

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

Teleconference

(DRAFT) Meeting Summary

Thursday, May 12, 2011
2:30-3:30 pm (ET)

The Meeting Summary that follows reflects what was conveyed during the course of the meeting which is summarized. The Subcommittee is not responsible for any potential inaccuracies that may appear in the meeting summary as a result of information conveyed. Moreover, the Subcommittee 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.

Meeting Summary: Small Communities Advisory Subcommittee

May 12, 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

Mayor Dixon calls the meeting to order and welcomes all to the meeting. Before moving on into the agenda the Chair gives Ms. Sarah Hospodor-Pallone an opportunity to provide opening remarks.

Sarah Hospodor-Pallone, Deputy, Associate Administrator for Intergovernmental Relations at EPA:

- Updates on the Full LGAC meeting: The Chicago meeting is confirmed for July 14-15, 2011. Details and travel arrangement information to come soon.

-There are a number of small communities affected by the Mississippi flooding, including Mayor Hudson's community, which may be affected. Any recommendations or local government guidance on how best to deal with flooding issues and disaster response truly do matter and are much appreciated. Understandably the timeliness of assistance is an issue most often highlighted.

-The importance of small communities and the strong voice is valuable and crucial to EPA.

2:40-3:00pm SCAS Focus and Progression

Mayor Dixon thanks Ms. Hospodor-Pallone for her welcoming remarks and agrees that the Mississippi flooding issue is a very poignant topic, especially for small communities with limited budget and access to professional assistance.

Jack Bowles, agrees and points out that is why the SCAS Subcommittee is such a valuable resource to the agency because it can provide and demonstrate the particular impacts that environmental issues and regulations have on small communities.

-Discussion of topics that are of interest to SCAS members or issues that are developing in LGAC workgroups that SCAS members would like to focus on.

Mayor Murrell – In Oklahoma there is a Mayor of Small Towns group, which was hosted in Arcadia, OK and there financial contributions go directly to small towns, rather than filtered through cities and states, and then on to small towns – its an independent agent aimed at very small communities.

-Commissioner Cope mentions that stormwater runoff and stormwater regulations, as well as air quality regulations are key issues for his small communities and are some of his suggested topics the SCAS Subcommittee could take up and making recommendations for EPA.

-Mayor Dixon agrees with Commissioner Cope in that air issues often stem from wildfire because of drought etc. These air quality issues need to be looked at through a regional lens.

-Mayor Murrell mentions a study that came out about reopening old wells once used for hydrofracking and that there is a documented increase in earth quakes in the region thought to be due to the disturbance of these wells. Drilling underground could possibly generate underground disturbances that may need to be looked at.

-Rebecca Cook of EPA provides updates on Gulf Restoration, Air, Climate and Energy, and Water workgroup efforts. Paula Zampieri provides updates on the Chicago meeting, as well as Cleaning Up Our Communities workgroup and Expanding the Conversation EJ workgroup.

Rebecca Cook mentions that the water workgroup is looking to reschedule their meeting and is looking to take up the hydrofracking issue, as well as Waters of the U.S. briefing. In terms of a Gulf Coast workgroup update, the recommendations have been given to the Gulf Coast Task Force and updates on the meeting in Mobile, AL. Questions from the Task Force have been provided to the Gulf workgroup and they are now gearing up to create more recommendations based off of the Task Force questions. The Air, Climate, and Energy workgroup is in the process of finalizing a recommendation letter on Exceptional Events guidance.

Paula Zampieri gave basic updates on the Chicago meeting with a promise for more details to come. The Cleaning Up Our Communities workgroup is still working to pull together a focus of topics that they want to address, as well as the EJ workgroup who has stated an interest in creating a Community Engagement toolkit. It is hoped that by the time the Chicago meeting in July both workgroups will have a more concrete plan and have topics that the SCAS group can work off of.

3:00-3:15 Public Comments

- No public comments were provided.

3:15-3:25 Chicago Meeting

-Roll call of SCAS members that can/cannot attend new Chicago date – all those on the call will be able to make the Chicago meeting in July. Paula Zampieri provided the necessary updates of the Chicago meeting earlier in the meeting.

3:25-3:30 Wrap-up and Next Steps

-Mayor Dixon checks in to discuss the process of the SCAS subcommittee and looks for approval of how the Subcommittee is moving forward thus far.

Jack Bowles of EPA states that although the workgroups and subcommittee may take some time to gear up and begin pulling together formal recommendations for the Administrator, this is typical and the SCAS group is doing great.

Mayor Murrell explains that her understanding of the Subcommittee is that its much like the EJ workgroup in that its almost like a watchdog of what the other workgroups are discussing and considering to bring up to

the committee. Is there an EJ or small community component to the discussion? That is when EJ or SCAS will step in to provide comments and expertise.

Commissioner Cope agrees with Mayor Murrell in terms of the SCAS process and is glad that the SCAS Subcommittee was able to provide comments for the Gulf Restoration workgroup report.

Mayor Murrell agrees that its important the SCAS group bring issues to the table and needs to make a list of those topics to make comment on.

Mayor Dixson requests that in the Chicago meeting the SCAS group meet last so as to be able to draw from the other workgroup discussions and begin to gel more of the SCAS discussion.

Paula Zampieri reminds the workgroup that there is one more SCAS Subcommittee meeting scheduled for June 9, 2011 from 2:30 – 3:30pm. Paula will provide a list of topics that are underway or up for discussion from the other workgroups so that the SCAS group can then pinpoint in on those topics that it would like to provide specific small community perspectives.

Mayor Dixson agrees this is a good approach and thanks everyone for their time.

3:30 pm Meeting Adjourns

Meeting adjourned at 3:35pm EST.

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

Submitted by:

Signature Date
Paula Zampieri, EPA DFO

Signature Date
Mayor Robert Dixson, Chairman, SCAS

**Environmental Protection Agency
Local Government Advisory Committee
Small Community Advisory Subcommittee Meeting
Thursday, May 12, 2:30-3:30pm(ET)**

Participants

- Mayor Bob Dixon, Greensburg, KS
- Mayor Marilyn Murrell, Arcadia, OK
- Commissioner Robert Cope, SCAS, Vice Chair,
Lemhi County, ID
- Aaron Lovell, Inside EPA (Press)
- Sarah Hospodor-Pallone, EPA Deputy AA, OIR
- Jack Bowles, EPA Director OIR
- Paula Zampieri, EPA DFO, OCIR
- Rebecca Cook, EAP OCIR