



SPOKANE REGIONAL CLEAN AIR AGENCY  
BOARD MEETING MINUTES

September 6, 2007 9:00 a.m.  
SPOKANE COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS BUILDING  
LOWER LEVEL HEARING ROOM

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Board Member Melissa Ahern  
Chair Jeff Corkill  
Mayor Matthew Pederson  
Councilmember Mike DeVleming  
Commissioner Bonnie Mager

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Bill Dameworth, Director  
Barbara Nelson, Finance & Personnel Admin.  
Ron Edgar, Chief of Technical Services  
Margee Chambers, Public Info. Specialist  
Michelle Wolkey, Legal Council  
Mary McDermott, Secretary II

**WORK SESSION:** The work session began at 9:09 a.m.

**1. Silvicultural Burning Overview – Department of Natural Resources – Matt Holmquist**

Matt Holmquist asked to postpone this item until October's board meeting because the Department of Natural Resources employees are out fighting fires and the individual that was suppose to speak at this time had an emergency issue and could not make it to the meeting. The Board agreed to postpone this item until the October meeting.

**BOARD MEETING:** The board meeting was called to order at 9:10 a.m.

**1. Advisory Council Report – Ray Kelleher**

Ray gave an overview of the last council meeting. The Council agreed to have Margee go forward with the "white hat" approach when she visits registered sources and make sure they are in compliance and if not show them how to correct the problem to be in compliance without issuing a violation. As the community business representative on the Advisory council, Ray goes to both the West Plains and the Valley Chamber meetings. The Chambers were given information on what is going to take place on the new burning restrictions and trigger values. They are aware of what will happen if Spokane becomes non-compliant and there were no really negative comments on this burning issue from either Chamber.

**2. Director's Report – Bill Dameworth**

The policy and personnel manual was reviewed by all of the staff and a number of changes were made. It was sent back to the contractor for review. Michelle Wolkey will also review the manual before it is presented to the Board probably in October.

We have hired two people to fill the vacant AQS positions. Russ Neumiller started work on August 27<sup>th</sup> as an AQS I and Bennett Orton will start September 10 as an AQS II. Albert LePage has announced he will be retiring September 28<sup>th</sup>. We have an AQS I candidate who will start September 17<sup>th</sup> and that will fill all of the AQS positions and this will give us a full compliance staff.

Bill prepared a template letter to advise the cities of Spokane and Spokane Valley and the County of Spokane about their board member positions and terms and the letter was revised based on input from the Board. Chair Corkill also wanted a copy sent to the City of the Spokane Valley Council. Mayor Pederson would like the letter to be sent off to the Northeast Mayor's Association and other regional mayors. Mayor Pederson will also send his own letter, because his term is up at the end of this year, to Mayor Ed Crockett in the town of Latah who is the Chairman of the Northeast Mayor's Association.

As a result of Chair Corkill sending an e-mail to the ACS members, we have three additional applicants for the open chemistry position on the Advisory Council. Interviews were set up and Bill discussed the applicants with the Advisory Council. The Board would like the Advisory Council and Bill to make a recommendation to the Board of who they think is best qualified for the position and submit a Resolution to the Board at the next meeting for approval.

Bill noted that there is an issue of whether Spokane Regional Clean Air Agency's Board can issue variances to the state burning laws. Michelle Wolkey has been asked to look into this and Ecology sent Spokane Clean Air a memo that basically says they will not grant a variance and they are not sure that they have the authority to grant a variance from state law. Michelle stated that there are levels of this ban and the highest is the RCWs (state law) and then the WACs and Spokane Clean Air's regulation. We can grant a variance to our own regulations because that is in our authority to do, but we cannot undo state law. Even if we were inclined to grant a variance from our own regulations and the WAC, we would have to get the approval of Ecology and they're not going to do it either. It doesn't seem that there is anywhere to legally go on this issue given the mandatory nature of the state law. Chair Corkill stated that there was some concern from the Mayor of Rockford and County Commissioner Richards on this issue. Commissioner Mager did speak to the Mayor of Rockford and told him that we were looking into it about two months ago, and they were asking for a waiver because they feel that it is unreasonable. Commissioner Mager did make an inquiry as to whether or not any kind of outdoor monitoring has been done previously to see if there was an impact on such a small town. That hadn't been done prior to that so there was no baseline for us to make any kind of assessment. She thinks it's really a moot point since we don't have the authority to go there. Mayor Pederson stated that this is a burden on small communities in the south county. We are not providing them with any other options for waste disposal and he thinks it is unreasonable to put these types of restrictions on them. Unfortunately, this Board has no authority to give them any variance or any relief. He would like to ask Spokane Clean Air's Board and the Board of County Commissioners to look to long term solutions and possible programs to help with the waste disposal problems. Commissioner Mager added that there should be some kind of disposal event or roving event at least once a month to help the small towns dispose of their debris. Bill replied that the solid waste people

