

Southwest Clean Air Agency

Board of Directors Minutes

March 1, 2018

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 1, 2018.

Those present were: Don Jensen, Chair, City of Longview
Ty Stober, Vice-Chair, City of Vancouver
Ben Shumaker, Director, City of Stevenson
Bobby Jackson, Director, Lewis County
Joe Gardner, Director, Cowlitz County
Ryan Smith, Director, Town of Cathlamet
Army Davis, Member at Large
Lee Coumbs, Director, City of Centralia
Eileen Quiring, Director, Clark County
Blair Brady, Director, Wahkiakum County
Bob Hamlin, Director, Skamania County

Excused: 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
Bonnie Canaday, resident Lewis County

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 1, 2018 minutes. Mr. Coumbs moved and Mr. Smith seconded that the minutes for the February 1, 2018 Board meeting be approved. Motion passed.

Consent Agenda

Mr. Jensen asked for approval of the Consent Agenda including voucher numbers 686 through 722, 725, 728 and 729 in the amount of \$10,177.36 which have been approved for payment by the Executive Director and voucher number 723, 724, 726 and 727 in the amount of \$30,391.03, January 2018 Salaries in the amount of \$100,803.66, January 2018 Benefits in the amount of

\$42,794.74, the December 2017 Financial Statement, the January 2018 Financial Statement, and the January 2018 Activity Report. Mr. Smith moved and Ms. Quiring seconded approval of the Consent Agenda. Motion passed.

Changes to Agenda

None.

Info Items & Public Comment

None.

Unfinished Business/New Business

None.

Public Hearing

None.

Executive Session

None.

Control Officer Report

Mr. Papish provided highlights and offered to answer any questions regarding the information below:

ATS Estimates Benefits of More Stringent Ozone and PM Standards (February 8, 2018) – According to the American Thoracic Society (ATS), “[t]housands of lives would be saved each year, and many more serious illnesses avoided,” if U.S. counties met ATS-recommended national standards for ozone and PM2.5. Based on “scores of national and international epidemiological, animal and human-exposure studies” ATS recommends an 8-hour ozone standard of 60 parts-per-billion (ppb) versus the EPA federal standard of 70 ppb, an 11-microgram-per-cubic-meter ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$) annual standard for PM2.5 versus the EPA federal standard of 12 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ and a 25- $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ 24-hour standard for PM2.5 versus the EPA federal standard of 35 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$. The group estimates that if these standards were met in the U.S. the additional annual health benefits would include 6,270 lives saved, 15,300 cases of serious illness avoided and 12.7 million missed school and work days eliminated. State- and county-specific data related to the ATS-recommended standards are included in a report published by ATS and the Marron Institute for Urban Management at New York University, entitled Estimated Excess Morbidity and Mortality Associated with Air Pollution above American Thoracic Society-recommended Standards, 2013-2015. For further information:

<http://www.thoracic.org/about/newsroom/pressreleases/journal/health-of-the-air-2017-report.pdf>

CARB Approves Phase 2 Heavy-Duty Rule Including Provisions for Gliders and Trailers

(February 8, 2018) – The California Air Resources Board (CARB), by unanimous vote, approved the proposed California Phase 2 heavyduty truck rule as well as proposed amendments to its tractor-trailer regulation. The approved state Phase 2 standards harmonize with federal standards adopted by EPA and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration in October 2016 including requirements for glider vehicles that EPA, in November 2017, proposed to repeal but that “CARB staff thinks are crucial for protecting public health and preventing the circumvention of emission standards.” The Board-approved action varies slightly from the 2016 federal glider requirements by allowing only glider kits to be manufactured in California with engines that comply with 2010 or newer emission standards; the state already requires that all heavy-duty trucks be at least 2007 compliant. CARB also extended the effective date of the rule’s trailer requirements by two years, from 2018 to 2020.

