



Environmental Planning Committee

May 27, 2021 Meeting Minutes

DATE: May 27, 2021
TIME: 10:00 a.m.
LOCATION: Zoom Webinar

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Darron Anglin - <i>Chair</i> (SMCFD No. 1)	Jake Garrett – <i>Vice Chair</i> (Gila County)	Dave Cruce (Pinal County)
Terry McKeon (Casa Grande)	Tanner Henry (Payson)	Jerry Barnes (Globe)
Robert Jacques (Tri-City Regional Sanitary District)	Matt Rencher (Coolidge)	Keith DeVore (Queen Creek)
Nathan Steele (Maricopa)	Mike Osborne (Marana)	Edwina Vogan (ADEQ – Ex Officio)

MEMBERS ABSENT:

VACANT (Star Valley)	VACANT (Hayden)	VACANT (Mammoth)
VACANT (Kearny)	VACANT (Superior)	VACANT (Winkelman)
Chris Jones (U of A Coop. Extension)	Micah Gaudet (Miami)	Keith Brown (Eloy)
Christopher Salas (Florence)		

GUESTS PRESENT:

Kevin Louis (Casa Grande)	Alex Kendrick (Gila County)	Mike Krebs (Tri-City Sanitary District)
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CAG Staff:

Travis Ashbaugh
(Transportation Planning Manager)

I. Call to Order

Chair Anglin called the meeting to order at 10:03 AM.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Anglin led the Committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Roll Call & Introductions of Guests

Roll call was taken. Eleven (11) voting members were present, constituting a quorum as established by the CAG EPC Bylaws.

IV. Call to the Public

No one answered the call to the public.

V. Consent Agenda

A. Approval of Minutes – (April 14, 2021)

Chair Anglin asked if there were any corrections needed to be made to the April 14, 2021 draft meeting minutes. Three items needed correction:

1. Page 2, last paragraph, first sentence: Add "...to..." between "proceeded" and "run."
2. Page 3, last paragraph, first sentence: Add "...most current." to the end of the sentence.
3. Page 4, under "Adjournment: Add an additional "t" to "Mr. Garrett."

Mr. Rencher made the motion to approve the April 14, 2021 minutes as amended. Mr. Barnes seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

VI. New Business

Mr. Ashbaugh stated that Agenda items for VI A,B, & C will be discussed together but will need separate votes. He stated since the EPC has heard the details on these three items in March 2021, that gave the consent for the amendments to hold a required Public Hearing, a formal presentation will not be provided during this meeting. However, representatives from two of the three agencies where available for questions. Mr. Ashbaugh then proceeded to provide a summary of the Public Hearing that was held on May 19, 2021 for all three amendments. He stated it was well attended and received two positive comments, in which one was formerly sent for the records. He then proceeded to read the email sent from Mariano Gonzales. The email will be submitted as part of the records within all three Amendments.

A. City of Globe 208 Plan Amendment

Mr. Garrett made the motion to recommend approval of the City of Globe's 208 Plan Amendment to the CAG Management Committee and Regional Council. Mr. Jacques seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Town of Miami 208 Plan Amendment

Mr. Garrett made the motion to recommend approval of the Town of Miami's 208 Plan Amendment to the CAG Management Committee and Regional Council. Mr. Barnes seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

C. Tri-City Sanitary District 208 Plan Amendment

Mr. Garrett made the motion to recommend approval of the Tri-City Regional Sanitary District's 208 Plan Amendment to CAG Management Committee and Regional Council. Mr. Barnes seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Anglin congratulated everyone involved with the three amendments and thanked everyone from the municipalities, engineers, citizens, and anyone else involved that contributed to this accomplishment.

D. Gila County Septic System Use Study

Mr. Ashbaugh stated that there was a funding opportunity from the ADEQ using 604(b) funds for the amount of \$60,000. He proceeded to run through a PowerPoint presentation that is available upon request. The presentation started out by explaining that the original intent for the study was for both Gila and Pinal

Counties. However, due to many unknowns and the tedious data mining and scrubbing that took place, only Gila County was able to be completed. He then went through the data collection efforts and explained the issues that were encountered and the solutions that propelled the final results. Once he provided background information on the raw data sources that were collected, Mr. Ashbaugh dove into the methodology on how on-site septic systems were identified, quantified, and given an age. Throughout the presentation, Committee members provided some historical context of specific areas that may provide insight of higher nitrate levels.

