

East Whatcom Community Council Clean Air Committee (CAC)

Meeting summary

July 1, 2015

CAC Charge: The charge of the East Whatcom Community Council Clean Air Committee is to work jointly with the Northwest Clean Air Agency to develop a comprehensive, community-based, long-range plan designed to improve the air quality in the East Whatcom County Region.

Committee Guidelines:

1. Listen to understand, not to respond; seek clarity.
2. Voice opinions and questions openly in the meeting and not after; speak for yourself; everyone's opinion is valuable and worthy of attention.
3. Conflict over a topic is healthy; take nothing personally; engage in debate.
4. Do not expect consensus or certainty.
5. Explain why you don't agree with a proposal, but when a decision is made, buy in.
6. If people look like they have something to say, encourage them to speak.

Chair: Lou Piotrowski (excused)

Acting Chair: Phil Cloward

Members: Jerry DeBruin & David Moe, WCFPD #14; John Wolpers, Whatcom County Health Department; Mark Schofield & Kyle White, OppCo; Veronica Dearden, Kendall Watch Community Action Group; Kurt Thompson, community member; Viktor Vetkov, Slavic Church; Wain Harrison, Whatcom County; Rebecca Brown & Julie O'Shaughnessy, NWCAA

Present: Phil Cloward, Jerry DeBruin, Mark Schofield, John Wolpers, Julie O'Shaughnessy

Agenda items:

1. **Introductions** - No introductions necessary. Only committee members present.

2. **Approval of June 3, 2015 meeting summary**

Motion:

- Mark Schofield moved to approve meeting notes.
- Julie O'Shaughnessy seconded the motion.

3. **Open public comment** – No public comment.

4. **Announcements**

- **Woodstove Bounty Program update**

Julie – Contacted Jerry Thramer, owner of Innovations, to see if he would be willing to pick up and recycle woodstoves for residents who are approved and have pre-registered for the bounty program. Jerry readily agreed. He will also send the necessary documentation (photo and certificate of destruction) to Julie. The bounty program has also led to several woodstove change-outs, an unexpected benefit. Aly Robinson, Opportunity Council, is working with qualified bounty participants to complete change-outs. To date, 12 residents are pre-registered.

Bounty checks will be issued sooner for residents only participating in the bounty program. For residents interested in both the bounty and change-out programs, checks will take a bit longer because of paperwork logistics and installation scheduling related to change-outs.

Although woodstove pickup arrangements were made with all residents who pre-registered as required, NWCAA staff was at the East Whatcom Regional Resource Center from 9 to noon on June 27 in case anyone showed up without pre-registering. Notice of staff's presence was advertised via NWCAA, EWRRRC, and KendallWatch websites in addition to a sandwich board in front of the resource center. No bounty program participants showed up. However, staff was able to talk to multiple community members and proliferate outreach efforts. In the future, where event participation requires pre-registration, staff will not plan to be present the day of the event.

Mark – Asked if the Woodstove Bounty Program will happen again in the future.

Julie – Although the program resulted in unforeseen change-outs, other strategies such as residential woodshed construction will also be considered for grant funding.

- **Residential woodsheds**

Julie – Spoke with Rod Tinnemore, Ecology, about the viability of using grant funds for the construction of residential woodsheds. It had been understood by NWCAA staff that residential woodsheds are not be eligible for reimbursement via the Ecology grant. Tinnemore clarified that woodsheds are eligible, provided that they are constructed and given to residents as wood sheds and not as raw materials. Supplying residents with adequate dry storage will provide a critical component to help improve Columbia Valley's air quality.

Phil – Clarified that current plans for the wood bank do not require a new building for wood storage because wood will be delivered directly from the wood purveyors to the residence. Wood storage may be necessary in the future, and if it is, Phil Schissler will work with Wain Harrison to address any building and permitting requirements and with Paul on possibly securing wood shed materials (off-spec reinforced glass) from a local manufacturer.

Phil, John, and Jerry – Commented that the NWCAA woodshed plan, specifically modified and reinforced for the Columbia Valley's potential heavy snow load, is more appropriate and desirable than the Ecology woodshed plan. Phil said a prototype of the modified plan was built several years ago and cost approximately \$300, but the cost may be less if building materials are purchased in large quantities.

All – Identified components that need to be finalized regarding Opportunity Council supplying cord wood via the energy assistance program and constructing residential woodsheds, including: contact with local vendor(s) to supply building materials at free or reduced cost; how to identify and prioritize residents in need of a woodshed; who will construct and deliver woodsheds; and what is the expectation of wood storage/stacking once wood is delivered.

Phil – Volunteered to get woodshed material bids from local vendors and to reach out to community members (Eagle Scouts, schools, etc.) for construction and delivery of woodsheds.

Jerry – Volunteered to help Phil.

- **Ecology wood smoke reduction grant**

Julie – Ecology granted a one-year extension (June 30, 2016) to the existing grant of which there is approximately \$50,000 left, not including the bounty program or June's invoices.

5. Biomass committee update

Phil – Working with wood purveyors to determine price per cord and to secure supply of cord wood (versus pressed logs) for Columbia Valley residents.

6. Outreach

Jerry – The Red Cross smoke detector outreach was a success. Three teams composed of fire department personnel, Red Cross volunteers, and a local insurance company canvassed the community. Approximately 50 smoke alarms were installed. Outreach is scheduled to occur on a quarterly basis. Future partnering with NWCAA and/or Opportunity Council on the outreach effort is reasonable as there is opportunity to talk to residents while smoke alarms are installed.

7. Upcoming community events – Other than building residential woodsheds, none schedule at this time.

8. Strategic plan

Julie – Proposed a work session to revisit and update the committee's general objectives and strategies that were identified in June 2014, and to identify primary stakeholder's participation (committee members) in each of the updated objectives.

Phil – Suggested a late fall timeframe, possibly October.

9. Monitoring & complaint summary

Julie – No air quality exceedances or wood stove complaints since last meeting.

2015 meetings, 4:30 – 6:00 p.m. - EWRRRC, 8251 Kendall Road, Maple Falls, WA:

Jan. 21	April 1	July 1	Oct. 7
Feb. 4	May 6	Aug. 5	Nov. 4
March 4	June 3	Sept. 2	Dec. 2