

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

**Final Minutes of Meeting
EPA's Local Government Advisory Committee (LGAC)
Full Committee Meeting**

October 31 – November 2, 2006

Hilton Atlanta Airport Hotel, Atlanta, Georgia (October 31 and November 2)

Serenbe Southern Country Inn, Fulton County, Georgia (November 1)

Tuesday, October 31, 2006

A. Welcome and Meeting Called to Order

Chair Roy Prescott called the meeting to order and announced that we congratulated Ken Fallows for his award from NARC since our last meeting and that Jerry Griffin will be honored to be one of the 100 most influential people in Georgia in 2006.

B. Opening Remarks of the Chair and Discussion of Agenda and LGAC Business

The Agenda was agreed to and there was a discussion of the LGAC's Draft Strategic Action Agenda. There were several edits to Agenda that was agreed to and the DFO was directed to make them. One such edit was to eliminate language that did not fit because it was not forward looking like the rest of the document. A vote on the Plan was tabled until the Thursday, November 2 session so Members present could read it again to see if they had any other comments/edits.

The DFO noted that the Strategic Action Agenda for the LGAC would be released from the LGAC to the Administrator and possibly to the other Assistant Administrators who participated last summer in setting the LGAC's agenda.

C. Military Facilities, Community Relations, EPA and the LGAC Role

George Carellas, Department of Defense/Army Regional Environmental Coordinator, Region 4, explained to the Committee that a series of on-going discussions have occurred over many years with local governments and military facilities. He presented an Army approach to working with local governments and recommended that the Committee review that document as well as recently produced DOD documents on the same set of issues.

The Committee discussed the possibility of having a Workgroup on Military/Local Government Relations focused on environmental issues, but postponed a decision until Thursday, November 2, 2006. There was also discussion

regarding whether the LGAC should seek a Member from the military to serve on the Committee, or to invite assistance from the military on an LGAC Workgroup. There was also discussion about whether the LGAC needed a new Member or two with experience with the military as part of their local official duties.

D. Small Communities Advisory Subcommittee, Recommendations to LGAC and LGAC Decisions.

The Minutes of the SCAS meeting is attached to these minutes.

E. Indicators Workgroup, Recommendations to LGAC and LGAC Decisions.

The Committee agreed to the Workgroup recommendation that the LGAC send a letter to the Administrator on the EPA Report on the Environment. The letter will recommend that the Agency share draft outreach plans with the LGAC for review so the LGAC can assist the Agency to the maximum extent possible to garner local governments to comment.

The Workgroup agreed to a conference call with key EPA staff in Region III, organized by Catherine Libertz, to explain to the Workgroup how measures can be made to work for program implementation changes.

F. Regulatory Workgroup, Recommendations to LGAC and LGAC Decisions.

The Regulatory Workgroup agreed to recommend to the LGAC that the Committee agree to work with the Office of Water on the Total Coliform Rule and determine over the coming months the exact approach to the LGAC's involvement. The Workgroup recognized that there are various approaches to such involvement and will consider options that OCIR and the Office of Water present to the Workgroup and LGAC.

G. Water Workgroup, Recommendations to LGAC and LGAC Decisions.

The Workgroup recommended to the LGAC and the Committee agreed to recommend to EPA that the Agency create a sustainable infrastructure toolkit that would include the LGAC video on DVD along with the full-cost pricing studies in one brochure. The Workgroup will draft a letter to the Administrator for LGAC review regarding the need for production and release of the toolkit by early 2007. The Workgroup recommended that EPA release the toolkit at the EPA sponsored Sustainable Infrastructure workshop in March, 2007 in Atlanta. Workgroup members described to the LGAC that it may be a good idea to have several members release the video as a speaker at the conference.

H. Solid Waste, Recycling and Environmental Reclamation Workgroup, Recommendations to LGAC and LGAC Decisions.

The Workgroup received a presentation from EPA's Office of Solid Waste, via conference call, on various draft recycling toolkits and a brochure. Workgroup members provided some initial feedback to the EPA and asked questions of the various presenters.

The Workgroup recommended that the LGAC send a letter to the Office of Solid Waste commenting on two draft recycling toolkits, and one brochure. The Workgroup will review: (1) an overall recycling toolkit; (2) a recycling-on-the-go toolkit; and (3) a draft brochure on industrial materials recycling.

The Workgroup agreed to a draft overall workplan outline for the next year, but did not recommend that the LGAC adopt it so the Workgroup could prioritize its work in preparation for the next Steering Committee or full Committee meeting.

