

**Minutes**

82nd Meeting of the Joint Advisory Committee for the Improvement of Air Quality in the Ciudad Juárez, Chihuahua / El Paso, Texas / Doña Ana County, New Mexico Air Basin

<b>Virtual Meeting: February 10, 2022</b>	
JAC Members Attending (*Alternate ** Not Present)	
U.S.	México
Guy Donaldson, US EPA	Daniel López, SEMARNAT
Lorinda Gardner, TCEQ	Lili González, PROFEPA
Armando Paz, NMED	**COESPRIS
Jacob Kidd, City of Las Cruces	Gabriel Valdez, SDUE de Chihuahua
Norma Hajar, City of El Paso	Brenda Nava, CANACINTRA Juárez
John Quinn, Freeport-McMoRan Copper and Gold	Lic. Yesenia Anaya, Dirección de Ecología de Ciudad Juárez
Larry Olsen, DrPH, Citizen	*Ing. Alberto Nicolas López, IMIP
**Alberto Correa, Capítulo Paso del Norte	**Rene Franco, Franco y Asociados
David Dubois, NMSU	Dra. Alba Yadira Corral, UACJ
Wen-Whai Li, Ph.D., P.E., UTEP	Salvador López, NADB
Claudia Valles, El Paso MPO	
Carlos A Rincón, US EPA - Liaison	Biól. Gerardo Tarín, SEMARNAT- Liaison
Eugenia (Gina) Posada, TCEQ - Liaison	

**Guy Donaldson, USEPA-Dallas** introduced Interim Deputy Regional Administrator Cecil Rodrigues. Mr. Cecil comes from the Office in Philadelphia at EPA R3. He is the regional council and brings experience on air. Copresident Donaldson mentioned he is impressed with Mr. Cecil’s leadership.

**Welcoming remarks by R6 Acting Deputy Regional Administrator:** Cecil Rodrigues welcomed everyone. He mentioned David Gray, Deputy Regional Administrator R6 retired in December and Mr. Cecil is temporarily filling the position. EPA’s Regional Administrator sent her greetings and could not be in the meeting due to other duties in Washington. She looks forward to engaging soon. Mr. Cecil was impressed by the zoom participation in this meeting. He thanked the JAC Copresidents for conducting the meeting and was happy to have a meeting with Ciudad Juárez Mayor Cruz Pérez Cuéllar. He looked forward to his comments, as well as

the state partners from Chihuahua, NM, Texas, and all working partners to find binational solutions to the airshed. The JAC is an organization with a model of its own to advance the collaborative work of industry, community, state, and federal governments officials. Its existence works in lowering emissions in El Paso and Doña Ana County. The work the JAC and the partnership with EPA supports President Biden's climate change and environmental justice. The JAC has achieved tangible results and impacts on both sides of the border. The JAC twenty fifth anniversary and celebrating the binational fund fosters air quality projects throughout the region. This shows that after twenty-five years the JAC is still instrumental. He mentioned challenges are still ahead such as lowering ozone to more protective levels. He is confident solutions will be found with the leadership of the JAC. He thanked Guy Donaldson for serving as the Copresident for several years, Mariama Mitchel for her work in the Binational Fund, and Carlos Rincón for his service and dedication. Carlos Rincón is one of the founders of the Paso del Norte Air Quality Task Force and the JAC. He thanked every member of the JAC for their partnership, dedication and valuable work done for this region.

Copresident Daniel López mentioned this meeting if done in person would have taken place in Ciudad Juárez Council Chambers. He introduced the City Council Secretary Hector Ortiz representing Ciudad Juárez Mayor Cruz Pérez Cuéllar.

**Welcoming remarks by host:** Secretary of the City Council Hector Ortiz welcomed everyone from the Heroic Ciudad Juárez. He also greeted the different members of environmental agencies, EPA, SEMARNAT, INECC, TCEQ, SEDUE, UACJ and the Copresidents of this committee Guy Donaldson and Daniel López. He congratulated the people involved in obtaining a new resource for the acquisition of a semi-automatic station that would be part of the atmospheric monitoring network.

Copresident Daniel López introduced Secretary Gabriel Valdez of SEDUE.

