

MINUTES OF THE
MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday, February 26, 2002
MAG Office Building
Phoenix, Arizona

MEMBERS ATTENDING

*Tom Martinsen, Paradise Valley, Chairman Avondale: Jacinda Denison for Carlos Cabrera, Jr.	Wickenburg: Tom Candelaria Maricopa County: Ash Madhok Pinnacle West Capital: Barbara Lockwood
*Chandler: Shereen Sepulveda Gila River Indian Community: Candice Bell Gilbert: Bill Hancock Glendale: Norm Gumenik for Michael Hoyt Goodyear: John Acosta	*Salt River Project: Dan Casiraro *Citizen Representative: Doug Barnes *Solid Waste Association of North America: Mike Benschoter Valley Forward Association: Don Cassano
*Litchfield Park: Luke Gutierrez Mesa: Vice Mayor Jim Davidson Peoria: Larry Fudurich Phoenix: Bruce Henning Scottsdale: James Livingston for Rick Pence	*Arizona Department of Commerce: Mitra Khazai Arizona Clean and Beautiful: Leandra Lewis
*Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Community: Steve Parker Surprise: Robert Zobel Tempe: Oliver Ncube Tolleson: Mark Berrelez	*Arizona State University: K. David Pijawka Arizona Chamber of Commerce: David Wallis

*Those members neither present nor represented by proxy.

OTHERS PRESENT

Arizona Department of Environmental Quality: Cathy Chaberski Arizona Department of Environmental Quality: Ren Willis-Frances Arizona Department of Environmental Quality:	Diana Tlougan Maricopa Association of Governments: Brenda Geisen
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Call to Order

A meeting of the MAG Solid Waste Advisory Committee was conducted on Tuesday, February 26, 2002 at 1:00 p.m. Bruce Henning, City of Phoenix, called the meeting to order serving as the acting Chair in the absence of Tom Martinsen, Town of Paradise Valley.

2. Announcements

Mr. Henning provided an opportunity for members to share announcements with the group. Mark Berrelez, City of Tolleson, announced that he has been appointed as the new Committee representative for the City of Tolleson, following Manuel Dominguez' retirement from his position with the City. Jacinda Denison, for Carlos Cabrera, City of Avondale, announced that she is the new Recycling Coordinator for the City. Vice Mayor Jim Davidson, City of Mesa, announced that he will be off the City Council in June 2002, but the City of Mesa has an earnest desire to continue with active involvement in Solid Waste Advisory Committee activities.

3. Approval of the September 20, 2001 Meeting Minutes

The Committee reviewed the draft minutes from the September 20, 2001 meeting. Robert Zobel, City of Surprise, and Bill Hancock, Town of Gilbert, requested that the minutes be changed to reflect that they were present at the meeting. Bruce Henning requested that agenda item number five be changed to reflect that the new City of Phoenix Transfer Station will accept waste from the whole service area, rather than just from north portion of the service area. Mr. Hancock moved and Leandra Lewis, Arizona Clean and Beautiful, seconded and it was unanimously carried to approve the minutes with the requested changes from the September 20, 2001 meeting.

4. Voluntary Remediation Program and Brownfields Program

Mr. Henning indicated that agenda item number four was for information and discussion. He introduced Cathy Chaberski, Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) and Ren Willis-Frances, ADEQ to provide a presentation on the ADEQ Voluntary Remediation Program and the EPA Brownfields Program.

Ms. Chaberski indicated that manages the ADEQ Voluntary Remediation Program (VRP). She indicated that any person may request VRP oversight of a remedial action to address contamination of soil or waters of the state, but the site must meet specific eligibility requirements. Sites that have qualified for hazardous waste interim status or have been issued a hazardous waste permit are not eligible.

Ms. Chaberski indicated that Senate Bill 1454 provided language for creation of a VRP rule, effective July 2000. Ms. Chaberski indicated that ADEQ can issue No Further Action (NFA)

letters to applicants either for a portion of the site or for the entire site. Ms. Chaberski indicated that the VRP statute is prescriptive in addressing community involvement requirements, applications, work plans, and an appeals and dispute resolution process.

Ms. Chaberski indicated the Interim Fee Rule, effective February 9, 2001, includes a directive for the VRP to be self sufficient by year 2004. The fee rule established a \$2,000 non-refundable application fee and an hourly VRP oversight rate of \$110 per hour, and provides for an initial deposit of \$4,000 which ADEQ charges VRP costs against.

Ms. Chaberski indicated there are nine categories of reimbursement to the VRP: application review, work plan review, progress report review, community involvement plan, public meeting participation, site inspection, NFA deliverables processing, approval of remediate action, and meetings and discussion.

