the LGAC Committee receive a calendar of when conference calls for all workgroups are for each month so as to avoid confusion and redundant email traffic. Maybe every month or quarter to send out a calendar of LGAC workgroup calls.

2) 3:00-3:15 Public Comments

No public comments.

3) 3:15-3:25 Chicago Meeting

-Most SCAS members will not be able to attend or call into the LGAC Chicago meeting because of scheduling conflicts. Only Mayor Dixon and Mayor Murrell are confirmed to attend so there will be no SCAS workgroup meeting in Chicago.

-The Subcommittee discusses the possibility of an upcoming SCAS face to face meeting

-Mr. Tiberi in Africa, Cope in WA, Dave totally slammed and cannot get to Chicago. Mayor Murrell plans on attending.

-Commissioner Cope: main concern is EJ, Climate and Cleanup. Not sure if there is enough gelled. Commissioner Cope asks whether meeting the SCAS face to face.

-Paula makes note that its beneficial to piggyback meeting time and place with other key events such as;

-Mayor Smith - US Mayors meeting in Baltimore in June.

-Commissioner Cope: NACO Portland, Or July 15-19 meeting

Mayor Murrell: Face to face is good, geographically we are mostly Western.

National League of Cities – does it have a small community's focus or population threshold? Dave Smith says there is no small city focus.

-Commissioner Cope: League of Counties have a small communities focus?

-Mayor Murrell: small towns – national association of town and townships. National Association of towns and townships in September

-Commissioner Cope asks whether June or July better time to do face to face?

-Mayor Murrell: Meet after Chicago to discuss in June or July.

-Mr. Tiberi – June is tough maybe late June say 29th. Depends on where we meet.

-Paula agrees to survey the group on times and locations for a face to face. She will also check with EPA management on the possibility of a face to face meeting in late June, early July.

