Final Minutes of Meeting
Small Communities Advisory Subcommittee (SCAS)
Of EPA's Local Government Advisory Committee (LGAC)

March 8, 2006
9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m

Steve Jenkins, Chairman of SCAS, called the meeting to order.

The SCAS considered and agreed to make the following recommendations to the LGAC:

Storm water Rules (Phase II)

The Subcommittee, after a motion and second, and after discussion among members and several EPA staffers, agreed to recommend to the LGAC that the LGAC would send a letter to the EPA Administrator saying essentially three things:

- EPA's initial efforts to address exemptions to the adopted Storm water Rules, as desired by the oil and gas industry, were appropriate and the agency should be commended for its stand on this issue.
- EPA's effort to address an exemption for the oil and gas industry's construction activities in the new final 2005 Energy law was appropriate; and
- There needs to be a public explanation by EPA on the exemption for the oil and gas industry and how that exemption is directly related to the Energy law.

The letter would also ask: why was the exemption put into the law?; and how is the voluntary effort to implement best practices working relative to the oil and gas industry?

Great Lakes

The Subcommittee, after a motion and second, agreed to recommend to the LGAC that the LGAC send a letter to the Administrator (copies to Assistant Administrator for Water and Regional Administrator for Region 5) recommending an EPA process for consultation with local governments around the Great Lakes regarding program mandates whether they cost dollars or not.

The primary concern discussed by members is that there are Federal or State mandates and that local governments are not appropriately involved in the policy making process nor in the program implementation process.

Financial and other assistance to local governments

Mayor Jerry Johnston discussed a program in Oklahoma, the REAP Program, which he described as very successful in making grant funding available to the state's localities. Several other members described successful programs and guides used to assist localities in their states or regions of the country.

The SCAS, after motion and a second, agreed to work with EPA to develop a compendium, or similar document, consisting of: successful local environmental programs, whether sponsored or funded by Federal, State or local governments; possible funding opportunities; and available compliance assistance. The recommended process agreed to would be initiated by Headquarters working with the Regions to develop a plan for such a product. The discussion on the process focused on the possibility of an EPA region or two initiating the effort by creating an outline of possible programs in their region. The ultimate use of the compendium would be by local governments that may want to model their efforts on a successful program described in the compendium.

One member described this compendium as possibly resembling a reference library to be used by local governments, small communities in particular, having a need to address a specific environmental problem. This reference library could be used by any entity desiring to know if other cities, counties, communities, etc, in the U. S., or abroad, have experienced similar environmentally related problems and, further, just how the problem was addressed and how the implemented solution is currently working. An interested party could then compare the solutions, determine which fix seems to best correct a problem and which solution appears to be the most economically feasible, given all the involved circumstances. EPA could place the reference library on the web for easy access.

Overall role of LGAC on commenting on regulations and forthcoming issues

The SCAS, after a motion and second, agreed to recommend to the LGAC that it recommend to EPA that LGAC have a formal role in commenting early on regulations, and a role in commenting on issues on the horizon that may either become issues in Congress or regulatory issues.

Affordability Issues

Subcommittee members had a brief discussion about working with the Water Workgroup on issues around affordability of water programs and drinking water programs.

Public Comment Period

There were no comments from the public.

Adjournment

Chairman Steven Jenkins adjourned the meeting at 11:30 a.m.

Submitted: Pamela Luttner **Date:** 5/31/06

Pamela Luttner, DFO of the Local Government Advisory Committee

Approved: **Date:** 5/31/06

Steven Jenkins, Chairperson Small Community Advisory Subcommittee of the Local Government Advisory Committee

Attendees

Subcommittee Members	EPA Representatives	Members of the Public
Mr. Steve Jenkins Honorable Jerry Edward Johnston Mr. Jimmy W. Kemp Mr. Joe J. Palacioz Mr. Roy Prescott Mr. Ivan Fende Mr. Jerry R. Griffin Honorable Kenneth W. Fallows	Israel Anderson Javier Balli Ruben Casso Connie Dempsey David Gray David Gutro Carmen Henning Paulette Johnsey Barbara Keeler Cathy Leibertz Pamela Luttner Michael Plastino Patty Senna Roy Simon Rhonda Smith Clovis Steib Darrin Swartz-Larson Ginny Vietti Rita Wayco	