

CARD/EGLE Quarterly Meeting Minutes - AI

Date: Tuesday, December 2, 2025 **Location:** via Zoom **Moderator:** Jack Eaton **Secretary (Pro-Tem):** Roger Rayle

1. Call to Order - Welcome

The meeting was called to order. Roger Rayle, CARD Chair, welcomed attendees. Rayle is currently performing secretarial duties as the position is vacant, and he noted that the meetings are recorded and posted on YouTube.

2. Approval of October Minutes

The board reviewed the October minutes. One minor correction concerning a name change was noted by Roger Rayle. The minutes were **approved**.

3. US EPA Update

- **Congresswoman Debbie Dingell's Team (Georgia Frost)**
 - Georgia Frost reported that members of the state legislature wrote to EGLE Director Phil Roose, requesting that EGLE communicate to the EPA the overwhelming state and local support for adding the Gelman site to the National Priorities List (NPL).
 - In response, Phil Roose sent a letter to the EPA Regional Administrator, requesting accelerated action on the NPL listing.
 - As of the meeting, no response had been received from the EPA regarding Director Roose's letter, which was sent around November 4th, during a government shutdown.
 - Congressional staff efforts are challenged by mass federal workforce reductions and difficulties reaching legislative/congressional affairs personnel at federal agencies.
 - James D'Amour suggested that he and Dan Bicknell collaborate to create a comprehensive timeline of all correspondence to ensure the CARD archive is complete.

4. EGLE Updates (Chris Svoboda)

- **Staffing:** Chris Svoboda (EGLE) is the sole EGLE representative due to Josh Moer's absence, and District Supervisor Andrea Munoz Hernandez recently departed for a new position.

- **NPL Listing Support:** EGLE is working closely with the EPA in support of listing the site on the NPL.
- **Surface Water Sampling:** Sampling has been delayed due to staffing changes but is planned for the following week. Due to non-ideal weather and staffing constraints, sampling will be a **limited scope** focusing on Allen Creek, Third Sister Lake, and the outfall on the Gelman property.
- **New Contingency Municipal Water Hook Up Plan:**
 - EGLE received an updated municipal contingency plan from Gelman on the 19th and has 56 days to review it. A redacted version is available on the RIDE exchange.
 - The updated plan addresses many of EGLE's comments.
 - A key addition is a **flowchart detailing the "trigger process"** for implementing the plan, which would be initiated if residential wells in Scio Township exceed three parts per billion (ppb) or sentinel monitoring wells exceed 4.6 or 7.2 micrograms per liter.
- **Marshy Area:** There has been no movement on the feasibility study as Gelman's focus is on the EPA NPL listing.
- **Slawson Middle School Wells:** Gelman has agreed to take over the sampling of the two new permanent monitoring wells near the school as part of the eastern area monitoring network.

5. Old Business/Action Items

- **Washtenaw County (Jenni)**
 - Jenni from the County Health Department reported on the **Slawson Middle School Geothermal Project**.
 - The project involves drilling hundreds of closed-loop geothermal holes up to **800 feet deep**, a depth that penetrates below the approximately 300-foot bedrock.
 - The County successfully negotiated with the developer to **surface case** all borings into the first confining clay layer to prevent the contamination in the upper aquifer from mixing with lower aquifers.
 - Two permanent test borings/monitoring wells were installed, which Gelman has agreed to sample going forward.
 - Rita raised concerns about whether the aquifers are truly distinct and if cross-contamination could still occur naturally or through the casings, which Chris Svoboda acknowledged as a possibility that the precautionary measures are designed to mitigate.
- **Washtenaw County (Yousef Rabhi)**
 - Rabhi thanked members for attending the recent Environmental Council in-person listening session and presenting the dioxane issue to the Council.
 - He noted the necessity of in-person meetings for Open Meetings Act compliance and the likelihood of a more frequent hybrid in-person meeting cadence in the future.
- **Scio Township (Kathy Knol)**

- Kathy Knol reported on a potential emerging issue: the City of Dexter's request to annex a **45-acre parcel** in Scio Township.
- The developer proposes installing a **high-velocity community drinking water well** on the site, which could impact the aquifer and surrounding residential wells.
- Scio Township has hired Dr. Steven Wright as an expert witness, and the Board will review his preliminary report on December 9th, which may lead Scio to oppose the annexation.
- **Monitoring Well Relocation:** Bob Bailey(?) inquired about the developer's plan to relocate wells on Parkland Plaza. Chris Svoboda confirmed EGLE and Gelman are reluctant to relocate the wells, and the developer must adhere to EGLE's requirements and potential restrictive covenants.
- **City of Ann Arbor (Erin Donnelly)**
 - The city continues to push for Superfund listing and awaits the EPA's response to the October 31st letter.
 - Chris Svoboda's presentation to the Sustainability Commission was rescheduled to January 13th.
 - The city is **not actively sampling** wells at the former 415 W. Washington site and may cap them before selling the property.
 - James D'Amour and Jeff mentioned the **Comprehensive Land Use Plan (CLUP)** is in its third draft, with the official comment deadline of January 5th, but comments must be submitted by **December 11th at noon** to be included in the Planning Commission's last public discussion.
- **Other Stakeholders (Dan Bicknell)**
 - Dan Bicknell noted that dioxane contamination continues to increase in the northern residential areas of Scio Township over the years.

6. Executive Board

- **Yale Superfund Research Program/Allen Creek MS4 Violation:** Rita reported no new updates.
- **Polluter Pay Bills:** James D'Amour and Yousef Rabhi had no updates.
- Roger Rayle spoke about the significant burden of time and cost placed on public stakeholders by the Gelman problem. He also noted that Yale Superfund research funding for dioxane was cut by half.

7. Chair Updates (Roger Rayle)

- **Gelman Plume Map:** Rayle noted that the new Gelman third-quarter 2025 plume map has been **extended**, showing that the 7.2 ppb and 100 ppb lines have grown. He warned this indicates a growing vapor intrusion risk if the 100 ppb concentration reaches new areas downgradient.
- **Database Completeness:** He praised EGLE for updating their interactive map with data through 2024, but noted that while some older missing data was added, some 2021-

2022 Scio Township sampling data is missing. He urged the adoption of a standardized data input format to ensure a complete, accurate, and timely database. He also mentioned some data anomalies that need attention and will work with EGLE to address them.

- **Triangle Property (3400 Dexter):** Rayle introduced Jason from Toll Brothers Housing Company, a certified planner for a potential townhome development on the Triangle Property. Rayle suggested this site, a Scio Township parcel outside the well prohibition zone, would be a prime location for a new nested monitoring well or a purge well to address the plume moving north toward homeowner wells. Jason expressed willingness to coordinate and potentially set aside property for a sentinel well.
- **CARD Secretary:** The former secretary, Beth, resigned in October, and the position is now vacant.
- **Agenda Format:** Rayle suggested discussing organizing future agendas by **topic** rather than by stakeholder entity to improve the flow of discussion.

8. Non-Agenda Items

- Kathy Griswold thanked Roger Rayle and CARD for their advocacy, noting that the current positive political momentum should not be taken for granted.

9. Reminder: Next CARD Meetings

- Tuesday, January 6, 2026, at 6:00 PM.
- Tuesday, February 3, 2026, at 6:00 PM.