

SPOKANE COUNTY AIR POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY
BOARD MEETING MINUTES

January 4, 2007 9:00 a.m.
SPOKANE COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS BUILDING
LOWER LEVEL HEARING ROOM

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mayor Matthew Pederson, Chair
Board Member Michele Pope, Vice Chair
Board Member Jeff Corkill, Ph.D.
Councilmember Mike DeVleming (arrived ~ 9:06 a.m.)
Commissioner Todd Mielke (arrived ~ 10:00 a.m.)

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Bill Dameworth, Director
Matt Holmquist, Compliance Administrator
Deirdre Fitzgerald, Air Quality Specialist II
Lisa Woodard, Public Information Officer
Ron Edgar, Chief of Technical Services
Barbara Nelson, Finance & Personnel Admin.
Michelle Wolkey, Legal Counsel
Mary McDermott, Secretary II

WORK SESSION: There was no work session.

BOARD MEETING: The board meeting was called to order at 9:04 a.m.

Chair Pederson used board prerogative to amend the agenda and move the “Interviews for “Member at Large” Candidates and Resolution 06-22 Selection of the Member at Large Position” down and start with “Asbestos Rule Revisions – Deirdre Fitzgerald”.

4. Asbestos Rule Revisions – Deirdre Fitzgerald

Asbestos is a mineral that is a carcinogen and if it is inhaled, there is a possibility that you could be subject to a number of health effects such as mesothelioma, asbestosis, lung cancer or other cancers. There are many things that have changed with asbestos and so with that SCAPCA is looking at relaxing the non-friable roofing requirements. What makes asbestos non-friable is that it is contained within a solid petroleum matrix that is not easily disturbed. Weather, age, grinding, etc. can disturb asbestos and make it friable to SCAPCA and it would be regulated. Anything held in its matrix SCAPCA is not going to look at anymore and you don't have to notify SCAPCA for it, but you do have to put it in a container that is correctly labeled when it is out in the open so that the public knows it is asbestos. SCAPCA will no longer follow the waste shipment records. Other changes would include incorporating standing internal policies and clarifying portions of the rule by incorporating internal questions and answers so individuals can go to SCAPCA's regulation and get answers to most of their questions because it will be in black and white.

One of the bases for understanding asbestos is to understand that it had wide spread uses. When asbestos was found, it was realized that it had high strength, flexibility, fire resistance, etc. and so it was put in everything. We have brochures for homeowners on how to remove different kinds of asbestos from their homes, but SCAPCA has never really explained to them that there is a whole list of products that it can be found in and so we want to give the public and general contractors a better understanding of where they may come across asbestos.

When the public does renovation or demolition, compliance begins with a survey. Changes for homeowners would be that they are not expected to have a survey done by an AHERA certified building inspector or a written asbestos survey or a log sample; but if a complaint is received, we could show up and take a sample to the lab if we thought it looked like a suspect building material. Also a list of suspect materials would be provided to homeowners for reference.

If a contractor is working on a home, they are held to a higher standard. They must use AHERA guidance but do not need to be an AHERA certified building inspector. Contractors must have a written asbestos survey report on site that shows that they went to the extent of bringing it to a lab for analysis prior to impacting suspect materials. What is necessary is that the contractors understand how to sample and the sample protocol. SCAPCA will provide a list of materials that are suspect for contractor's reference and how many samples to take. Asbestos debris goes to the Graham Road Landfill but SCAPCA will no longer have a waste shipment record from the individuals showing that they took it to the Graham Road Landfill.

William Dameworth added that the change to this regulation would bring us more in line with what the other local air agencies are doing. SCAPCA is spending a tremendous amount of time on asbestos and trying to devote more effort to the industrial/commercial projects or projects where there is more likelihood of a potential problem. We will have to manage our time on this and this looks like an opportunity to back-off on some of these residential roofing projects and put more time into the commercial areas where the public can possibly be impacted more.

5. Director's Report – William Dameworth

The stack testing agreement with the Waste-to-Energy plant was signed in early December. Advertisements are out for legal counsel so the Board can see what kind of options there are and the closing date for those proposals is January 23, 2007. This can then be discussed at the February board meeting. We are continuing to refine the proposed civil penalty policy and expecting to make a presentation in the next month.

One issue SCAPCA is starting to see crop up here is outdoor wood fired boilers. Washington has a state law that says if they are less than a million BTUs an hour they have to meet the same emission standards as woodstoves. There have been quite a few businesses starting to manufacture and sell these boilers throughout the country and Canada and many of them are quite high in emissions generated. It's been said, he believes, that one of these is equivalent to 20 uncertified woodstoves as far as emissions. SCAPCA has had discussions with one individual who sells these in Spokane County. We have talked with them about testing and certifying the device for use here. One problem is that the EPA and DOE have not set up testing protocols specifically for these pieces of equipment. SCAPCA is proposing that they can use the

same testing protocols as woodstoves, but we still need to see some test results before we can certify them. The state law is limited in that it only restricts the selling of these products and not the installation; it is limited in what you can do with them. Once they are installed, they are very hard to get uninstalled. SCAPCA is trying to take an aggressive stance on approving them and he has been in contact with legal counsel on what SCAPCA can do with people who sell these devices on the internet here and if there is any kind of a court order to get them to stop doing this. This is one of the big issues coming down the road for SCAPCA.