I. Watersheds and Prevention Policies – Approaches by EPA and the Southeastern Watershed Forum

Jim Giattina, EPA's Region 4 Water Division Director, provided an overview of watershed protection policies and programs nationally and regionally.

Christine Olsenius, Director of the Southeast Watershed Forum, presented a full description of the priority work and future projects of the Forum. Members discussed with her how much of a model her Forum could be for other regions of the country and began to formulate thoughts on what to recommend to EPA regarding such institutional structures.

J. Public/Private Partnerships in America's Cities – EcoZone

Janice Sakamoto, Senior Vice President, Business Development, EcoMedia, presented the overall approach of the EcoZone program particularly TV advertisements now beginning to be used by cities across the country. Janice noted that EcoZone work is occurring first in the large media markets to both infuse funding for local government official's environmental projects and at the same time provide new advertising opportunities on urban streets for large corporations. She presented DVDs of the program and of the advertisements.

K. Public Comment Period

There were no members of the public present that chose to address the Committee.

November 1, 2006

A. Report on Environmental Council of the States and LGAC Cooperation

Mike Linder, Bruce Tobey and Roy Prescott talked about the discussions at the summer 2006 ECOS meeting in Portland, Oregon. Mike described how the ECOS engaged local governments through a specific discussion with the LGAC at a plenary session and through a panel of local officials on various issues. He noted that there will likely be a continuing and broadening relationship in ECOS work with local officials in general and the LGAC in specific.

Bruce echoed the comments of Mike Linder and noted that there is a series of common issues that will continue to require LGAC link closer to ECOS.

Roy Prescott noted that there is a strong desire of the LGAC to have an additional member from ECOS on the Committee and that the EPA is working with ECOS to make that happen.

B. Report on National Advisory Council for Environmental Policy and Technology's Workgroup on Cooperative Conservation

Melanie Worley updated the Committee on her collaborative work as an LGAC member with the NACEPT explaining that she attended one meeting in the summer and will attend another this December. She noted that the Workgroup is working on a report to the Administrator, as requested, but that there is a lot of work to be done and the Workgroup is still collecting information.

C. Clean Watersheds Needs Survey

Jimmy Kemp and Bruce Tobey described their work with EPA's Office of Water to try to ensure that the communication documents and databases from EPA and the States to localities, particular smaller communities, is clear and concise and has a systematic approach that will support and encourage full local participation in the Survey when done in 2008. They are continually concerned that the complexity of the data collection instruments will eventually discourage participation.

D. National Academy of Public Administration (NAPA) Study on "Environmental Services Delivery in the U.S."

Randy Johnson explained that the NAPA study, likely to be published in early 2007, will provide numerous recommendations to EPA on environmental services delivery in the Federal/State/Local system. Randy presented the likely key recommendations which have not yet been adopted by the Panel.

E. Georgia's Environmental Initiatives at the State Level

Dr. Carol Couch, Georgia Director of Environmental Protection Division, discussed key initiatives in the State. She touched on a series of local government initiatives as well priority environmental projects for the State of Georgia.

F. AA Brent Fewell Discussion of National EPA Highlight

The Associate Administrator for Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations thanked the RA and AA for OECA for addressing this group and described the Administrator's key initiatives relative to sustainable water infrastructure and water trading. He thanked the LGAC for their forthcoming water infrastructure video being produced in coordination with OW and for the completed case studies on full-cost pricing. He also noted that EPA looked forward to a re-newed LGAC with 30 members and encouraged them to adopt the Strategic Action Agenda (which they did, see section B below regarding November 2 actions).

G. Congressional Highlights on Environmental issues in 2006

Frank Redmond, a field representative for Georgia Senator Johnny Isakson, provided an update to the Committee on the Congressional 2005 and 2006 actions to date relative to environmental issues.

H. Region 4 Administrator Describes Key National and Regional issues and priorities

Region IV Regional Administrator Jimmy Palmer Jr. spoke to the LGAC describing the Region's key priorities for 2006. (to be written)

I. HQ AA for OECA Describes national enforcement Strategy

Granta Nakayama discussed various priorities of the Office of Enforcement and Compliance in 2006 and into 2007. (to be written)

J. Tour of Chattahoochee Hill Country's Serenbe Development in Fulton County, Georgia

The group received a tour by Steve Nygren, Managing Partner in the Serenbe community, of the Chattahoochee Hill Country's Serenbe development. Steve provided a history of the project since the year 2000, the nature of the agreements among land owners in the Chattahoochee Hill Country, and the challenges in implementing the agreements. He led a tour of the first section of the community now being built as well as some of the environmental assets of the community.