**Virtual Signing: Texas – Chihuahua Memorandum of Cooperation:** Secretary Gabriel Valdez welcomed everyone. He mentioned the signing of a memorandum of cooperation between Texas and Chihuahua. Maria Eugenia Campos Galvan sends a warm greeting to all, and he mentioned she be attentive to this work. He thanked EPA for the words of Cecil Rodrigues, the Copresidents and Commissioner Bobby Janecka, TPWL Executive Director Carter Smith, Central Board Executive Director Mr. Lara and to all present. He thanked the commitment to the state of Texas for this memorandum that allows the continued work to care for the environment, our ecosystems, and the resources we share together. The topic of air quality is especially important and knows no borders, including waste management and species control activities and now the challenge of water. All that requires attention. EPA and SEMARNAT have a joint work for the care of air quality in the atmospheric basin that we share and in general for the care of our environment. Of this collaboration he highlighted the binational fund that has been constituted for the strengthening of the monitoring network in the Heroic City of Juárez, which already has a contribution by a private entity in Texas. A valuable tool that gives transparency to resources. Finally, SEDUE continues with the commitment of our agencies to work within the scope of our competences within the framework of the cooperation memorandum that will be signed.

Copresident López introduced Commissioner Janecka.

Bobby Janecka, TCEQ Commissioner, mentioned Texas and Chihuahua share a lengthy international border defined by the Rio Grande but also an extraordinarily strong binational community. In the sister cities of El Paso - Juárez and Presidio – Ojinaga. He mentioned being

custodians of the Big Ben region and the Santa Elena Canyon, which he mentioned visiting last November. He can speak about the treasure it is. He mentioned sharing natural gifts and similar environmental challenges. The air and mountainous terrain shared by the two states, the North passage where two countries meet. The population of close to three million people thrive in this border length community. Where environmental health is shared across the border. Its our joint responsibility for the benefit of our border residents. Past collaborations are worth celebrating. Texas and Chihuahua have a long history of collaborating to protect environmental resources and the well-being of our citizens. Environmental programs under the La Paz agreement and currently working on the Border 2025 Texas, New Mexico, Chihuahua regional workgroup allow for joint efforts to reduce air pollution, improve water quality, sustainable materials management, and improved joint preparedness for environmental emergencies. Through the JAC the governments of Chihuahua and Texas maintained an active dialogue over two decades. Last year the binational fund was created and now it has an endowment held by the North American Bank. The first contract for operations and maintenance has been put in place and network expansion is eminent. State to State agreements including the 1999 Texas Chihuahua Strategic Environmental Plan as well as the Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC), which was signed by both states in 2019, have provided a framework for increase collaboration and resulted in productive programs and joint activities. This fosters connections between local governments, sister cities, environmental governmental agencies, universities, and industry working together. The goal of this memorandum is to protect the environment, public health and the Texas and Chihuahua border region. Our intention is to achieve environmentally tangible results for the population. To make this MOC operational and better coordinate activities TCEQ and SEDUE have defined priority areas for the work to come. A technical team will meet quarterly, and the Secretary and he will meet yearly to evaluate progress and approve annual work plans. Acknowledging the importance of environmental education, an exchange program has been consolidated with the placement of students in environmental agencies to promote mutual understanding binational exchange among young environmental leaders. Joint efforts will also focus on the development of end use markets and innovative technologies for scrap tires and information exchange on state and local programs for scrap tire management. We continue advancing this community base forum through our international representatives through the JAC. We will present a proposal to establish an environmental award for people or organizations who have made an impact to achieve cleaner air in the Paso del Norte Air Basin. The reason for being here today is the MOC, this prioritizes a set of goals that focus on improving air quality in our shared air basin which includes strengthening the binational air quality fund. Quality assurance and quality control and harmonization of data for the air basin. Low-cost sensors and Ceilometer studies in partnership with UACJ to better understand the interaction of mixing layers of ozone formation and transport in this unique airshed. Finally, technical assistance and information exchange focusing on strengthening activities under Mexico's Pro Aire and the SIP. He closed by thanking the host, Mayor of Ciudad Juárez Cruz Pérez Cuéllar. He congratulated Secretary Valdez for his appointment last year at SEDUE and he looked forward to many years of collaboration. He thanked EPA R6 Cecil Rodrigues and Carlos Rincón for their investment in the region, and your support at the Federal level. He thanked the Copresidents for serving at the JAC.