Board Member Pope asked Bill to explain who uses these things and is anybody in Spokane County using them. Bill replied they have been installed in Spokane County and they are situated outside in a shed usually and you can run them on various kinds of fuels but wood is one of the things you can put in them. They heat the water up which goes through pipes in your house and heats your house and water. When the fire goes out, low fire with low air smolders and there have been photos from other agencies showing huge plumes of smoke coming out of them. The New York Attorney General is getting involved in their state dealing with these and Washington is in an unusual spot in that we already have a law in preventing the sale if they are not certified. Nobody is enforcing it and there is all this effort being put into getting woodstoves replaced, certified, etc. and we will lose ground if we don't do something about these devices. Chair Pederson added he thinks it is a good idea SCAPCA is approaching this and this equipment looks like a fairly archaic system. He thinks SCAPCA should proceed and keep the Board updated as it progresses. Bill stated that this is something that SCAPCA is discussing with other local air agencies and he would like to get a unified approach on this from anybody else also. Ecology has told SCAPCA they have this law on the books and nobody is to be selling this device here. But people are selling, buying and installing them and as far as he knows, nobody has certified one. He has no problem with people installing them if they are certified. The photographed evidence that he has seen from other agencies suggests it is going to be difficult to get them certified. He wants to at least present this option because he doesn't want to present a brick wall that says you have to get the devices certified and there is no way to certify them. Councilmember DeVleming asked how somebody would install one of these units that are uncertified and still pass a building inspection. Bill replied that it is being done and he doesn't understand how it goes through and passes a building inspection, but it is happening. He doesn't know what arguments the building inspectors are given in order to approve these units or if they are even getting a building permit. Councilmember DeVleming asked if the new requirements would include the homemade devices and has SCAPCA seen any of those. Bill replied he doesn't know if there are any homemade devices, but these are small shops that build these and there is a large company in Minnesota that sells these on the internet and all over the country. He couldn't say how large these companies are.

Board Member Corkill had a question about item one. At the last meeting, we had a discussion about special waste and Bill and I have exchanged a few e-mails about this. He was wondering where we are with SCAPCA and the Waste-to-Energy plant and their special wastes. Bill replied that SCAPCA has asked them to develop a procedure for screening these special wastes so that the purple haze incident doesn't reoccur and WTE says they have something but we haven't seen it yet. The individual he was dealing with went on vacation and he intends to pursue that this month because the non-issuance of an NOV was based on receiving the modeling study, which we received and was done properly and showed no adverse health impact and receiving a management plan from them describing how they're going to screen these special wastes so that we don't have a problem like this in the future. We still haven't got that

from them and he is still going to pursue it because the leverage SCAPCA has is if you don't give it to us, we still have the possibility of issuing a NOV for the purple haze. He would rather get the change to their procedure than give them a penalty. A change in the process and how they will deal with these things is more important than a penalty. Hopefully SCAPCA will get something this coming month. Board Member Corkill stated that Bill told him that there is some arrangement from 1999 that SCAPCA doesn't have any ability to control special waste. Bill replied that is correct. The facility does not have permission to burn hazardous waste there, it is not a hazardous waste disposal facility and so by definition everything they take has to be non-hazardous. But you can take waste that might have unintended consequences, like this one did, and the 1999 agreement he believes stems from the desire on their part to take these out of county wastes and burn them and there was a fair amount of acrimony at that time between SCAPCA and the WTE plant so Ecology stepped in and mediated this agreement that SCAPCA has of which one of the elements of the agreement says that WTE will manage the waste, SCAPCA will not. They can consult with SCAPCA if they would like but it is still their decision. The agreement was signed by eight to ten people, some of whom are not here anymore, but it is still a legal binding agreement in his view and SCAPCA can't step in and tell WTE that they need to get SCAPCA's approval before they do anything. SCAPCA can, however, tell them that we would like to see a change in the screening procedure that they use so that they will prevent this from reoccurring and that is the process SCAPCA is taking. Board Member Corkill encouraged SCAPCA to keep going on this. Bill replied he would.