November 2, 2006

A. Update and Discussion on Gulf of Mexico

Byron Griffith, Director of the Gulf of Mexico Program, EPA Region IV, spoke about the importance of the Gulf to the nation, the key economic and environmental

issues facing the Gulf, and possible solutions. He also talked about a possible LGAC role in working on such solutions.

LGAC members then discussed a wide variety of issues with Bryon and also talked about the possibility of an LGAC role or Workgroup regarding the many issues and solutions to problems leading to and in the Gulf. LGAC members also discussed the possibility for a letter on the Gulf of Mexico to the Administrator with similar substance as that of the Great Lakes letter.

B. EPA Clean Diesel Initiative and LGAC Role

Carol Kemker of the EPA Region 4 Air, Pesticides and Toxics Management Division, presented a background briefing on the Clean Diesel Initiative. There was discussion about numerous aspects of the Initiative.

C. Key LGAC Business on Strategic Plan

The Chair, Roy Prescott, announced and received verbal agreement that the next meeting of the LGAC will be in Washington D.C., in early April, 2007, with the likely dates of April 11-13. The Committee understood that the actual dates are dependent upon availability of EPA's leadership. There was verbal agreement of the Committee to devote more time than the meeting here in Atlanta to SCAS and Workgroup meetings.

The Chair also announced that there will likely be a Steering Committee meeting in Washington D.C, in early December to meet the new Deputy Associate Administrator for Intergovernmental Relations and the new Designated Federal Officer for the LGAC. The Steering Committee would also conduct appropriate actions relative to the action items from this Atlanta meeting.

The Chair thanked Bruce Tobey, Melanie Worley, Jim Gitz, Ken Fallows and John Muller for agreeing to be in the sustainable infrastructure video and for being hosts to EPA's filming and interviewing crew in their localities.

The Committee agreed to, unanimously, after a motion to approve and a second, for each of the following agreements:

- To finalize the Strategic Action Plan with edits discussed on Tuesday, Oct. 31.
- The specific letter to the Administrator recommended by the Small Communities Advisory Subcommittee regarding the Great Lakes
- A written response to the Clean Air Action Advisory Committee regarding recommendations for the legacy diesel fleet, and secured agreement to draft the letter by Joe Palacios with assistance from Melanie Worley and Ken Fallows.

- The creation of a new workgroup on the Gulf of Mexico to study the ways and means to promote the environmental well being of the Gulf and the surrounding area such as the watersheds of the USA that drain to the Gulf. Members of the Workgroup are Jimmy Kemp, Barbara Sheen Todd and Ivan Fende.
- Created a Military/Environment Study Group on Military/EPA Relations relative to communities chaired by John Duffy along with Melanie Worley, Jerry Johnston, Jerry Griffin and Steve Jenkins. The Study Group members were deputized to report back to the LGAC in the spring with recommendations concerning whether a Workgroup should be formed or not, and if so, what the likely work products of such a workgroup would be and what types of members would need to be recruited for the Workgroup.

Finally, there was discussion of the likelihood of matching current LGAC members with new members early in 2007 to mentor the new members.

D. Adjournment

Chair Roy Prescott adjourned the meeting at 11:30 a.m.

Submitted: 
Roy Simon, DFO

Date: 12/14/06

Approved: 
Roy Prescott, Chair
Local Government Advisory
Committee

Date: Dec 14 2006

Attendees

Committee Members	EPA Representatives	Members of the Public
Honorable Clarence Brown	AA Brent Fewell, OCIR	George Carrellas
Mr. John Duffy	RA R4 Jimmy Palmer	Gene Camp
Mr. Ivan Fende	AA Granta Nakayama	Dr. Carol Couch
Mr. Jerry Griffin	OECA	Todd Edwards
Mr. James Gitz	Jack Bowles	Mr. Hopkins
Ms. Paula Hertwig Hopkins	Don Christy	Mrs. Jerry Johnston
Honorable Kenneth Fallows	Connie Dempsey	Ross King
Mr. Lurlin Hoelscher	Jim Giattina	Steve Nygren
Mr. Steve Jenkins	Bryon Griffith	Christine Olsenius

