



Advisory Council Minutes
February 28, 2008
Regional Health District
Environmental Health Conference Room

Members Present:

Peter Williams
Mark Roberge
Ray Kelleher
Nancy Enz-Lill
John Hjaltalin

Staff Present:

Bill Dameworth
Ron Edgar
Matt Holmquist
Mary McDermott

The meeting was called to order at 8:03 a.m.

1. Approval of the January 24, 2008 Minutes:

Ray Kelleher moved to approve the January 24, 2008 minutes and John Hjaltalin seconded it. Minutes approved.

2. Burning Program Update – Matt Holmquist/Ron Edgar:

Matt gave an overview of the key types of burning that Spokane Clean Air regulates in Spokane County. They are residential yard and garden debris burning (of which Spokane Clean Air will talk to the Fire Districts about taking over), recreational fires, land clearing fires (clearing less than one acre on a five acre or larger parcel to build a home), social event fires (for public bonfires sponsored by Spokane County and the small cities or towns), noxious weed abatement fires, fire fighting instruction fires (mostly for fire departments for training purposes for which we may amend the outdoor burning regulation dropping the requirement for the fire departments to obtain a written permit from us and they would burn according to a rule), agricultural burning (incidental burning requires no permit and is for orchard pruning and organic debris along fence lines, spot burning is for less than 10 acres), general agricultural burning (burning of more than 10 acres) and then agricultural burning and grass seed field burning (zero permits have been issued since 2003). Matt then gave an overview of Idaho's grass seed field burning and the negotiated rule draft Idaho is working on to allow the grass seed field burning program to be reinstated. There was some discussion on the different types of burning by the Advisory Council and Spokane Clean Air staff present.

Ron stated that based on the 2006 regulation Department of Ecology has adopted, Spokane Clean Air is required to have a Smoke Management Program in place for the agricultural burning and Spokane Clean Air also uses it for forecasts for air quality and other types of burning that take place. Every morning Spokane Clean Air looks at meteorology (ventilation models, wind direction and speed and meteorologist consultations), existing air quality (monitoring data, local observations and complaints) and permitted acreage (acres available to be burned by location and special needs). Ron then gave an overview of the general guidance for the procedure for a burn decision, the step-by-step process and

documentation that is attached to the daily worksheet. There was some discussion with the Advisory Council Members and Spokane Clean Air staff present.

3. Legislation Update – Bill Dameworth:

Bill stated that there is a House and a Senate Bill going through right now that extend the burn ban that Spokane Clean Air has right now for Spokane County to the rest of the State – the criteria going down from 35 for the rest of the State down to something that is similar to what Spokane Clean Air has except there is more flexibility when you start calling the bans and the bills also eliminate the sunset clause because Spokane Clean Air’s authority expires in 2009. The Senate Bill was stuck in rules and Bill called Lisa Brown’s office and some of the Board Members did as well and were able to get the bill unstuck and moving through the Senate. Alex Wood is co-sponsoring the Bill in the House and it is moving along smoothly as well. Both Bills are on track to get through to the Governor’s desk. Another one that the Realtors are pushing would require full-disclosure upon sale of the house of whether or not you have an uncertified wood burning device in it. Also, there is \$1,500,000.00 for wood stove replacements and this would be something that would be handed out to the different air agencies to extend the program Spokane Clean Air has right now from EPA which is a \$75,000.00 grant to have the rebate vouchers for replacing your uncertified device with a certified device and 20 low income full-replacements of the same. Spokane Clean Air will be applying for some of this grant money for these programs to continue so more polluting devices in the air shed to be changed out to certified devices.

4. Other Items of Interest:

Bill gave a quick overview of Spokane Clean Air relocating its office over by Spokane Community College. This would give Spokane Clean Air more office space with free parking and once the mortgage is paid off, it would be a reduction in Spokane Clean Air’s local assessment.

Ray Kelleher asked about how effective the wood stove/fireplace insert program is because a good share of people looking at changing out their devices are not low income and the \$400 to \$550 vouchers do not offset the cost of a new device enough that they can afford to replace their old devices. Ron stated that there is a low income program to change out 20 devices. Ray stated that there is still a need to help the people who do not qualify as low income but still do not have a big enough income to change out their old devices. Maybe there could be a higher cut off or larger vouchers for people in this income bracket. Bill stated that many of the retailers will haggle the price of the device and installation with their customers if the customer initiates it. Bill added that right now the vouchers are going out quickly and if this program gets more grant money, Spokane Clean Air could start looking at some of the things that Ray has suggested.

Ray Keller moved to adjourn the Advisory Council meeting and Peter Williams seconded it. Motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 9:01 a.m.

ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBER

WILLIAM DAMEWORTH, DIRECTOR