



**OFFICIAL MEETING OF THE
NATIONAL AND GOVERNMENTAL ADVISORY
COMMITTEES
(NAC/GAC)**

FINAL SUMMARY

March 28 – 29, 2017

William Jefferson Clinton North
EPA Conference Room 6045
1200 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20004
and Via Adobe® Connect Teleconference

***Note:** The U.S. National and Governmental Advisory Committees are federal advisory committees chartered by Congress, operating under the Federal Advisory Committee Act; 5 U.S.C., App. 2. The committees provide advice to the Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on the implementation of the North American Agreement on Environmental Cooperation. The findings and/or recommendations of the committees do not represent the views of the Agency, and this document does not represent information approved or disseminated by EPA.*

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Tuesday, March 28, 2017

Call to Order and Introductions

Oscar Carrillo, National and Governmental Advisory Committees (NAC/GAC) Designated Federal Officer (DFO), Federal Advisory Committee Management Division (FACMD), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA or the Agency)

Mr. Oscar Carrillo, NAC/GAC DFO, FACMD, EPA, called the meeting to order and welcomed participants to the 48th meeting of the NAC and GAC committees. He noted the following agenda changes: Committees will meet in EPA Conference Room 6045 for Day 1 of the meeting; the in-person meeting with Ms. Jane Nishida, Acting Assistant Administrator, Office of International and Tribal Affairs (OITA), EPA, has been rescheduled for Day 2; and Cesar Rafael Chavez, Executive Director, Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC) Secretariat, will provide the CEC update via Adobe® Connect promptly at 1:30 p.m. EDT.

Mr. Carrillo expressed appreciation to Ms. Nishida; Mr. Mark Kasman, Director, Office of Regional and Bilateral Affairs, OITA; Luis Troche, Acting Senior Advisor, North American Program, OITA; Ms. Monisha Harris, Director, FACMD; the OITA staff; the FACMD staff; and the NAC/GAC Chairs and members for their continued support. He remarked on the service of the committees as exemplary advocates for trilateral cooperation between the three Parties (i.e., the federal environment ministers of Canada, Mexico and the United States) on environmental protection issues. The ongoing work of the NAC/GAC with the CEC has been experimenting with a new paradigm of friendship and collaboration between the three countries (i.e., Canada, Mexico and the United States). Mr. Carrillo asked the meeting participants to introduce themselves. He then introduced Ms. Harris, Director, FACMD, to update the committees on FACMD activities.

Welcome

Monisha Harris, Director, FACMD

Ms. Harris welcomed the NAC/GAC and other attendees. The Office of Administration and Resource Management and FACMD supports all the Agency's federal advisory committees, including the Good Neighbor Environmental Board (GNEB); National Advisory Council for Environmental Policy and Technology (NACEPT); and the NAC and the GAC. These committees, as important resources for EPA, give advice to the Administrator, Congress, and the President on environmental issues. In engaging with the Agency's partners and stakeholders, the committees play an important role in helping EPA to achieve its mission to protect human health and the environment. The work of the NAC and the GAC complement that of the other committees. For example, the GNEB recently completed its annual report to the President and Congress titled "Climate Change and Resilient Communities Along the U.S.-Mexico Border: The Role of the Federal Agencies." The NACEPT also completed its report to the Administrator and the Agency titled "Environmental Protection Belongs to the Public: A Vision for Citizen Science in the EPA." Ms. Harris expressed appreciation to the committees for the hours of dedication and work that they perform in advising the CEC and EPA Administrator. She then invited Dr. Theresa Pardo (University of Albany, State University of New York), Chair of the NAC, and Mr. Jeffrey Wennberg (City of Rutland, Vermont), Chair of the GAC, to provide an overview of the agenda.

Overview of the Agenda

Jeffrey Wennberg, Chair of the GAC

Theresa Pardo, Ph.D., Chair of the NAC

Mr. Wennberg thanked the members for attending and noted the agenda change for this meeting, which includes three Working Sessions in which members will engage in NAC/GAC-led reviews. The charge is

to provide advice, relative to the acceptance criteria, on the draft project proposal descriptions for the 2017–2018 CEC Operational Plan (OP). In reviewing the projects, EPA recommends that the committees consider (1) opportunities that make projects and their outputs and outcomes replicable in North America and how the projects can become self-sustaining beyond the 2-year funding period; (2) their scalability; and (3) how well the projects capitalize or may capitalize on opportunities to incorporate youth, education, and tribal governments or traditional ecological knowledge (TEK). These projects will be approved at the June 27–28, 2017 Council Session being held in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, Canada. The advice letters are being completed on an accelerated schedule to assist Ms. Nishida in preparing for the March 29–31, 2017 CEC Alternative Representatives (Alt Reps) call. Members, especially those new to the committees, were encouraged to engage in the discussions and to make use of the convention to raise tent cards to be recognized when asking questions.

Mr. Wennberg pointed out that Working Session I will set the framework for the committee’s review of the proposals and will include reviewing the survey results that were completed prior to the meeting and comparing notes and commonalities. Working Sessions II and III will be more detailed discussions and reviews of the projects and proposal descriptions.

Dr. Pardo welcomed the committee members and thanked them for attending the meeting. She explained that the committees will focus on developing recommendations for improvements to the draft proposals as well as providing advice on the project designs.

Mr. Wennberg welcomed Mr. Troche, who replaces Ms. Sylvia Correa as the Acting U.S. representative on the CEC General Standing Committee (GSC). Prior to joining the CEC, Mr. Troche served as the Agency’s Greater China Program Manager, managing China and U.S. EPA interagency collaborations on climate change and environmental research. Mr. Wennberg invited Mr. Troche to provide an overview of the CEC’s proposal review process.

Mr. Troche detailed the CEC OP project proposal process. The CEC restructured its OP proposal review process to be more collaborative and strategic. This restructuring aims to develop projects that are more focused and ambitious and are poised to achieve measurable results—projects that are trilateral in scope and relevant to the three countries. To achieve this, the CEC’s governing body, the Council, issued guidance to the Joint Public Advisory Committee (JPAC) and the Secretariat on development of the environmental priority areas for the 2017–2018 OP. In doing so, this team of experts considered the CEC’s 2015–2020 Strategic Plan, Ministerial Statements, current and past projects, and the Council’s priorities. The team identified nine trilateral priority areas:

- *Trade and the Environment (e.g., environment and innovations; movement of environmental goods and services)*
- *Methane Emissions Reduction*
- *Reduce and Recover Food Waste*
- *Black Carbon Inventory*
- *Priority Species and Ecosystems (e.g., transboundary invasive alien species)*
- *Health of Oceans (e.g., marine litter, ocean acidification, marine protected areas)*
- *Syndromic Surveillance Systems*
- *Mexican Emissions Control Area*
- *TEK*

The Council specifically requested comprehensive and fewer projects that are trilateral in scope and fit naturally; focus on concrete and measurable results; address specific gaps or needs; avoid duplication or repetition of other projects; capitalize on other areas of the CEC portfolio; incorporate youth engagement components and stakeholder engagement; and are scalable and sustainable past the funding period. These

criteria were parlayed into a 12-section project proposal template, which the project developers completed; the committees will review these proposals.

Subject matter experts from each country, designated as lead representatives, led development of the projects aligned to the nine priority areas. The lead representatives were encouraged to engage other officials from various agencies to provide input. The projects in discussion at today's meeting have met the Council's criteria. The TEK Roster of Experts (TEK Roster) also reviewed this list of proposals.

Question and Answer Period

Mr. David Antonioli (Verified Carbon Standard), NAC member, asked about the number of projects that will be approved and whether the CEC budget would support all 12 projects. Mr. Carrillo explained that OITA, as EPA's negotiator, works with Canada and Mexico in the proposal process and at this iteration has asked the NAC/GAC to provide advice as well. Mr. Troche added that the project proposals will be approved at the June 2017 Council Session; all those being reviewed at today's meeting could receive final approvals and would be supported by the CEC budget.

Ms. Mary Klein (NatureServe), NAC member, commented on the structure of the meeting and the new approach to reviewing the proposals, which began with receiving the draft project descriptions prior to the meeting.