Vice Mayor Davidson inquired as to the benefits of the program.

Ms. Chaberski indicated that one benefit exists for applicants who need to get a closure letter for above ground storage tanks on property. She indicated that VRP is the only program that issues No Further Action letters.

Barbara Lockwood, Pinnacle West Capital, inquired about the status of the implementation of the new VRP rule.

Ms. Chaberski indicated that ADEQ is coming to the first year of implementing the rule. She indicated that they are still at the data collection point, and will use findings to discuss the best options for the program.

Ms. Lockwood inquired whether ADEQ had information on last year's billable percentage for the VRP Department.

Ms. Chaberski indicated that ADEQ is currently looking at last year's billable percentage and staff turnover is being considered in this evaluation.

Vice Mayor Davidson inquired whether the VRP Department had a charter from the State to do any other activity, and if ADEQ has staff outside of the VRP who can help with a potential project.

Ms. Chaberski indicated the VRP Department does not have a charter to do any other activity. She indicated that, if other ADEQ Departments outside of the VRP have authority for an eligible site, they can help with that project.

Mr. Hancock inquired about how the VRP deals with compliance.

Ms. Chaberski indicated that, if a site has compliance issues, the site is not eligible for assistance through the VRP. She indicated that, if someone applies for VRP participation,

and a compliance issue arises, the applicant may withdraw. However, the VRP would be required by statute to refer the site compliance issue to the appropriate regulatory program.

David Wallis, Arizona Chamber of Commerce, inquired whether ADEQ is considering putting a fee on the rule structure for deed restrictions.

Ms. Chaberski indicated that there is a Declaration of Environmental Use Restriction which can serve as a tool for closure activity.

5. City of Phoenix Landfill and Transfer Station Siting Studies Project

Chairman Martinsen indicated that agenda item number five was for information and discussion. He introduced Ron Serio, Project Manager for the City of Phoenix, and Pascal Hinnen, URS Greiner Woodward Clyde to provide a presentation on the project.

Mr. Serio indicated that the City of Phoenix has been conducting a siting study for a new landfill and transfer station. He indicated that the Skunk Creek landfill is expected to reach capacity within the next few years and the new projects would allow Phoenix to stay in the business of municipal solid waste disposal.

He indicated that about 1.1 million tons per year are disposed of at the Skunk Creek Landfill and commercial fees are charged at \$24.25 per ton. City of Phoenix residents are currently paying fees of \$19.20 per month. He indicated the City of Phoenix curbside recycling program was fully implemented in 2000, and the Phoenix 27th Avenue Facility currently experiences a 19% diversion rate by volume.

He indicated that the Dixeleta site has been approved by the City Council for the new transfer station and material recovery facility and potential landfill sites have been narrowed down to seven. He indicated the facility and landfill would be used for waste collected in the north area of the city and the study was designed to evaluate waste management needs over a fifty year planning period.

Mr. Hinnen indicated that the study process included identifying the study area, data collection, development of exclusionary and ranking criteria, identifying and ranking candidate sites, conducting specific evaluations, and permitting issues.

He indicated that the exclusionary criteria included proximity to airports, floodplains, active fault areas, bedrock geology, incompatible land use, wetlands and threatened or endangered species habitats and severe topography.

He indicated that the ranking criteria included distance to waste centroid, distance to incompatible developed uses, distance to major transportation route, areas of seismic impact, topographic extremes, time/cost to acquire, depth to groundwater, soil type and site-by-site evaluation criteria.

He indicated that public involvement has been encouraged throughout the study process and the City has participated in briefing staff and elected officials in affected jurisdictions, meetings with stakeholders, forming a Citizen Advisory Committee, and developing public outreach through newsletters, open houses, a website, and a hotline.

He indicated that the City of Phoenix has contacted valley cities, Maricopa County and nearby compatible uses to survey for interest in potential partnership options. The City plans to continue briefings, reduce the list of potential sites to three. URS will then prepare a recommendation and the final decision will be made by the Phoenix City Council.

Chairman Martinsen inquired whether the City had considered using existing landfills or facilities for future solid waste management in the north area.

Mr. Serio indicated that the City would consider using existing landfills if it were determined to be a cost effective option. Remaining capacity at existing landfills and facilities was evaluated and the City had determined there would not be sufficient capacity to cover waste management needs over the fifty year planning period.

Oliver Ncube, City of Tempe, inquired why the 91st Avenue site had not been eliminated considering its proximity to the floodplain.

Mr. Hinnen indicated that the potential 91st Avenue landfill site is outside the floodplain. He indicated the site would meet the criteria of a distance at least one-half mile from the floodplain that may exceed 2500 cubic feet per second. The existing wastewater treatment facility would be located between the landfill and the river.