Honorable Randy Johnson Honorable Jerry Johnston Mr. Jimmy Kemp Mr. Michael Linder Mr. Joe Palacios Mr. Roy Prescott Honorable Bruce Tobey Ms. Barbara Sheen Todd Honorable Melanie Worley	Doug Gutro Carmen Henning Carol Kemker Catherine Libertz Pamela Luttner Betty Mobley Anna Raymond Roy Simon Rita Wayco	Greg Price Frank Redmond Janice Sakamoto Janice Tittle
--	--	---

Final Minutes
Small Community Advisory Subcommittee (SCAS)
Of EPA's Local Government Advisory Committee (LGAC)
October 31, 2006
10:30 AM to 12:00 PM
Airport Hilton Hotel
Atlanta, Georgia

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

Present at the meeting were: Mike Linder, Jerry Johnson, Ivan Fende, Lurlin Hoelschler, Jimmy Kemp, Joe Palacios, Ken Fallows, Clarence Brown, Jim Gitz, and Roy Prescott from the SCAS. Anna Raymond, Betty Mobley, Carmen Henning and Pamela Luttner from EPA and Greg Price from the Association of County Commissioners of Georgia.

Great Lakes Initiative

The subcommittee had a discussion about the agency's response to the LGAC's letter on the Great Lakes Initiative and the fact that the agency is not reaching a very important constituency of small towns and townships. Ivan Fende drafted a response back to the agency suggesting that EPA work with town and township associations as a means of outreach to this large group of stakeholders. A discussion followed concerning the general content of the letter. That was resolved. A motion was called to send this letter forward to the full LGAC committee for consideration to send to Administrator Johnson with a copy to Gary Gulezian, Director of the Great Lakes Program. The motion was seconded and approved.

Infrastructure Financing and Affordability

A discussion on infrastructure financing and affordability focused on issues: what works/what does not; public vs. private funding; and the general concern about private funding for small communities. There also was a major discussion on the State Revolving Loan Fund (SRF) and a general agreement that the Federal government does have a role to play. Mike Linder, Commissioner from Nebraska, explained how they

finance small communities in his state, through every means they can and through a median income determination of \$28,000. They combine SRF funds, CDBG, and anything else they can find. There was discussion about the SCAS being the best vehicle to bring the issue of the SRF forward to the agency. Jim Gitz is drafting a letter for the SCAS to review about the SRF.

Compendium of State Assistance to Small Communities

Nebraska and Region 7 completed their Best Practices "Compendium of State Assistance to Small Communities". Copies were distributed at the meeting for discussion. It was also forwarded to all the regions for their information and as an example to do something, similarly.

Mayor Jerry Johnson Disinfectants Rule Problem

Mayor Jerry Johnson explained to the committee his concerns with the EPA Region 6 letter in reference to sampling for the stage 2 Disinfectants and Disinfection Rule. He is meeting with DEQ and EPA to walk through these concerns. He explained most small towns may have some concerns about filling out forms.

Clean Watershed Needs Survey

Jimmy Kemp reported that LGAC directed him and Bruce Tobey to participate in the meetings with EPA's work group preparing the 2008 Clean Watershed Needs Survey (CWNS) for Congress. Based on their experience working with this group thus far, Kemp stated that some items, which need to be reported in the CWNS, are simply falling through the cracks at this time, i.e. pollution of the nation's watersheds, non point sources in particular, reporting of small communities, etc. Questions are simply not being asked of, nor reported from, all the appropriate parties. While the procedure used by larger cities can almost be classified as a technical marvel, adequate information from small communities and watershed protection groups in particular, is simply not being obtained at this time. Kemp advised SCAS that he is very impressed with EPA's Michael Plastino who heads up the CWNS. Further, Kemp reported he is of the opinion that Mr. Plastino understands there is a need for additional reporting in the CWNS in order for it to be a more useful document and his EPA staff would appreciate LGAC's assistance and input.

Pam Luttner of EPA told the group about a report coming out by the National Academy of Public Administration (NAPA) which is targeted toward local government and their needs.

Two issues coming out of the subcommittee are: 1) letter to go to full committee on Great Lakes Initiative and 2) Jim Gitz will draft letter on State Revolving Loan Fund.

Motion to adjourn called by Jimmy Kemp, and seconded by Kenneth Fallows.
Meeting adjourned by Chairman Steve Jenkins 12:00 PM

Submitted: Anna Raymond Date: January 16 - 2007
Anna Raymond, DFO of the
Small Community
Advisory Subcommittee (SCAS)

Approved: Steve Jenkins Date: 12-14-06
Steven Jenkins, Chairperson
Small Community
Advisory Subcommittee (SCAS)
of the Local Government
Advisory Committee (LGAC)