Mr. Andrew Cary (U.S.-Mexico Border Philanthropy Partnership [BPP]), NAC member, described the BPP's efforts to engage community leaders and foundations to co-invest in EPA's initiatives and remarked on the eagerness of funders to support local environmental agendas.

Ms. Nazaret Sandoval (Michigan Department of Environmental Quality), GAC member, asked whether updates on the prior projects that will carry over to OP 2017–2018 would be available for the review. Dr. Pardo explained that Working Session I will provide an opportunity for committees to discuss these types of questions and will reconvene in the afternoon to compare notes and discuss the remaining issues in detail with EPA.

Working Session I: Led by Chairs

Jeffrey Wennberg, Chair of the GAC

Theresa Pardo, Ph.D., Chair of the NAC

The committees met separately to begin discussions on the 12 draft project proposals, which are aligned with the Strategic Priorities and cross-cutting themes of the CEC 2015–2020 Strategic Plan as well as the 2017–2018 OP trilateral priority areas:

1. *Building Community Capacity to Reduce Marine Litter in North American Border Watersheds (Marine Litter)*
2. *Conserving Shorebirds Through Community Engagement at Key Sites in Canada, the United States and Mexico (Shorebird Conservation)*
3. *Tools for Expanding Food Loss and Waste Prevention, Recovery and Recycling in North America (Food Loss and Waste Prevention)*
4. *Increasing Impact of Private Sector Supply Chain Energy Efficiency Efforts Through ISO 50001 (ISO 50001)*
5. *Improving Black Carbon Emissions Inventory Data for Residential Wood Combustion (Black Carbon Emissions and Wood Combustion)*
6. *Supporting Science for Continental Conservation of the Monarch Butterfly (Monarch Butterfly Conservation)*

7. *Helping North American Communities Respond to Extreme Heat Events (Phase II)—Scaling up Syndromic Surveillance Systems (Extreme Heat Events)*
8. *Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) as Tools for Promoting Ocean Health (Marine Protected Areas)*
9. *Implementation of North American Action Plans to Boost the Sustainable, Legal and Traceable Production and Trade of CITES' Appendix II Priority Species of Sharks, Turtles, Tarantulas and Timber (CITES Appendix II Species)*
10. *North American TEK Atlas/Inventory and Case Studies on Best Practices in Integrating TEK in Decision-Making in the Three Countries (TEK Atlas/Inventory)*
11. *Reducing Emissions From Goods Movement via Maritime Transportation in North America (Phase III) (Maritime Transportation)*
12. *Quantifying Methane and Black Carbon Emissions From Flaring in the Oil and Gas Industry (Methane and Black Carbon Emissions)*

The numbering sequence is used only as a reference point for discussions and does not imply a prioritization of proposals. Detailed descriptions of the projects can be accessed from the CEC website. Representatives from the OITA will be available to answer questions throughout the project proposal discussions.

GAC Separate Meeting

Mr. Wennberg opened the GAC Working Session I. He explained that session attendees' time would be spent reviewing comments from the online survey, which was completed prior to the meeting. Those comments, which assessed the degree to which each of the projects met the criteria stated in the charge letter, will help to focus the committee's attention on commonalities, strengths and areas that may need improvements. Members discussed the proposals in numerical sequence, thus showing no priority.

Marine Litter. The committees designated the proposal as reputable, noting that it addresses scalability and sustainability, although not extensively; incorporates youth engagement activities; and, to a lesser degree, has some activities on TEK. Dr. Vincent Nathan (San Antonio Metropolitan Health District), GAC member, commented that the details on scalability were not clear and asked whether marine litter included water-based contaminants, such as those that clogged the waterways following the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant incident, and marine oil spills. Ms. Marina Brock (Massachusetts Department of Health and Environment), GAC member, noted that the definition of marine litter discussed in a prior meeting includes plastic disposables and microplastics, which excludes oil spills. Mr. Mark Joyce, Associate Director, FACMD, clarified that EPA emphasizes non-biodegradable plastics as the major source of marine litter while still supporting environmental issues regarding oil spills and other river contaminants and incidents, such as the Tijuana River sewage water spill, which had damaging effects on the San Diego, California area.

Ms. Martha Bohrt (City of Norfolk), GAC member, pointed out the challenge of understanding and scientifically articulating whether projects would be sustainable past the initial 2-year funding period. Ms. Sandoval added that details on sustainability were not clearly defined in the projects. Dr. Nathan suggested that developing demonstration projects for recycling plastics would be a way to begin to address sustainability. Mr. Wennberg clarified that this project is focusing on data collection and community-based efforts to define sources of marine litter and increase awareness of the issues. Members noted the lack of incentives for recycling plastics and that the initiatives to prompt change would need to be established by the product suppliers. Mr. Wennberg pointed out that, in general, the measurement results should reflect not only completion of the activity but also how the main activities will confer real-world benefits to the community.

Shorebird Conservation. This project was not included in the online survey and may have been removed from the review process. Mr. Wennberg will clarify with EPA.

Food Loss and Waste Prevention. The committees thought that the rationale and goals were well described and that this project represents meritorious research.

ISO 50001. This project lacks TEK, youth and industry engagement efforts. Members recommended making improvements in these areas.

Black Carbon Emissions and Wood Combustion. The proposal does not address the regulatory differences in black carbon emission for the three countries, nor does it provide specifics on the differences between rural and metropolitan residential emissions and how these factors would affect interventions for improvements. EPA regulations on appliances already have resulted in reduced emissions in the United States. Also, TEK engagement should be a key component of the project.

Monarch Butterfly Conservation. The project is well described and meritorious, but lacks clarity on sustainability. Dr. Nathan lauded the efforts of the city of San Antonio, Texas, to conserve the monarch. He noted that conservationists from Canada, Mexico and the United States met in San Antonio in March 2017 for a 4-day workshop organized by the CEC. Ms. Sandoval commented that a progress update that describes this ongoing project is needed.

Extreme Heat Events. This is continuing from 2015–2016 as a Phase II project, but details of whether the project will proceed to Phase III or will end at Phase II are unclear. Mr. Troche explained that the project developers indicated that pilot studies conducted in three at-risk communities during Phase I were successful and that additional studies were necessary in this Phase II to build critical mass for the development of the evidence-based tools for syndromic surveillance systems. The CEC proposal review team is awaiting details on how health care organizations and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) would be engaged to use these tools. The CEC expects that this series of projects will end with Phase II. Members encouraged data sharing with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration to assist in modifying existing guidelines for heat-related illnesses and developing a transition plan to allow transfer of the tools to individual states or communities.

Marine Protected Areas. The project has well-defined, measurable results. Dr. Nathan asked whether this project and the Marine Litter project could be merged. Mr. Troche replied that the project designers had considered developing a comprehensive approach to merge the two scopes, but the level of expertise and tools needed for prevention of marine litter and managing marine protected areas would have made project management a major challenge.

CITES Appendix II Species. This is a project continuation, and further details are needed on which action plans will be addressed in this 2-year funding period. Mr. Troche explained that five action plans were developed in the prior funding cycle. Although not identified in the project description, the project developers have identified trinationally relevant action plans to implement that will have broad appeal to national governments as well as various stakeholders.

TEK Atlas/Inventory. Mr. Wennberg noted that the project was favorably reviewed in the survey. Members asked about intellectual property and tribal rights issues. Mr. Troche commented that the TEK Roster of Experts is enthusiastic that this atlas will contribute to the work of the CEC and develop a CEC TEK database that would showcase where the tribal nations are located, note their expertise and provide their contact information. He noted that tribal attorneys would be consulted to resolve legal issues. Mr. Kelly Wright (Fort Hall Indian Reservation), GAC member, expressed concern about the differences in tribal representation between the three countries and the safeguards to protect tribal knowledge.

Mr. Troche commented that the TEK Roster will determine how they will engage the tribal nations and EPA will respect the Roster's approach.

Maritime Transportation. This also is a project continuation, and more information is needed on Phases I and II.

Methane and Black Carbon Emissions. Dr. Nathan commented that hydraulic fracturing (fracking) excess products are not captured and are flared as waste. More research from the oil and gas industry is needed to refine these methods.