Copresident López introduced Carter Smith of TPWL

Executive Director Carter Smith of Texas Parks and Wildlife (TPWL) greeted everyone. He stated being happy and honored to be in the meeting to sign the MOC with all the perspective agencies. In this spirit of cooperation, it is essential and sister states are too. Just like the air we breathe; fish and wildlife know no boundaries and know no borders. Crucial factors to protect the rich and vital heritage we share along the border between our countries. We have a long and

rich tradition working with the state of Chihuahua on our shared interest and stewardship outdoor and natural heritage through forums like the Rio Grande joint venture and the Governors round table and the binational wildlife forum. Work on shared interests such as the antelope, bats, monarch butterflies and the future of desert grasslands that populate our shared border environment. He reported being grateful for the opportunity in signing this MOC and support the work of TCEQ and SEDUE. He mentioned the past work done and he is honored in continuing the collaboration and cooperation of future work.

Copresident López introduced Roberto Lara.

Executive Director Roberto Lara of Junta Central de Agua y Saneamiento de Chihuahua welcomed everyone. He mentioned Governor Maria Eugenia Campos sends greetings and she is committed to this work, especially with water. Currently they are working with NADB (North American Development Bank) to try to maintain and conserve the clean water between the two countries. The project is to build a water residual collector.

Copresident López described the virtual MOC signing. He thanked everyone involved in this historical moment for the JAC.

### **Welcoming remarks by Copresidents:**

Copresident Donaldson congratulated Texas and Chihuahua representatives for signing the MOC. He is hopeful that very soon the meeting can in person.

Copresident López remembered the last meeting that took place in New Mexico, then Zipdx platform was introduced to the group, but now working with zoom which is a much friendlier version. He announced the new person representing NADB, which is Salvador López.

**Approval of Agenda and Previous Meeting Minutes-** the agenda and minutes were approved. Quorum reached.

### **Public Comments on Agenda Items**

#### **Copresident Donaldson requested comments on the agenda.**

##### **Chat comments:**

Crystal Moran introduced herself as a participant at Sun Rise El Paso. She appreciated the efforts of the JAC when taken seriously with the public in mind. She would like to suggest holding the meetings not during working hours. The meetings can take place on some other schedule and the public can be involved. She mentioned TCEQ was an untrustworthy, unreliable agency because they only issue fines for less than 3% across Texas when polluted above the permitted level. And if people are really talking about pollution, El Paso has two sites that are driving air pollution. TCEQ regularly likes to blame Juárez for the air pollution, and they want to use a loophole in the Clean Air Act to say they do not have to apply EPA's regulations, which is not true. She reported visiting the office in El Paso to speak about Marathon Refinery, which is a big polluter in El Paso. They are right in the middle of a neighborhood, which is in violation of basic environmental health 101. This is causing a great deal of public health issues, air pollution and rising ozone levels in El Paso and Juárez. Her recommendation for the JAC, if it is serious, is to hold TCEQ accountable. The people leading the agency do not take our concerns. When we had a public comment hearing about Marathon, TCEQ gave them a pass, and they continue to do that. She asked what is the point to TCEQ if they are not doing their job.

Miguel Escoto is a West Texas field advocate for the environmental agency Earthworks, he is also a volunteer with community organizations such as Sunrise El Paso as well. He is a resident of El Paso and like many others he is forced to breathe in air with toxins that are in the air by pollution sources like the Newman gas plants, the Montana Vista gas plant, the Rio Grande gas plant owned by El Paso Electric company. As well as sources such as Marathon Oil Refinery. He stated for the record that it is shameful for TCEQ to take legal actions to defend corporate pollution. Community members and leaders from Familias Unidas del Chamizal as well as Sierra Club have taken legal action to urge the EPA to accurately count ozone levels and regulate pollution facilities correctly. The EPA agreed and it is a shame that TCEQ is continuing to actively work against community health concerns in favor of corporate polluters. Instead of doing their job and regulating the sources of pollution, they are blaming Ciudad Juárez. This is simply inept and inadequate. Secondly, he wanted to urge the EPA for members of that organization presently in this meeting to act in the Permian Basin Gas Shale, which is a few hours from El Paso. It deeply affects the air pollution of the entire region. Trajectories and source modeling confirm that emissions from the Permian Basin contribute to the increased ozone levels of El Paso, Ciudad Juárez, and Las Cruces. State agencies in New Mexico project that oil and gas emissions from the Permian contribute more than 1.5 part per billion to monitors in this region. So, it is of the utmost importance for the EPA to stand up to the oil and gas industry. Otherwise, our health will continue to deteriorate, and we will all suffer the consequences. He thanked everyone.

Cemellí de Aztlán mentioned her disappointment regarding the agenda item of the private donation by Marathon. A polluter that has been defended by TCEQ. She stated her concern of TCEQ accepting donations from polluters and to please consider not accepting those donations.

