

11TH MEETING OF THE FUND COMMITTEE
November 30, 2023
10:00 AM Mountain Time / 11:00 AM CT
Minutes of the meeting

INTRODUCTIONS AND OPENING REMARKS

The Co-Chairs provided welcome remarks:

Oscar Fentanes, Deputy Director of the National Institute of Ecology and Climate Change (INECC), Co-Chair for Mexico.

Mariama Mitchell, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Co-Chair of the United States.

Cesar Rene Díaz, Juarez Ecology Director provided opening remarks, highlighting the disposition to continue collaborating with the Binational Fund.

ATTENDANCE

Mariama Mitchell began the process to verify the quorum by making roll call to the members on the U.S. side:

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|---|---|
| 1. Present: EPA – Mariama Mitchell | 3. NMED – Not in attendance |
| 2. Present: TCEQ – Brandy Brooks | 4. Present: City of El Paso – Claudia Garcia, Assistant Director of Transit Planning and Development, Sun Metro Department (representing Anthony Dekeyzer) |

Eng. Fentanes Arriaga passed list to the members of the Mexican side:

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|---|--|
| 5. Present: INECC – Oscar Fentanes | 7. Present: Juárez- Cesar René Diaz |
| 6. Present: SEDUE – Melissa Zambrano | |

Member of the Administrative Unit present: José Luis Palacios (TCEQ)

Other attendees: Dr. Carlos Rincón (EPA), Eddie Moderow (TCEQ), Gerardo Tarín (SEMARNAT), Fernando Ortiz (BDAN).

ITEM 1: UPDATE BY INECC AND NADB ON NETWORK ASSESSMENT STUDY

Mariama Mitchell presented item 1 and asked Fernando Ortiz and Oscar Fentanes to provide an update.

Oscar Fentanes related that INECC research staff led by Rodolfo Iniestra has begun work on the study despite the administrative hold up with the formal subscription of the agreement with NADB, including data collection and analysis. He explained that the process had a substantive delay due to revisions by both INECC's legal team and the International Office at SEMARNAT who was also asked to review the document.

Fernando Ortiz provided a status update on the agreement's legal review, including the revisions requested by INECC, commenting that signature was expected soon.

ITEM 2: OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE CONTRACT WITH UACJ

Oscar Fentanes introduced the topic and called on Jose Luis Palacios to present.

Jose Luis Palacios shared both the Request for Quote drafted by the Administrative Unit and the quote from UACJ for the operation and maintenance of the network (including four stations, all with ozone analyzers and one with automatic pm10 and pm2.5). Jose Luis gave an overview of the different components and requirements set in the Request for Quote, including assigning at least one full-time network operator. The quote from UACJ was requested for a 2-year period covering 2024 and 2025, in addition to September to December 2023, in order to better address administrative delays with contracting and payments, prompt purchase of consumables, among other problems that came with the prior 6-month period contracts.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the contract with the university based on the quote and terms presented.

Members voted for approval of the minutes in the Zoom chat or by taking the floor.

EPA – **Approved**

INECC – **Approved**

TCEQ – **Approved**

SEDUE – **Approved**

NMED – **Not present**

Ecology Ciudad Juarez – **Approved**

El Paso – **Approved**

The motion was carried.

Fernando Ortiz mentioned that we will still need to figure out how to fully fund this contract as there have been delays with the funds from TCEQ and the Marathon Petroleum Foundation donation was set up for a specific purpose as provided in the grant application. There are options to resolve this situation, but Fernando wanted the membership to be aware of the situation.

Jose Luis Palacios presented the financial status of AQF with funding availability and tentative contributions.

ITEM 3: SERVER AND DATA VISUALIZATION CENTER FOR THE JUAREZ MUNICIPALITY. WEBSITE TRANSITION TO THE JUAREZ DOMAIN

Mariama Mitchell presented this item. **Jose Luis Palacios** shared that there has been difficulty by participating Mexican entities in accessing the data, and that is why the Administrative Unit proposes setting up a server and data visualization center for Juárez. This will add an extra layer of complexity to data management. The proposal is that the Administrative Unit develop a description of the equipment and services needed and proceed with a request for quotes, presenting the results during the February meeting.

Mariama Mitchell **made the motion to move forward.**

Oscar Fentanes **seconded the motion.**

Mariama Mitchell requested attendees to vote in the chat.

Members voted for approval of the minutes in the Zoom chat or by taking the floor.

EPA – **Approved**

INECC – **Approved**

TCEQ – **Approved**

SEDUE – **Approved**

NMED – **Not present**

Ecology Ciudad Juarez – **Approved**

El Paso – **Approved**

The motion was carried.

ITEM 4: NEXT MEETING OF THE FUND COMMITTEE

Oscar Fentanes proposed that the upcoming Fund Committee meeting take place on February 22, 2024, and **Mariama Mitchell** seconded the motion.

Members vote in Zoom chat or by taking the floor.

EPA – **Approved**

INECC – **Approved**

TCEQ – **Approved**

SEDUE – **Approved**

NMED – **Not present**

Ecology Ciudad Juarez – **Approved**

El Paso – **Approved**

The motion was carried.

ITEM 5: PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mariama Mitchell gave the closing remarks, and the group took a group picture.