NAC Separate Meeting

Dr. Pardo explained that this session will focus on determining the process the committee will use to review the draft projects in the time allotted. The objective is to identify and share comments on the projects that best fit the CEC priorities and provide recommendations for improvements.

Members noted that the lack of details on the project development teams and clarity on who would be conducting the research presented a challenge when trying to address a project's sustainability. Engaging stakeholders (e.g., foundations) is one way to support a sustainable infrastructure past the 2-year funding cycle. Mr. Troche explained that the CEC projects are supported by the Secretariat and are guided by governmental experts from the three countries. The trilateral community of experts advise on the approach, strategy, objectives and outcomes of the projects. Some of the activities may be conducted by consultants to the CEC (e.g., developing best practice documents), and NGOs may be engaged as well. Trilateral committees, comprised of subject matter experts designated by the GSC and Alt Reps, collectively conceptualize the projects based on the priorities identified by the Council. Members encouraged EPA to develop ways to communicate and share data from the projects with the environmental community using available media outlets.

Mr. Tracy Hester (University of Houston Law Center), NAC member, asked whether the comments from the JPAC would be made available to the committees. Comments from the JPAC will be based on a trilateral perspective and are still pending. EPA is looking forward to advice from the NAC and the GAC on draft proposals; in contrast to JPAC's trilateral perspective, the NAC/GAC advice will represent the U.S. perspective, so it is unlikely that efforts will be duplicated.

Dr. Ivonne Santiago (University of Texas at El Paso), NAC member, asked whether there were mechanisms to identify and leverage existing environmental research initiatives funded by the NIH or other federal agencies. Mr. Troche noted that other initiatives could be addressed on the community level and possibly incorporated into CEC projects; EPA welcomes input from the NAC/GAC on this topic. Mr. Justin McCartney (The George Washington University), NAC member, pointed out that the diverse expertise of the NAC to have worked with different research funding mechanisms will be helpful in providing advice on implementing the CEC's trilateral projects that may need to reduce their capabilities due to limited funding or budgets.

Dr. Pardo highlighted three elements needed for each proposal: recommendations for improvements, relative merit and absolute value. Ms. Klein commented that the survey results should be used to set the framework for the review process, and Dr. Santiago suggested re-opening the survey to capture new comments and feedback to score the projects. Dr. Pardo noted the importance of the survey to start the review process and suggested two additional options for reviewing the 12 proposals in the allotted time: organizing into smaller teams to simultaneously discuss specific subsets or reviewing as one team. Mr. Antonioli suggested grouping the proposals according to how they align with the OP 2015–2020

Strategic Plan and then reviewing each group to address the common features. Members reviewed their comments individually to rank the proposals.

Overview of Charge Letter: Setting the Stage

Mark Kasman, Director, Office of Regional and Bilateral Affairs, OITA

Mr. Kasman expressed appreciation to the NAC and the GAC for their support and thanked the FACMD staff for organizing the meeting. He conveyed Ms. Nishida's regrets in having been detained from attending this morning's session due to conflicting priorities. Mr. Kasman explained the efforts that the CEC and EPA used to ensure that the proposal review process is transparent and open, which include requesting advice and guidance from the Council, the JPAC, the Alt Reps, and the NAC and the GAC to inform the decision-making process. The JPAC solicited comments from stakeholders as well. The 12 draft projects being discussed today were preselected from a larger pool by the CEC's GSC and have been confirmed by the Alt Reps. Mr. Kasman remarked that the feedback from the committees is coming at a good time and will help to shape the 2017–2018 OP and strengthen the CEC trilateral proposal program.

Question and Answer Period

Mr. Wennberg clarified that there are 12 draft projects to review. Materials distributed in advance of the meeting, including the survey, indicated 11 projects, but it appears that Project 2, Shorebird Conservation, had been removed from the meeting materials accidentally. He indicated that copies of this project will be made available shortly.

Dr. Santiago asked about evaluating the achievements of projects that continue to new funding cycles. Mr. Troche replied that the Secretariat measures performance and progress of the projects against the guidelines of the OP, which governs that funding cycle. Progress and updates on active projects are reviewed periodically during the 2-year funding period.

Ms. Simone Sagovac (Southwest Detroit Community Benefits Coalition), NAC member, asked whether fleet efficiency or transportation design was included in energy efficiency calculations for the ISO 50001 project. Mr. Troche could not comment on those things specifically, but will make a note to contact the trilateral team of experts working on this project for a response.

Ms. Sagovac also asked whether efforts to reduce black carbon emissions by reducing the use of wood combustion included providing assistance or alternate energy solutions to communities with limited resources to acquire EPA-certified appliances. Mr. Troche explained that these considerations were outside of the scope of this current project, but other efforts such as the Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves possibly could be leveraged.

In response to a query on the project proposal application template and how the individual questions were weighted in the selection process, Mr. Troche responded that projects were scored based on how well they aligned with the nine trilateral priority areas and fostered collaborations on all levels (e.g., community, academia). Scored projects were ranked and reviewed by the Alt Reps for concurrence.

Mr. McCartney asked whether the committees should suggest or identify other funding sources for the projects given the pending budgetary concerns that EPA could experience. Mr. Kasman noted that the CEC and EPA welcome ideas for ways to leverage other funding sources for the trilateral projects, but efforts will continue to support projects with the current CEC budget and funding capacity.

Members asked about the status, previous outcomes and long-term plans for the monarch butterfly project, which has been a long-term project for multiple funding cycles. Mr. Troche explained that EPA has requested the trilateral team working on this project to provide additional details on the scope of the scientific research and use of pollinators; those details still are pending. Mr. Kasman noted the monarch butterfly update from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) presented at the November 2016 NAC/GAC meeting showed progress from the two prior CEC projects. Dr. Santiago wondered why efforts to address the issue of the decreasing honey bee population (i.e., other pollinators) were not mentioned in the monarch butterfly project. Mr. Troche noted that the JPAC had made similar suggestions and EPA is recommending that the project developers seriously consider these comments to strengthen the proposal. Mr. Hester called attention to a petition to list the monarch under the Endangered Species Act by 2019 and wondered whether noting this would be relevant to the project. Dr. Nathan was curious to know the role or current activities of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) in monarch conservation. Mr. Kasman will ensure that EPA works to engage the USDA in activities for monarch conservation similar to the EPA-USDA collaborations on food waste.

Dr. Santiago pointed out that composting was not included as a strategy to circumvent food waste and prevention along the U.S.-Mexico border, and Carolyn Green (EnerGreen), NAC member, suggested that consideration be given to recovery and donation efforts. Health issues and possibly U.S. Food and Drug Administration regulations often prevent organizations from donating prepared food. Engaging interested parties in discussions on safe food donations could strengthen the project.

Ms. Klein asked whether the marine litter project developers already had identified specific North American border watersheds and stakeholder groups. Mr. Troche noted that specific watersheds are yet to be decided and explained that the project will use EPA's Trash-Free Waters (TFW) program, which is a stakeholder-based approach, as a framework. Mr. Kasman added that opportunities exist to build on existing networks or to establish new networks within the framework of the TFW program. Dr. Santiago wondered whether EPA was planning to establish a program similar to TFW to address problems with desert trash. Mr. Kasman referred to EPA's Border 2020 Program as one possible avenue to address this issue. Ms. Sagovac emphasized the need to increase community awareness of the fact that marine litter is a result of land-based trash.

Public Comment Period

Mr. Wennberg indicated that Dr. Ariana Sutton-Grier, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), had provided written comments prior to the meeting. Dr. Sutton-Grier expressed concern with the CEC OP Projects proposal review and selection process after her attempts to submit a proposal on blue carbon emissions were unsuccessful. She suggested reviewing the trilateral proposal acceptance process.

Mr. Joyce explained that the CEC's OP Projects are organized via an interagency process. The U.S. Department of Commerce is the governmental agency that would oversee applications from NOAA and would be the appropriate place to address proposal acceptance issues. Mr. Wennberg added that invited proposals are accepted through various governmental agencies within the three countries. Once received, the proposals then are subjected to an internal review and selection process.

