



**Advisory Council Minutes**  
March 27, 2008  
Regional Health District  
Environmental Health Conference Room

Members Present:

Peter Williams      John Livingston  
Chet Jahns          Tom Brattebo  
Ray Kelleher        Jana McDonald  
Nancy Enz-Lill      John Hjaltalin

Staff Present:

Bill Dameworth  
Ron Edgar  
Lisa Woodard  
Mary McDermott

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m.

**1. Approval of the February 28, 2008 Minutes:**

Ray Kelleher moved to approve the February 28, 2008 minutes and John Livingston seconded it. Minutes approved.

**2. Wood Stove Change Out Program – Lisa Woodard:  
**- Update on Rebate Component and Information on Income Qualified Component****

Lisa gave a brief overview of the two wood stove change-out programs. Spokane Clean Air received an EPA grant and money from Avista to be allocated to the rebate voucher program and the wood stove change-out program. Participating retailers contributed money for media coverage. The program was launched in January with approximately 125 rebates available. The rebates amounts were a \$400 voucher to change-out to an EPA certified wood stove or pellet stove or a \$550 voucher to change-out to a natural gas stove or insert. Spokane Clean Air partnered with nine local retailers that included them professionally installing the device and removing the old device for destruction. Applicants were qualified on the basis of living in the smoke control zone, heating regularly with a non-certified device and using at least two cords of wood per heating season. If the applicant qualified, they were sent a numbered and dated voucher with a list of participating retailers. To date there have been 175 vouchers issued with some of them being voided or the expiration date being extended. Lessons to date on the rebate program that Lisa will share with other air agencies are as follows: timing is important (during the retailer's off season) and having an application period with a date of acceptance; clearly stating program terms and conditions (don't make exceptions); and staying in close communication with your retailers and sales managers. One of the things that Spokane Clean Air will do in the next go around is in the program flyer; we will have a cost expectation. Benefits to date of the program are reduced emissions, good working relationships with wood stove retailers, heightened awareness of wood burning impacts, increased agency visibility and positive news coverage. The next steps will be to mail out a survey card to the rebate recipients and to the voided voucher recipients; and send a survey letter to participating retailers. Ray Kelleher had some questions on a way to get to the people who do not qualify as low-income but

also cannot afford to pay for a new device. Lisa added that she has referred some of the individuals that have not qualified for the program to SNAP and the Avista website for other forms of help. There was some discussion between the Advisory Council and Lisa.

The low-income program consists of a letter with an interest form to be filled out and sent back. If the participant qualifies, they receive a letter with a list of participating retailers for them to go out and look at the different devices and the bids come from the retailers to Spokane Clean Air. The retailers have already pre-agreed on the pricing of two wood and gas stoves and inserts. The retailers provided eight quotes with four of them under 1,500 square feet and four over 1,500 square feet. Lisa reviewed the quotes and used the three lowest bids to get an average for the price cap and the retailers agreed to sell the devices within this price cap for this program. Lisa goes over the quote for the device for the square footage to be heated, looks at the cost of installation and combines those numbers and the lowest retailer gets the bid. The monthly income portion is provided by SNAP on a 200% of poverty level. You must live inside the smoke control zone and use an uncertified wood stove as a primary heat source. There are enough funds to do 20 device change-outs. There was some discussion between the Advisory Council and Lisa.

