

Southwest Clean Air Agency

Board of Directors Minutes

January 3, 2019

The regular meeting of the Southwest Clean Air Agency Board of Directors was held in the Southwest Clean Air Agency office, Vancouver, Washington on January 3, 2019.

Those present were: Don Jensen, Chair, City of Longview
Ryan Smith, Director, Town of Cathlamet
Gene Strong, Director, Wahkiakum County
Lee Coumbs, Director, City of Centralia
Bob Hamlin, Director, Skamania County
Joe Gardner, Director, Cowlitz County
Eileen Quiring Director, Clark County
Bobby Jackson, Director, Lewis County
Army Davis, Member at Large

Excused: Alishia Topper, Director, City of Vancouver
Ben Shumaker, Director, City of Stevenson

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

Guests: Bonnie Canaday-Coumbs, Resident, Lewis County
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 November 1, 2018 minutes. Mr. Hamlin moved and Mr. Coumbs seconded that the minutes for the November 1, 2018 Board meeting be approved. Motion passed.

Consent Agenda

Mr. Jensen asked for approval of the Consent Agenda including voucher numbers 240 through 286 and 289 in the amount of \$13,314.13 which have been approved for payment by the Executive Director and voucher numbers 287 and 288 in the amount of \$24,349.89, October 2018 Salaries in the amount of \$99,789.90, October Benefits in the amount of \$42,104.82, November 2018 Salaries in the amount of \$96,854.79, November Benefits in the amount of

\$40,992.30, the October and November 2018 Financial Statement, and the October and November 2018 Activity Report. Mr. Coumbs moved and Mr. Smith seconded approval of the Consent Agenda. Motion passed.

Changes to Agenda

None.

Info Items & Public Comment

None.

Public Hearing

None.

Executive Session

None.

Unfinished Business/New Business

Mr. Jensen opened discussion on the voucher payment authorization level increase and recognized Mr. Papish. Mr. Papish said in order to improve timely payment to vendors and avoid business process issues, SWCAA proposes to increase the Executive Director's voucher approval level for individual vouchers to \$15,000. Currently the Executive Director only has authorization to pay vouchers up to \$4,000 without additional Board member signatures. The authorization level was approved in 2009 and has not been updated since. This authorization amount can cause business flow issues and result in delayed payment to vendors, including lease payments. Delays to pay vouchers can be several weeks. Increasing the approval level will facilitate both timely payment to vendors and SWCAA's conversion to an electronic system to process vouchers. The Board will retain oversight and review all paid vouchers monthly.

Mr. Jensen asked for a motion. Mr. Jackson made a motion to authorize the Executive Director to approve individual vouchers up to the amount of \$15,000. Mr. Gardner seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Control Officer Report

Mr. Papish reviewed and offered to answer any questions in the Control Officer Report.

Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee Meets to Review Draft EPA Assessment of Particulate Matter Science (December 12-13, 2018) – As part of EPA's review of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for particulate matter (PM), the seven members of EPA's Chartered Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee (CASAC) held a public meeting to peer review EPA's 1,881-page Integrated Scientific Assessment (ISA) for Particulate Matter (External Review Draft – October 2018) and take public comments. Section 109 of the Clean Air

Act requires CASAC to advise EPA on science in the setting of National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). The meeting came two months after Acting EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler announced the summary dissolution of the PM Review Panel, a group of 24 scientific experts appointed in 2016 to supplement the Chartered CASAC in reviewing the PM NAAQS, as well as the compression of the schedule for the review, with a new completion date of late 2020 rather than the previously announced 2022 deadline. For further information: <https://yosemite.epa.gov/sab/sabproduct.nsf/MeetingCalCASAC/33BB9FC41F61A40085258328005B3EF6?OpenDocument>