are working on this as well and he doesn't believe that this is going to be easy or cheap and this is something that they are talking about with us. Mayor Pederson stated that this Board has discussed this for a long time (3 or 4 years ago), when this legislation first started to come about, that this would become a problem and we needed to look to some solutions for when it is implemented. Now it has been implemented and we have no viable options and we need to step-up the process. Board Member Ahern asked who is responsible for developing and implementing the solutions. Chair Corkill asked Bill to look into coordinating the chipping events and the Waste-to-Energy (WTE) plant could have some sort of process of putting dumpsters down in the south county so they don't have to drive so far to drop off their debris. Councilmember DeVleming added that the ball is also in the legislature's court and the Department of Ecology's because they have created this issue so the ball should be put back into their court for some relief on their end. Mayor Pederson added that they have a compost trailer for Airway Heights that they contract with an individual for service to the citizens as a free service and it is picked up as needed.

The Board would like Bill to look into the possibilities for short-term and long-term. Long-term being doing something in the direction of the legislature working with Ecology and the short-term is to try and see if these towns can come up with some arrangements with WTE or what Airway heights is doing to deal with the natural vegetation. Councilmember DeVleming added that we could have more chipping events that we could sponsor. In the letter to Representative Buri, we should mention what Spokane Clean Air is going to do and what we are going to encourage and also say this may be something good for him to champion through his end of the system. Chair Corkill asked to have this letter copied to the Mayor of Rockford and Mark Richards who have expressed some concern in this matter.

There is really nothing more in the way of office space and it will take a while to find something that will suit Spokane Clean Air. There is some property to lease at Broadway and Lincoln and Spokane Clean Air's realtor has been asked to approach them about if they want to sell the building and get more details on it. He is also going to talk with the Flour Mill about cutting the price for the basement. Commissioner Mager asked Bill to talk to Ron Oscarson about a building that is coming available that is a lease with option to buy.

### **3. Public Information/Education Update – Margee Chambers**

We participated in Kid's Day. The Spokane Indians allowed Spokane Clean Air to have a clean air, new car technology display at one of the games. Spokane Clean Air also had a Clean Air Kid's Club and we have partnered with Regional Solid Waste, Water Quality, Ecology and some other environmental organizations to broaden the club to Enviro Kid's Club so it would cover more than just clean air (i.e., water, earth, etc.). The different agencies spent one hour a day for the week at Kinder Care and taught the kid's about the environment.

We partnered with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to create a brochure on outdoor burning. The summer education out reach "It All Adds Up To Clean Air" is being wrapped up. Currently we are planning our winter education out reach. We have created a mailer that will be sent out in September to the people who live within the new no-burn boundary for yard and garden waste burning. A flyer for the October 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> south county chipping and composting event will also be sent out with the no-burn area mailer. Lisa is the lead on outdoor burning and she is continuing the coordination efforts for the chipping events.

We have a Clean Air Kiosk that travels throughout the County primarily at work sites and it is now being upgraded to be on loan at Mobius Kids. With those upgrades, we are getting free new kid's programming that has been developed by other clean air agencies in the nation. We will be partnering with the National Weather Service and American Lung Association for the "I Love Clean Air Day" for the kids event on September 15 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., with hands on activities that teach kids about weather, air quality, and air quality and your health. We have been doing a mass distribution of our old SCAPCA kid's coloring and activity books to doctor's and dentist's offices this summer. We are coordinating other Kid's Club fall events (i.e., Girl Scout's Expanding Your Horizons Event) and KPBX is going to allow Spokane Clean Air to put items into their bags they hand out at their kid's concert.

Special projects consist of the EPA grant for the wood stove change out. Lisa is working with Avista and asked if they will partner with Spokane Clean Air and add some funds to the EPA grant and Avista has committed to contribute a total of \$10,000 to use for incentives to get people to switch from wood to natural gas fireplace inserts because that is the cleanest form of fuel that you can burn.

**4. Activity Report for July 2007 – Ron Edgar**

There is nothing unusual in the activity report. Complaints are normal for the summer and a majority of the odor complaints are for Baker Commodities rendering plant and we will be checking on some testing that they will be doing this month. There are a lot of dust complaints because of the dry summer and wind. Air quality continues to be mostly good. We did have some moderate days in the middle of July do to the wildfire smoke. Ozone has not been a problem all summer because ventilation has been good.

**5. Income/Expense Statement for July 2007**

Barbara Nelson gave a brief overview of the income and expense statement. The fee increase is in place for the program cost of the registration program and that is the reason for the jump in revenue.

**CONSENT AGENDA – ACTION ITEM** – The Board may approve the Consent Agenda by single motion in whole or in part with or without further discussion.

**6. Approval of the August 2, 2007 Board Minutes / Approval of Vouchers for August 2007 – \$152,379.86**

Mayor Pederson moved to approve the Consent Agenda and Councilmember DeVleming seconded it. Motion passed unanimously.

