



Advisory Council Minutes
April 26, 2007
Regional Health District
Environmental Health Conference Room

Members Present:

Ray Kelleher
Jana McDonald
Tom Brattebo
John Livingston

Staff Present:

Bill Dameworth
Ron Edgar
Barbara Nelson
Minutes prepared by Mary McDermott

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

1. Approval of the March 22, 2007 Minutes:

There was no quorum to approve the minutes. John Livingston led the meeting.

2. Review of PM_{2.5} Data to Determine Feasibility and Trigger Values for Wood Stove Curtailment to Protect the New Particulate Standard – Ron Edgar:

Bill Dameworth announced that the bill for wood stoves has passed the House and Senate and will be signed by the Governor soon. Ron read the rule to the Council as it pertains to Spokane County. Bill added that besides that, there is a second part that says Ecology is going to convene a work group to look at the whole issue of wood stove solutions and what to do about it for the long term.

Ron has started looking at what those levels should be and what kind of impact it is going to have on wood stove burning, how many bans, etc. by looking back at previous year's data. We want to know how soon we need to ban wood stoves and can we see a value greater than 35 micrograms per cubic meter of air coming. The trigger will be arbitrary and we will start at 20. The official recording period for exceedances is midnight to midnight to exceed the standard. He will be considering wind speeds below 5mph which cause buildup of pollutants. Ron then went over past years data and scenarios for that data and compared it to the new standard. A standard of 30 for a two-stage burn ban would shut down the uncertified stoves first and see how the numbers react. The health message blends with a 20 trigger because that is when we would start calling it unhealthy for sensitive groups.

Ray asked if SCAPCA gets more real-time monitors, will an alert be put out for only one site. Ron replied it will probably be done on one site. The law reads that within the geographical area, any one of the monitors that hit that number means we could call a ban. In most cases if we are looking at local forecasts, we would most often call a ban in the "smoke control zone". If we have multiple air monitors, we would possibly call bans according to different air-sheds. We look at the forecasts for two to three days ahead. John Livingston asked if this is going to cost more resources and staff. Ron replied not a whole lot more but there will be some expense because instead of two to three bans it

could go up to nine or ten per winter. Bill added that all of the work leading up to calling these burn bans is being done right now. Ray asked how expensive it would be to have the sites alarm us. Ron replied he would have to have staff carry a pager but he could look into it. Jana asked if it could be accessed from your home computer. Ron replied yes, everything can be accessed from home. What will be different is if we call a ban, we will send enforcement staff out to monitor for the ban & if somebody is burning they would stop and ask for proof of a certified device being used. This program is being designed so that it does minimize the impact on staff, but the fact that there will be more bans called will make it more expensive. Bill added that the smaller the agency the more difficult it is to have “on call” staff. Ron added that we have two years to see how this new burn ban works. Hopefully it works and we won’t have to use other options such as having single stage bans, not allow wood stoves in certain areas, etc. If we become non-attainment, then we will be looking at the more severe requirements. This is expected to be taken to the Board in June to set the trigger limits for the burn ban. We are refining this plan and a burn management program for agricultural burning so that it will be in place by October of 2007. When the trigger level changes there will be a lot more attention from the media in the fall.

3. FY-08 Draft Budget – Barbara Nelson:

Changes have been made to the draft budget reviewed last month to reflect discussion at the April 5th board meeting. The Board has directed staff to proceed with revisions to the NOC permitting fees so those expected revenues have been included in the budget.

The Board also suggested that staff look at the actual CPI and recalculate the COLA at a more realistic level. Research has been conducted and a 2.6% COLA with a 2.5% long range forecast for future years is in the revised budget. The line item for repairs has been reduced by \$7,000, which is the cost to repair the Sodar equipment used in the monitoring program; it is now shown to be paid from the special project account; this expenditure fits the criteria for the project account and is a one-time expense. The end result is an increase in FY-08 total expenses by \$50 while keeping the fund balance in the target range of 20%.

John asked if the intent is to drop or reduce the local assessment once the NOC program is up to full-cost recovery. Barbara replied to reduce the local assessment. Bill added that on a per capita basis SCAPCA is assessing its citizens considerably higher than other local air agencies in the state; approximately \$1.40 per citizen and the other local air agencies are approximately half of that.

4. Other Items of Interest:

Ron mentioned that he has applied for an Air Toxics Grant again and will be working with Washington State University and their air toxics modeling and do some additional toxics modeling if the grant is received in 2008. John asked about the name change. Bill replied that the Board has approved moving forward with it and the design and jingle have been created. The name will be Spokane Regional Clean Air Agency and the phones will be answered “Spokane Clean Air”.

Tom Brattebo moved to adjourn the Advisory Council meeting and Jana McDonald seconded it. Motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 8:57 a.m.

WILLIAM DAMEWORTH, DIRECTOR