

**9TH MEETING OF THE FUND COMMITTEE**  
**July 12, 2023**  
**10:00 AM Mountain Time / 11:00 AM CT**  
**Minutes of the meeting**

**INTRODUCTIONS AND OPENING 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. (Joined the meeting some minutes after the start)

The Co-Chair of the Mexican side provided welcome remarks, awaiting the US cochair to join.

**ATTENDANCE**

**Dr. Carlos Rincon** and **Jose Luis Palacios** began the process to verify the quorum by making roll call to the members on the U.S. side:

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|--|---|
| <b>1. Present: EPA – Carlos Rincón (Mariama Mitchell joined a few minutes later)</b> | <b>3. Present: NMED – Armando Paz</b>   |
| <b>2. Present: TCEQ – Brandy Brooks</b>  | <b>4. Present: City of El Paso – Dwayne T. Arnold (representing Anthony Dekeyzer)</b> |

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

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|--|--|
| <b>5. Present: INECC – Oscar Fentanes</b>  | <b>7. Present: Juárez-Ricardo Aragón</b> |
| <b>6. Present: SEDUE – Melisa Zambrano</b> |  |

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

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

**ITEM 1: APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING AND THE 2022 REPORT**

**Oscar Fentanes** presented item 1 on the approval of the minutes of the previous meeting, as well as the 2022 report, and requested a motion to continue:

**Armando Paz (NMED) made the motion.**

**Melissa Zambrano (INECC) seconded the motion.**

**Mariama Mitchell**, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Co-Chair of the United States, joined the meeting and gave a welcome message.

**Jose Luis Palacios** requested attendees to vote in the chat to ease record keeping.

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 – **Approved**

Ecology Ciudad Juarez – **Approved**

El Paso – **Approved**

**The motion was carried.**

***ITEM 2: NADB Technical Assistance Program for the Juarez Network Assessment***

**Oscar Fentanes** introduced the topic and called on Fernando Ortiz, NADB liaison with the Binational Fund to present the award.

**Fernando Ortiz** informed that NADB was able to add the Juarez Network Assessment Study following a meeting in June, despite not originally being included in the annual TAP budget. The award will be for up to \$ 60,000 USD. The internal processes to authorize the study have finished and they are waiting for INECC to review the contract and provide information in the coming weeks so they can start the work.

**Oscar Fentanes** commented that they are already working on it and requested patience to provide the information required by NADB as the institutional response can be slow. He introduced Rodolfo Iniestra to provide a description of the project and tentative timeline.

**Rodolfo Iniestra** presented the proposal for the evaluation of the Ciudad Juárez network. The objective is to evaluate the current design of the Juárez network and propose the relocation or installation of additional monitoring stations that improve representativeness.

These evaluations should be periodic, the EPA suggests every 5 years. This is due to shifts in air quality; changes in the size and distribution of the population; pollution patterns; new environmental regulations, and better understanding of atmospheric dynamics.

He gave a brief description of the stations that make up the Juárez network and presented the elements that will be analyzed to identify potential sites and the representativeness of the current locations. For this, they will use different methods, including “entorno de las estaciones, modelación de aptitud y dosificación ambiental”.

Regarding the timeline of activities, the study can take around 8 months, depending on the available information, previous studies, and existing documentation.

**Oscar Fentanes** noted that it is an incredibly detailed work, and the timeline will depend on the initial data collection and research phase.

**Carlos Rincón** added that the emissions inventory that Rodolfo mentioned they will use is from 2016 and in the last meeting of the JAC it was commented that it is currently being updated by Hugo Landa of SEMARNAT.

**Jose Luis Palacios** suggested focusing the study on the regulatory stations only, not including the manual monitoring of PM 2.5 carried out by the Municipality of Juárez.

**Jaime Contreras** stressed that it would be important to use this study as an opportunity to train the members of the Juarez network so that they can later repeat the network analysis exercise on their own, as it should be done periodically.

**Fernando Ortiz** noted that the goal of this study was to select the sites of the monitoring stations that could be bought with new funds from AQF. The greatest value of the study and what we need for the fund is to evaluate how many stations and where they should be placed in addition to the 4 we already have. The results should be useful to the Fund.

**Oscar Fentanes** commented that the purpose of the study is to answer several questions: 1) Are the stations in Ciudad Juarez sufficient to represent air quality in the urban area? 2) Are the stations representative and if they are not, what is suggested? To relocate them? and 3) When AQF has the budget to acquire new stations, have a scientific base of where they should be located.

**Ricardo Aragon** remarked that the place where he is taking the call is being evacuated due to a drill, so he requests that he can vote in favor of the agreements previously reached by the Administrative Unit that will be discussed later in agenda Item 4.

### **ITEM 3: COMPARATIVE POLICY ANALYSIS OF QUALITY ASSURANCE AND CONTROL**

**Mariama Mitchell** asked Jaime Contreras and Armando Retama to describe the Comparative Policy Analysis on quality assurance and control policies.

**Jaime Contreras** began by presenting the objective of the study, which is to compare in technical detail the policy mechanisms through which the United States and Mexico manage the quality control of air quality data. The participating agencies are TCEQ, NMED, Chihuahua, Juarez, Nuevo Leon, and Mexico City.

The study will be based on the development of a questionnaire following the EPA's Technical Systems Audit. Topics included are air quality policy mechanisms, general network management, quality control and assurance plans and documents, technical expertise and training, pollutant criteria monitoring objectives, laboratory best practices, data validation and management, publication of air quality information, and network evaluation.

**Carlos Rincón** asked if, in addition to the reports, there would be a manual derived from the results of the study. There will be no manual, however, the report will allow us to identify areas of opportunity for the management of air quality systems.

