

7th MEETING OF THE FUND COMMITTEE
January 18, 2023
10:00AM Mountain Time / 11:00 AM Central Time
Meeting Minutes

INTRODUCTIONS AND OPENING REMARKS

The co-chairs introduced themselves and provided opening remarks.

Donett Patterson, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), US Co-Chair in substitution for Mariama Mitchell.

Oscar Fentanes, Sub-Director at the National Institute of Ecology and Climate Change (INECC, by its abbreviation in Spanish), Mexico Co-Chair

ROLL CALL

Donnett Patterson began the process to verify quorum by making a roll call of member from the US side:

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| 1. Present: EPA – Donnett Patterson | 3. Present: NMED – Armando Paz |
| 2. Present: TCEQ – Brandy Brooks | 4. Present: City of El Paso – Anthony Dekeyzer |

Ing. Fentanes Arriaga roll calls members from the Mexican side:

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| 5. Present: INECC – Oscar Fentanes | 7. Present: Ecology dept. of Ciudad Juarez: |
| 6. Present: SEDUE – Melisa Zambrano | Ricardo Aragon |

Administrative Unit members present: Sergio Vásquez (TCEQ), Cesar Fierro (SEDUE)

Other attendees: Dr. Carlos Rincón (EPA), Eddie Moderow (TCEQ), Gerardo Tarín (SEMARNAT), Jose Palacios (TCEQ), Fernando Ortiz (NADB), Ing. Francisco Gómez (SEDUE), Stephanie Ma (TCEQ)

ITEM 1: APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

Oscar Fentanes introduced Item 1 regarding the Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes and asked for a motion to proceed:

Armando Paz (NMED) made a motion

Melissa Zambrano (SEDUE) seconded the motion

Members vote for approval of minutes in the Zoom chat.

EPA – **Yay**

INECC – **Yay**

TCEQ – Will approve via email

SEDUE – **Yay**

NMED – **Yay**

Ecología Ciudad Juárez – **Yay**

El Paso – **Yay**

Motion passes.

ITEM 2: PRESENTATION OF THE PUBLIC DOMAIN OF AIR DATA OF THE FUND'S MONITORING STATIONS

Donnett Patterson introduced Item 2 and introduced the Autonomous University of Ciudad Juarez to give an overview of the public domain created for the three monitoring sites in Ciudad Juarez that the fund manages.

Attending the meeting from UACJ were Dr. Adrian Vazquez and Ms. Yazmin Hernandez

Sergio Vasquez mentioned that as operator of the network, the contract with UACJ requires that to produce a public domain website to make the data from the stations publicly available. Two months ago, they completed this deliverable.

For the last six months they have been working on the website to inform the public and decision making. The page is ready if Chihuahua or Juarez want to link to their websites as well.

Ms. Yazmin provided a tutorial of how to use the website, including how to view the air quality and health index, how to download data from a monitoring station for a selected period, among other functions. [A similar prerecorded tutorial is available here.](#)

Participants suggested that the JAC and AQF logos be added to the website. Once the JAC approves the logos they will be included.

Armando Paz mentioned that data download is limited to a two-month period. UACJ recognized the limitation, mentioning that they can do it by parts. Dr. Vasquez mentioned the option to migrate to an amazon server to increase capacity. If NMED requires a more complete data set, UACJ can provide the information.

Oscar Fentanes: are there plans to add data that has been manually validated beyond automatic validation. UACJ mentioned that manual validation through level 1 and 2 validators and a validated data tab will be added to the website as well.

Eddie Moderow: Where does this data go and need to go: SINAICA, SEDUE, Municipio. Are there opportunities to share or complement or feed data from one page to the other. Another priority could be long term archival data. Eddie asked if QA/QC controls are part of this platform.

Dr. Vasquez: All stations are now also uploading data for SINAICA. SEDUE has acces to extract data directly, whoever has acces to the data acquisition sistem can replicate this information. They are using university servers. Even if only two months can be viewed at the time there is acces to the entire time series.