6. Public Information/Education Update – Lisa Woodard

Some December activities consist of being out and about in the community regularly. In December we were at St. George's High School. We go out there every year and talk to the Environmental Science students. The traveling KIOSK was put in the Bank of America building for the employees to use. We attended the Cheney Benefit Fair to interact with the employees and provide information to them. We also attended the Valley Chamber membership meeting held on December 15th. It was an opportunity to share air quality information. We are putting a lot of emphasis on wood heating, there is a new 2.5 standard and SCAPCA is concerned about meeting that standard, so a lot of SCAPCA's efforts were to carry out some of our wood heating, education and outreach strategies. We submitted materials to all the local utilities asking them to put SCAPCA information in their billings. We did get approval from Vera Power and 9,000 inserts were delivered to their direct mail company. We also wrapped up our 15 second PSA with KXLY airing on their station and KHQ about the voluntary burn ban. Articles and ads were submitted to the neighborhood centers. We are in the midst of SCAPCA's local design contest. We have contacted the universities and high schools and are receiving input that they will be submitting entries, we have received one so far and the contract runs through the end of the month. SCAPCA is also soliciting prizes to be donated from businesses. We are putting together prize packages for the top three designs that are submitted. We are working on an event in February with MOBIUS Kids Museum; called "I Heart Clean Air" on February 3rd. There were quite a few media interviews related to wood heating. There were a couple of voluntary curtailments, some issues surrounding the WTE interview and a morning news program on December 18th with KXLY. We were at a local retailer and discussed various home heating options and their benefits.

7. Activity Report for November 2006 – Ron Edgar

There were quite a number of solid fuel burning device complaints in November and that will continue through most of the heating season. In the first part of November, we did exceed and it looks like we will have exceeded the new standard a couple of times. However, that does not mean that we are in non-attainment, what it means is that our three year average value jumped from 29 to 31 which puts us about 4 micrograms below the standard, which became official as of December 16th, 2006. We've had two episodes where we've had stagnant air, one in early November and December. The one in December was not as bad as the one in November. We are still in attainment of all standards and will close out the year with no violations of air quality standards for 2006.

3. Memos for Informational Purposes

a. Yard & Garden Burn Expansion Update – Matt Holmquist

Brenda Smits is following up on the alternatives for yard and garden burning and should be ready to give the Board a presentation in February.

b. Rule making Update on Fees for Annual Registration Information – Matt Holmquist

We are in the public comment period on the rule making update for proposed fees when annual registration information is late and seeking comments through mid January. We should be ready to come back for public hearing at the February board meeting provided SCAPCA doesn't get any substantive public comments. In the first round we did not receive any public comments. We have only received one comment during the second round of public comments and it was in support of what SCAPCA is proposing.

8. Approval of Minutes of the December 7, 2006 Board Meeting

Councilmember DeVleming moved to approve the December 7, 2006 minutes and Board Member Pope seconded it. Board Member Corkill stated that on the top of page 5, he thinks at the end of the first sentence it should be a new paragraph and on page 15 under Board Concerns, what he meant to say was that "he hoped Ron would testify or could testify to the States ability to call a burning ban", he was not demanding that Ron do that. Bill Dameworth stated that they are going to discuss that at the next air director's meeting to come up with a proposed change to the statewide regulation so all air agencies will be behind one piece of legislation. Motion passed unanimously.

9. Income/Expense Statement for November 2006 – Barbara Nelson

SCAPCA is on track for the current year on both the revenue and expense sides of the statement. The difference between the yellow sheet and the purple sheet is that the yellow sheet is through November 30th, the year-to-date figures are correct on that and we were a little behind on the billing cycle for legal and that is showing up on the December vouchers. There are two legal vouchers on the purple sheet, one is for November and one for December.

10. Voucher Approval for December 2006 – \$137,091.15

Councilmember DeVleming moved to approve the December 2006, vouchers and Board Member Pope seconded it. Motion passed unanimously.

11. Resolution 07-01 Fire Delegation Agreement with Fire District #5 – Matt Holmquist

So far Fire Districts 2 and 11 have submitted their updated Delegation Agreements which have been passed and this is for Fire District 5. They are pretty much the same delegation agreements. We are waiting on Fire District 12's agreement.

Board Member Corkill moved to approve Resolution 07-01 and Councilmember DeVleming seconded it. Motion passed unanimously.

13. Executive Session – Director's Six Month Performance Review

Chair Pederson stated that the anticipated time would be 20 minutes, which is from 9:42 a.m. and return at 10:02 a.m. Michelle Wolkey, legal counsel, came out of the executive session and extended the time for approximately five more minutes (10:07 a.m.). Chair Pederson returned from executive session at 10:09 a.m. with no action taken during the session. Discussions will continue at the February 1st SCAPCA board meeting.

1. Interviews for "Member at Large" Candidates

Chair Pederson introduced all candidates, Darryl Potyk, Melissa Ahern and Michele Pope. He explained that each candidate will have the opportunity to present to the Board a brief synopsis of their experience, history and desire to serve on this board and the Board will be allowed to ask questions of the candidates and each candidate must be asked the same questions.

