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## SPOKANE REGIONAL CLEAN AIR AGENCY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

**January 7, 2010**                      **9:00 a.m.**  
**Spokane Clean Air's Conference Room**  
**at 3104 E. Augusta Ave.**

### **BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Board Member Tom Brattebo  
Mayor Edward Crockett  
Councilmember Rose Dempsey (Vice Chair)  
Commissioner Bonnie Mager

### **STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:**

William Dameworth, Director  
Ron Edgar, Chief of Technical Services  
Barbara Nelson, Finance & Personnel Admin.  
Matt Holmquist, Compliance Administrator  
Lisa Woodard, Public Information Officer  
Michelle Wolkey, Legal Council  
Mary McDermott, Secretary

**WORK SESSION:** There was no work session.

**BOARD MEETING:** The board meeting was called to order at 9:06 a.m. by Vice Chair Dempsey.

### **1. Director's Report for December – Bill Dameworth**

At the last meeting we discussed the proposed odor/nuisance rule and based on comments from the Board, we've made some changes to it. The changes are mostly to clarify that the agency has to make a finding, based on the affidavit submitted by the complainant and all relevant evidence gathered by the agency, that the rule has been violated before issuing a NOV. The rule now also includes a reference to the authority granted by the RCW. Even though the changes to the proposal are clarifying in nature, we are treating them as substantive changes and we will have another comment period lasting until January 22, 2010.

Bill contacted the State Department of Health regarding their review of our draft assessment of rail yard impacts on air quality and health in Spokane County. After undergoing internal review some additional analysis was required. We are now expecting to receive the assessment in late January or early February.

We sent a letter to the Western Regional Air Partnership informing them of our request for membership. The compliance history database on our website is now complete. All settled NOV's going back for five years are available for public inspection. Any data more than five years old will be automatically dropped from the system.

The electronic system for filing asbestos NOIs and paying the appropriate fees is set to go online in January. This system should reduce errors and make it simpler for contractors to file the necessary paperwork because if you omit something or it isn't filled in correctly, it won't let the contractor go any further. The payment would go through PayPal, which advertises that anyone can make any kind of payment as long as they have a credit card. One of our asbestos contractors has been using the system quite a bit and they sent him an e-mail saying they need to set up an account with them and that is not what their advertising says and the contractor doesn't want to give their personal information. We now have to explore other options, but we would still like to make this work because it would streamline and make the process work better.

## **2. Public Information/Education Update for December 2009 – Lisa Woodard**

Community and school outreach activities/events consisted of presenting materials for the January "Make a Resolution to Reduce Air Pollution" promotion and distributing calendars to about 100 worksite ETCs at their December CTR event, which saved postage on a couple hundred calendars being mailed; attended the City of Airway Heights and Catholic Charities "health and wellness fairs" and distributed air quality information; and hosted the KHQ Help Center on wood burning December 10<sup>th</sup>. In December, we were also invited by the Fire Districts to attend a coordination meeting that they have every month. They discussed recreational fires and burn bans during the summer. We have been working on articles for the winter issue of the CAP newsletter for mid January and ongoing web site edits and updates to the business information and compliance assistance sections. Some special projects consisted of the TV spots airing on KXLY; print ads and articles in the December and January issue of Prime Magazine; and "How to Burn Cleanly" video being televised on City Cable 5. We are coordinating details for a January wood stove giveaway promotions. Two retailers are donating new wood stoves for a giveaway. Coordination continued in December for the annual January promotion this year called "Make a Resolution to Reduce Air Pollution". An article and link on our website encourages viewers to email in their resolution and be entered into a drawing for prizes, including our logo mug and carabineer. EnviroKids Club planning is underway for an event at Mobius Kids for a February 12<sup>th</sup> environmental themed event and it is an in-service day for many area schools. There was also an article in the Spokane Valley Herald on Spokane Clean Air's "40<sup>th</sup> year" anniversary.

## **3. Activity Report for November 2009 – Ron Edgar**

Ron gave a brief overview of the complaint summary, enforcement action summary, burning permits issued, woodstove exemptions, inspections, surveillance and air quality issues for the month. The PM<sub>2.5</sub> numbers were up due to wood stove use. Ron also gave an overview of the methods for air monitoring, its equipment and air standards. There was some discussion between the Board Members, Bill and Ron on air quality standards.