Recognizing that there could be overarching issues regarding the internal review and selection process, members recommended that EPA provide guidance on the expectations for CEC OP trilateral proposal submissions within agencies.

Update on CEC: Operational Plan and Council Session

Cesar Rafael Chavez, Executive Director, CEC Secretariat (via Adobe® Connect)

Mr. Cesar Chavez updated members on the activities of the CEC, its 2015–2016 OP and future directions. He began by reporting on the progress of the 16 active trilateral projects:

- *Integrated Modeling and Assessment of North American Forest Carbon Dynamics and Climate Change Mitigation Options*
- *Helping North American Communities Adapt to Climate Change: A Pilot Syndromic Surveillance System for Extreme Heat*
- *North American Initiative on Food Waste Reduction and Recovery*
- *North American Initiative on Organic Waste Diversion and Processing*
- *North American Blue Carbon: Next Steps in Science for Policy*
- *Reducing Emissions From Goods Movement via Maritime Transportation in North America (Phase II)*
- *Enhancing North American Enforcement of the IMO Maritime Fuel Sulfur Limits*
- *Accelerating Adoption of ISO 50001 and Superior Energy Performance Certifications*
- *Strengthening Conservation and Sustainable Production of Selected CITES' Appendix II Species in North America*
- *Greening of Chemicals Management in North America*
- *Arctic Migratory Birds Initiative (AMBI)—The Americas' Flyway Action Plan*
- *Engaging Farmers and Other Landowners to Support Monarch Butterfly and Pollinator Conservation*
- *Monarch Butterfly Flyway: Communication, Participatory Conservation and Education*
- *Local Environmental Observer (LEO) Network*
- *Using Ecosystem Function and Traditional Ecological Knowledge Together to Build Resilience and Adapt to Climate Change in North America*
- *Marine Protected Areas: Strengthening Management Effectiveness and Supporting Coastal Community Resilience*

The projects are in the final 3 months of the current OP schedule, which ends June 2017, and most are in the process of completing data collections and workshops and developing the final reports, which will be published in English, Spanish and French. The Greening of Chemicals Management in North America project experienced early challenges due to delays in establishing the necessary material agreements and more than likely will need an extension to achieve the proposed goals. Detailed descriptions of the projects are provided in the 2015–2016 OP, which is accessible from the CEC website.

Mr. Chavez noted CEC's other initiatives: North American Land Change Monitoring System; North American Atlas; North American Pollutant Releases and Transfers; and North American Portal on Climate Pollutants. Improvements on these initiatives are ongoing.

In addition to the OP Projects, the CEC funds the North American Partnership for Environmental Community Action (NAPECA) grants, which are smaller community-based projects. In the 2015–2016 funding cycle, the CEC made 21 awards: eight to Canada, six to Mexico, and seven to the United States. One of the Canadian projects has been completed. All others are ongoing and are expected to be completed by June 2017. A comprehensive assessment of the NAPECA program, which was requested by the Council, is currently in progress, and recommendations are scheduled to be completed in April 2017. These recommendations will focus on making improvements to the NAPECA grants selection process.

Mr. Chavez informed the committees that the agenda for the June 2017 Council Session will include discussions on green innovations, approval of the 2017–2018 OP and launch of the new 2017–2018 NAPECA grant proposals. In February 2017, the CEC launched a Youth Innovation Challenge titled “How Green Is Your Dream” as a trinational crowdsourcing challenge on green growth for youth ages 18 to 26. More than 75 ideas have been submitted since the launch; winners will be announced at the 2017 Council Session. Lastly, the city of Charlottetown and Prince Edward Island will host an interactive public exhibit titled “Connecting Communities for a Health Community,” which will feature community-based efforts that are supported by the CEC.

Question and Answer Period

In response to a question on the review of the impact of projects that have been completed, Mr. Chavez replied that the CEC is developing an assessment tool to measure the environmental impact of prior projects; this tool will extend further than the current practice of reporting on the project’s deliverables.

Ms. Sagovac asked whether self-reporting is the method used to collect emissions inventory data for the portal on climate pollutants. Mr. Chavez explained that subject matter experts from the three countries provided input on the design and data that would be collected for the portal. Reporting stations that have advanced to share their emissions data have done so through the efforts of EPA, Environment Canada and the Secretariat of Environment and Natural Resources of Mexico (SEMARNAT); tools are in place to harmonize these common baseline data.

Joint Public Advisory Committee Report-Out on Mexico Meeting

Eric Dannenmaier, Chair, JPAC (via phone)

Mr. Dannenmaier discussed JPAC’s actions. He was joined by Ms. Marcela Orozco, JPAC Liaison Officer, and Mr. Robert Varney (Normandeau Associates), JPAC member, who provided an update on the March 23, 2017, JPAC meeting that was held in Tuxtla Gutiérrez, Chiapas, Mexico. The December 2016 JPAC session was held in Long Beach, California, and the theme for the meeting was greening freight operations across North America. The session brought together experts from industry, academia, government and the public to report on successful programs that have been implemented by port authorities, government and industry. Discussions included reducing emissions and sharing best practices, greening operations to achieve climate commitments, and reducing emissions from goods movement via maritime transportation in North America.

Prior to the March 2017 meeting, the JPAC led consultations on the draft project proposals for the 2017–2018 OP. The public was asked to consider the following three questions: (1) Can the project’s youth and education components, if applicable, be strengthened? (2) Is there potential to engage industries and foundations under this project to allow it to be sustained beyond the CEC? and (3) Is there opportunity to integrate TEK, if applicable? Feedback received through an online portal from stakeholders in North America was provided to the GSC at the March 23, 2017 meeting. The public comments will be posted to the CEC website. The JPAC also engaged the TEK Roster of Experts to provide comments on the draft project proposals during this meeting.

Mr. Varney reported on the March 23, 2017 JPAC meeting. The Alt Reps, CEC staff, JPAC and TEK Roster met the day before the meeting to discuss the scope of work and comments on the draft project proposals. More than 200 members of the public attended the meeting in-person, and roughly 5,000 people attended via live video streaming on Facebook Live. There was a strong presence from local universities, including students and faculty. Local high school students attended in high numbers as well. The theme of the meeting was reducing and managing food and organic waste streams in North America; presentations included updates from the CEC, World Bank and SEMARNAT. Mr. Varney remarked on

the high level of interest of the meeting participants in reducing and managing food and organic waste; he noted that the time is ripe for action and the CEC has identified these issues as a priority for North America. Meeting discussants identified a need to harmonize efforts; develop standard methodologies for measuring, monitoring and quantifying waste; and determine ways to address capability building, training and education. Full details of the meeting can be accessed from the CEC website: www.cec.org/news-and-outreach/events/reducing-and-managing-food-and-organic-waste-streams-north-america.

Mr. Dannenmaier briefly touched on the upcoming meeting that will convene on Portage Island, Ontario, Canada, in the summer of 2017. Canadian GSC representative Helena Olivas is leading the planning efforts, and representatives from the three countries are assisting Ms. Olivas in deciding on the final theme and developing the agenda—the JPAC is looking forward to developing a session that will complement this theme. Mr. Dannenmaier acknowledged two new Canadian JPAC members: Sabaa Khan, a jurist specializing in international and trade law, and Dean Jacobs, former chief of the Walpole Island First Nation and founder of the Walpole Island Heritage Centre. This restores the JPAC members to a full complement.

Question and Answer Period

Mr. Wennberg lauded JPAC’s efforts to engage youth in environmental issues and increase participation in the public forum. He asked to what the positive response could be attributed. Mr. Dannenmaier noted the JPAC-led 2-year communications strategy, developed with support of the Secretariat, to expand outreach efforts. Ms. Orozco attributed much of the success to Facebook Live, which is a minimum financial investment for the CEC. The JPAC will develop a report that will be shared with the committees describing successful strategies to engage youth in environmental-related public forums.

Mr. Troche wondered whether there were plans to capture information on the number of online viewers that attended from each of the three countries and their level of interest in the environment.