After the presentation, Chair Anglin was seeking confirmation in that it does not appear that there were a lot of exceedances of nitrate levels in respect to some areas of concentrated on-site septic systems. Mr. Ashbaugh responded that there are several other maps in the final report that illustrate other exceedances throughout the County but chose one for presentation purposes. He also cautioned that just because the nitrate levels appear to be ok, the testing could have been done several years or decades ago when it was last tested and therefore the nitrate levels could be in exceedance now.

Mr. Kendrick asked how areas such as Strawberry, AZ, where there are areas that would have multiple on-septic systems within one parcel, were captured? Mr. Ashbaugh responded that if the raw data indicated that a parcel had multiple on-site septic systems, a separate location point was created. The Gila County Assessor's website provides links for parcels that have "Extra Features" in which septic systems have been recorded, even though not always reliable. There were instances that a particular parcel did have multiple "Extra Feature" links that identified multiple on-site septic locations.

Mr. Barnes asked, how is CAG accounting for the changes in the area moving forward? Mr. Ashbaugh responded by stating that this is a great question that he doesn't have a current answer to. He said the biggest challenge is that there is no long-term funding mechanism to keep up with changes. He mentioned the final report suggests creating a website where "Notice of Transfer" data can be mined by Parcel Number and based on permit dates. He stated that he understands that Maricopa County has such a website that provides this information that it can be modeled from. The question really comes down to who initiates the creation of such a website for Gila County.

One example of definite changes would occur in the Tri-City Regional Sanitary District once the wastewater plant is commissioned. Many of the on-site septic systems will be decommissioned once those properties hook up to the sewer system. Mr. Ashbaugh stated that one major piece of information that is extremely important to capture when filing permits or keeping any records regarding a property is to include the Parcel Number. He stated this is the difference between minutes of researching/confirming data to possibly days. Mr. Jacques stated that Tri-City Regional Sanitary District will definitely take on that advice. A healthy discussion regarding ongoing challenges of finding a process to receive data information in consistent formats then followed. Others within the committee agreed that data collection efforts need to contain more identifiable information such as Parcel Numbers.

Mr. Ashbaugh closed the conversation by stating that this study was CAG's first attempt into identifying on-site septic systems and that there is a lot more that CAG would like to do to further this research and data tracking, should funding opportunities present themselves.

Chair Anglin stated that this was a really good report and that although the budget is not there to further the work, this study is still a really good start. He asked if it was on CAG's website. Mr. Ashbaugh responded that currently it is not but can get it posted by next week. Mr. Jacques stated he would also like to have the study posted to Tri-City Regional Sanitary District's website as well.

Mr. Garrett asked Mr. Ashbaugh if sometime in the near future they could collaborate and get this information in front of Gila County management. He stated that the effort of this study is a great service that CAG has provided and an excellent example of what CAG provides in services. Mr. Ashbaugh stated that he has offered to present the study before the Gila County Board of Supervisors in the near future with the help of Mr. Garrett. He believes that the presentation will not only inform decision makers with more details of issues they have been aware about, but also open the eyes of how data is being recorded, such as the Assessor's website.

E. Round Table

Chair Anglin stated everyone received the email regarding Alan Urban's retirement from CAG and wanted to publicly thank him for his service and leading the committee for several years.

Mr. Rencher stated that they are having a growing phase within the City of Coolidge and would like to make sure that their DMA boundary coincides with the Municipal Planning Area (MPA). Mr. Ashbaugh stated that he has been in contact with Gilbert Lopez and Rick Miller regarding this inquiry and is simply waiting on additional information.

F. Future Agenda Items

Mr. Ashbaugh stated that a July 2021 meeting is tentatively going to be scheduled so that the EPCOR 208 Plan Amendment for the Pecan and San Tan WRPs can be recommended to the CAG Management Committee and Regional Council. The Public Hearing for EPCOR's 208 Plan Amendment is scheduled for June 22, 2021 from 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM and is completely virtual.

VII. Date, Time, & Location of Next Meeting

Chair Anglin announced the next meeting will tentatively be scheduled for Wednesday, July 21, 2021 at 10:00 AM. Mr. Ashbaugh stated the meeting may be an in-person meeting with a virtual attendance option.

VIII. Adjournment

Chair Anglin asked for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Barnes made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Garrett seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 11:18 AM.