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BOARD MEETING MINUTES

The meeting of the Board of Directors of the Northwest Clean Air Agency was held at 1:30 p.m., Thursday, March 13, 2014, at 1600 South Second Street, Mount Vernon, Washington.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Skagit County	Sharon Dillon for Ron Wesen
Island County	Jim Campbell Keith Higman for Kelly Emerson
Whatcom County	Rud Browne Brian Heinrich
Member-At-Large	Kelly Moldstad for Terry Nyman

ABSENT: Joe Lindquist

ALSO PRESENT:

NWCAA staff members	Mark Asmundson, Rebecca Brown, Mark Buford, Julie O'Shaughnessy, Katie Skipper, Bob Uhrich, and Laurie Caskey-Schreiber
Advisory Council	No one present
Legal counsel	Simi Jain for Loch Clark

CALL TO ORDER

Brian Heinrich, Board Vice-Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:33 pm.

APPROVAL OF PRIOR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

On motion by Jim Campbell, seconded by Keith Higman, the minutes for the February 13, 2014, Board meeting were approved.

PRESENTATIONS

NWCAA air quality inspectors Rebecca Brown and Bob Uhrich presented the agency's annual Partners for Clean Air Platinum award to Trident Seafoods Anacortes. Plant facilities manager Jeff Johnson and plant manager Tim Martinez accepted this award on behalf of Trident Seafoods. Johnson explained some of the innovative equipment and practices that Trident recently put into place to save energy and reduce outdoor odors. He said the plant

has increased production overall by 12 percent while making these changes. He said the Anacortes plant has the capacity to process 60 million pounds of seafood per year, and that Trident is the largest seafood producer on the west coast. Board members congratulated them for their efforts to reduce air pollution.

NEW BUSINESS

Executive Director Mark Asmundson explained that the Advisory Council recently reviewed the draft fiscal year 2015 budget and made a recommendation to approve it. Asmundson requested a meeting of the Finance Committee (members are Kelly Emerson, Brian Heinrich and Ron Wesen) to begin at noon on April 10, immediately prior to the Board meeting. As the only member of the committee present at the Board meeting, Brian Heinrich agreed to the requested meeting time on behalf of the committee.

Rud Browne asked Asmundson for some agency input with regards to addressing the Columbia Valley air pollution problem. He was interested in gaining agency recommendations on possible development standards that the Whatcom County Council should consider when it reviews the Comprehensive Plan for this area. NWCAA legal counsel Simi Jain advised the Board and agency staff that an appropriate place to provide this input would be during the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) review process.

ACTION ITEMS

Bills and claims

Sharon Dillon made a motion to approve the February 2014 bills and claims, seconded by Jim Campbell, and unanimously approved.

STAFF REPORTS

Director's report – Mark Asmundson

Asmundson reported to the Board on the following matters:

- There has been a legislative lobbying effort by the Washington Oil Marketers Association to establish a statewide flat registration fee for gas stations. This approach would be significantly different from the approach used by NWCAA and most other local air agencies in the state. The norm is a sliding fee schedule that is based on facility throughput of gasoline. The Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee (JLARC) has commenced the process of looking at the current fee structures and their rationale. The JLARC staff is a fact-finding, nonpartisan resource to the Legislature, and the Legislature generally follows its recommendations. Asmundson feels confident that this group will fairly and thoroughly review the issue.
- Last week, NWCAA staff met with the Advisory Council, and the meeting went well. One key agenda item was review of the draft fiscal year 2015 budget. The Council unanimously recommends approval by the Board.
- The air operating permit (AOP) for Shell Puget Sound Refinery has recently been completed and updated and is now ready for review. The agency has received several comments and requests for a public hearing (which is unusual, if not

unprecedented). The public hearing has been scheduled and will be advertised. Board members may, but are not required to attend.

- Asmundson gave an update on some work that Janicki Industries is doing with a recent Gates Foundation grant that the company received. Janicki has developed an incinerator for human waste and animal waste that has the capacity to distill water and generate a small amount of electricity. The company is testing the concept of "package plants" and plans, if the test facility works as designed, to manufacture and ship a large quantity of these incinerators to Africa. Incinerator permitting is extremely complex. The history of incinerators is such that there exist many very broad statutory requirements applicable to this sector.

NWCAA lead new source review engineer Dan Mahar has been working creatively and effectively with Janicki to ensure that this project moves forward, and he has found a pathway through the complicated regulatory maze that can affect incinerators.

New source review and air operating permit update – Mark Buford

NWCAA Assistant Director Mark Buford reported that the agency received four applications to modify existing permits, and four permits were issued during the month of February. He noted that the agency has been able to consistently issue permits in a timely fashion. All permit decisions this month were made within the allowed 60 days.

Enforcement update – Julie O’Shaughnessy

Director of Compliance Julie O’Shaughnessy reported on enforcement issues that occurred in February. She also explained the process that determines the penalty fee, noting that the goal for most situations is to gain a commitment by the source to comply with air quality regulations.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to consider, the meeting adjourned at 2:32 p.m.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify this is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the meeting of the NWCAA Board of Directors held on March 13, 2014, in Mount Vernon, Washington.

ATTEST: 
Terry Nyman, Secretary
NWCAA Board of Directors


Ron Wesen, Chair
NWCAA Board of Directors 

DATED: April 10, 2014