**4. Treasurer's Report for December 2009 – Barbara Nelson**

Barbara gave an overview of the treasurer's report. We are on track with the budget and there are two grants that are reimbursable grants. The NOC and SEPA fee based program is not bringing in enough revenue to cover its direct costs by \$10,000 and as Ron pointed out the NOCs have been down a little; so when we get into the spring, there will probably be more activity in that program which will bring it closer to its direct costs. This period the expenditures included the furnace and legal settlement.

**5. CONSENT AGENDA – ACTION ITEM** – Approval of the December 3, 2009 Board Minutes. Approval of Vouchers for December 2009 – Numbered 4441 through 4530, totaling \$73,493.72 and December Payroll of \$120,222.10 for a Grand Total of \$193,715.82.

Commissioner Mager moved to approve the Consent Agenda and Board Member Brattebo seconded it. Motion passed unanimously.

**6. PUBLIC HEARING – Opened at 9:46 a.m. & Closed at 9:57 a.m.  
Resolution 10-01 – Extension of Memorandum of Understanding Funded from Bio-Diesel SEP Fund – Ron Edgar**

This is a resolution to continue to fund the Vehicle Emission Repair Program (VERP) for low income individuals who cannot afford to fix their cars correctly when they fail their emissions test. This will help keep cars that are big polluters from getting back onto the road by just paying the required amount for repairs without really getting the problem fixed. There was a little discussion between the Board Members and Ron.

There were no public comments. Board Member Brattebo moved to approve Resolution 10-01 and Commissioner Mager seconded it. Motion passed unanimously.

**7. Board Concerns** – There was some discussion between the Board and staff on CO<sub>2</sub> standards, source emissions, changes from the EPA and Spokane County staying in attainment.

**(a) Election of Board Chair and Vice Chair** – Commissioner Mager moved to nominate Councilmember Dempsey as the Chair of Spokane Clean Air's Board and Board Member Brattebo seconded it. Motion passed unanimously. Board Member Brattebo moved to nominate Commissioner Mager as Vice Chair and Mayor Crockett seconded it. Motion passed unanimously.

**(b) Review of Board By-Laws** – There were no changes recommended by the Board Members at this time.

**8. Public Forum** – 10:11 a.m. – Dale Smith: When people turn in someone else for air pollution, they should be able to say that they do or don't want their name on the complaint report. He believes that burning weeds is not a good thing because they should leave them on the land to control erosion and the wind blowing dust around. Also, if it is noxious weeds that are bi-annual, you're not going to be killing them when you burn anyway. When he hears some of the commentators on the news chit chatting back & forth, no one's paying for that chit chat. It seems like that when we have an inversion coming on it would be advisable, and I know one or

two of them, Tom Sherry will go ahead and comment ahead of time that we should burn this way. It would only take them five seconds to say something on this rather than to be chit chatting to another one of the staff. Having something on all of the stations every now and then when there is a serious air pollution condition coming they should say something. He is also concerned that Spokane Clean Air should be saying ahead of time that we should be burning in a moderate way rather than a clean way, rather than waiting until there is stagnation. We could possibly update the air quality line ahead of time (a day or two) before we get into an air stagnation warning, it would keep us from getting into moderate air quality. Ron stated that he does state when the air quality is worsening and that people should try to refrain from burning if possible until it clears up. It is not mandatory but we do ask them to cut back or refrain from burning if at all possible. Lisa stated that there are e-mail alerts that go out on the air stagnation and ask people to please cut back. Dale stated that sometimes it would be easier for Lisa to possibly talk to the three radio stations and the forecasters to put a little comment in there on the upcoming stagnation ahead of time. There is nothing wrong with asking because we are all trying to make the environment better. So rather than have to pay for everything, I know that that isn't the case because they say a lot of things on TV that aren't being paid for and more people watch TV more than reading the newspaper. The Board would like to see what the TV stations response would be if Lisa would give them that information. Maybe the stations would just mention the stagnation coming and what people could do to help. Dale stated that if it is a house fire or wreck, they'll run it and run it to death, but there are times you wonder if that is really helping us at all. This kind of information on our air quality would help us all. Thank you.

**The meeting adjourned at 10:21 a.m.**

The next Board Meeting will be February 4, 2010 at 9:00 a.m. – Spokane Regional Clean Air Agency office at 3104 E. Augusta Avenue.

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JEFFREY CORKILL, CHAIR

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WILLIAM DAMEWORTH, SECRETARY