Mr. Dannenmaier explained that general demographic information is collected via Facebook Live, but requesting more information creates barriers to informal public engagement and participation—one strategy would be to develop a short survey that would balance the two. Mr. Hester recommended consulting the Federal Advisory Committee Act rules on the use of social media for outreach before engaging in those activities for these meetings.

Working Session II: Summary and Next Steps

Jeffrey Wennberg, Chair of the GAC

Theresa Pardo, Ph.D., Chair of the NAC

GAC Separate Meeting

Mr. Wennberg reminded members of the charge for this meeting. He explained that the committee will review each of the proposals and develop formal recommendations for the advice letter.

Marine Litter. The committee believes that the project developers should leverage—as well as share—existing strategies at the national and sub-national level in the three countries. The opportunity exists to partner with active border control programs in Canada and Mexico. Members suggested two options for encouraging youth engagement: increase awareness among children and young adults through partnerships with national aquariums and museums and incorporate marine litter into waste management-based educational curricula. Mr. Wright pointed out that the TEK component includes citizen science and cautioned that this approach would not encourage participation from the tribes. Incorporating TEK should be independent of the science and should be incorporated early in the marine litter efforts. Mr. Cornelius Antone (Tohono O’odham Nation), GAC member, explained that tribes may not be available locally

depending on the location of the pilot sites and would have to be willing to share their TEK. Mr. Wright added that EPA Region 10 would be one place to consider engaging tribes on TEK.

Shorebirds Conservation. Ms. Suzanne Hanson (Minnesota Pollution Control Agency), GAC member, suggested leveraging existing resources that might have data on shorebird conservation, including the FWS. Noting that the project has the potential to attract outside funding, members suggested engaging private partners such as Ducks Unlimited and the National Audubon Society. Engaging the public through social media by establishing special groups for bird enthusiasts could help to increase awareness on this issue. This project's activities to incorporate TEK are thoughtful and well described, so it should be an example for other proposals.

Food Loss and Waste Prevention. Members noted that the project's list of other agencies and constituencies is limited and suggested including the links and contact information from the December 2016 advice letters. It was suggested that the project developers consider incorporating food preservation and technology development into the scope and conducting a meta-analysis of previous experiments that have been conducted in various jurisdictions (e.g., Vermont, USA; Mexico City, Mexico; Ontario, Canada; and Hennepin County, Minnesota, USA) to inform these efforts. Mr. Wright pointed out that TEK communities focus on prevention, not management, of food waste. Also, minimization of food has not been a subject of tribal experience because tribes historically harvested only what was needed.

ISO 50001. Members commented that the proposal is written such that incorporating TEK would be challenging. They suggested that TEK might be involved depending on the industry selected for the pilot studies, given that all possible industries will be identified.

Black Carbon Emissions and Wood Combustion. Although the information regarding improving black carbon emissions inventory data for residential wood combustion is easy to grasp, the members observed that the project description fails to indicate how the development of this information will provide a benefit and to whom. Project developers should consider engaging relevant groups or organizations to assist in inventory design. Wood burning occurs in several non-residential scenarios, and thus the scope should be expanded to include the appropriate industries, activities and categories of wood use. In addition, engaging academic research scientists to develop projects for college students would be one strategy to incorporate youth involvement.

Monarch Butterfly Conservation. Noting that the continuing focus on the monarch butterfly captures the public's attention, members were concerned that this project is too limited to address the larger issues. It was suggested that the project developer include a larger number of pollinators that are threatening extinction.

Extreme Heat Events. Members suggested including the U.S. Public Health Service and its counterparts in Canada and Mexico.

Marine Protected Areas. Members noted that the project has very well-planned methods to incorporate TEK. They suggested establishing an ongoing organization or association of marine protected area managers and key stakeholders as a project deliverable. Also, there is high potential to attract collaborative partnerships, for example, with the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute.

CITES Appendix II Species. Members observed that the project description is weak and appears to have been written prematurely; they recommended a thorough revision of the proposal once the specific action plans are selected.

TEK Atlas/Inventory. Establishing a North American TEK Atlas has significant value, but Mr. Wright and Mr. Antone explained that TEK is not a discrete body of knowledge that can be catalogued. Project

developers should acknowledge that many tribes may not participate—TEK is a tradition and often one that is not shared. A question to be answered is whether tribes in the three countries will be engaged in the same manner, given the different legal status of Mexican tribes.

Maritime Transportation. The project is clearly a special purpose project for Mexico with a defined goal. Achieving the goal will be the final activity for the project with no expectation of continuation.

Methane and Black Carbon Emissions. Members noted two applications for the outputs of the project: (1) an opportunity to generate interest in the development of cost-effective technologies to reduce the waste of this energy source, and (2) an opportunity to quantify the environmental and health impacts from the emissions.

NAC Separate Meeting

Dr. Pardo suggested that the committee review, in this session, a set of proposals that closely align with the 2017–2018 CEC OP priorities. Members suggested that the projects related to shorebird conservation, food loss and prevention, and conservation of the monarch butterfly aligned well with the theme of the CEC and provided, within the projects, additional opportunities to accomplish other CEC goals. Ms. Klein pointed out that the draft proposals have been developed, but could be improved in many areas. She wondered about the procedure to make revisions. Dr. Pardo explained that the CEC, through its proposal process as described by EPA, has selected these projects and full proposals will need to be submitted. The NAC has been asked to provide advice on the draft proposals, not to select new areas of research.

Ms. Green pointed out that in general, many of the proposals support activities and outreach for youth, but lack efforts to encourage intergenerational transfer of TEK. Mr. Antonioli commented that the food loss and prevention project provides an opportunity to measure and assess cost across the three countries, as each country presents a different set of challenges regarding food production centers. Ms. Klein noted the challenge to understand the proposal on marine protected areas. Ms. Sagovac suggested discussing new projects prior to discussing those that were continuing and had received prior funding from the CEC.

Dr. Santiago wondered what was being proposed in the monarch butterfly project that was different from prior projects supported by the CEC. Dr. Pardo explained that the NAC would advise the CEC to harmonize these efforts; it then would be up to the project developers to address this issue. Ms. Sara Hopper (DuPont), NAC member, emphasized the need to ensure that the message that habitat loss associated with the monarch butterfly is real in the United States is clear across all communities, especially the Trade Association, and she commented on the need to increase awareness of the trilateral conservation efforts. Ms. Hester echoed Ms. Hopper's comments that a broader perspective is needed on monarch butterfly conservation. Thus, addressing an unmet need and filling gaps in the research as the CEC and EPA are aiming to do by collectively addressing this issue using a trilateral approach is not unreasonable.

After discussion, the monarch butterfly conservation and food waste projects ranked high on the committee's list as the first proposals to review in-depth.

Monarch Butterfly Conservation. Ms. Klein provided the NAC an overview of the monarch butterfly environmental issues. She suggested that efforts to conserve the monarch butterfly in North America might best be led by the Trilateral Committee for Wildlife and Ecosystem Conservation and Management, which is under the leadership of the FWS; Canadian Wildlife Service; and Mexico's National Commission of Natural Protected Areas. Monitoring and citizen science monarch watch protocols are being developed, but there is a gap in coordination, and protocols are not compatible in the three countries. The best role for the CEC might be to serve as the bridge to link the science to pending

regulatory guidelines that may be issued. Also, engaging local non-U.S. governments would be better suited to the CEC. Although the science is multidimensional and poorly understood and designating the monarch as an umbrella species has value, this project may be too ambitious to address these issues simultaneously. In addition, more research is needed to better understand the monarch's migration and the habitats in Mexico that exist between Texas and the wintering grounds. Mr. McCartney echoed Ms. Klein that the project should focus less on the science and should incorporate outreach efforts to colleges and universities to engage students in field monitoring activities. Members suggested that the project developers consider identifying a central leadership, conducting in-depth searches of the literature to ensure efforts are not duplicated, leveraging existing initiatives and resources, incorporating methods to track the monarch population with changing weather conditions, and partnering with major international stakeholders (e.g., World Wildlife Fund) and well-known philanthropists with environmental interests (e.g., Carlos Slim Helu). Ms. Klein will forward a list of potential partners to the Chair.

