

Southwest Clean Air Agency

Board of Directors Minutes

March 2, 2017

The regular meeting of the Southwest Clean Air Agency Board of Directors was held in the Southwest Clean Air Agency office, Vancouver, Washington on March 2, 2017.

Those present were: Don Jensen, Chair, City of Longview
Bob Hamlin, Director, Skamania County
Ben Shumaker, Director, City of Stevenson
Arny Davis, Member at Large
Bonnie Canaday, Director, City of Centralia
Joe Gardner, Director, Cowlitz County
Ryan Smith, Director, Town of Cathlamet
Alishia Topper, Director, City of Vancouver
Mike Backman, Director, Wahkiakum County

Excused: Eileen Quiring, Director, Clark County
Bobby Jackson, Director, Lewis County

Also Present: Staff: Uri Papish, Executive Director
Paul Mairose, Chief Engineer
Traci Arnold, Office Administrator

Guests: Rachel O'Malley, WA Department of Ecology

Call to Order

Mr. Jensen called the meeting to order. A quorum was confirmed to exist.

Board of Directors Minutes

Mr. Jensen asked for consideration of the February 2, 2017 minutes. Ms. Canaday moved and Mr. Shumaker seconded that the minutes for the February 2, 2017 Board meeting be approved. Motion passed.

Consent Agenda

Mr. Jensen asked for approval of the Consent Agenda including voucher numbers 331 through 360 and 362 through 371, in the amount of \$10,589.67 which have been approved for payment by the Executive Director and voucher number 361 in the amount of \$10,589.67, January 2017 Salaries in the amount of \$96,382.85, January 2017 Benefits in the amount of \$40,209.26, and the January 2017 Activity Report. Mr. Smith moved and Ms. Canaday seconded approval of the Consent Agenda. Motion passed.

Changes to Agenda

None.

Info Items & Public Comment

None.

Public Hearing

None.

Unfinished Business/New Business

None.

Executive Session

None.

Control Officer Report

Mr. Papish briefly went over the Control Officer Report and offered to answer any questions.

Bill in Washington State Legislature to Limit Local Burn Ban Authority (February 9, 2017) - Senate Bill 5658 requires the Washington department of ecology or a local air pollution control authority to: (1) Lift burn bans when the air temperature falls below thirty-two degrees and is forecast to remain below thirty-two degrees for forty-eight hours; and (2) Call a burn ban for the area where the burn ban was lifted when the air temperature rises above thirty-two degrees for six hours. Requires a person who is in violation of the requirements above to: (1) For the first time, be provided educational materials regarding public health and air quality, information about obtaining or purchasing a certified solid fuel burning device, and provided with public notice twelve hours before an enforcement action for the first offense may be taken; and (2) For the second time in the same calendar month, be subject to a civil penalty of two hundred fifty dollars. For each subsequent violation, the amount of the civil penalty must be increased by two hundred fifty dollars for each offense. SWCAA has a number of concerns regarding the impacts of this bill and provided testimony to the Senate Energy, Environment & Telecommunications Committee on February 9th. For further information: <http://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?BillNumber=5658&Year=2017>

Mr. Davis asked what inspired this bill. Mr. Papish said Senator Pearson was concerned about Puget Sound Clean Air Agency's enforcement program on burn bans and how quickly they would do enforcement. The temperature requirement is the most concerning provision since it would essentially remove the ability to call a burn ban. The bill has moved through the environment committee and is now with the rules committee. If the bill passes the rules committee it will go before the floor of the house. Mr. Jensen suggested getting someone to sponsor an amendment. Mr. Smith said the guidelines seem difficult to follow. Mr. Papish said

Puget Sound has already changed their enforcement policy from waiting 3 hours to 6 hours before enforcement in hopes of having the bill withdrawn.

Conservative Group Proposes Carbon Tax and Dividend Plan (February 8, 2017) – The Climate Leadership Council, a conservative group of officials promoting “effective, popular and equitable” policies to address climate change, released what it is calling a “Carbon Dividends Plan.” The proposal includes four main components: (1) a carbon tax that increases gradually over time; (2) a national dividend check program to redistribute the carbon tax revenues to U.S. citizens; (3) a border fee to account for the carbon content of imports and exports; and (4) a phase-out of EPA’s authority to directly regulate carbon emissions. According to the group, a carbon tax rate of \$40 per ton would provide a family of four with an approximate dividend check of \$2,000. The plan’s authors are comprised of six prominent conservatives, including James Baker, the former Secretary of State under President George H. W. Bush and former Secretary of the Treasury under President Reagan, and Henry Paulson, the former Secretary of the Treasury under President George W. Bush. For further information:

<http://www.4cleanair.org/sites/default/files/Documents/TheConservativeCaseforCarbonDividends.pdf>

Report Finds U.S. Energy Sector Continued to Shift toward Clean Energy in 2016, On Pace to Meet International Climate Targets (February 8, 2017) – The Business Council on Sustainable Energy (BCSE) has released a report finding that the U.S. power sector continues to shift toward a cleaner, more efficient portfolio of energy generating resources and that the country is well positioned to meet its international climate targets. The study finds significant growth in natural gas and renewable energy between 2007 and 2016. During that period, the share of energy supplied by natural gas increased from 23.5 percent to 29.6 percent while the share for renewables increased from 6.5 percent to 10.4 percent. Coal’s share, in contrast, decreased from 22.5 percent to 14.4 percent over the same timeframe. Regarding GHG emissions, the report finds that the expansion in natural gas and renewables utilization, improved energy efficiency, the deployment of combined heat and power. The U.S. pledged to reduce its total GHG emissions to 26 to 28 percent below 2005 levels by 2025 as part of an international agreement to address climate change. BCSE estimates that the 2016 emissions data for power sector suggest that the U.S. is already 75 percent of the way toward its international goal. The report, entitled The 2017 Sustainable Energy in America Factbook, was produced for BCSE by Bloomberg New Energy Finance. For further information:

<http://www.bcse.org/sustainableenergyfactbook/#>

Hundreds of Former EPA Employees Urge Senate to Reject Pruitt (February 6, 2017) – Nearly 800 former EPA employees signed a letter to the U.S. Senate expressing concern that President Trump’s nominee for EPA Administrator, Oklahoma Attorney General Scott Pruitt, does not possess the necessary qualifications or environmental commitment to serve in that role. “Mr. Pruitt’s record and public statements strongly suggest that he does not share the vision or agree with the underlying principles of our environmental laws,” they assert. The letter concludes: “Different administrations have come to different conclusions about how best to apply the law in view of the science... But in the large majority of cases it was evident to us that they put the public’s welfare ahead of private interests. Scott Pruitt has not demonstrated this same commitment.” For further information:

http://www.4cleanair.org/sites/default/files/Documents/EPA_Employees_Letter_2-6-17.pdf

Mr. Papish said since the preparation of the agenda, Mr. Pruitt has been confirmed by Congress to the EPA Administrator position. There are rumors of a 30% cut to funding which if true will impact SWCAA's federal revenue. He said it is unknown if any of the changes will impact the reallocation formula. However, it's possible SWCAA may see a 30% reduction in addition to the reallocation formula reduction.

Researchers Link Fine Particulate Matter to Alzheimer's in Older Women (January 31, 2017) – Research led by the University of Southern California (USC) has led to the conclusion that older women who reside in areas where levels of fine particulate matter exceed the federal standard are 92 percent more at risk of developing dementia, including Alzheimer's disease. According to the researchers, if their findings hold up among the general population, air pollution could be responsible for over 20 percent of cases of dementia. USC Professor Caleb Finch explained, "Cells in the brain treat these particles as invaders and react with inflammatory responses, which over the course of time, appear to exacerbate and promote Alzheimer's disease. Although the link between air pollution and Alzheimer's disease is a new scientific frontier, we now have evidence that air pollution, like tobacco, is dangerous to the aging brain." The results of the research are reported in the article, Particulate air pollutants, APOE alleles and their contributions to cognitive impairment in older women and to amyloidogenesis in experimental models, published in the Nature journal 4 Translational Psychiatry. For further information: <http://www.nature.com/tp/journal/v7/n1/pdf/tp2016280a.pdf>

Mr. Papish mentioned this study on Alzheimer's disease was a follow-up to a recent study that discovered high concentrations of a certain air pollutant in human brains. Mr. Papish said he would email the Board more information about that study.

Mr. Papish said SWCAA is beginning work on the 2017/2018 Fiscal Year Budget. One of the first steps is to determine if staff will receive a cost of living wage adjustment as well as confirming the amount of the merit pool tentatively approved last year. The annual performance evaluation of the Executive Director will also be determined at the next meeting. A letter regarding the performance evaluation of the director will be sent out to all board members in the next couple of weeks.