### **3. Update on New Air Monitoring; and New Ozone Standard – Ron Edgar:**

Ron gave an overview of the new air monitoring and new ozone standard. On March 12, 2008, the EPA significantly strengthened the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for ground-level ozone. The two types of ozone standards are the primary standard to protect public health and the secondary standard to protect public welfare and the environment. EPA has revised the level of the primary and secondary 8-hour ozone standards to 0.075 parts per million (ppm). EPA sets the primary and secondary NAAQS standards for common air pollutants: ground-level ozone, carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, particulate matter, lead and sulfur dioxide. The law requires EPA to review these pollutants every five years. In achieving the NAAQS they consider cost, technical feasibility and time needed to attain. The ozone standards were last revised in 1997 to 0.084 ppm. Ground level ozone (bad ozone) is a primary component of smog and forms when emissions of nitrogen oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>) and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) “cook” in the sun. It is mainly a summertime pollutant, because it requires sunlight and hot weather to accelerate its formation. Ozone levels can be high in both urban and rural areas often due to transport of ozone or the NO<sub>x</sub> and VOC emissions that form ozone. Good ozone occurs naturally in the upper portions of the earth’s atmosphere and forms a layer that protects life on earth from the sun’s harmful rays. Ozone can penetrate deep into the lungs and can make it difficult to breathe. Ozone can also hurt the environment because it is absorbed by the leaves of plants where it can reduce growth, production and/or yields. EPA is changing the Air Quality Index (AQI) to reflect the new primary standard. This AQI is colored-coded to inform the public about daily air pollution levels in their communities. Implementation considerations for revised ozone standards are for no later than one year after EPA issues a revised standard. EPA did not propose any specific changes to existing monitoring requirements. The standard is determined by taking the fourth highest for three years in a row and averaging it. There was some discussion between the Counsel and Ron. Bill added that one of the things that Spokane Clean Air is planning on doing this summer is putting NO<sub>x</sub> and hydrocarbon monitoring in so that Spokane Clean Air will have a sense of what the ambient air quality levels of those are so it can give us some trend data and information on where we should start if we develop a problem with non-attainment for ozone.

**4. Update on Legislation – Bill Dameworth:**

Bill stated that the burning ban for Spokane County with a sunset clause of 2009 was extended to the rest of the state and the sunset clause was lifted. It went through the legislature and was signed by the governor and will be in effect soon. It allows Spokane Clean Air to keep doing what it is doing on the burn bans. There have been only two bans this heating season. The other legislation was the disclosure of uncertified wood burning devices upon the sale of a house and it didn't make it through. The State has reconvened the Wood Smoke Advisory Group and Bill would like to push to have this item reintroduced and see if he can get Lisa Brown to sponsor or co-sponsor it. The group has had good luck with Lisa Brown and Alex Wood getting things through so the group will press on that. There is a \$1,500,000 state wide wood stove change-out put into the Governor's budget to be signed for Ecology to hand out in grants. Spokane Clean Air applied for one of those last year and didn't get it. Spokane Clean Air is looking for this for Deer Park and we will have monitoring data this time when we apply for the grant. There was discussion about a program for the group of people that are in between low income and people who can afford to purchase a new device with a rebate of \$400 to \$550 and Bill told them that Spokane Clean Air is interested in looking at this and can look at a sliding scale between the two different groups of people who already qualify. One benefit Spokane Clean Air has is its partnership with SNAP because other agencies that don't have a partnership like this have to do all of the administrative portions themselves. If we are going to reach out to the people who need a little help financially, there is no better way to do it than through an organization like SNAP.

**5. Other Items of Interest:**

Ray Kelleher volunteered to make the next board meeting in place of Mark Roberge. Peter stated that Jeff Corkill is Chair of the Board and when he met with the Council, he recommended that the Council bring more things to the table for the Advisory Council. Jeff and Peter will start meeting regularly to discuss things that the Council may have of interest and that Jeff and the rest of the Board may have of interest and just have more communication between the two groups. Let Bill or Peter know if you have any items of interest or if you have things that you would like Peter to talk with Jeff about. This can help the Council be more pro-active if the Council is interested. Bill announced that the new Board Member is the Mayor of Latah, Edward Crockett. The Board retreat will be in May so this will help the new board members to become familiar with Spokane Clean Air and its mission.

Chet Jahns moved to adjourn the Advisory Council meeting and Ray Keller seconded it. Motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 a.m.

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ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBER

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WILLIAM DAMEWORTH, DIRECTOR