



## BOARD MEETING MINUTES

**February 9, 2006                      9:30 a.m.**  
**SPOKANE COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS BUILDING**  
**LOWER LEVEL HEARING ROOM**

PRESENT WERE:

Commissioner Mielke  
Commissioner Harris  
Michele Pope

STAFF:

Ron Edgar, Interim Director  
Lisa Woodard, Public Information Officer  
Mary McDermott, Secretary II

**WORK SESSION:** The work session of the board meeting was called to order at 9:36 a.m. by vice chair Michele Pope.

Commissioner Mielke asked that Jeff Corkill, of the SCAPCA Advisory Council, be allowed to give the Advisory Council Report do to Jeff's time constraints. The Vice-Chair, Michele Pope, stated that would be fine.

### **Advisory Council Report – Jeff Corkill**

Jeff Corkill gave a brief overview of the SCAPCA Advisory Council's comments on the NAAQS standards and the asbestos program. If the levels were lowered, they would significantly affect Spokane. It may not put Spokane out of compliance but it may require some more measures in order to meet the new levels. The Advisory Council heard Ron's presentation and did not make any decisions on what to support and wanted to receive more information at the next meeting. In 1998, the Board required full-cost recovery for the Asbestos Program, which is not being achieved. One way to achieve this would be with an increase of fees. The Advisory Council said yes, it could be phased in if this is the way to go. The Advisory Council recommended a comparison that Ron Edgar and his staff could draw up for the Board that would compare how other control agencies and authorities in this state have approached this matter of balancing their budgets dealing with their asbestos programs.

Commissioner Mielke recalled that the presentation on EPA's proposed standards heard prior talked about trying to meet an initial standard but also wanted us to review going to a stricter standard later. By going to the first standard, we as a region would be in compliance. There is doubt whether we would be in compliance should the more stringent standard be adopted. We know the health risks but is there technology that's proven that can get us there. Jeff stated that the ability to monitor what the levels are is pretty sound. The new thoughts

would be developing equipment to measure that 2.5 to 10. The question is what is the relationship between a particulate level and its health effects? Commissioner Mielke asked if the Advisory Council is convinced that these are things within the realm of our control. In the past there have been exemptions regarding naturally blown dust and agricultural dust as a result of agricultural production outside of Spokane County. We recognize the effects and now the issue is to remediate those within our realm of control. Jeff stated that one of the recommendations of the EPA was to exempt agricultural areas and mining areas. If they lower the standard, the SCAPCA Board would have to make decisions on more paved roads, liquid deicing, etc. The Advisory Council talked about that but did not come to any conclusions.

## **Public Workshop on EPA's Proposed PM Standards**

### **a. Staff Presentation – Ron Edgar**

Ron Edgar gave a condensed, repeat overview from last month's board meeting of the EPA's proposal to revise the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for particle pollution for the purpose of public comments on this subject. The revisions would strengthen a fine particle standard important for health and visibility, and improve and refocus the coarse particle standards on those particles that are associated with public health concerns. It addresses two categories of particle pollution: 1) fine particles (PM<sub>2.5</sub>), which are 2.5 micrometers in diameter and smaller and 2) coarse particles (PM<sub>10-2.5</sub>), which are smaller than 10 micrometers in diameter but larger than PM<sub>2.5</sub>. Fine particles are best described as coming from smoke and coarse particles from dust. The proposed new PM<sub>10-2.5</sub> standard would be a 24-hour standard at 70 µg/m<sup>3</sup>. EPA is proposing to revoke the current 24-hour PM<sub>10</sub> standards except in areas that have both violating monitors and a population of 100,000 or more. This means for Spokane there will need to be a closer watch and tighter controls on street sanding and sweeping, a lower wood stove curtailment trigger, possibly more wood stove bans, the need to look at additional street and parking lot paving and more requests of natural event exceptions. This will have an impact on those county roads that are in the Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) but not in more rural areas. The last day to submit comments on this subject would be April 17, 2006.

### **b. Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

### **c. Board Discussion**

Commissioner Mielke stated that his understanding was that when the PM<sub>10</sub> monitoring occurred, the community took a stand of trying to be extremely sensitive to those issues that were outside of our control. This was the blowing dust and agricultural dust outside of this area. He believes that the Boards comments should focus on the issues of whatever change in regulation would occur, we will continue to have the regulation be sensitive to the issues of wind blown dust and agricultural dust and the impact on communities. If the EPA does look at the tighter standard of 25, he hopes that they will look for ways to make available to SCAPCA additional funds for paving in Spokane County. Ron Edgar stated that if you are designated as a non-attainment area; it is much easier to get Congestion Management Air Quality (CMAQ)

money and that money has been allowed in the past for controlling particulate matter. Commissioner Mielke asked what other consequences of being a non-attainment area could include. Ron replied that it could be the withholding of transportation funds from an area. In most cases you are required to do an implementation plan that may require the adoption of additional control measures, if the local area or state fail to do that then the federal government gives you a Federal Implementation Plan (FIP) and they decide what you do to fix the problem. If you do not come into compliance, then there are certain funds that EPA can withhold from an area. They can also hold up development by stopping you from hooking any water up to new buildings.

