

**Advisory Council Minutes
July 24, 2014
Spokane Regional Clean Air Agency**

Members Present:

Jana McDonald, Air Pollution Control
Chester Jahns, Jr., Agriculture
Doug Pottratz, Member at Large
Kevin Miller, Fire Protection
Hal Ophus , Business Community

Staff Present:

Bill Dameworth, Director
Margee Chambers, Public Information
Debbie Riley, Administrative Assistant

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

1. Approval of the June 26, 2014 Minutes

Kevin Miller made a motion to approve the June 26, 2014 minutes and Hal Ophus seconded it. Minutes approved.

2. Youth Outreach Programs - Margee

Margee gave an overview of the youth outreach efforts that SRCAA is involved with. When the agency started the outreach effort for youth twenty plus years ago the agency did a lot with classrooms. Education has changed tremendously since then with a really intense focus on standardized testing. Often the standardized testing doesn't have an air pollution component therefore SRCAA doesn't go to many classrooms any more. Primary classrooms are focused on high school AP Environmental Sciences classes. When they cover the air quality segment, it's a global focus and SRCAA brings it down to a local level. We present to fifth through eighth grade classes each spring. The agency does get very involved with a program called Spokane STEMposium. The greater Spokane Community is coming together to celebrate students' work in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM). The Spokane STEMposium is a one-day event that provides middle and high school students the opportunity to present their STEM projects in a conference setting. Students write technical papers about their projects that are submitted in advance of the event and projects are evaluated by industry experts. Students with projects earning a superior rating receive a prize and projects completed by high school juniors and seniors may be eligible to compete for college scholarships. Over 200 students from 22

regional schools participated in the first annual Spokane STEMposium in May, 2014 at the WSU Spokane campus. It was a huge success. Spokane County schools, schools from Odessa, Lake Roosevelt, Newport and Missoula Montana all come in and present and compete. The second annual Spokane STEMposium will be May 27, 2015, and WSU Spokane is donating the same space again this year at the WSU Spokane campus. Jana McDonald said she actually participated as a reviewer and found it to be very interesting.

There are several school-based programs that help schools reduce their impact on the environment. One program ran by Lisa Woodward is called the No Idle Zone. The program is a turn-key program that helps reduce parent vehicle idling around schools. There are currently forty one schools that are officially no idle zone schools. It is a state wide program and has won some national awards through US EPA.

There is also a program that was started in western Washington called Washington Green Schools. A network of over 280 Washington Green Schools statewide are working to make their campuses and communities healthier and greener. To get certified, your schools chooses one of the environmental categories to focus on for the year such as energy, transportation, waste and recycling and water. It is a free, web-based program that transforms the school environment to reduce its impact and save money by reduced utility fees. EnviroKids Camps are available to schools after school care programs and community center child care programs. Partner agencies teach students about air, water, waste and weather through hands-on activities. Often the camps are held during school breaks and have been all day events or a couple of hours a day for a week. Activities are customized to meet student and educator needs. EnviroKids Club is a free kids club for students in grades K-6th that reside within Spokane County. Members receive quarterly newsletters to learn about the environment and ways they can help protect our natural resources. Spokane County Water Resources and the Storm Water Department have funds available for all - Mead School District 5th graders sent out to Bear Lake, a county park north of Spokane. The 5th graders spend a day over a 12 day period learning about different hands on air quality and outdoor activities for an education camp. Lisa Woodard and other air quality public information officers throughout the state created an air quality activity and coloring book called Nora and Wes A Quest for Clean Air. Margee asked the Advisory Council if they had any questions or ideas. Kevin Miller commented that the SVFD is in the early stages of putting together a stand-alone public education facility in the valley. They will include fire safety and bring in the sheriff and police to talk. Instead of going to the 2nd grade classroom for example the kids will come to the stand alone facility and learn about a variety of issues, Kevin thought SRCAA might be interested in participating. Margee asked him to keep the agency updated. There was some discussion between Advisory Council members and staff. Hal asked what became of the marijuana in regards to last month's meeting. Margee gave the Advisory Council a copy of the finalized information sheet on Air Quality Issues Related to Marijuana Producing/Processing. Contact information on the marijuana producing and processing owners was acquired from the Liquor Control Board. Margee sent out a mailing to all the producers and processors introducing SRCAA. SRCAA will start a process late summer or early fall where Joe Southwell, an engineer, or Brandy Ellis, an inspector from the agency will visit the producers and processors and register them. They won't have to get an air quality permit unless there are some odor issues or equipment that would require a permit. August 6th Margee is hosting a meeting in SRCAA's office with all the different agencies that will have involvement with the marijuana businesses to

learn what other agencies will also be doing. There was some discussion between the Advisory Council and staff.

3. Update on Director Review Recruitment– Bill

Bill gave an update on the Director Recruitment. The Board asked for personality testing and had four candidates to interview, of which one person dropped out the last day. The position was offered to Julie Oliver a manger from DEQ at headquarters in Olympia. She will start working September 2, 2014. April Westby will be the Interim Director for the agency for the month of August.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 A.M.

The next Advisory Council meeting is scheduled for August 28, 2014, in Spokane Regional Clean Air Agency’s office located at 3104 E. Augusta Ave.

ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBER

APRIL WESTBY, INTERIM DIRECTOR