

**East Whatcom Community Council Clean Air Committee**  
**Meeting summary**  
**March 2, 2016**

**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.

**Chair:** Phil Cloward, East Whatcom Community Council

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

**Present:** Phil Cloward, Mark Schofield, John Wolpers, Wain Harrison, Julie O'Shaughnessy

**Agenda items:**

1. **Introductions** – No introduction necessary. Only committee members present.

2. **Approval of February 3, 2016 meeting summary**

Motion:

- Wain Harrison moved to approve meeting notes.
- Mark Schofield seconded the motion.

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

4. **Announcements**

**John** – Investigated the possibility of scout troops participating in the delivery of woodsheds as a project. Found that the project is neither a viable option nor good fit.

5. **Cord wood vendors and vouchers**

**Mark** – Because the cord-wood program started later than expected this wood-heating season the pilot project will be implemented in earnest next year. Jerry mentioned two people at last months' meeting that may be interested in participating; Dave Hershey and Augie Berenson. Mark talked to Dave who is interested in participating next year.

**Phil** – Emphasized that the program as it currently exists, is intended to involve cord-wood suppliers from the Columbia Valley area only. Expansion outside of the valley may occur at some point in the future, but for now is focused on the four vendors within the valley. Of the four, two have responded and are willing to continue. It is important to provide the vendors with an estimate of how much product they should have in inventory for the program. Suggested that delivery should start in mid-September.

**Mark** – Was not specifically aware of the vendor restriction and will clarify the eligible area boundary with Lorena Shah. Lorena will be sending out an RFQ in August which will help estimate the amount of wood needed, identify eligible suppliers and determine if any additional suppliers if needed.

**Julie** – Hopes that if Columbia Valley vendors do not have enough product (dry wood), especially with the given lead time, that expansion of eligible vendors outside the Columbia Valley will be considered. Asked if the program time-period can be expanded to start earlier.

**Mark** – Will check, but believes the program timeframe is dictated by the federal LIHEAP program.

## **6. Biomass Committee update**

**Phil** – A member of the Oregon Wood Co-op was invited to make a presentation locally and in Concrete. A meeting held on February 23 resulted in the organization of a Board of Directors and the formation of a Washington Wood Co-op. Work on the commerce loan, by-laws, and mission statement continues.

## **7. Residential woodshed construction and delivery**

**Julie** – Phil and a group of volunteers did great work delivering sheds on Saturday.

**Phil** – Approximately 7 members of the Christian Men's Club showed up in force last Saturday to help with delivery. Jerry Levine was approached by Richard Whitson to help. Jerry happily volunteered and provided his skid steer to assist with delivery. Eight woodsheds were delivered on Saturday, February 27 and at least that many are scheduled for delivery on Saturday, March 2.

Will Anderson, Whatcom County Fire Inspector, inspected the East Whatcom Regional Resource Center and said that sheds cannot be stored against the building because of potential fire danger. All currently stored woodsheds will be gone by Saturday.

Nooksack Valley High School has constructed 42 woodsheds, but has run out of enough 2'x4' to complete the remaining 8 sheds. It appears that the shortage is due to how they've been constructed, additional bracing on the roof for heavy snow load. Phil will confirm this as the reason then coordinate with Julie to order additional materials to complete the remaining 8 woodsheds.

Mt. Baker has constructed 20+ woodsheds so far and approximately 45 woodsheds have been delivered.

**Julie** – Twelve applications of undelivered woodsheds will remain after March 5 delivery date. Julie will resume efforts to get more applicants.

## **8. Clean Air Committee activity summary**

**Wain** – Intended to bring a draft summary of our committee's activity for review. Matt Aamot, Whatcom County long-range planner, requested a summary of the Clean Air Committee's activity and a presentation to Whatcom County Planning and Development committee. Wain will draft a summary and distribute it to members for comments and edits.

The NW Clean Air Agency article in the Bellingham Herald prompted the interest in our committee.

## **9. NWCAA enforcement/education efforts**

**Julie** – Four NWCAA staff members conducted enforcement and educational canvassing on Thursday, February 25. Degrading air quality over the several previous days prompted

this effort. This was the first effort of this kind and allowed an opportunity to work the “bugs” out in regards to educational materials, messaging, issuance of written warnings, and leave-behinds that best assist in proper wood burning.

The two teams split up and covered a pre-identified route plus additional areas since wood-burning activity was fairly low which allowed time for greater coverage.

Five warnings were issued and approximate 20 contacts were made with residents.

**Mark** – Asked if there are any plans at this point to go back out again.

**Julie** – Future efforts will be weather and air quality dependent.

**10. Strategic plan**

**Phil** – Nothing new to report.

**11. Air monitoring data and complaint update**

**Julie** – There were no exceedances of the 24-hour, 35-micrograms-per-cubic-meter (ug/m<sup>3</sup>) average standard, and there were no woodstove complaints during the last month.

**2016 meetings, 4:30 – 6:00 p.m. – East Whatcom Regional Resource Center, 8251 Kendall Road (starting March 2016)**

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