**PUBLIC HEARING RESOLUTION ACTION ITEMS:**

**7. Resolution 07-32 – Amendment to Article VIII Solid Fuel Burning Device Standards – Ron Edgar**

Ron gave an overview of the major changes to this rule. The Changes consist of the following: The definition of certified for woodstoves in the State of Washington which are more stringent; The

curtailment of non-certified devices operating during a stage one of impaired air quality of PM<sub>2.5</sub> particulate matter; The setting of a stage one curtailment for wood stoves at 20 micrograms per cubic meter of air of PM<sub>2.5</sub> particulate matter and the setting of a stage two curtailment at 30 micrograms per cubic meter of air; the word furnace has been removed from the exceptions because the definition of furnace also applies to an outdoor wood fired boiler and we do not want these to continue to work during a curtailment (the boiler is also illegal to install by State rules); and language was included from the RCWs regarding masonry fireplaces.

Other items had to be left in the regulation because this rule is part of the State Implementation Plan (SIP) that we use to come into attainment and continue as a maintenance area for PM<sub>10</sub>. If things were to get really bad, we do have the option to have a total ban on wood stoves all the time in the area. These are contingency measures that are placed in the regulation to satisfy requirements by EPA for our SIP and being considered an attainment maintenance area for PM<sub>10</sub>. At a stage one curtailment for solid fuel burning devices, only certified devices may burn and at a stage two curtailment all solid fuel burning devices will not be allowed to burn unless it is the individual's sole source of heat. Enforcement will be out there during these curtailments and for the first few curtailments, people will be warned if they are burning during these times and after that the inspector will issue a NOV. Ron added that he could put what is called a list serve out and it is where people can sign up and part of our forecasting and notification would be that every day it sends out a forecast of what kind of burn day it is to that list. Spokane County has two years to try these bans, it is a learning process and we need to keep this area in attainment of the PM<sub>2.5</sub> standard. There were questions from the Board of which Ron answered.

Jay Bookout has suffered problems with breathing and is on the side of everybody that's really involved in wanting clean air to breathe. Wood stoves are really against the rules of having clean air. It's what everybody that lives in this neck of the woods believes that they should have the right to do. He has lived without burning at all ever, and he feels that everybody else should do the same. He has seen that even though we have regulations, there are people that violate those regulations and he has taken it upon himself to communicate with them and let them know that everybody that has a wood stove or fireplace or anything when they have a fire going should go out and look at what is coming out of their chimney. Nobody has said this in the public media, nobody has practiced it and many, many times he has found that everybody violates. He realizes that he is no judge of opacity. He just feels that it is so important that the Board understands that wood stoves are against air quality. You can stay warm without burning wood.

Board Member Ahern moved to amend Resolution 07-32 with the change of the word "lower" to "more stringent" in the forth "WHEREAS" and Mayor Pederson seconded it.

Mayor Pederson made a motion to adopt Resolution 07-32 as amended and Councilmember DeVleming seconded it. Motion passed unanimously.

**8. Board Concerns:** There were no Board concerns.

**9. Public Forum:**

Jay Bookout is concerned with the dissemination of figures or information. He has preprogrammed into his cell phone SCAPCA's number so he can call up and find out what the air

quality is and it's nothing new because air quality is given one time a day even though air quality changes. He's found that he'd look across the Spokane Valley and he sees the smoke move in and he calls SCAPCA and he gets information that's from eight o'clock in the morning so it's not relevant. He's talked to Ron about this and he really does feel that the air quality index number is what he's learned to work with and now when Ron Edgar puts figures up on the board, it doesn't relate to air quality index, they relate to laws and micrograms but he would just as soon run his life in a way where he knows what the air quality is before he goes out and has to deal with it. He feels that SCAPCA is there to inform the public what the air quality is at anytime and the public ought to be able to get that information easily at anytime. This is over the phone rather than through a web site and when people go out to monitor chimneys for smoke, they can't do it at night and the biggest time of offending, is at night because people shut down their stoves and go to bed and expect to have a fire there when they wake up in the morning. They don't realize what they are emitting all night long and when he sees these offenses, once again he's not certified, but when he sees offenses he realizes that there's no way that these offenses can be taken care of, then he realizes that the system is not equipped well enough to even enforce that. Saying that you can only judge opacity during daylight hours is just not enough especially during the winter when daylight is only eight hours. His comment is that he wanted to come down here and get out public information, he has to be able to call up on his cell phone and get air quality index numbers anytime and it has to be current information and it's not right now.

Ron stated that right now Spokane Clean Air is working on this issue and hopefully it will not be very much longer and we will be back to having the hourly updates. It has been a problem due to the change over with the State telemetry system. They changed to a new system that was not compatible with the system that we had in our office. We are working on a way of getting switched over. At this time once a day seven days a week we give at least one number and during working days he does a number twice a day. It is not sufficient right now but hopefully in a couple of weeks the system will be working and it will be hourly.

**The meeting adjourned at 10:47 a.m.**

The next Board Meeting will be October 4, 2007 at 9:00 a.m. in the lower level of the Public Works Building.

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JEFFREY CORKILL, CHAIR

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WILLIAM DAMEWORTH, SECRETARY