ITEM 3: UPDATE ON THE INSTALLATION OF THE 4TH MONITORING STATION IN CIUDAD JUAREZ

Oscar introduced Item 3 and gave the word to Sergio Vasquez to provide an update on the installation of the 4th monitoring station in Ciudad Juarez.

Sergio Vasquez mentioned that he will find the JAC and AQF logos to share with the members. He then provided an update on the installation of the new station.

At the sixth meeting of the Fund Committee the site location for the new station at the UACJ clínica de nutrición was approved. On November 18, Sergio requested approval of Fund Committee members to proceed with purchase of the equipment, and all members had replied with their approval by December 7th. On December the Fund Committee cochairs sent an official letter to finalize purchases with the selected vendor and the Juarez Municipality has been working with NADB to finalize the required contract. The donation of MP Foundation stands at 4000 USD, the Municipality of Juarez donated the construction of the site.

The new site is expected to be fully operational by the next JAC meeting on February 16, 2023. Thus, we expect to have a ribbon cutting ceremony of the station and he shared the tentative agenda of the event. Sergio shared the agenda and described the possible speakers and timeline of the event. Following the inauguration, participants would attend the inauguration of a tire recycling facility and the session of the Joint Advisory Committee.

Carlos Rincon mentioned that EPA participation and the attendance of Guy Donaldson is pending authorization and they require the address to process the trip.

Fernando Ortiz mentioned that Calixto Mateos would attend and requested a 5-minute space to speak at the ceremony.

Jose Luis Palacios: We propose sending an invitation to the new monitoring station to Marathon Petroleum Foundation and Paso del Norte Community Foundation.

Ricardo Aragon: Personnel from Ecología and UACJ are at the site, they have secured resources to conduct the construction to complete site installation by the end of this week. Persis informed that the equipment would arrive on time for the inauguration. The contract with NADB regarding this station has been revised and will be signed accordingly.

Carlos Rincón highlighted the importance of this fund and the inauguration of the new station and celebrated NADBs support and participation in the upcoming ceremony. He also mentioned that the tire recycling facility has a lot of connection with air quality due to fires on some facilities.

ITEM 4: BINATIONAL QUALITY ASSURANCE PROJECT PLAN (UPDATE)

Donnett Patterson introduced Item 4 and mentioned she is very excited to hear about this project.

Jose Palacios explained the efforts to strengthen the QA/QC procedures of the network and UACJ has been leading this effort, along with SEDUE and the Juarez Municipality.

Jose Luis presented the agenda of the webinar and the in-person workshop. The events include the participation of Federal and State QA/QC experts from the US and Mexico, including INECC, PROFEPA, TCEQ, UACJ, EPA and NMED. The information presented by TCEQ is [now available on the JAC website](#).

ITEM 5: NEXT MEETING OF THE FUND COMMITTEE (EPA)

Oscar Fentanes introduced Item 5 and recommended to have the next Fund Committee meeting to be held on March 15 and requested a motion.

Melissa Zambrano (SEDUE) **presented the motion**

Oscar Fentanes (INECC) **seconded the motion**

ITEM 6: PUBLIC COMMENT

Eddie Moderow introduced Brandy Brooks as the new TCEQ representative to the Fund Committee, following Cory Chisem's designation as Director of the Office of Air, and will oversee three divisions.

Brandy Brooks mentioned she is excited to join the Fund Committee, she has been 24 years with TCEQ, with some time in waste management and 7 years in monitoring.

Sergio Vasquez mentioned the convenience of amending the procurement procedures to simplify a longer-term contract for operations and maintenance.

Oscar Fentanes gave closing remarks highlighting that it had been a very productive meeting.

Ricardo Aragon: There are three projects for tire recycling facilities, they will be private companies, but will have important environmental benefits.