Department of Energy Projects Flat CO2 Emissions from Power Sector Through 2050

(February 6, 2018) – The U.S. Department of Energy’s Energy Information Administration (EIA) released its Annual Energy Outlook for 2018, which includes U.S. energy market projections through 2050. Among other things, EIA’s Reference case projects that total power sector emissions of CO2 will remain relatively flat due to market conditions that will continue to favor natural gas and renewable energy resources over coal. Though previous versions of the Outlook incorporated the Clean Power Plan into the Reference case the 2018 Reference case excludes it. EIA further projects that natural gas will account for nearly 39 percent of U.S. energy production by 2050, a larger share than any other category of energy production. EIA estimates that wind and solar generation will continue to increase their share of domestic energy production and account for 64 percent of total electric generation growth through 2050. For further information: <https://www.eia.gov/outlooks/aeo/?scr=email>

Mr. Jensen asked if the data shows how much coal is coming from outside the United States. Mr. Papish said that specific type of data is not easily documented, but studies have been done. He said there was an air agency having trouble with non-attainment and was able to collect data to show that some of the particles were coming from Asia. Mr. Jensen expressed concern that the tightening of regulations on industry within the United States could have no effect since the particles are coming from a source beyond our regulatory authority. Mr. Mairose added that when conducting permit modeling there are emission factors for boundary conditions, which take into account rouge emissions a source cannot control.

EPA Issues 2016 Toxics Release Inventory Data to the Public (January 30, 2018) – EPA issued the 2016 Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) national analysis – a database that is made public annually and includes information collected from industrial facilities about the chemical wastes they manage and release. The TRI database includes information from approximately 21,600 facilities nationwide. While releases to the environment overall in 2016 (3.4 billion pounds) were similar to the previous year, EPA reports that they have decreased by 21 percent since 2006. Releases to the air decreased by 11 percent from 2015 to 2016. However, between 2006 and 2016, air released declined by 58 percent (by 829 million pounds). EPA reports that nearly every industrial sector decreased air emissions, with the greatest reductions from the electric utility sector. These reductions are the result of shifts from coal to other fuels, the installation of control technologies at coal-fired power plants and the implementation of environmental regulations. The greatest air reductions since 2006 have been of hydrochloric acid, sulfuric acid, hydrogen fluoride, methanol, toluene and styrene. For further information:

<https://www.epa.gov/trinationalanalysis>

Pruitt Testifies Before Senate Committee, Talks Air and EPA Restructuring (January 30, 2018) – EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt testified before the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works (EPW) for the first time since his January 2017 confirmation hearing. EPW Committee Chairman John Barrasso (RWY) praised Administrator Pruitt’s deregulatory activities and credited the Administrator with contributing to recent economic growth. Minority Ranking Member Tom Carper (D-DE) challenged the Administrator’s handling of EPA — delaying environmental rules, removing science advisers and taking down climate science webpages. Pruitt defended how he has run the agency over the past year emphasizing his focus on the rule of law, process and federalism, and EPA’s efforts to partner with states. Pressed on whether EPA had conducted an analysis of the emissions implications of the recent withdrawal of the “Once In Always In” guidance on air toxics, Administrator Pruitt responded that the decision had been made in the Office of Policy on the merits of agency authority and not in the Office of Air and Radiation. Senator Carper asked whether the Administrator was pursuing undoing the endangerment finding for greenhouse gases to which Pruitt responded that a decision had not yet been made. Senator Joni Ernst (R-IA) asked about the possibility of relocating EPA activities from Washington DC to each of the 50 state capitals. Although Administrator Pruitt responded that early discussions were underway to explore this type of reorganization he offered no details on timing, implications for the EPA regional offices or other related areas. In addition to air quality, a number of other areas were explored during the hearing including new initiatives for preventing lead in drinking water, the reversal of the Waters of the United States rule and controversy surrounding grant funding cuts made on political grounds by the EPA. For further information:

<https://www.epw.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/2018/1/oversight-hearing-to-receivetestimony-from-environmental-protection-agency-administrator-scott-pruitt>

