

CARD Minutes_2026-04-07 Monthly Meeting - AI final

Meeting Minutes: 2026-04-07 CARD Monthly Meeting

Date: **Tuesday, April 7, 2026** Time: **6:00 PM – 7:00 PM (approx.)** Location: **via Zoom**

1. Call to Order - Welcome

- Roger Rayle (CARD Chair) welcomed attendees.
- Jack Eaton (Executive Director) moderated the meeting.

2. Approval of January Minutes

- The minutes from the January meeting were presented.
- Motion: Moved and seconded.
- Action: The minutes were approved unanimously.

3. US EPA Update

- **Superfund Designation:** The EPA has officially added the Gelman Sciences Inc. site to the Superfund National Priorities List (NPL) on 03/12/2026.
- **Roundtable Meeting Recap:** Local leaders and representatives from the EPA Region 5 and EGLE met earlier in the day at Washtenaw Community College.
 - Anne Vogel (EPA Region 5 Administrator) and Congresswoman Debbie Dingell were instrumental in the meeting.
 - The EPA introduced the team that will manage the Gelman plume and outlined the progression of the Superfund process.
- **Timeline and Interim Measures:** While the full Superfund process is long-term (often 6-10 years), the EPA can implement "interim remedial measures".
 - Dan Bicknell noted that since the site already has 30+ years of data and monitoring wells, actions to stop plume migration could potentially begin within 6-12 months.
- **Polluter Pay:** The EPA has already sent a letter to Gelman (the responsible party) regarding liability and financial status.
- **Community Involvement:** Diane Russell (EPA Region 5) will be a primary contact for the community involvement plan. The EPA expressed a desire to integrate with the existing network of local volunteers.

4. EGLE Updates

- No representatives from EGLE were present at the meeting.

5. Old Business / Action Items

- **Data Submittals:** Roger Rayle proposed a centralized index of all existing documents and data sets from various local units of government to assist the EPA in coming up to speed.
- **Washtenaw County:** * The Board of Commissioners has not yet appointed a new liaison.

- Kristen (Health Department) offered the use of summer interns to help review internal data archives.
- **City of Ann Arbor:** Erin Donnelly (City) reported no new updates but mentioned the city also has summer interns who could assist with data reviews.
- **Scio Township:** Kathy Null reported no specific updates from the township beyond the positive EPA news.
- **Other Stakeholders:** Roger Rayle plans to meet with small groups of homeowners in Scio Township whose wells have been contaminated.

6. Executive Board Updates

- **Yale Superfund Research:** Rita reported that the Yale team is still active and submitting work.
- **Polluter Pay Bills:** No major progress in the state legislature, though it was noted that the Superfund status makes this somewhat moot for the Gelman site specifically.

7. Chair Updates

- **EPA NPL Listing Recognition:**
 - The Chair highlighted several official statements following the March 12, 2026, Superfund designation, including messages from Congresswoman Debbie Dingell, the City of Ann Arbor, and EGLE.
 - Recognition was given to the collective effort of CARD, SRSW, and other community partners in reaching this milestone.
- **EPA Superfund NPL process flowcharts**
 - The Chair reviewed some to show where the Gelman site is now that the site is on the NPL.
- **Initial EPA Priorities:**
 - The EPA is currently focusing on standing up a project team, identifying key stakeholders, and evaluating enforcement approaches to address the groundwater plume.
- **Transition to Superfund Community Advisory Group (CAG):**
 - CARD and SRSW are exploring the process of becoming an official EPA Superfund Community Advisory Group.
 - The Chair shared resources regarding CAG membership, operation, and the timing for creation as the site transitions to federal oversight.
- **Ann Arbor Earth Day Festival 2026:**
 - Date & Time: Sunday, April 19, from 12:00 PM to 4:30 PM.
 - Location: Leslie Science & Nature Center, 1831 Traver Rd, Ann Arbor, MI.
 - Call for Volunteers: Additional volunteers are needed to help inform festival visitors about the "good news" regarding the National Priorities List (NPL) Superfund listing.

8. Non-Agenda Items

- Kathy Knol mentioned she has 50 "EPA" masks to distribute at future CARD celebrations.

- The group briefly discussed whether to move to quarterly meetings, but decided to maintain the monthly schedule for now due to the high volume of EPA developments.

Next Meetings

- Next Regular Monthly Meeting: Tuesday, May 5, 2026, at 6:00 PM.
- *Quarterly Meeting Move:*
 - *The meeting originally scheduled for June 2 is CANCELLED.*
 - The next Quarterly Meeting will be Tuesday, July 7, 2026, at 10:00 AM with EGLE staff present.