Dr. Darryl Potyk: Thank you for letting me come. I don't have a whole lot of prepared remarks. I think that in our community today it's a wonderful thing, you've got three qualified candidates for an "At Large" voluntary position. That speaks to the commitment on the part of this community. When I saw and read about the opening for the "At Large" position, I thought it would be something interesting, something that I'm concerned about. I didn't envision a competitive process. I didn't envision a public group interview, so it's just all kind of odd. I guess my interest in this really stems from way back. I grew up in Los Angeles in the 60s and 70s and I remember looking at the brown haze, but on a clear day you could see mountains, a lot of days you couldn't. I remember going out and playing at school, on the days they allow us to and then coming in coughing and not being able to take a deep breath. I just think that it's just a shame when we get to that point. So my interest in clean air has been long standing. As I said in my cover letter, I think that we have this slogan "Near Nature, Near Perfect" and we need to preserve that and we're not going to be able to attract and continue to grow and diversify our economy unless we have that clean air. I think that people who come into visit our community who are thinking about locating or relocating here I think they see that, that would be a disincentive. At the same time, we need to be aware that we need to have our economy and our businesses here grow and over regulation can be a disincentive for that. I think striking a balance is what we need to do. I treat and see patients everyday that are

affected by increased particulate matter in the air and it's a struggle for them. All you have to do is see them in the emergency department gasping for air and ask them what happened and they say, "well I went outside". It is really powerful and that's just one end of the spectrum. Besides the gasping for air we see them missing work and having to pay for their inhalers out of pocket which is very expensive. I see one of my strengths that I would bring to this position being that I have seen those patients and knowing what they go through, but also an ability to weigh complex issues. That's what I do everyday when treating patients, is they have competing cumbersome conditions and weighing those and seeing how one is going to affect the other and how or what's the best course to take. I think that is something that I could bring to the Board. Not to say that it's not already here, but that's what I would see as one of my main strengths that I would bring to this organization. I would like to think I don't have a particular agenda. I think we're all here to protect the clean air of our community. I think we have to do that in a balanced way.

Commissioner Mielke: Thank you Dr. for submitting your name and your interest in this position. As I look through your background, it's very impressive. I'm curious as to your approach with regard to some of the naturally occurring phenomena we have with regard to air pollution issues in this community. Whether it be particulates or anything like that, I know it wasn't all that many years ago where the Federal Government was looking at buckling down, so to speak, on this community and I know we spent a great amount of time dealing with the issue of how much of that was manmade versus how much was the fact that we live in a bowl and seem to be on the receiving end of prevailing winds. I'm curious as to your approach with regard to how we balance the naturally occurring air issues that we have in contrast to those that are influenced by the actions of the people in the community.

Dr. Darryl Potyk: My approach would be one that every day I teach medical residents and my underlying theme is through education and learning about things and limiting the degree to which things are naturally occurring or manmade and yes we are in a disadvantage because we do live in a bowl. But I think one of the things we have to do is get good information and do more research, trying to figure out what is manmade and what is in the environment is going to be always a difficult question, it's that nature/nurture question that we all struggle with in some form or another and we need to get more information and in some cases we may not know. Again it's just going to be a constant balancing act that's the way life is when you're making difficult decisions. So I would say my approach would be to gather information and to make sure that the sources of information that we're getting are reliable and reproducible.

Commissioner Mielke: Would you see any need to differentiate regulations with regard to those that are manmade as opposed to nature induced.

Dr. Darryl Potyk: I think there maybe different regulations. I think that the person who is affected by pulmonary disease doesn't make a differentiation between those two things and so we have to look at yes regulations may need to be tailored for those two things, but ultimately the end result is what you and I and my patients breathe.

Board Member Corkill: I just want to quote from the SCAPCA Mission which is to "Preserve, enhance and protect the quality of Spokane County's air resource for the benefit of

current and future generations.” This position has come about because of legislation past last year in Olympia where it requires the Member at Large to have significant professional experience in air or public health, so could you comment on how you see your application in relation to this legislation.

Dr. Darryl Potyk: In terms of my experience in public health, that’s what you are asking. (Board Member Corkill replied “yes”.)

Dr. Darryl Potyk: I think we all, through my professional experience when we’re treating a patient, we have to look at not only that patient in front of us, but we have a fiduciary responsibility to try and use the resources that are given to us through the insurance companies to make sure we use those resources wisely and that’s where the public health comes in. How I apply the public health principles to that individual patient. We can’t just spend every single dollar on that patient in front of us without recognizing what that’s going to do to the entire funding pool. So I think we all look at things globally as well as individually. So I think that’s the context in which I have done that the most, I think that I’ve looked at it in terms of doing educational outreach and those sorts of things. But I’m not sure exactly if I’m answering your question or not. (Board Member Corkill replied “that’s fine, thanks”.)

Chair Pederson: Dr. Corkill just brought up a recent legislation decision and I would like to read from the RCW to you the section that pertains to this position in particular and I quote it, “In the case of an authority comprised of one county, with a population of equal to or greater than four hundred thousand people, a citizen residing in the county who demonstrates significant professional experience in the field of public health, air quality protection, or meteorology;” that kind of defines the guidelines of that position. How do you or do you not fit into this category?