EPA Rescinds Air Toxics Once-In-Always-In Policy (January 25, 2018) – EPA rescinded a policy, known as “Once-In-Always-In” (OIAI), that has been in effect since 1995. In essence, the OIAI policy provided that once a source of hazardous air pollutants is considered a major source under Section 112 of the Clean Air Act, then it remains major even if its emissions drop below major-source levels. The intent of the policy, described in an EPA memorandum of May 16, 1995, is to prevent backsliding. In this week’s new guidance, which supersedes the 1995 document, EPA states, “sources of hazardous air pollutants previously classified as ‘major sources’ may be reclassified as ‘area’ sources at any time, provided the facility limits its potential to emit below major source thresholds.” According to EPA, the new policy is based on a “plain language” interpretation of the definitions of “major” and ‘area’ source. EPA indicates in the memorandum that it anticipates publishing a notice in the Federal Register soon to take comment on adding regulatory text to reflect the agency’s decision. For further information:

<https://www.epa.gov/stationary-sources-air-pollution/reclassification-majorsources-area-sources-under-section-112-clean>

Mr. Papish introduced Jerry Ebersole to the board as the new Operations Manager. Mr. Ebersole comes to SWCAA from Oregon DEQ with a long history of air quality experience.

Mr. Papish said SWCAA received the final report for the Agency’s 2015/2016 and 2016/2017 audit by the Washington State Auditor’s Office. Both the accountability and Title V Air Program review have come back clean. Mr. Jensen said he attended the Exit Conference and

commented that the auditors spoke very highly of Mr. Papish and the staff.

Mr. Coumbs asked about asbestos compliance for disposal. He said tile flooring often tests to contain ACM but it is not a material that is easily broken or disrupted so the disposal of it as ACM is very expensive. Mr. Papish said there are different rules for friable or non-friable asbestos, separating the type of asbestos that can be released into the air. There are also federal standards that have to be met which set compliance rules. SWCAA's rules are in some cases stricter, but the main component is around testing the material before demolition. SWCAA does not do the testing but collects the paperwork and issues a Notification of Demolition which is required by cities, counties and disposal sites. Mr. Papish said SWCAA has recently worked on its asbestos rule and it is putting the proposed rule revisions out for public notice so comments on changes are encouraged.

Mr. Papish mentioned there has also been a change of policy at Waste Connections in Clark County. They are no longer accepting demolition material with suspect material without an asbestos test. Cowlitz County and Metro in Portland have been requiring testing for some time. Ms. Quiring commented that she was contacted several times about the change at Waste Connections. She also expressed concern about the mail in asbestos testing because it leaves open the ability for dishonesty and may encourage illegal dumping.

Mr. Brady said he was going to Washington DC and would be meeting with several local representatives and if there was anything SWCAA would like raised he would do so. Mr. Papish said he would follow up with Mr. Brady by email.

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 5, 2018 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 5, 2018 at 3:00 p.m., Southwest Clean Air Agency, Vancouver, Washington.

Board Meeting Attendance:

JURISDICTION	J 2018	F 2018	M 2018	A 2017	M 2017	J 2017	J 2017	A 2017	S 2017	O 2017	N 2017	D 2017
Clark County	+	+	+	C	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	C
Cowlitz County	+	+	+	C	+	0	+	+	+	+	+	C
Lewis County	+	+	0	C	+	+	0	+	+	0	+	C
Skamania County	+	0	+	C	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	C
Wahkiakum County	+	0	+	C	+	+	+	0	0	+	+	C
Cathlamet	0	+	+	C	+	0	C	+	+	+	+	C
Centralia	+	+	+	C	+	0	C	+	+	+	+	C
Longview	+	+	+	C	+	+	C	+	+	+	+	C
Stevenson	+	+	+	C	+	+	C	+	+	+	+	C
Vancouver	+	0	A	C	+	0	C	+	+	+	0	C
Member-At-Large	+	+	+	C	+	+	C	+	+	+	0	C

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

Mr. Jensen adjourned the meeting without objection at 3:29 p.m.

Chair

Executive Director