Copresident Donaldson thanked all members of the public for their contributions.

Copresident López mentioned that those comments by the public will be taken into consideration, such as extending the time for the public to participate. This helps in improving our communication with the public. He also introduced the Binational Air Quality Contribution and emphasized this will assist in monitoring the airshed. This fund helps to have continuous information, because historically they have had data, but some equipment failure.

### **Highlight the First Private Contribution to the Binational Air Quality Fund**

**Secretary Gabriel Valdez of SEDUE** mentioned the Binational Fund for monitoring air quality in the Paso del Norte basin. This with the focus on strengthening the air quality monitoring system. Not only to expand this network but for the operation of it itself. This shows the importance of this first contribution. Led by the Administrative Unit of the fund, an integral part for these funds that took place at the fourth meeting on February 2. It will include a new analyzer and the operation of this for ozone, automatic equipment for the measurement of pm10 and 2.5 particles, a meteorological tower, and the protection of this station. He highlighted the power to implement that will allow to have information that can lead to actions for the prevention of air pollution. This committee authorized the Administrative Unit with the task of the selection of suppliers that can deliver to this station. SEDUE, INECC, Municipal Ecology of Ciudad Juárez and the other members to study the new location for this new station. This station will have greater coverage in the urban area of Juárez and in the binational basin of course.

**Oscar Fentanes, INECC who serves as Co-Chair of the Binational Fund**, greeted everyone, and reiterated the comments Secretary Valdez mentioned and covered very well. This team contributes to and enriches the infrastructure in the region. He mentioned that he is here to support the technical group of the institute with future tasks. And he observed it as incredibly positive because these forums have been very nourished, which is quite encouraging that we are all here for the same purpose. He thanked everyone for their time.

**Mariana Mitchell of USEPA, Co-Chair of the Binational Fund**. She mentioned being the project officer for the radiation and air division. She is also the Cochair for the TCEQ Performance Partnership Grant. The Air Quality Fund (AQF) is the first of its kind mechanism to support long sustainable operation and maintenance and support in air quality monitoring network in Ciudad Juárez. To share continuous monitoring information to the entire basin. She was nominated to serve as Copresident and after several meetings of the binational Fund, she has witnessed its potential with the results based on collaboration. A unique platform that provides reliable funding for air quality but also assures continuing communication and joint actions for the improvement of air quality by federal, state, and local government. Breaking silos often results in ineffective policy. After receiving various contributions from donors, this has proven to be a viable instrument for a robust binational air quality information system. Enhancing air quality improvement projects and health risks communication. This award should be an example for other stakeholders including industry, nonprofits, private organizations, as well as local, state, and federal on both sides of the border to contribute to this joint endeavor.

Salvador López, Executive Director of NADB mentioned it is a pleasure to be in attendance and contribute to the creation of the fund. He stated the opportunity to improve both the monitoring and the information that can be generated. It is a very innovative mechanism since the operation and maintenance of the equipment is difficult to make sustainable. With the fund, not only will the network be expanded, but also have sustainable finances for its operation and maintenance. NADB has also contributed \$25,000 for technical assistance. The bank hopes this innovation be able to be replicated in another sphere.

VJ Smith of Marathon congratulated the JAC leadership on the creation of the Administrative Fund and views this mechanism as a strategic pathway to continue to foster binational collaboration on air management for the benefit of the entire airshed. As a company operating on both sides of the border, the Foundation supports this effort together with NADB. He recognized the importance of data, making informed decisions and policies, based on sound science. The foundation reported contentment in participating with this idea and purpose of this fund and its long-term vision. It has a strong alignment with the Foundation's sustainability focus. Air quality management is expensive, and we want to assist and upload the cost of the data. We specifically wish success, to foster collaboration with environmental quality. We also hope other from the private sector to partner and get involved in this effort.

