

CARD Meeting Minutes

Date: Tuesday, August 5, 2025 **Time:** 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM **Location:** Via Zoom

1. Call to Order and Welcome Roger Rayle, CARD Chair, called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. He noted that the meeting was being recorded and would be uploaded to YouTube for members.

2. Approval of July Minutes Beth Collins presented the draft minutes from the July 2025 CARD meeting.

- **Motion:** A motion was made and seconded to approve the July minutes.
 - **Vote:** The motion was unanimously approved by the CARD Board.
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3. US EPA Update Roger Rayle and Jack Eaton noted that an EPA representative was not in attendance.

- **Georgia Frost (Congresswoman Dingell's Team):** Her comments and a letter from Congresswoman Dingell to EGLE regarding the Gelman Plume were noted and discussed briefly. Georgia shared that Congresswoman Dingell would be holding town hall meetings in August.
 - **Dan Bicknell:** He highlighted that Ann Arbor Township, the Sierra Club, and Global Environment Alliance had submitted comments to the Federal Register. He explained that these comments outline why the Fourth Amended Consent Judgment is not protective of public health and why the Gelman site should be a Superfund National Priorities List (NPL) site.
 - **Kathy Knol:** She provided an update from her conversation with the EPA's new remedial project manager, James Cirk. Mr. Cirk stated that the EPA is still reviewing comments and nothing has changed regarding the NPL listing. He is a hydrogeologist and has been with the EPA for 30 years.
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4. EGLE Updates Chris Svoboda was not in attendance, but his written updates were reviewed.

- **New Draft Monitoring Plans:** Roger Rayle noted that the installation of monitoring wells F, G, H, I, and J from the 2020 Fourth CJ is still "pending access." Beth Collins expressed frustration that it has taken four years to secure access for these wells, which are critical given recent detections.

- **Slauson School and West Park Pond:** The sampling results of 22 ppb at Slauson School and 2.2 ppb at West Park Pond were noted.
 - **Geothermal at Slauson School:** The update mentioned that monitoring wells had been installed, but boring logs were not yet available. Roger Rayle later presented a detailed analysis of the Slauson School geothermal well sampling, noting that no non-detects were found during drilling, and some shallow hits were surprisingly high.
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5. Old Business / Action Items

Washtenaw County

- **Legal Update (Yousef Rabhi):** Yousef Rabhi reported on the lawsuit against Gelman. Gelman's motion to dismiss was denied, but they have appealed the denial. The County filed its response in November 2024, and they are now waiting for a date for oral arguments to be set by the court of appeals.
- **Homeowner Well Sampling (Kristen and Jenni):** Kristen Schweighofer and Jennifer Conn from the Washtenaw County Health Department provided an update on the June 2025 sampling of 117 homes.
 - **Results:** 47 detections for dioxane were found, six of which were new detections. All results were under 3 ppb. County staff suggested that the new detections were likely due to the EGLE lab lowering its detection limit from 0.5 ppb to 0.2 ppb.
 - **Map:** A draft map of sampling results from 2021-2025 was shared. It uses a new square symbol to denote detections found with the lower 0.2 ppb limit. Kristen requested feedback from CARD on the map's clarity before publication.
- **Review of 1,4 Dioxane Migration in Scio Homeowner Wells (Dan Bicknell):** Dan Bicknell presented a detailed analysis of Scio Township residential well data over the past five years.
 - **Findings:** The plume is moving north and northwest, with 65% of 23 northern wells showing increasing dioxane levels. A new well detection near Partridge Ridge is only 500 feet from the Huron River. Seeps observed in ravines near the river indicate a clear pathway for the plume to reach Barton Pond and potentially the water treatment plant intake.
 - **Discussion:** Mike, James, and Bill expressed frustration with the lack of progress and the state's use of a less sensitive testing method than 522 protocol, which they believe has hampered the ability to track the plume's migration effectively over time.

Scio Township

- **PFAS and Dino Drive (Kathy Knol):** Kathy Knol reported no new updates on the PFAS issue at Dino Drive and stated that she would follow up with EGLE next week.

- **Fire Suppression Well:** Kathy reported that the fire suppression well on the old Gelman site is still under review by EGLE. She will investigate where the well's sampling data from the past has gone, as it may have been "hiding evidence."

City of Ann Arbor

- **Update on 1,4-dioxane (Erin Donnelly):** Erin Donnelly mentioned coordinating with EGLE on resources for sampling the Slauson wells.
- **Comprehensive Land Use Plan Draft (James D'Amour/Erin Donnelly):** Erin noted that the second draft of the plan, currently with the planning commission, does not mention "dioxane" or "Gelman." James confirmed that this was a request CARD had made and asked Erin to follow up with the city planner on the possibility of including information about the plume.
- **Other Issues:** Erin reported that the utility department's report submitted to the planning commission indicates that the city's current infrastructure (water, sewer, stormwater) cannot support the desired amount of growth.

Executive Board

- **Election of CARD Board:** Beth Collins announced that nominations for board positions (Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, and two Members at Large) are due by September 4th. Voting will be conducted via email before the October meeting.
 - **Roger Rayle** intends to remain as Chair.
 - **Mike** stated he would not be seeking reelection as Vice Chair, citing his lack of a technical background and his departure from Ann Arbor Township government. He is willing to serve as a board member, but he hopes someone with a technical background will step forward.
 - **James D'Amour** is willing to continue to serve but echoed Mike's sentiments about a preference for a leader with a technical or legal background.
 - **Action Item:** The board agreed to make a recruiting effort for new board members.
- **Polluter Pay Bills:** Yousef Rabhi reported that there is no new update. He noted that the state legislature is currently focused on budget issues and there is a potential for a government shutdown.

6. Chair Updates (Roger Rayle)

- Roger presented a detailed analysis of the Slauson School geothermal well sampling data, showing surprisingly high dioxane levels close to the surface. He highlighted the concern that five monitoring wells required by the 2020 Fourth CJ are still pending installation.

- **Green Fair and Refugia Festival:** Roger announced the upcoming Green Fair (September 19th) and the Refugia Festival (September 28th) and asked for volunteers to staff tables.
 - **Meeting Process:** Roger and Beth have been streamlining the meeting process, including using AI for the first draft of meeting minutes, and offered to share job descriptions for key roles.
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7. Non-Agenda Items

- No non-agenda items were brought up for discussion.
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8. Adjournment The meeting was adjourned by Roger Rayle

Reminder: Next CARD Meetings

- **Quarterly Meeting with CARD/EGLE:** Tuesday, September 2nd, at 10:00 AM.
- **Monthly Meeting with Board Election:** Tuesday, October 7th, at 6:00 PM.

Minutes were reviewed by Beth Collins and The Board