**Armando Retama** mentioned that the way the questionnaire is structured works as a guide for those who answer it to review what they have, and to be aware if they are effectively managing their network. The idea is to accompany them through the follow-up and in the case of Juárez transform it into action.

**Francisco Gómez** asked if the network of the City of Chihuahua (2 stations) and the mobile unit will also be considered for the study or if it will only be the Chihuahua network.

**Jose Luis Palacios** confirmed that the Chihuahua network is also contemplated in the study in case they agree to participate. He also highlighted that this meeting is the first time that the project is presented to NMED and the Monitoring Division of the TCEQ, so they are invited to participate in the analysis.

### **ITEM 4: PROCUREMENT RESULTS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2023 BUDGET.**

**Oscar Fentanes** began the discussion on point 4.

**Jose Luis Palacios** presented the results of the requested quotes and shared the recommendation of the Administrative Unit to acquire the dilutor, zero air and calibration of the teledyne brand in order to: 1)

homologate the equipment used in the different stations, and 2) based on the lower cost than the proposal of Thermo Cientific.

If approved, request authorization to send a letter to NADB to proceed with the purchase.

**Jaime Contreras** commented that it would be worthwhile adding a hydrocarbon scrubber to the air zero to improve data quality (Model 701H). And second, the particle meter model must be t640x so that the pm10 is also included, in addition to the pm 2.5.

Subsequently, it was discussed whether it would be necessary to requote the equipment considering these characteristics and the quotes were reviewed to see if this was already included. **Ricardo Aragón** confirmed with the supplier and in fact the recommendations provided by Jaime were already considered in the quotes, so it was possible to continue.

**Jaime Contreras** asked if these equipment models are similar to the American ones, which is correct for the case of PM2.5 and PM 10.

**Ricardo Aragon (Juarez)** made the motion to approve the purchase.

**Mariama Mitchell (EPA)** seconded the motion.

Members vote in Zoom chat or by taking the floor.

EPA – **Approved**

INECC – **Approved**

TCEQ – **Approved**

SEDUE – **Approved**

NMED – **Approved**

Ecology Ciudad Juarez – **Approved**

El Paso – **Approved**

**The motion was carried.**

#### **ITEM 5: MARATHON PETROLEUM FOUNDATION DONATION APPROVED FOR 2023**

**Mariama Mitchell** informed that the foundation and Marathon Petroleum approved the application for 2023 and asked Jose Luis Palcios to present on the subject.

**José Luis Palacios** reported that the Administrative Unit entered a request for funds to the Marathon Petroleum foundation and Paso del Norte Community foundation in the terms that were authorized in the previous meeting of the Fund committee for a total of 150 thousand USD, however the delay in the delivery of the PM2.5 and PM10 equipment caused delays with fully spending the previous donation, so, they authorized 75 thousand USD, half of the requested amount, being that it will be possible to apply again in 2024.

The proposal of the Administrative Unit is that we add a PM2.5 and PM10 equipment in a station that only monitors ozone, leaving a remainder of 20 thousand USD for which the Fund would still need to determine what to spend it on.

Regarding the PM2.5 and PM10 equipment, the quotes received by the Administrative Unit were shown.

**Ricardo Aragón** commented that the Administrative Unit recommends that the purchase be approved by the same company, that is, the Teledyne T640 model from the company PERSIS for a total of \$ 54,520. USD.

**Jaime Contreras** commented on the remaining 20,000, suggesting that it could be a meteorology team if they do not have it or training for the operators. Since the station already has the meteorological equipment and they have already operated the pm2.5 and pm10 equipment for some time, he suggests equipping the Juarez network to perform their own calibrations.

**Jose Luis Palacios and Oscar Fentanes** pointed out that currently the calibrations are carried out by PERSIS who uses the national parameter and is certified for this purpose, but that it would be worthwhile for the UACJ to have the equipment to be able to do it too.

**Ricardo Aragón (Juárez) made the motion to approve purchase of TELEDYNE T640.**

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

Members vote in Zoom chat or by taking the floor.

EPA – **Approved**

INECC – **Approved**

TCEQ – **Approved**

SEDUE – **Approved**

NMED – **Approved**

Ecology Ciudad Juarez – **Approved**

El Paso – **Approved**

The motion was approved.

#### **ITEM 6: NEXT MEETING OF THE FUND COMMITTEE**

**Oscar Fentanes** proposed that the next meeting of the Fund Committee be held on October 18.

**Mariama Mitchell (EPA) made the motion.**

**Armando Paz (NMED) seconded the motion.**

Members vote in Zoom chat or by taking the floor.

EPA – **Approved**

INECC – **Approved**

TCEQ – **Approved**

SEDUE – **Approved**

NMED – **Approved**

Ecology Ciudad Juarez – **Approved**

El Paso – **Approved**

The motion was approved so the meeting was scheduled for the proposed date.

#### **ITEM 7: PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**Mariama Mitchell** introduced the point and gave the floor to Eddie Moderow of TCEQ.

**Eddie Moderow** asked the U.S. participants, specifically Armando Paz from New Mexico and Brandy Brooks from TCEQ's Monitoring Division, if they could speak with Jaime and answer the questionnaire and thanked them in advance for the time this will involve. Eddie asked Jaime to present a schedule of the work.

Jaime Contreras mentioned that the questionnaire in English would be ready to share with U.S. participants next week.

Participants agreed on the appropriate procedure for formally sharing the questionnaire with their institutions. Eddie mentioned that for TCEQ an email to him and Brandy Brooks with the questionnaire would suffice. For NMED, an email to Armando Paz so he can share it internally. José Luis mentioned that the process could change depending on the requirements of each institution to participate in the study.

**Mariama Mitchell** gave the closing remarks.