

East Whatcom Community Council
Clean Air Committee meeting summary

July 17, 2013

Present: Rebecca Brown, Phil Cloward, Laura Curley, Veronica Dearden, Jerry DeBruin, Wain Harrison, Lou Piotrowski, Mark Schofield, Katie Skipper, Kurt Thompson

1. Introductions:

No introductions necessary.

2. Approval of June 19, 2013, meeting summary: -On motion by Phil, seconded by Wain, the summary of the June 19, 2013, meeting was unanimously approved.

The group agreed to add two items to the agenda: "Action item follow-up" and "Committee member reports."

3. Open public comment:

None

4. Committee member reports:

- Lou reported on the Clean Air Committee's progress at the East Whatcom Community Council meeting. The report was positive and well received.
- Katie reported on power outage statistics – including transmission, substation and distribution outages affecting the three "feeders" for the area – as provided by Puget Sound Energy:

Feeder	Location	5-yr avg. (yearly hrs.)	Worst (total hrs.) 2008-2012
GLA-12	Along Mount Baker Highway (SR 542), from Glacier Springs Way to Rainier Way	12.0	32.4 in 2011
KEN-12	Along Kendall Road (SR 547), from Mount Baker Highway to Reese Hill Road to the north	10.7	17.8 in 2012
KEN-13	Along Mount Baker Highway, from Kendall Road to Maple Falls	6.6	11.8 in 2009

PSE plans to install tree wire on the KEN-12 feeder mainline and build a feeder-tie over the next two years, which should result in improved reliability. At GLA-12, which has the most outages, PSE says it doesn't have a cost effective solution for providing a feeder backup because it is the farthest end of the system.

Group discussion followed with several disputing PSE's figures. There was a comment about the power being off for 12 hours at a time last year.

- Laura said that the Washington Department of Ecology will solicit woodstove change-out proposals in the next couple of days for the upcoming grant cycle. NWCAA will apply in August for funding for woodstove change-outs in the Columbia Valley urban growth area. This grant will not provide funding for building woodsheds, but it will allow for repairs to a furnace that is the sole source of heat. NWCAA would again partner with the Opportunity Council. The last grant paid for 30 woodstove change-outs.

The group agreed that air quality improvement would come only with a comprehensive program.

- Wain suggested developing a no-interest, revolving loan fund for repairing heating systems, installing generators and installing more efficient heating systems. Wain thought it could operate similarly to the city of Bellingham's block grant fund program, with grant funds awarded by a funding review board. Perhaps a later version of it could involve the ability for people to build equity to pay back the loan.

Discussion followed about the possibility of the EWCC managing its own funds, how Bellingham's block grant program worked, and how the program would be administered.

Phil thought the system would be a possible way to finance a community wood bank. He has had a very positive reaction about a wood bank from the tree industry people because they believe it will cut down on trespassing. He said he would like to see a "sweat equity" component built into the program.

Action item: Mark will look into how the Opportunity Council has administered previous government grants and loan programs, and what the application and administration requirements were.

5. Action item follow-up:

Item III. Staff Support:

- NWCAA sent out draft meeting summary to the group for preliminary review and input a week after the group met.
- NWCAA sent a draft agenda to Lou to distribute to the rest of the group for comment/additions 10 days prior to the scheduled meeting.
- NWCAA sent the agenda and revised draft minutes to the group one week prior to the meeting.

All agreed that this system works well.

Item IV. Facilitation of meetings:

- Publish meeting notices in the Foothills Gazette– **David** – was not in attendance. Jerry will check with David.
- List meetings on Opportunity Council’s online East Whatcom Regional Resource Center calendar – **NWCAA** – The EWRRRC has meetings posted on the calendar at <http://www.opcco.org/ewrrc/>.
- Meeting notes and agendas on NWCAA’s website - **NWCAA** - are now located at <http://www.nwcleanair.org/news/meetings.htm>.
- Provide a sign-in sheet at meetings where people can indicate they would like to make a comment – **NWCAA** – sign in sheet available.

Action item: Jerry will check with David about placing meeting notices in the Foothills Gazette

6. Review EWCC operational policies and procedures:

Lou will maintain a “Policies and Procedures” document for the committee that will include the group’s charge, facilitation and support procedures, etc.

Action item Laura will compile her notes and send them to Lou. The committee will continue developing policies and procedures. Lou will maintain and add to the document as necessary, and will present a final draft to the EWCC Board of Directors for review and approval.

7. Review charge of Clean Air Committee:

The group agreed on the charge as follows:

The charge of the EWCC 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.

Action item: Present committee’s charge to the EWCC Board of Directors for review and approval - **Lou**

8. Define “stakeholder”

The group agreed to the following definition:

A person, group, organization, business or agency involved in or affected by a decision or course of action recommended by the EWCC Clean Air Committee.

9. Preliminary list of stakeholders:

The group brainstormed ideas for who potential stakeholders might be. The following list was developed:

- Whatcom County Health Department
- East Whatcom regional residents
- Vulnerable populations (children, the elderly, people with heart or upper respiratory disease or illness, pregnant women)
- School officials – Kendall Elementary and Mount Baker School District
- Media
- Emergency responders
- Medical professionals
- Puget Sound Energy (PSE)
- Opportunity Council
- Timber industry
- Kendall Watch
- Whatcom County government
- Northwest Clean Air Agency
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- Washington Department of Ecology
- Realtors/property managers
- American Lung Association
- Chamber of Commerce
- Local businesses
- National Institute of Health
- Wood stove retailers
- Slavic community
- Food bank
- Local Churches
- Opposition
- Insurance companies

Lou requested that the stakeholder list be circulated as soon as possible for group members to think about and comment on.

Action item: **Laura** will compile the list and send it to Lou for circulation as soon as possible. **Committee members** will talk to neighbors for more ideas and report back at the next meeting.

10.Addition to agenda – potluck:

It was suggested that an unstaffed air quality information table be setup up during the joint Kendall Watch and East Whatcom Community Center potluck that will be held in September. Discussion ensued and all agreed.

Chief DeBruin, Fire District 14, is also planning an information table at the potluck.

End of meeting action items:

The group agreed to carry the following agenda items forward to the next meeting, August 21, 2013:

- Identification of stakeholders and stakeholder groups, organizations and agencies (continued)
- Identification of individuals who might represent the stakeholder groups, organizations and agencies identified

Approval of July 17, 2013 meeting summary: -On motion by Phil, seconded by Mark, the summary of the July 17, 2013 meeting was unanimously approved.