Dr. Darryl Potyk: I think taking care of patients, teaching residents we are concerned with the public’s health. There’s no other way to go about that. Through the care that I’m involved with and being involved with the teaching programs here in Spokane, we take care of the immediate population. We are well aware of the public health resources available so my role as a physician, I can be complicit in that position is being an advocate for the public health.

Chair Pederson: Thank you doctor. How does your professional experience, after hearing your answer, lend towards your ability to serve on the SCACPA Board of Directors.

Dr. Darryl Potyk: Again, I think I offer a different perspective seeing what the air quality has to do with people’s health and I think it’s a perspective that is not unique to me. The other applicants have similar experiences. I think I bring to it, I’ve seen that patient in the emergency room gasping for breath and I think my professional, the other side of my professional career has been involved in education and teaching and I think that part of it is a big part of what SCAPCA does in terms of educating the public, making them aware of the adverse consequences and then in making sure that they understand why the decisions are being made.

Chair Pederson: Outside of your interest in air quality, tell me about yourself and your interests.

Dr. Darryl Potyk: That's easy. I'm married, have three kids and they are primary to my interests at this point and time. I've spent a lot of time on my bike and spent a lot of time doing some cross-country skiing. Those are my main interests at this point in time. When we moved to Spokane 12 years ago, we were just enthralled by what a nice community it was, how easy it is to live here, how friendly the people are and it struck me then that living in a smaller community how you can actually make a difference and feel like through some of these things you've been active in early on back in 1995 through a medical society we were active in having a statement against the grass field burning and it was amazing to me, went to a few meetings and boom it happened and it's like wow we really can make a difference. Having that perspective and being involved, being involved in my kid's school, being involved in those sorts of things is kind of what part of my interests are, going out and doing things instead of just sitting back and criticizing.

Commissioner Mielke: Are there any time constraints that would limit your ability to participate.

Dr. Darryl Potyk: My understanding is that there are monthly meetings and some background reading in between meetings and we all make room and make time for the things that are important to us.

Chair Pederson: Thank you doctor. Next candidate I would like to call is Michele Pope.

Board Member Pope: I like the comment that Dr. Potyk said as far as being able to make a difference in this community because that is true. This is a community where if a person wants to be involved, they can. I've served on the SCACPA Board for the last eight years and prior to that I was on the Advisory Council. I've attended almost every meeting during all those years and I've always come prepared with the material read and giving thoughtful consideration for the items that are brought before us. I don't have a political agenda other than to reflect on what it is before us and look at it with reasonable actions that will benefit the citizens of Spokane County and to serve them well. I've had a good working relationship with past and present board members and SCAPCA staff and lastly I have experience from the past that I think will be valuable as we move towards the future.

Commissioner Mielke: Could you speak to some of the work that you did in the field of nursing or have done in that field.

Board Member Pope: I've taken care of patients, one on one patient care and I've taken care of running an emergency room in County Hospital where we've seen the repercussions for asthma and pulmonary issues and I feel I am well prepared as far as the first hand experience in dealing with that. I've had a child that had asthma, so as a parent I was able to deal with that issue and found that that's what brought me to SCAPCA to begin with was that background.

Board Member Corkill: In relationship to the mission of the air quality in Spokane County, what would you say was your significant professional experience in the area of public health as called for in the legislation?

Board Member Pope: Patient care and a health care background are what qualified me initially, but after 14 years of public service on this Board and the Advisory Council, I believe that qualifies me as well.

Commissioner Mielke: I have the same question on the issue of how we balance the manmade sources of air quality problems as opposed to natural ones. Do you take a different approach for each of those, do you hold the consequences at the same standards, how should we be negotiating with state and federal agencies with regard to those that are based on natural occurring versus manmade occurring events.

Board Member Pope: This is an on going issue for Spokane and for SCAPCA and the naturally occurring scenario is something that we'll always have to deal with. As far as the manmade issues, initially I thought that the more regulations the better that it would be necessary to curtail those manmade emissions, but over time and getting more educated from the staff and just in general education, I find that sometimes looking at a more balanced approach as far as regulations actually causes more innovation, more improvements on behalf of businesses or homeowners but those ultimately decrease air emissions. For instance, if people have more money they're able to buy new cars and if they can buy new cars those put out less emissions than the vehicles that are from the 1970s, or they can afford to be putting in gas heat as opposed to wood burning stoves and so prosperity is a key thing and prosperity in our community is a key thing for our clean air.

Chair Pederson: According to the RCW of which I read earlier, how do you or do you not fit into the category for the service on this board, for the at large position.

Board Member Pope: Under the public health category is where I fit with my nursing background, health administration background and public service on the SCAPCA Board.

Chair Pederson: How does your professional experience lend to your knowledge and the ability to serve on the SCAPCA Board of Directors.

Board Member Pope: I have a good working knowledge of human anatomy and physiology and so I know what the repercussions are for some of the things that we deal with. There is other information as well that we need to be educated on in order to make the decisions that the Board needs to make and that is an on going educational process.