Assessment of Scientific Evidence Finds Strengthened Case for EPA’s 2009 Endangerment Finding (December 13, 2018) – In an article published in the journal *Science*, researchers present their findings that nearly a decade of subsequent scientific research supports and strengthens EPA’s 2009 “endangerment finding” (EF) that the emission of six well-mixed greenhouse 3 gases (GHG) threatens public health and welfare. “Since the original EF, scientific information about the causes, historical impacts, and future risks of climate change has continued to accumulate. This review assesses that new information in the context of the EF. We find that the case for endangerment, which already was overwhelming in 2009, is even stronger now.” The review addresses climate change research in seven areas: 1) air quality; 2) food production; 3) forestry; 4) water resources; 5) sea level rise and coastal areas; 6) energy, infrastructure and settlements; and 7) ecosystems and wildlife. Regarding air quality, the researchers find that there is new evidence supporting the “climate penalty” predicted by the EF, that some of the impacts predicted in the EF will be more severe than anticipated and that there are additional harmful climate impacts that the EF did not identify. Among other things, the researchers find an increased risk of higher surface ozone production due to extreme heat events and the potential for regional increases in particulate matter concentrations due to strong temperature inversions. Warmer and drier conditions in the West and Southwest are also anticipated to harm air quality via increased wildfire and dust storm frequencies. For further information: <http://science.sciencemag.org/content/early/2018/12/12/science.aat5982>

EPA Releases 111(b) Proposal to Revise New Source Performance Standards for GHG Emissions from Fossil Fuel-Fired Power Plants (December 6, 2018) – Acting EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler signed a proposed rule to revise the Clean Air Act Section 111(b) New Source Performance Standards (NSPS) for greenhouse gas emissions from new, modified and reconstructed coal-fired electric utility generating units. The proposal would replace the existing NSPS, which was finalized in 2015 and relies on the partial application of carbon capture and storage technology, with a “best system of emission reduction” (BSER) based on the most efficient demonstrated steam cycle technology in combination with the best operating practices. According to Wheeler, “By replacing onerous regulations with high, yet achievable, standards, we can continue America’s historic energy production, keep energy prices affordable, and encourage new investments in cutting-edge technology that can then be exported around the world.” For new and reconstructed power plants with a heat input greater than 2,000 million British thermal units per hour (MMBtu/h), the proposal requires a 1,900 pounds of CO₂ per megawatt-hour on a gross output basis (lb CO₂/MWh-gross) emission rate based on the performance of supercritical steam power plants. Once published in the Federal Register, the proposal will be open to a 60-day comment period. EPA also expects to announce at least one public hearing at a later date. For further information: <https://www.epa.gov/stationary-sources-air-pollution/proposal-nsps-ghgemissions-new-modified-and-reconstructed-egus>

Researchers Conclude Administration Analysis for Proposal to Weaken Light-Duty Vehicle Standards Is “Flawed” (December 6, 2018) - In a research paper published in Science magazine researchers are critical of the analysis underlying the Administration’s August 2018 proposed rule to roll back light-duty vehicle fuel economy and greenhouse gas emission standards. The researchers note that although EPA, in collaboration with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and the California Air Resources Board, concluded in January 2017 that the emission standards adopted in 2012 for model years (MY) 2022 through 4 2025 were technologically feasible with benefits that outweighed the costs, under the current Administration EPA and NHTSA proposed earlier this year to freeze standards at MY 2020 levels through MY 2026. As EPA and NHTSA continue to engage in their regulatory development process the researchers say they seek to describe how the agencies’ 2018 analysis upon which the proposal is based “has fundamental flaws and inconsistencies, is at odds with basic economic theory and empirical studies, is misleading, and does not improve estimates of costs and benefits of fuel economy standards beyond those in the 2016 analysis.” In an article published by the University of Southern California’s Sol Price School of Public Policy (USCPrice), Antonio Bento, a professor at USCPrice and lead author of the research paper, is quoted as saying, “It appears federal officials cherrypicked data to support a predetermined conclusion that the clean-car standards will lead to too many highway deaths. We do not support that conclusion and the data does not support that conclusion.” For further information: <http://science.sciencemag.org/content/362/6419/1119> and <https://priceschool.usc.edu/rules-to-boost-fuel-economy-for-passenger-vehicleswill-do-more-good-than-harm-new-study-shows/>