Food Loss and Waste Prevention. Members pointed out that the measures are not clearly defined and more details on how they will be improved are needed. Mr. Hester asked EPA about the measurement deficiencies and whether this proposal is verifying a specific technology. Ms. Krystal Krejcik, Life Scientist, Office of Resource Conservation and Recovery, Office of Land and Emergency Management, EPA, explained that the Agency has been working closely with the World Resource Institute to incorporate measurement strategies and a food waste prevention and reduction toolkit. The prior food waste and recovery projects identified data gaps, which are listed in the foundational report still being finalized; this project is a continuance to address those data gaps. Data harmonizing issues will need to be resolved for data collected within the United States as well as in other countries. Mr. Hester clarified that the aim of the proposal is to identify the data gaps and develop a suite of technologies to address them; the gaps already have been identified and are documented in the soon-to-be-released foundational report. Members suggested developing a targeted communications strategy that places more emphasis on industry and trade groups and determining, in each of the three countries, whether the method in which food is transported from supplier to consumer contributes to food loss.

Dr. Pardo reminded members of the three considerations to the charge question. She opened discussions on the replicability, sustainability, scalability, youth engagement and TEK efforts of the monarch butterfly conservation project. The committees completed an online survey prior to the meeting that assessed the degree to which each project addressed the charge; the results have been made available to the members. Ms. Sagovac suggested that the scientists provide more details on what is or has been considered replicable for the monarch project. Members commented that multilevel partnerships and stakeholder engagement will help with sustainability past the 2-year funding cycle. Youth engagement could be expanded to include outreach to K-12 schools and university research scientists who are connected to student research training programs. Efforts to improve TEK are needed, and consulting with those experts well-versed on monarch-specific TEK would be one place to start.

Members commented that making determinations on the replicability of the food loss and waste prevention project is challenging due to the disparate nature of the project's activities. The project aims to develop tools, but the extent that these tools will be relevant to other locations is yet to be determined.

Next Steps

Mr. Carrillo explained the logistics for the following day and completion of the meeting agenda. The meeting was recessed at 5:12 p.m. EDT.

Wednesday, March 29, 2017

Call to Order

Mr. Carrillo called the meeting to order and reviewed the day's agenda, which focused on final reviews of the CEC 2017–2018 draft project proposals. Mr. Carrillo introduced Ms. Stephanie McCoy, FACMD, Office of Administration and Resources Management, EPA, to provide logistical information regarding travel vouchers and other matters.

Working Session III: Committee Meets Separately

Mr. Wennberg explained that the NAC and GAC would meet separately, then reconvene for a report on their individual deliberations.

GAC Separate Meeting

Mr. Wennberg opened the GAC discussion. He explained that this final working session will include reviewing the draft comments that were developed in the second working session, refining the statements, and discussing any new concerns. The committee performed a final review of the draft project proposals in reverse order (i.e., 12–1); those needing further discussion are highlighted below.

Methane and Black Carbon Emissions. Mr. Wennberg pointed out that the project will measure methane and black carbon emissions at flaring sites in Mexico and also would be applicable to Canada and the United States. The description should be modified to demonstrate the scalability of the project. In response to a question about whether the companies performing fracking in the United States also did this work in Canada and Mexico, Dr. Nathan explained that the companies as well as the regulations were different, but the technologies are similar. The Railroad Commission of Texas regulates the oil and gas industry in the United States, including drilling, and Pemex is the largest oil and gas distributor in Mexico. He pointed out that flaring was due to the inefficient process, which produces more product than can be collected. Large refineries also flare waste products at times, but they capture a large percentage of their products. Ms. Brock wondered whether it would be feasible to engage scientists, engineers and entrepreneurs to develop new technologies that would capture products more effectively. Ms. Sandoval pointed out that emissions from flaring are estimated per the Air Pollution-42, Compilation of Air Emission Factors, which is based on prior research. She emphasized the value of having precise measurements generated from current data.

TEK Atlas/Inventory. Members pointed out that the tribal legal status differences should be addressed sooner rather than later. Mr. Joyce explained that Ms. Nishida and OITA would be able to provide more details and clarification on these issues. He noted that he is not aware of any formal legal or governmental representation of indigenous people in Mexico. Ms. Hanson commented that tribal relations in Mexico may differ from those of Canada and the United States, but the Canadian First Nations are treated different than tribal nations in the United States—three approaches to establishing the TEK atlas may be necessary. Ms. Bohrt re-emphasized the need for the atlas regardless of whether the governments recognize tribal nations and that the environmental issues are similar in the three countries. Mr. Wennberg asked whether the Mexican government had approved this proposal. Mr. Joyce explained that the Alt Reps had concurred on the 12 draft proposals, but he was not clear on the next steps. He will ask Mr. Troche to provide more details to the committees. Members recommended that the TEK atlas include federally and non-federally recognized tribes.

Extreme Heat Events. Ms. Brock noted that extreme heat events sometimes are associated with natural disasters and suggested that the Federal Emergency Management Agency and its counterparts in Canada

and Mexico might have a role in this project. Members considered moving away from what may be considered controversial language (e.g., climate change) to emphasize the health issues.

Monarch Butterfly Conservation. Mr. Antone suggested collecting monarch-related data from tribes rather than conducting a literature search.

Black Carbon Emissions and Wood Combustion. Members suggested that the survey reflects that wood burning is a cultural practice and is not just related to economics or heating.

ISO 50001. Given the complex nature of the standard, members wondered whether adoption of an ISO 50001-like standard that could derive similar benefits would remove some of the obstacles to participation.

NAC Separate Meeting

Dr. Pardo opened the discussion to continue reviewing the draft project proposals. She explained that the goal is to provide a minimum of three comments/recommendations on each proposal for the advice letter. The proposals will be reviewed in the order established in the NAC Working Session II.

Marine Litter. Mr. McCartney noted the strong focus on local activities and local stakeholder groups and suggested including a comprehensive list of stakeholders in the proposal. Ms. Klein pointed out that establishing new local networks could be challenging and the project developers should consider leveraging existing local networks to learn from their early startup strategies. Recognizing EPA's definition of marine litter as solid waste, Mr. Antonioli expressed concern that the strategy described in the proposal may not provide the best solution, and Ms. Hopper agreed. Addressing the intellectual merit of the proposal, Dr. Santiago asked whether what the project developers are proposing will change the culture in the community regarding marine waste.

Marine Protected Areas. Members commented that the project did not seem to be a continuance from the prior funding cycle. There was skepticism as to whether the tools would apply to a set of adaptation principles, and how the project developers intend to manage an ecosystem seems vague. Clarity is needed on the deliverables, training and who will be doing the work.

TEK Atlas/Inventory. Members observed that the proposal does not provide measurable results for the case studies of TEK integration. Also, including examples of prior case studies and methods that will be used to ensure that the case studies are culturally representative would be helpful. Although case studies are important to the project, Mr. Antonioli suggested linking TEK to a broader effort such as conservation, which could be incorporated into related governmental decision-making processes. Ms. Green expressed concern that the proposal does not describe how the validity of social media documentation regarding youth outreach would be screened for accuracy. Mr. McCartney noted the importance of addressing intellectual property and tribal rights in the proposal.

Shorebird Conservation. Members thought that the proposal aligns well with trilateral priorities and has robust methods to incorporate TEK and youth outreach. Mr. Antonioli suggested that the project developers address long-term financial sustainability.

CITES Appendix II Species. Ms. Klein noted that key partners, state programs and organizations in the United States were not referenced. Academic centers, the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies and other formalized groups that are invested in endangered species-related work should be included in the proposal. Mr. Carey wondered whether the project was too ambitious in the planned activities that could be completed in 2 years. Mr. McCartney pointed out that the goals and deliverables were not aligned.

Maritime Transportation. Members suggested that the proposal place more emphasis on the human health aspect and societal benefits of this work and link to larger efforts of the International Maritime Organization.

ISO 50001. Ms. Green expressed concern that the proposal aims to promote widespread adoption of the standard simultaneously in different sectors, which could potentially result in double counting of emissions reductions. Ms. Klein noted that the measurable results lack appropriate baselines or metrics and are not quantifiable.