**Copresident Donaldson also thanked the members of the AQF and Marathon Foundation for their donation. He also echoed the example for others to donate to this fund.**

**Copresident Donaldson introduced Carlos Rincón.**

**[Air Quality Report for the Paso del Norte](#)** by Dr. Carlos Rincón, USEPA

**Chat questions: No questions**

**Comments by the public: No comments**

**Copresident Donaldson introduced Juan Castillo.**

**[Pan American Health Organization New Air Quality Guidelines](#)** by Juan Castillo, PAHO

**Chat questions: No questions**

**Comments by the public: No comments**

**Copresident López introduced Lic. Yesenia Anaya**

**[Management Operation and Maintenance of Three Air Quality Monitoring Stations in Ciudad Juárez](#)** by Yesenia Anaya, Director of Ecology Dept in Ciudad Juárez

**And a video at [82nd Meeting \(cccjac.org\)](#)**

**Chat questions: No questions**

**Comments by the public:**

Jorge Perez Quezada congratulated the Ecology Director for this worktable. We see important initiatives and collaborative efforts. You observed in the PAHO presentation to set ambitious goals, in that sense I was observing some of the metrics that they were presenting. Some show some trends of improvement and others a flat trend and others deteriorating. My invitation is for you to have a roadmap that is connected to these metrics. That we really know what the specific activity is going to give me and improvement x in the metric that we are talking about.

**Copresident López introduced Gabriel Valdez.**

**[Impact on Air Quality of the Route Corredor Tecnológico Troncal Rapid Bus Transit II of the Public Transportation System of Ciudad Juárez](#)** by Maestro Gabriel Valdez, SDUE

**Chat questions: No questions**

**Comments by the public: No comments**

**Copresident Donaldson introduced Karin Ardon-Dyer.**

**[Changes of Particle Concentration and Size During Dust Events: Measurements from AEROS](#)** by Dr. Karin Ardon-Dryer, TTU Lubbock

**Chat questions: No questions**

**Comments by the public: No comments**

\*\*\*Forty-Five-minute break\*\*\*

**Copresident Donaldson introduced Nate Hickman.**

**[Texas Emissions Reduction Program](#)** by Nate Hickman, TCEQ

**Chat questions:**

**Comments by the public:**

Carlos Rincón asked about locomotives who would be the eligible applicants.

Nate answered that for locomotive it is the owners and operators. We can consider especial cases and it is handled case by case to discuss who is interested in replacing older locomotives.

Carlos Rincón followed up about switcher yard regarding diesel and electric engines.

Nate responded that those are exciting projects and offer funding to replace those old engines with electric or other innovative technologies as well as diesel. We hope for a new project like those specially in the El Paso area.

Eddie mentioned Mexico and EPA has similar programs and would like to suggest creating a binational version of TERP (Texas Emissions Reduction Program). Some of TERPs (Texas Emissions Reduction Program) investment is limited. Eligibility criteria is challenging.

Nate answered that the legislature recently passed a bill that lowered the minimum percentage requirement of usage to fifty five percent, anything below that we cannot do. But if someone is operating over half of their operation in Texas each year, we can consider those, even if the owners of the equipment are not necessarily in Texas. Those must be registered to do business in Texas. TERP would gladly answer any questions if participants are interested in reaching out.

Copresident López agreed to have a future conversation regarding creating a binational version of TERP. He also asked that the busses that are out of circulation, in Mexico importation from buses come from the US. How do you ensure with this program those busses are really being discarded?

Nate answered that the legislature included requirements that any grantees show proof that the equipment has been destroyed before reimbursement of payments. Before and after photos of the equipment with serial numbers. We have people who do onsite visits to make sure that equipment is destroyed.

**Copresident Donaldson introduced Mary Kelley.**

**[Analysis of Blowing Dust in El Paso](#) by Mary Kelley, TTU-Lubbock**

**Chat questions:**

**Comments by the public:**

Dave DuBois found the presentation remarkably interesting. He asked if the presenter was going to look more into soil and drought. Maybe make it a variable and some predictor and compare it with Lubbock and El Paso.

Mary responded by saying that she had done the drought index for Lubbock, but not for El Paso or other areas. For Lubbock, the findings were not promising. Most dust events occur closer to precipitation. The group is trying to find out why this is occurring.

Armando Paz asked if we were able to look at those sustained wind speeds as well as the gusts events that were less than an hour duration.

Mary answered that she has not done it for El Paso. Those are the next steps. Amarillo and Lubbock are done, and Midland is almost done. El Paso has the highest number of dust storms out of all the areas.

Carlos Rincón asked if these activities were already funded.

Dr. Ardon responded saying that funding was needed.



Copresident López introduced Eddie Moderow

### **Report of the Subcommittees:**

**Report of Activities of Binational Air Quality Fund** – no presentation, but the annual report by the Fund Committee and it will be presented in the following JAC meeting.

Carlos Rincón reported on two committees. He is working on the JAC member for El Paso County seat and looking for the counterparts in Mexico. If an entity is recognized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the State Department. Speaking to SEMARNAT and looking for a state agency dealing with transportation. And submitting the process through UCAI and OITA to follow the framework.