EPA Issues NPRM, ANPRM on Residential Wood Heater NSPS (November 21, 2018) The US EPA has issued two new notices that could potentially affect the emissions requirements for residential wood heaters including wood-fired stoves, hydronic heaters and forced-air furnaces. In February 2015, the EPA published a final New Source Performance Standard (NSPS) governing emission limits of particulates from these devices that would be implemented in two steps. The Step 1 emissions limit of 0.32 pounds per million Bmtu heat output became effective in 2015 and all wood heaters sold since December 31, 2015 must meet this limit. The limit for Step 2 of 0.1 pounds per million Btu heat output was proposed as being effective five years after the 2015 rule was published, envisioning that in 2020, affected wood-fired units would meet these more-protective emissions limits. In this week’s action, EPA first issued a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM), in which EPA proposes amendments to the 2015 NSPS for residential wood heaters that would maintain the current manufacturers’ compliance deadline of 2020, but would allow retailers a 3- year “sell through” deadline allowing sale of any existing inventory of heaters meeting Step 1 limits through May 2022. In an accompanying notice, EPA this week issued an Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPRM) in which it seeks public comment on several aspects of the 2015 rule, including test methods used to meet EPA requirements, and whether the 2020 deadline for tighter emission limits should be maintained. The ANPRM notes that EPA does not have full confidence that the 2015 testing requirements may not reflect real-world use conditions and emissions. The proposals issued apply only to new residential wood heaters; existing units that have already been sold are not affected. EPA will take public comment on the proposed rule for 45 days and the ANPRM for 75 days after they are published in the Federal Register. For further information: <https://www.epa.gov/residential-woodheaters/proposed-amendments-new-source-performance-standards-residential-wood> and <https://www.epa.gov/residential-wood-heaters>

Mr. Hamlin asked if Vancouver experienced stagnant air over the past week. Mr. Papish responded the air was very stagnant. There were low winds, an inversion layer, and low mixing levels. The cold temperatures combined with the fireworks and wood burning caused a spike on New Year's morning. SWCAA issued a Stage II Burn Ban on January 1, 2019 that lasted through mid-day January 3, 2019.

Mr. Papish said at next board meeting there may be a presentation on the salary survey conducted per the Board's request last year.

Mr. Papish said SWCAA is very close to reaching a settlement with TransAlta concerning the civil penalties issued in June 2018. Mr. Davis asked for confirmation that the Board will be updated regarding the settlement with TransAlta. Mr. Papish said he's hopeful he will have an update at the next meeting regarding whether a settlement has been reached.

Board Policy Discussion Issues

None.

Issues for Next Meeting

A. Public Hearing.

1. As Necessary.

B. New Business/Unfinished Business.

1. As Necessary.

C. Board Policy Discussion Issues.

1. As Necessary.

D. Meeting Date and Location.

1. February 7, 2019 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 February 7, 2019 at 3:00 p.m., Southwest Clean Air Agency, Vancouver, Washington.

Board Meeting Attendance:

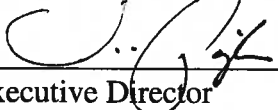
JURISDICTION	J 2019	F 2018	M 2018	A 2018	M 2018	J 2018	J 2018	A 2018	S 2018	O 2018	N 2018	D 2018
Clark County	+	+	+	A	+	+	C	+	+	A	0	C
Cowlitz County	+	+	+	A	+	0	C	+	+	+	+	C
Lewis County	+	+	0	+	+	+	C	0	0	+	0	C
Skamania County	+	0	+	0	+	+	C	+	+	+	+	C
Wahkiakum County	+	0	+	A	+	+	C	A	+	+	+	C
Cathlamet	+	+	+	+	+	+	C	+	+	+	+	C
Centralia	+	+	+	0	+	+	C	+	+	+	+	C
Longview	+	+	+	0	+	+	C	+	+	+	+	C
Stevenson	0	+	+	+	+	+	C	+	+	A	+	C
Vancouver	0	0	A	+	+	+	C	0	A	0	+	C
Member-At-Large	+	+	+	+	+	+	C	0	0	0	+	C

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

Mr. Jensen adjourned the meeting without objection at 3:19 p.m.



 Chair



 Executive Director