Methane and Black Carbon Emissions. Members commented that the trilateral aspect was less pronounced than that of the other proposals.

Extreme Heat Events. Ms. Green wondered whether there was a mechanism to link the extreme heat events to the six criteria air pollutants (e.g., carbon monoxide, lead, ground-level ozone, nitrogen dioxide, particulate matter, and sulfur dioxide) or ozone episode forecasting. Depending on the geographical location, extreme heat events could accelerate ozone levels. Mr. McCartney lauded the robust youth engagement efforts and suggested emphasizing the health-related issues and identifying at-risk communities. Members recommended expanding partnership efforts and promoting effective coordination between federal, state and local governments.

Black Carbon Emissions and Wood Combustion. Members noted that the TEK efforts could be improved as well as the survey details (e.g., who the survey is targeting) and the scope of the wood burning activities.

Public Comment Period

No public comments were offered.

Committees Reconvene in Plenary Session

Report-Outs From the NAC and GAC Chairs

Mr. Wennberg explained that the committees will compare notes on the observations and recommendations for the draft project proposals. He welcomed Ms. Nishida to the meeting and invited her to make comments. Ms. Nishida thanked the NAC/GAC for their hard work and for investing the time to provide comments on the CEC's 2017–2018 OP draft project proposals. She regretted her inability to attend earlier and remarked that OITA was well represented by Mr. Kasman and Mr. Troche. Ms. Nishida pointed out that the committees' comments will be extremely helpful to EPA as she represents the United States on the March 2017 Alt Reps call—the Alt Reps will engage in discussions on ways to improve and strengthen the projects.

Dr. Pardo reviewed the NAC deliberations. She conveyed the committee's appreciation for the opportunity to provide comments and advice for the draft proposals. The diverse expertise and backgrounds of the NAC members brought different perspectives to the review process that will add value to the projects and speak to the power of citizen engagement. In their review process, the committee discussed how well the projects addressed trilateral engagement and the CEC's priorities and demonstrated strong face validity (e.g., purpose or rationale). Dr. Pardo stated that the monarch butterfly, food waste and shorebird projects, which are high stakeholder engagement efforts, received the most agreement within the committee. Projects that involved setting standards across institutions and jurisdictions or aimed to develop compliance in complex infrastructures, such as ISO 50001, were the most challenging to review. Members observed that the proposals lacked clarity, did not provide detailed descriptions on the methods, lacked specificity in measurable outcomes, and did not provide clear links to ongoing efforts. In addition, there were minimal details on financial sustainability past the 2-year funding

cycle. The proposals could be improved and strengthened by addressing these concerns and leveraging resources outside of the federal government. The committee recommended that the CEC consider the following when structuring future proposals: describing the return on investment, leveraging existing resources and mapping the proposal sections to the acceptance criteria.

Dr. Pardo summarized the NAC's comments. Members observed that the marine litter proposal contained several methodology issues, such as not specifying the local stakeholder groups; unclear criteria for selecting pilot sites; lack of concrete plans for several activities; and a mismatch between the strategy, EPA's TFW program and the problem of solid waste. In general, the NAC thought that the shorebird conservation proposal aligns well as a trilateral initiative and also includes strong components for youth engagement, but needs more details on the long-term sustainability of the project. The measures for the expanding food loss and waste recovery project are loosely defined and should be improved. Gaps in data and the suite of technologies that will be used to gather the data need to be defined. The project's sustainability could be strengthened by making connections to food security initiatives.

Members pointed out the complex barriers for the ISO 50001 project regarding the role of government in adopting this standard and monitoring the energy efficiency of industrial supply chains. The baseline and targets for the measurable results are not well defined. Substantial corporate engagement would be necessary for sustainability. The NAC thought that the amount of money requested for the budget for the black carbon emissions inventory data project was high, given that a survey-based data collection method is being used. Also, there is a missed opportunity for incorporating TEK in the project.

Mr. Wennberg reviewed the GAC deliberations. The committee used the online survey completed prior to the meeting as the initial framework for the review process. They engaged in a review of how well the 12 draft proposals addressed the acceptance criteria. The GAC then drafted a set of suggestions on ways the CEC could improve and strengthen each proposal. Mr. Wennberg summarized the suggestions and noted that the complete list will be included in the advice letter to the Administrator. The GAC suggested that the project on marine litter leverage existing trinational strategies and active border programs, partner with organizations such as national aquariums and museums to engage youth, and select a shared border watershed pilot site that will provide an opportunity for the use of TEK. The project has the potential to attract philanthropic support, which could be leveraged financially. Members noted that the FWS has data on conserving shorebirds in North America and should be listed as a governmental partner in the proposal. Given the network of bird enthusiasts throughout the continent, members suggested establishing social media groups to engage this segment of the population and increase public awareness of this issue. Potential financial partners might include the oil and gas industry, the National Audubon Society and Ducks Unlimited.

The GAC suggested engaging other governmental agencies and stakeholder organizations for the expanding food loss and waste recovery project and referred to the examples listed in the December 12, 2016 GAC advice letter. The proposal should encourage technology development for food preservation and data analysis of other initiatives involved in organic waste separation. The strategy to include TEK is needs improvement because tribes generally only harvest what is needed—TEK communities focus on prevention and not management of food waste. The inclusion of TEK was listed as not applicable in the ISO 50001 proposal, but the GAC thought that the industry selected to pilot the standard (e.g., agriculture or casinos) would be the driver for incorporating TEK into the project. The GAC expressed concern that the complex nature of the project would discourage participation, especially for smaller industries—adoption of a similar and less stringent standard might be one strategy to consider. Regarding black carbon emissions inventory data, members suggested that incorporating youth engagement would strengthen the project. Focusing on residential use of wood may be too narrow—wood burning occurs in nonresidential industries as well.

Ms. Nishida complimented the committees on their outstanding work, which has exceeded all of EPA's expectations. She looks forward to reviewing the remaining comments on the other projects, which could not all be discussed in the time allotted.

Adjournment

Mr. Wennberg noted many changes to the agenda before it was finalized and on the website. The committees embraced the dynamic nature of this meeting and most worked outside of their comfort zones in regard to the pace. He expressed appreciation to EPA for allowing the Chairs to change the structure of the meeting, which gave the members an opportunity to use their expertise in reviewing the draft project proposals. Mr. Wennberg thanked the GAC for their continued support.

Dr. Pardo echoed Mr. Wennberg on the dynamic nature of the meeting. She thanked the NAC for the interactive work sessions and EPA for the opportunity to participate in the proposal review process. She also expressed appreciation to FACMD staff for their continued support of the NAC/GAC.

Mr. Carrillo thanked Ms. Nishida for taking the time to attend the meeting and expressed appreciation to Mr. Kasman and Mr. Troche for making themselves available to answer questions during the 2-day meeting. He also expressed appreciation to FACMD staff, Ms. Geraldine Brown, Ms. Shirley Jones, and Ms. McCoy, for their efforts in preparing for the meeting.

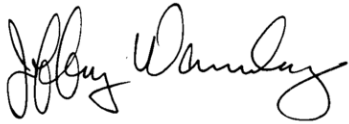
Dr. Pardo and Mr. Wennberg adjourned the meeting at 12:31 p.m. EDT.

Action Items

- ❖ Members recommended that EPA provide guidance on the expectations for CEC OP trilateral proposal submissions within agencies.
- ❖ Members will forward information on potential partners and outreach efforts, including names of organizations and links to websites, to the Chairs.
- ❖ Ms. Orozco will forward information on successful strategies to engage youth in environmental-related public forms to Mr. Carrillo to distribute to the members.
- ❖ Dr. Pardo will share her draft advice letter on draft proposal descriptions with the NAC members for their comments.
- ❖ Mr. Wennberg will share his draft advice letter on draft proposal descriptions with the GAC members for their comments.

Summary Certification

I, Jeffrey Wennberg, Chair of the Governmental Advisory Committee, and I, Theresa Pardo, Chair of the National Advisory Committee, certify that the meeting minutes for the dates of March 28–29, 2017, as hereby detailed, contain a record of the persons present and give an accurate description of matters discussed and conclusions reached and copies of all reports received, issued or approved by the advisory committees. My signature date complies with the 90-day due date after each meeting required by the GSA Final Rule.