The other committee regarding City of El Paso Levee Road Collaboration, CPB offered to facilitate meeting with the office in charge in conjunction with IBWC (International Boundary and Water Commission).

Another effort is to have a JAC logo and start reaching UCAI and OITA by the Copresidents soon. (according to Appendix 1)

### **Public Comments**

Hilda Villegas greeted everyone. She is part of Familias Unidad del Chamizal. 7000 residents residing near the free bridge with low resources. They are an immigrant people who are raising their children in this place. As a mother she is overly concerned about her three children who are breathing polluted air. Ozone is alarming because it has various sources of pollution. It is a triple threat to the health of our children. We have all the commercial trails that cross the international bridge, as well as other industries such as recyclers that pollute our spaces. We have tried to work with government agencies, and with UTEP, but we have not had an incredibly positive response. It has been very outrageous because we consider ourselves environmentalists and experts in our community. We have struggled quite a bit to get information about the health conditions of the residents. We see that there are many children with respiratory problems in hot weather, but also in times of climate change. And we are seeing that this is associated with these sources of pollution. We are asking the state of Texas please not to continue to deny that there is a problem, or that if there is a problem it is someone else's fault. Because as a mom I cannot turn to my son and tell him that it is someone else's fault because the problem exists. Health is stolen on a daily basis. Also, the other question is how the City of El Paso is going to move and see clean alternatives. How to see the climate crisis? It is something obvious that must be dealt with. So, when we see government agencies or institutes they want to deny or want to hide reality, they see us as a very old-fashioned city. How can we be more creative and use these funds that exist right now?

Another comment made by Hilda Villegas was that the community does not exist through these processes. Please extend the space for community feedback. Five minutes is not enough for us to make our comments. With respect I ask you to deal with this.

Claudia Lozano provided links for the public in English and Spanish for public comment.

Carlos Rincón suggested following up or listening to other members of the public if they want to speak. Both Copresidents agreed to stay longer and hear any other public comments. Copresident

Donaldson stated the agendas are usually full and today public members participated more than usual.

Hilda Villegas stated that it is important for the public to be heard and put a face to the realities of communities like hers.

Carlos Rincón recommended checking the daily report on air quality. There is a monitoring station by the Chamizal.

Copresident Donaldson recommended adjusting the agenda for the next meeting as an action for the recommendations the public made today. He also mentioned hearing the concern of the community and working on actions to address those.

### **Highlights and Consensus Items**

Copresident López highlighted that the JAC is a primary space both for the studies that are done in the universities, as well as the governmental programs, and the needs of the population. As Gina said and those who still accompany us from the public, if they require a space to make a presentation with the topics, although complicated, you must listen. And as far as the agenda fits, thank you to the council of Ciudad Juárez for hosting this 82nd meeting. Also, he emphasized the signing of the memorandum between the state of Chihuahua and Texas. The announcement of the Binational Fund that supports monitoring and having information to alert the population and make decisions when required. Without information, we would not know where the impact is and the studies that always pay to have better information about dust storms and particle analysis. Events that we cannot control but predict when to protect ourselves from these with high concentration of particles. He mentioned that there has been a lot of attendance in virtual meetings lately.

Copresident Donaldson highlighted that it was a long meeting, but congratulated Ciudad Juárez for hosting the meeting. He felt welcomed even when only attending virtually. He agreed with Daniel on all his comments and thanked the interpreter for her important work. He thanked Texas for coordinating the meeting and setting up the agenda. He also stated listening to the public was important and how to improve going forward.

Copresident López recommended cutting the meeting into two sections/days and agreed with Copresident Donaldson. Today a great deal of public participation took place, which usually does not happen.

### **Establish Next Meeting Date and Adjourn:**

Next virtual meeting is scheduled for June 23, 2022.

**76 attendees on the zoom platform plus 22 persons in the Ciudad Juárez City Council Chambers.**

**\*\*Follow up was given to Familias Unidas del Chamizal, Earthworks and Sunrise El Paso.**

TCEQ provided links in English and Spanish where the public can provide comments. The public also was informed of their right to provide comments by phone at the local office in El Paso. They have done this procedure as stated in the minutes for other concerns.

TCEQ is extending the period to fifteen minutes for public comments in the JAC agenda to accommodate the public.

Carlos Rincón, USEPA also spoke to everyone via chat the day of the meeting.