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US Environmental Protection Agency

Local Government Advisory Committee (LGAC) Small Communities Advisory Subcommittee

Meeting Summary 2/6/2012

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**Local Government Advisory Committee (LGAC)
Small Communities Advisory Subcommittee
Teleconference**

February 6, 2012

Meeting Summary

I. *Introductions and Welcome*

Mayor Dixon welcomed everyone to the call and asked those present to introduce themselves.

II. *Review of Meeting Summary from Dec 1 SCAS meeting*

The meeting summary was approved without changes.

III. *Decentralized MOU Partnership*

Kellie Kubena, Branch Chief of Sustainable Communities branch of Office of Water Management described her offices funding programs for specific regions (i.e. US Mexico border, Native American Tribes, etc.). The focus of the program is on ensuring wastewater treatment access to small communities. In the future, we would like to come back to brief the SCAS on the whole program.

The decentralized MOU partnership works with communities to improve management and performance of wastewater treatment systems. They are concerned with onsite wastewater treatment systems. They have 17 signatories with contributors from federal government, academia, and research organizations. The partnership is working on four papers for general facts about wastewater treatment resources. She would like to distribute these resources to the SCAS and get feedback on the credibility of the documents and if these resources made people more interested and want to learn more about the subject area.

Jeff Tiberi described a wastewater system that he saw firsthand in England which was basically a decentralized system. He asked if this is a similar approach to what the partnership would take? **Kellie Kubena** said that it was the type of system that they would look at because it is a form of onsite wastewater treatment.

Mr. Tiberi expressed that his area faces similar problems with wastewater treatment and he looks forward to viewing the resources that Ms. Kubena has to offer. **Ms. Kubena** said that she would send the papers out electronically for the SCAS to look at.

Mayor Dixon said that he would have more comments/questions after viewing the draft papers. Cathy Davis will send out the information to SCAS and schedule a follow up call to discuss the resources after everyone has had a chance to review them. **Mayor Dixon** thanked Ms. Kubena for addressing the SCAS.

IV. Discussion of Letter on Partnership for Sustainable Communities

Mayor Dixon expressed a need to approve the letter to send on to LGAC. **Cathy Davis** said that the SCAS do not need a quorum to approve and send the letter to the full committee. If the letter is approved at this meeting it could be brought to LGAC call later today. Then there was a motion to approve, and a second. The motion carried.

V. Discussion of Briefing from EPA's Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water

Mayor Dixon said that the drinking water briefing with Cynthia Giles was very beneficial. **Mr. Tiberi** was also appreciative of the agency's efforts in putting the briefing together.

Mayor Dixon and **Commissioner Cope** recognized that healthy drinking water is important, yet standards need to be clear and affordability needs to be taken into consideration. **Cathy Davis** said she would follow up with information how affordability is considered in drinking water standards and about the exact standards. This issue will be discussed further at the April SCAS meeting in Denver.

VI. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

VII. Wrap up and Next Steps

There will be a SCAS meeting the day before the Denver conference on April 18th in the afternoon. Details about the itinerary of the conference will be sent out in the near future so that travel plans can be made.

Mr. Tiberi commented about how humor could be used to make people pay more attention to EPA materials. **Mayor Dixon** agreed and said that marketing is very important. Mayor Dixon adjourned the meeting.

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

Submitted by:

Catherine M. Davis 4/2/2012

Signature

Date

Catherine M. Davis, EPA DFO

Robert A. Dixon 4/2/2012

Signature

Date

Mayor Robert Dixon, Chairman, SCAS

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Participants

SCAS Members

Mayor Bob Dixon

Mr. Jeff Tiberi

Commissioner Robert Cope

EPA Representatives

Catherine Davis, Designated Federal Officer, SCAS, OCIR

Frances Eargle, Designated Federal Officer, LGAC, OCIR

Mr. Jack Bowles, Director, State and Local, OCIR

Kellie Kubena, Branch Chief of Sustainable Communities Branch of Office of Water Management

Lynn Stabenfeldt

Elizabeth Stoner, Intern, OCIR

Amanda Humphreville, Intern, OCIR