Jeffrey Wennberg
Chair, GAC

June 20, 2017
Date



Theresa Pardo
Chair, NAC

May 19, 2017
Date

Appendix A: Meeting Participants

NAC Members

Theresa Pardo, Ph.D., Chair

Director
Center for Technology in Government
Associate Professor of Public Administration
and Policy
University at Albany
State University of New York

David Antonioli

Chief Executive Officer
Verified Carbon Standard

Andrew P. Carey

Executive Director
U.S.-Mexico Border Philanthropy Partnership

Carolyn L. Green

Founder/Managing Partner
EnerGreen Capital Management, LLC

Tracy Hester, J.D.

Professor of Practice
University of Houston Law Center

Sara E. Hopper

Manager
Federal Government Affairs
DuPont

Mary L. Klein

President and CEO
NatureServe

Justin Robert McCartney

Georgetown University Undergraduate Student
The Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign
Service
Georgetown University

Simone Sagovac

Project Director
Southwest Detroit Community Benefits
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Ivonne Santiago, Ph.D.

Professor
College of Engineering
University of Texas at El Paso

GAC Members

Jeffrey Wennberg, Chair

Commissioner of Public Works
City of Rutland, Vermont

Patty Acomb

City Council Member
Government Administration
City of Minnetonka, Minnesota

Cornelius Antone

Environmental Engineer
Department of Safety
Tohono O'odham Nation
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Martha Bohrt

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Air Quality Division
Michigan Department of Environmental Quality

Cristina Viesca-Santos, J.D.

Assistant County Attorney
El Paso County Attorney's Office

Kelly C. Wright
Program Manager
Environmental Waste Manager Program
Shoshone-Bannock Tribes
Fort Hall Indian Reservation

Designated Federal Officer

Oscar Carrillo
Federal Advisory Committee Management
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EPA Participants

Geraldine Brown
Federal Advisory Committee Management
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Lisa Goldman
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U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Monisha Harris
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Division
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Shirley Jones
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Mark Joyce
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Mark Kasman
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Krystal Krejcik
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Stephanie McCoy
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Jane Nishida
Acting Assistant Administrator
Office of International and Tribal Affairs
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Luis Troche
Acting Senior Advisor
North American Program
Office of International and Tribal Affairs
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Other Participants

Eric Dannenmaier
Chair
Joint Public Advisory Committee (JPAC)

Cesar Rafael Chavez
Executive Director
Commission for Environmental Cooperation
Secretariat

Sarah Stewart
Assistant U.S. Deputy Trade Representative
Environment and Natural Resources Office

Marcela Orozco
JPAC Liaison Officer

Robert Varney
Member
JPAC

Contractor Staff

Carolyn J. Fisher, Ph.D.
The Scientific Consulting Group, Inc.

Appendix B: Meeting Agenda



Official Meeting of the National and Governmental Advisory Committees to the U.S. Representative to the Commission for Environmental Cooperation

March 28–29, 2017

U.S. EPA WJC North

1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.

Washington, DC 20004

Tel: 202-564-2294, Fax: 202-564-8129

AGENDA

EPA Conference Room 6045

Tuesday, March 28, 2017

- 9:00 a.m. **Registration**
- 9:30 a.m. **Call to Order and Introductions**
Oscar Carrillo, Designated Federal Officer, EPA
- 9:35 a.m. **Welcome**
Monisha Harris, Director, Federal Advisory Committee
- 9:40 a.m. **Overview of Agenda**
Theresa Pardo, Chair of the National Advisory Committee
Jeff Wennberg, Chair of the Governmental Advisory Committee
- 10:00 a.m. **Working Session I: Led by Chairs**
Theresa Pardo, Chair of the National Advisory Committee (Room 6045)
Jeff Wennberg, Chair of the Governmental Advisory Committee (Room 3330)
- 11:00 a.m. **BREAK**
- 11:15 a.m. **Overview of Charge Letter: Setting the Stage**
Jane Nishida, Acting Assistant Administrator, Office of International & Tribal
Affairs, EPA
 Question & Answer Period

- 12:15 p.m. **Public Comments Period**
- 12:30 p.m. **LUNCH**
- 1:30 p.m. **Update on CEC: Operational Plan & Council Session**
Marcela Orozco, JPAC Liaison, CEC Secretariat
Question & Answer Period
- 2:00 p.m. **JPAC Report-Out on Mexico Meeting**
Eric Dannenmaier, Chair, Joint Public Advisory Committee
Question & Answer Period
- 2:30 p.m. **BREAK**
- 2:45 p.m. **Working Session II: Summary & Next Steps Discussion**
Theresa Pardo, Chair of the National Advisory Committee
Jeff Wennberg, Chair of the Governmental Advisory Committee
- 5:00 p.m. **ADJOURNMENT**

Wednesday, March 29, 2017

- 8:00 a.m. **Registration**
- 8:30 a.m. **Call to Order**
Oscar Carrillo, Designated Federal Officer, EPA
(*Conference Room 1132, WJC East*)
- 8:35 a.m. **Working Session III: Committees Meet Separately**
GAC stays in Room 2138
NAC meets in Room 1132
- 11:00 a.m. **Public Comment Period**
- 11:15 a.m. **Committees Reconvene in Plenary Session**
Deliver and discuss advice with Jane Nishida
- 12:30 p.m. **LUNCH**
- 1:00 p.m. **Chairs Meet to Finalize Advice Letter**
- 2:00 p.m. **ADJOURNMENT**

Appendix C: Charge Questions for March 28–29, 2017 NAC/GAC Meeting

CHARGE LETTER: NAC/GAC MEETING

March 28–29, 2017

WASHINGTON, DC

Dear NAC and GAC Members,

Since our last meeting in November 2016, we have a new EPA Administrator and CEC Council Member. EPA Administrator, Mr. Scott Pruitt, who comes to EPA from the State of Oklahoma. Canadian Minister for Environment and Climate Change, Catherine McKenna, continues to Chair the CEC Council until the next Council Session taking place this June 2017.

The “**CHARGE**” for this meeting is to provide advice on *draft project proposal descriptions for the 2017–18 CEC Operational Plan*. This meeting will be different from other meetings we have held in the past. First, members will receive preliminary project descriptions in advance of our meeting on March 28, we hope to send the descriptions by the week of March 6th. Second, during the face-to-face meeting you will meet with Jane Nishida, Acting Assistant Administrator for the Office of International and Tribal Affairs (OITA), to dialogue and offer your advice on the preliminary project proposals. This will be a working session with Jane and her team, as opposed to the typical guidance and updates you receive from her. The timeline is tight in order to share the NAC/GAC advice with Jane in advance of the call between the Alternate Representatives (Alt. Reps.) at the end of the week, between March 29–31. The purpose of the Alt. Reps. call is to discuss which preliminary project proposals will be developed into full proposals for Council consideration and having advice from the NAC/GAC will be important.

When reviewing the projects, we recommend you consider: 1) opportunities to make projects and their outputs and outcomes replicable in North America and how the projects can become self-sustaining beyond the two-year funding period; 2) their scalability and 3) how well the projects may capitalize or may capitalize on opportunities to incorporate youth, education, and tribal governments or traditional ecological knowledge (TEK). The projects under consideration were proposed in line with the trilateral priority areas selected by the Council/Alternate Representatives, specifically:

- Trade & the Environment (e.g. environment & innovations; movement of environmental goods & services)
- Methane emissions reduction
- Reduce and recover food waste
- Black carbon inventory
- Priority species and ecosystems (e.g. transboundary invasive alien species)
- Health of oceans (e.g. marine litter; ocean acidification; marine protected areas)
- Syndromic surveillance systems
- Mexican Emissions Control Area (TBC) and
- TEK case studies

As is customary for our meetings, you will also be briefed by the CEC Secretariat Executive Director, Cesar Chavez, and the CEC Joint Public Advisory Committee Chair, Eric Dannenmaier. Finally, the committees are welcome to provide advice on other trade and environment issues related to the NAAEC.