Chair Pederson: Outside of your air quality interests, what are your interests and what do you like to do with yourself and your time.

Board Member Pope: I have been devoting the last 23 years of my life to raising my children and they're both successfully off to college. I have been involved in schools from kindergarten through high school, the boy scouts and I'm involved in other areas as far as community service, air quality, YWCA, things like that. I'm somebody that likes to get out there and contribute to the wellbeing of our community.

Commissioner Mielke: You're attendance has been extremely consistent, do you anticipate anything changing in your circumstances that would alter that availability.

Board Member Pope: No, I do not.

Chair Pederson: Thank you Ms. Pope, next candidate Melissa Ahern.

Melissa Ahern: Good morning. It's a pleasure to be here and I appreciate the time to talk a bit about my interests in being a member of this board. I am, have taught the health policy class at the WSU Masters in Health Policy Administration Course for about a decade now and in that class, I focused on the broad determinants of health at the very front end of that class because the issue in the broad determinants of health is exactly what this board is about and that is preventing a lot of health problems that then would cost a lot of money, even to the health care sectors, and as we all know that money is getting greater and greater and in addition to that people's access to health insurance is deteriorating and it appears when we look in the future that that access is going to continue to deteriorate. My thought as a health care economist and someone that's studied the economics of health care and economics of prevention is that this type of board is absolutely central to limiting the health care costs in our area and that prevention is far better than a cure. One of the areas of studies that I engage in and have engaged in for some time now are the studies on avoidable hospital admissions and there's a number of issues behind that and one of them is does the community have a good chronic care system in the out-patient sector to help people deal with chronic diseases and thereby avoid hospital admissions. But when I look at it from this point of view, I realize that avoidable hospital admissions are also those activities that a community undertakes that literally would keep older citizens for example, we have an aging population, out of the hospital because we've got cleaner air and we look at the costs associated with hospital admissions and you definitely want to do what you can as a community to keep people out of the hospital and to provide them pro-active care. We do have an aging population and I think that these issues are going to be more sensitive as the population ages, that's what the studies in public health care show. All the studies on the particulates show that very clearly, that the vulnerable populations are the children, the young and the older and so I think that it does increasingly become even an important issue. And then in terms of the backdrop of fierce energy, there's a number of different issues but I think that it's certainly possible that we're moving into an era where there are going to be fluctuations in energy crisis, energy you know, oil may well become more scarce as well as natural gas, we may be moving towards coal, and I think that would make the stove issue grow and become even more important than it currently is and I think that understanding that helps strategic planning, it helps look to the future to understand kind of the macro-economics of these situations and where we might be headed and helps us do some strategic planning and thought about that ahead of time. Those are kind of my thoughts as a health care economist. I think that I bring to the table as an economist, it's all about balancing, all resources are scarce and it's all about unintended consequences of regulations and mandating things and becoming flexible versus having more flexible educational approaches. I think that when I worked as a staffer for the Florida Legislature and I worked on the economic analyses for different types of regulations, I think that one thing becomes clearer is that it's easy to regulate, easy to put something on paper, it's a lot harder to really have effective approaches that really work and play out well in cost

effective ways. I think I tend to focus on education as central to helping the community understand what is best for itself and the people in that community and empowering citizens together to understand what creates health and then how citizens can produce health for themselves and take responsibility for their health. I think those are really important issues. Cost effectiveness and balance, those are the things that come to my mind as an economist.

Commissioner Mielke: The first question is how we approach regulations when it comes to manmade sources of air pollution as opposed to natural. In that approach what are the ramifications of state and federal regulations on our community, are they going to differentiate with regard to penalty, are we going to be penalized for naturally occurring contaminants as opposed to manmade. The other issue was time availability.

Melissa Ahern: I think the question about naturally occurring versus manmade is a tough question and I think I like the answers before of both the other candidates and I agree that education is the key here. I also think that mandated approaches sometimes create inflexibilities and unintended consequences and so I think it's important to understand that but I think that the bottom line is the public health of the citizens in our area and so I think we have to understand the issues and we have to approach the issues in a way that our goal is protecting the public health of our citizens and that is where I would I think and we all would come from responding to that. I don't believe that there are any time constraints that would affect my performance in this position.

Board Member Corkill: I asked the other two candidates the same question about the interaction of SCAPCA's mission to preserve health care for future generations and how your expertise would help that in regard to health. What is your expertise that could play along with SCAPCA's role?

Melissa Ahern: I think that I've had a multiple set of expertise that could relate to the Board's activities. First of all, I'm an economist and I wasn't trained to really be a health care economist. I also look at the, that has been my focus, my professional focus but I was trained with general economic skills and I've also applied those skills to looking at energy issues and working on coal research and impact of coal fired power plants and claim on public health. I've taught public health classes that relate to the broad detriments of health and cost effective policy approaches and understand to some extent the mathematical algorithms, the economics of evaluating cost effectiveness of a variety of policies, so I feel that there's an economic, general economic expertise that should be relevant here in helping understand cost effective policies. My experience in the field of legislature as a staffer further helped me evaluate, understand from an economic perspective, policy alternatives. The backdrop of energy should help in terms of looking into the future and anticipating directions that we might be going in terms of growths, growth rates and certain types of problems. So I think that the area of energy and public health and my general economics expertise I feel are all relevant to this board.

