

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Local Government Advisory Committee (LGAC)'s

Small Community Advisory Subcommittee (SCAS)

July 28, 2016

Meeting Summary

**U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1201 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C.**

The Meeting Summary that follows reflects what was conveyed during the course of the meeting that 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 within the Meeting Summary.

Small Communities Advisory Subcommittee Meeting

Thursday, July 28, 2016

8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Chairman Commissioner Robert Cope

Vice-Chairman Mayor Johnny DuPree

I. Call to Order

Commissioner Robert Cope called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

II. Review of June 20th SCAS Meeting

Commissioner Cope asked if everyone has reviewed the notes, and if anyone has any objections or corrections.

They voted to approve the notes.

III. EPA Updates

Commissioner Cope introduced **Deputy Associate Administrator Mark Rupp**, who welcomed everyone. He stressed the importance of partnerships and rural communities. He suggested the idea of getting people from the White House and EPA to talk at their next teleconference.

IV. Agriculture Updates

Commissioner Cope introduced **Agricultural Advisor to the Administrator Ron Carleton**. **Carleton** reviewed issues related to small communities that he works on: Clean Water Rule, Clean Power Plan, Renewable Fuel Standard, pollinators, pesticides, cannabis, soil health, and Farm Bill 2014. He then asked for questions. **Executive Director Jeff Tiberi** asked if there are any updates on the Assumable Waters Subcommittee, and **Carleton** did not have any. **OCIR Frances Eargle** told **Tiberi** that she thought the subcommittee's recommendations are going forth to the full committee in November. **State House Representative Sloan** asked if **Carleton** is working with renewable energies labs in Colorado; **Carleton** answered that he doesn't really know to what extent the Office of Air and Radiation is working with other stakeholders. **Secretary of Agriculture Jeff Witte** said that having **Carleton** working on agricultural issues has been wonderful. **Commissioner Cope** expressed confusion about pesticides and vaccines; **Sloan** echoed this concern.

V. Drinking Water and Small Systems

Commissioner Cope introduced **Office of Groundwater and Drinking Water Maria Lopez-Carbo**. She introduced herself and her role. She told them that there is a very large inventory of

public water systems, and that most violations occur in small systems. She said they try to gauge capacity, want to make sure funds get to the neediest systems, and partner with localities to solve problems. EPA, HUD, USDA, and the states work together on funding. She asked for questions. **Director Dr. Héctor Gonzales** said that she mentioned some excellent resources, but he felt like they weren't receiving that information. **Lopez-Carbo** said that he was right, and they thought about making a listserv on the EPA website to disperse information. **Mayor DuPree** expressed his concern that government may not be the best group to manage wastewater and that it is difficult for small communities to do what EPA wants everyone to do. **Commissioner Carolyn Peterson** asked about funding, and **Lopez-Carbo** said they have environmental finance centers (EFCs), who they meet with annually. They thanked **Lopez-Carbo** for her presentation.

VI. Public Comments

Commissioner Cope asked if there were any public comments. There were none.

VII. SCAS Review of Draft Letters of Recommendation

Commissioner Cope asked **Mayor Elizabeth Kautz** to introduce the drinking water letter. **Mayor Kautz** read a section of the letter, and informed the group that the Executive Committee approved the letter on July 18, 2016. **Director Susan Hann** proposed an amendment to the letter: she wanted to add a paragraph about small and independent communities. **Mayor Johnny DuPree** asked if the letter is specifically about lead, and **Director Hann** answered that it is more general.

They vote to approve the drinking water letter, with changes made.

Sloan recommended that the regions compile lists of organizations that often work with communities on water issues. He moved that such language be added. **Commissioner Cope** asked SCAS members to bring up any more questions/suggestions at the water workgroup, during the LGAC meeting. No one objects to this idea.

Commissioner Cope asks for a discussion on the communication and hydraulic fracturing (fracking) letter. **Mayor Bob Dixson** informed the group that the fracking letter had gone through every workgroup and the executive committee had moved it along to the full group. He also said that the communications letter had also passed through the workgroups, and SCAS is just moving them on.

Witte recommended moving a line in the fracking letter. **Commissioner Peterson** seconds this edit.

They vote to approve the fracking letter, with the changes, and the communication letter.

Commissioner Cope asks to move onto the risk management letter. **Witte** recommended that they add a new recommendation about EPA coordinating with homeland security.

They vote to approve the risk management letter, with this change.

VII. Wrap-Up

Commissioner Cope asked if there are any ideas of topics to have EPA address at future meetings. **Legislator Manna Jo Greene** said that the issue of aging staff at water facilities has come up in the past. She said that exposure to young people about wastewater and possible career opportunities could help solve this issue. **Mayor DuPree** suggested they discuss resources, like finance centers.

Commissioner Cope adjourned SCAS at 10:00 a.m.

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

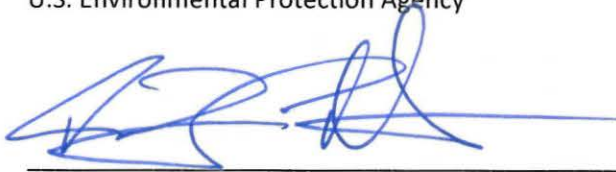
Respectfully submitted:



October 11, 2016

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

Date



14 OCTOBER 2016

Demond Matthews
Designated Federal Officer
Local Government Advisory Committee's
Small Community Advisory Subcommittee
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Date

Meeting Participants

SCAS Attendance

Rodney Bartlett, Town Administrator, Peterborough, NH
Scott Bouchie, Environmental Management and Sustainability Director, Mesa, AZ
Robert Cope, Planning Commission, Salmon ID
Bob Dixon, Mayor, Greensburg, KS
Johnny Dupree, Ph.D., Mayor, Hattiesburg, MS
Dr. Hector Gonzalez, Director, Laredo Department of Health, TX
Manna Jo Greene, Legislator, Ulster County, NY
Susan Hann, Director, Planning, Brevard County School Board, FL (via teleconference)
Elizabeth Kautz, Mayor, City of Burnsville, Minnesota
Merceria Ludgood, Commissioner, Mobile County, AL
Carolyn Peterson, Commissioner, Environmental Management Commission, Tompkins County, NY
Tom Sloan, State House Representative, KS
Jeff Tiberi, Executive Director, Montana Association of Conservation Districts, MT
Jeff Witte, Secretary of Agriculture, State of New Mexico

EPA

Ingrid Archibald, Intern, EPA Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations (OCIR)
Jack Bowles, OCIR
Ron Carleton, EPA's Agricultural Advisor to the Administrator
Frances Eargle, OCIR (via teleconference)
Maria Lopez-Carbo, Office of Groundwater and Drinking Water
Demond Matthews, Designated Federal Officer, SCAS
Lisa Ng, Intern, OCIR
Mark Rupp, Deputy Associate Administrator, OCIR