Manuel Dominguez, City of Tolleson, inquired whether groundwater level had been considered in the site selection process.

Mr. Hinnen indicated that groundwater level had been included as one of the twenty weighted ranking criteria. He indicated that it may be possible to overcome capacity limitations associated with the presence of shallow groundwater by using a bioreactor system or ensuring that landfill depth is adequately shallow.

Mr. Dominguez indicated that the City of Tolleson had received a letter from the City of Phoenix regarding the possibility of partnerships, and inquired when Phoenix may be back in touch with Tolleson about the idea.

Mr. Serio indicated that the City of Phoenix had sent similar letters to all cities in the MAG region and would be back in touch when the potential landfill sites have been narrowed down to three and it becomes more apparent where the landfill may be located.

Mr. Dominguez inquired whether the location of the landfill was also a factor in establishing partnerships for the newly planned transfer station.

Mr. Serio indicated that the location of the landfill was not a factor in establishing partnerships for the transfer station.

Bruce Henning, City of Phoenix, indicated that there is the possibility that the City may decide to build two smaller landfills rather than one larger landfill.

James Livingston, City of Scottsdale, inquired when completion of construction of the transfer station would occur.

Mr. Serio indicated completion of transfer station construction was anticipated for 2004.

Mr. Dominguez inquired how the new Phoenix transfer station may relate to a newly built privately owned (Waste Management) transfer facility in the north section of the Phoenix area.

Mr. Serio indicated that the City of Phoenix is concerned with the need for greater waste disposal capacity in the north area and a transfer station/material recovery facility is one means to enable the City to accommodate future needs.

Chairman Martinsen indicated that the presentation of the Phoenix siting study project effectively illustrates the value of the MAG Solid Waste Advisory Committee as an opportunity for sharing information between the member agencies on planned projects during the development stages.

6. Regional Recycling Master Plan for Southwest Valley and Regional Solid Waste Management Planning in the Southwest Valley

Chairman Martinsen indicated that agenda item number six was for information and discussion. He introduced John Acosta, Sanitation Supervisor of Public Works for the City of Goodyear, and Pascal Hinnen of URS Greiner Woodward Clyde to provide a presentation on the project.

Mr. Acosta indicated that the southwest valley communities of Goodyear, Avondale, Buckeye, Litchfield Park, and Tolleson are working to develop a regional recycling master plan for the southwest valley.

Mr. Hinnen indicated that the City of Goodyear has 5 sites for commingled drop-off, and Avondale has a pending program. Tolleson, Buckeye and Litchfield Park do not currently have recycling programs. He indicated that Goodyear's current waste diversion rate is about 2%. He indicated that waste management challenges for these communities include limited funds, demographic limitations such as rural areas and alleyways, cost recovery and resident attitude toward sanitation programs.

He indicated that the Southwest Valley Regional Recycling Master Plan will be funded by a \$50,000 ADEQ Waste Reduction Grant and a 25% match by the involved communities.

An Intergovernmental Agreement has been developed which establishes Goodyear as the lead agency and outlines the responsibilities of each party.

He indicated that evaluation of current status of recycling and collection of accurate data will allow a better understanding of goals and challenges from the local and regional perspective. A regional approach which balances the needs of individual communities will be designed for a five year planning period. An implementation plan will be developed to consider recycling alternatives and costs, set goals and develop community participation.

Mr. Acosta indicated the southwest valley may someday investigate the development of some sort of waste management district or regional authority group.

Chairman Martinsen indicated that it is commendable that five smaller cities have come together to develop a regional approach to the solid waste management challenges in the southwest valley.

7. MAG Fiscal Year 2002 Unified Planning Work Program and Annual Budget

Chairman Martinsen indicated that agenda item number seven was for information and discussion. He introduced Brenda Geisen, MAG staff, to provide a brief overview of the solid waste management planning element of the work program.

Ms. Geisen indicated that the solid waste management planning objectives include to evaluate waste management approaches using the Solid Waste Information System (SWIMS) database, provide technical assistance and respond to information requests, collect waste information, and initiate the Revision to the MAG Regional Solid Waste Management Plan.

Ms. Geisen indicated that the solid waste management planning outcome measures include completion of a report describing medical waste generation rates, and an updated SWIMS database and Regional Recycling Information Exchange website.

Chairman Martinsen indicated that, if a report on medical waste generation rates were to be prepared, it may be beneficial to focus on providing information regarding locations for safe disposal of home generated medical waste in the MAG region. Committee members concurred with the Chairman's suggestion.

8. Call to the Public

An opportunity was provided to members of the public to address the Water Quality Advisory Committee. No comments were received and the meeting was adjourned.