Chair Pederson: Ms. Ahern again my question in regards to the RCW mentioned earlier, how do you or do you not fit into that category.

Melissa Ahern: I think that the public health focus is clear given my experience. I think the air quality; and I am working on research directly in that area with this coal research newspaper that I'm working on right now.

Chair Pederson: How does your professional experience lend to your ability to serve on the SCAPCA Board of Directors?

Melissa Ahern: When I was in the Florida Legislature, I did many presentations as a staffer to committees on cost benefits of different types of regulation, I think that's directly relevant to this type of a setting and I have a lot of information at my finger tips. I keep track of all of the studies that relate to the health impacts of air pollution, so I have that expertise as well and I think those are directly relevant to this type of a setting.

Chair Pederson: Outside of your interests in air quality, tell me about yourself and what your interests are now.

Melissa Ahern: I think the three of us are very much alike here. I do have children that I am raising, three boys, and I care very much about my family and about their wellbeing and I think that the Spokane community is unique and wonderful. It is wonderful because it has a feeling of connectiveness and participation and that you can make a difference and we really work with the groups that are here. I think in this community that the issues of political parties, the groups that I've worked with, they shy away and people really work together well in this community. So I feel that it's a beautiful community from a nature perspective and we all want to keep it that way, it's really got a huge amount of growth potential and I think that's going to be our challenge is making sure that that growth does not disrupt the beauty of and the health and the wellbeing. So again it's we're back to this balancing act of trying to maintain the beauty that we've had and still facilitate growth in a meaningful way, in a way that makes sense.

Chair Pederson: Thank you Ms. Ahern, any further questions or comments. Seeing none, that will conclude the interviews for the Member at Large candidates.

2. Resolution 06-22 Selection of the Member at Large Position

Board Member Corkill proposed that the Board accept the application of Dr. Melissa Ahern for the Member at Large position and Councilmember DeVleming seconded it.

Commissioner Mielke stated that he is wonderfully surprised and extremely impressed with the background and qualification of the three applicants that are before the Board. This is a board that has a very critical role in this community and yet they are often forgotten in the mix until something major comes along or until we stumble and we are all human and have stumbled from time-to-time and we hopefully have learned from our mistakes and vow to never do them again. He believes that all three candidates meet the intent and definition of the revised statutory language with regard to the background. His concern is that the Board has some sort of consistency. That it does have somebody that has some historical knowledge of the changes that have been made and for that reason his preference is for Michele Pope.

Chair Pederson echoed the sentiment of Commissioner Mielke. He feels that Ms. Pope's experience is extraordinary with eight years on the Board of Directors pre-cursed by another seven on the Advisory Council is quite a commitment to this agency. He has had the benefit of working with Ms. Pope and when he came on the board three years ago, it was very advantageous to him as a new coming board member to have the experience of someone like Ms. Pope to give him some of the history and background on some of the major issues that this board had faced prior to his involvement. He finds Ms. Pope to be a very balanced member of the board. He knows that she has been criticized in the past for being too business friendly, but he doesn't see that as a negative. He feels that it is all about responsibilities to balance the restraints on our public health from environmental and manmade pollutants. He appreciates someone on the board who is willing to stand up and say "hey what about the little guy". Michele has also stood up and said "what about the little guy" when it comes to children with asthma and families dealing with those issues. At times that is forgotten by some of the distracters of this board, but Ms. Pope is an advocate for families and for children and also our elderly. He believes that Ms. Pope is a balanced member of the board that brings a rich history and a lot of experience to this committee.

Board Member Corkill stated he would like to speak in defense of his original motion for Dr. Ahern. He thinks that both Dr. Ahern and Dr. Potyk bring an excellent background in what was required in the bill of professional experience in public health and Dr. Ahern also has an economic spectrum which he thinks could be an extra facet for a board like this which is not always directed with health. Dr. Potyk has a lot of experience in directly caring for people suffering from the effects of their coughs, but he thinks that Melissa has the edge because of the economics aspect as well. Councilmember DeVleming stated that he will agree that the board is blessed that they have three really good qualified candidates and while he shares a bit of Todd's concern, change is going to happen, it's not bad. He thinks fresh perspectives on a board are good. That's why anytime he's on a board and they have an opportunity to put somebody extremely qualified, while all three are qualified, we've got an opportunity to get another resource on this board and that would be a benefit not only to this board but this community in general. I really appreciated that Michele's done a great job for her number of years on this board and we'd be fine with Michele still on the board but he thinks they have an opportunity to revitalize this board a bit. We potentially have a two, two draw, what's our procedure for breaking that? Chair Pederson stated that the first procedure would be to actually take the vote. There was no further discussion.