**BOARD MEETING:** The board meeting was called to order at 10:14 a.m.

**Administrative Items:**

**Public Information/Education Update – Lisa Woodard**

Lisa Woodard gave an overview of the December and January communication and education activities and events. Community and youth outreach activities and events consisted of a youth conference presentation to Central Valley High science teachers, an air quality presentation at East Valley Continuous Curriculum School and Assumption School and science night at West Valley. The traveling Kiosk has been moved to the City of Spokane, Public Safety Building. We are continuing to plan and recruit teachers and sponsors for the Youth Conference in May. We've raised approximately \$3,000 from private sponsors to us at the cost of the conference. Ron Edgar gave a presentation to the Spokane Regional Chamber of Commerce's Public Policy Committee on EPA's proposed PM standards. The 2006 Clean Air Award was presented at the County's "Way to Go Awards Program" to TransCanada, a regulated site. Margee Chambers launched the walking school bus project in January at Pratt Elementary School.

The print materials and publications produced this recording period were the development of a director position pamphlet, the "On the Air" and a CAP newsletter, a fact sheet on how the agency handles odor complaints and updated the web pages with news articles.

The Compliance Assistance Program offered a compliance workshop for drycleaners along with the Department of Ecology and Labor and Industries. SCAPCA is also planning an asbestos workshop for related service providers in March. We continue to distribute CAP materials to area town and city halls.

Special projects consist of the wrapping up of the "It All Adds Up To Cleaner Air" campaign at worksites. The wood heating program continues to run through February and the traveling display is touring all of the local retailers and is now at the Fireplace Center and in the fall it will be offered again for touring locations. The goal to implement the "No Idle Zone" school program at four elementary/middle schools this spring is a program that was developed by the state and piloted for two years and was very successful. Packets are sent home with a fact sheet on the health issues related to idling, parents sign a pledge, the materials come back and two signs are put up at the loading and unloading areas of the schools. We have two schools

signed on, Pasadena and Mt. View Elementary and we are talking to a school on the south hill and the north side.

### **Activity Report for December 2005 – Ron Edgar**

There was nothing outstanding in the activity report. In December there were a few stagnant periods. There were 22 solid fuel burning device complaints. There were 272 days of good air quality, 73 days of moderate and one day of unhealthy for sensitive groups in 2005. We did not exceed any air quality standards and 2005 was a good year for air quality.

### **Income/Expense Statement for December, 2005 – Ron Edgar and Barbara Nelson**

There were no questions from the Board on the financial report.

### **Action Items:**

### **Approval of Minutes of the January 5, 2006 Board Meeting**

Commissioner Mielke moved to approve the January 5, 2006, board meeting minutes and Commissioner Harris seconded it. Motion passed unanimously.

### **Voucher Approval for January \$126,875.35**

Michele Pope asked about the off site heated storage. Ron Edgar stated that it is for the storage of older equipment that may be used in the future, the original boxes for them to be sent back and paper work. Commissioner Mielke moved to approve the January, 2006, voucher and Commissioner Harris seconded it. Motion passed unanimously.

### **Report on the Executive Director Search Committee – Matthew Pederson**

Michele Pope stated that the committee met on February 8 and will be meeting again on March 1<sup>st</sup>. Currently the ads are in place for the different media and will go through the end of February. The committee will be accepting applications through February and then go through them and determine the skills and abilities that the individual should have. Then they will begin the process of objectively looking at the candidates and make a decision of who the final three will be. Those three will be brought to the Board for final selection. The timeline to have the final three selected is approximately through the month of March.

### **Board Concerns**

#### **a. Selection of Chair and Vice-Chair for 2006**

Ron Edgar stated that there was no quorum to select the member from the first ballots and the ballots have gone out again. Commissioner Harris stated that this was tabled at the last SCAPCA board meeting until such time that there is an appointment of a new City Representative.

**b. Senate Bill 6802 (Informational, relating to the makeup of the board)**

Ron Edgar put this item in the board packet to keep the Board up-to-date because it does affect the makeup of the board. There was a substitute senate bill submitted and is scheduled for a second reading.

**c. Other**

There were no other Board concerns.

**Public Forum**

There were no public speakers.

**The meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.**

The next Board Meeting will be March 9, 2006 at 9:30 a.m. in the lower level of the Public Works Building.

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MATTHEW PEDERSON, CHAIR

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RON EDGAR, SECRETARY