Mr. Papish said SWCAA is working on the fee proposal outreach. Letters will be sent to all affected parties within a couple weeks. There will be an informational meeting held at SWCAA to review the proposal and answer any questions. All public comments will be shared with the board and a hearing will be held at the May board meeting. There will be two actions at the May board meeting, one is to change the rule by removing the fees and put them in a consolidated fee table to be adopted by resolution, and the second is to adopt the proposed fee increases. Mr. Davis asked if the fee increases include the per-capita fee to each city and county. Mr. Papish said all fees will be increased except Title V. Mr. Shumaker asked if the cities will receive an individual letter regarding the proposed increase. Mr. Papish confirmed a letter would be sent to all cities and counties with his contact information to discuss any concerns. Mr. Davis asked if this fee increase is due to the federal cuts. Mr. Papish said that is part of the reason, but SWCAA has not had a fee increase since 2008 and all those years of inflation have increased costs. Additionally, overall increasing workloads particularly with complaint response and the permitting process has become more complicated due to public interest and regulations so it takes more expertise and time. Mr. Davis encouraged Mr. Papish to reach out to Lewis County

because budgets are very tight and the Commissioners will want to hear from SWCAA directly.

Mr. Davis asked about the progress on the Northwest Innovation Works Air Discharge Permit. He said while he understands it takes time to ensure all the requirements are thoroughly reviewed, delays on issuance are having a negative economic effect on the region. He said once the methanol plant is up and running it will allow a very dirty plant to come off line in China. The company is also expecting a yearlong appeal process for the water permit, and no doubt there will be an appeal process for the air permit. The sooner the appeal process can begin the sooner the economic benefits can begin for the county. He asked that SWCAA do it's best to expedite the permit. Mr. Papish said SWCAA received comments from over a thousand people on this permit. The comment period closed only a couple weeks ago and the collating and response to thousands of comments will take some time. Mr. Davis was assured SWCAA was making the review a priority while maintaining a thorough and proper review. Mr. Jensen asked if SWCAA is required to respond to each comment. Mr. Papish was not certain if the rule explicitly requires a respond to each comment, but it is past practice, and it reflects on the agency to thoroughly explain what is done and why.

Mr. Shumaker said he spent a few days in Guadalajara, Mexico and wanted to express his thanks to SWCAA for all the work the agency does to protect air quality. He said you really can appreciate the effort it takes when you visit other places that do not have the controls in place. SWCAA staff were appreciative of the recognition.

Board Policy Discussion Issues

None.

Issues for Next Meeting

- A. Public Hearing.
 - 1. As Necessary.
- B. New Business/Unfinished Business.
 - 1. Merit Pool Decision - April
 - 2. Executive Director Performance Evaluation - April
- C. Board Policy Discussion Issues.
 - 1. As Necessary.
- D. Meeting Date and Location.
 - 1. April 6, 2017 at 3:00 p.m. Southwest Clean Air Agency, 11815 NE 99th Street, Vancouver, Washington.

The next Board of Directors meeting will be held on April 6, 2017 at 3:00 p.m., Southwest Clean Air Agency, Vancouver, Washington.

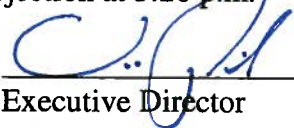
Board Meeting Attendance:

JURISDICTION	J 2017	F 2017	M 2017	A 2016	M 2016	J 2016	J 2016	A 2016	S 2016	O 2016	N 2016	D 2016
Clark County	0	+	0	+	0	+	C	+	+	+	+	C
Cowlitz County	+	+	+	+	+	0	C	+	0	+	+	C
Lewis County	+	+	0	+	+	+	C	+	A	+	0	C
Skamania County	+	+	+	+	+	+	C	+	+	+	+	C
Wahkiakum County	0	+	A	+	0	+	C	+	+	0	+	C
Cathlamet	+	+	+	+	+	+	C	0	0	+	+	C
Centralia	+	+	+	+	+	+	C	+	0	+	+	C
Longview	+	+	+	+	+	+	C	+	+	+	+	C
Stevenson	+	+	+	+	+	0	C	+	+	+	+	C
Vancouver	+	+	+	0	+	0	C	+	+	0	0	C
Member-At-Large	+	+	+	0	+	+	C	+	+	+	+	C

+ = regular member present; 0 = unrepresented; A = alternate present; C = cancelled meeting

Mr. Jensen adjourned the meeting without objection at 3:26 p.m.


Chair


Executive Director