Board Member Corkill made a motion to appoint Melissa Ahern and Councilmember DeVleming seconded it. Opposed were Chair Pederson and Commissioner Mielke.

Commissioner Mielke made a motion to appoint Michele Pope and Chair Pederson seconded it. Opposed were Board Member Corkill and Councilmember DeVleming. Further discussion was had.

Board Member Corkill spoke against the motion. He thinks that Michele has served the board well for eight years; there is a member from the Valley on the board and his concern with Ms. Pope's application is her background, looking at the legislation of whether she really has background in public health. She is a nurse but she hasn't been a nurse for a long time. He has observed this board for quite a while and most of her decisions have not been made from a public health point of view but from supporting business opportunities rather than preservation of air

quality in Spokane, which is not what the mission states. For example, at the last meeting she said that the real customers in SCAPCA are business people rather than the citizens of Spokane County and their air quality. Another issue that makes me question her about public education is the very first meeting I came to we had a discussion about global warming and Michele was quite adamantly opposed to the idea that there's a human aspect of global warming and to me the only people that support those kinds of views are business people, especially Exxon and Mobil. That's why I think both the other two candidates do bring viable experience in public health and that's why I'd oppose this motion.

Commissioner Mielke added that the only comment he would make is with regard to public health backgrounds. It's quite clear that not only does Michele have a degree in nursing; she has a master's degree in public health administration. If one of our candidates today was a retired MD, we wouldn't say the fact that he's retired makes him no longer qualified to deal with public. Whether you have disagreements over other stands or issues or positions that Michele has taken, that's fair game, but whether somebody is currently practicing or not, that is something we need to acknowledge. Chair Pederson added that looking at the qualifications laid out by the state legislature, he feels Ms. Pope hits public health and air quality very solidly, especially the air quality protection portion. Eight years on the board and her term with the advisory board gives her more than adequate experience in the field of air quality protection. Top that off with a degree in public health administration and experience as a registered nurse that more than adequately fills the minimum qualifications. The motion stills stands as stated prior.

Commissioner Mielke stated that they are all in agreement with regard to the quality of the three candidates. It does no service as an organization to stand divided so Commissioner Mielke made a motion to appoint Melissa Ahern to the Member at Large position and Board Member Corkill seconded it. There was more discussion.

Chair Pederson stated that he would then have to be in favor of Dr. Potyk because of his current position in the medical community coupled with his experience with past boards and commissions would make him a more qualified candidate than an economist in the field of public health.

Commissioner Mielke made a motion to appoint Melissa Ahern and Board Member Corkill seconded it. Councilmember DeVleming was in favor and Chair Pederson was opposed. Motion passed.

Councilmember DeVleming thanked Michele Pope for her time served on the SCACPA board. Commissioner Mielke also wanted to recognize Michele Pope with great respect and great appreciation. He thanked Michele for her service on the SCAPCA Board and for all the help and direction she has given him in his short time on this board and helping him understand a number of issues and to step back and evaluate the different perspectives so that he didn't jump to conclusions when making important decisions on this board. "Thank you very much." Board Member Pope stated that it has been a pleasure to work with the board and staff these past years and she appreciated the honor for having done so, thank you.

12. Selection of 2007 Board Chair and Vice Chair

Board Member Corkill made a motion to extend Matthew Pederson's appointment for one month and bring this back at the February board meeting and Councilmember DeVleming seconded it. Motion passed.

14. Board Concerns

Board Member Corkill asked where SCAPCA was on the name change. Bill Dameworth stated that SCAPCA is working on the logo design first, but at a meeting previously and unofficially, the Board was in agreement for the name change to be Spokane Regional Clean Air Agency. This will be brought back in a resolution for Board approval.

Board Member Corkill asked about the Medical Lake bus contract that had a hitch towards the end when the Board considered it the last time, was that solved. Ron Edgar stated that the Memorandum of Agreement was approved; it is now up to the School District to approve it before it is finalized. There were a couple of errors that were typos that would be clarified. Right now SCAPCA is waiting for approval by the Medical Lake School District to proceed.

Councilmember DeVleming added that one of the things he thinks, in light of the fact that there is quite a new board makeup, they should be starting to consider is scheduling some kind of a retreat soon to go over some of these issues that have been coming up and he would like to see if in the next meeting or so, some time could be scheduled for some areas that the Board would want to cover in a retreat. Chair Pederson agreed with Councilmember DeVleming. It would be wise to sit down as a Board and discuss the direction and goals of the agency and how they fit into the mission statement of SCAPCA and what the Board's hopes and aspirations are for the next 24 months and how they fit into the long term planning for the agency.

15. Public Forum – There were no public forum comments.

The meeting adjourned at 11:16 a.m.

The next Board Meeting will be February 1, 2007 at 9:00 a.m. in the lower level of the Public Works Building.

MATTHEW PEDERSON, CHAIR

WILLIAM DAMEWORTH, SECRETARY