

East Whatcom Community Council Clean Air Committee

Meeting minutes

July 16, 2014

Clean Air Committee Charge: 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.

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.

Present:

Acting Chair: Phil Cloward

Members: Jerry DeBruin & David Moe WCFPD #14; Mark Schofield, OppCo; Wain Harrison, Whatcom County Fire Marshal; Veronica Dearden, Kendall Watch Community Action Group and Block Watch; Rebecca Brown & Julie O'Shaughnessy, NWCAA

1. Approval of June 18, 2014 meeting minutes:

Motion:

- Jerry DeBruin moved to approve the minutes.
- Wain Harrison seconded the motion.

2. Open public comment: None

3. Approve final stakeholder list: (5 minutes)

O'Shaughnessy reported that the stakeholder list is complete with the exception of a health care professional (nurse).

Dearden reported that the registered nurse she had in mind to serve on the committee, cannot. She continues to reach out to potential participants and is working with the Whatcom County Health Department to find a health care representative to participate as a "ring 1" committee member. DeBruin offered Dearden help in finding a "health representative" if she continues to run into challenges.

Action item(s):

- Revise stakeholder list to reclassify ring 3 stakeholders, "firewood purveyors", "wood products industry" and "timber industry", to "future contact" stakeholders.
O'Shaughnessy (complete)
- Consult with known, local nurse to possibly serve as a CAC member and get back to O'Shaughnessy with update prior to July's meeting. **Dearden and DeBruin (complete –**

Dearden recruited Tammy Ferris, LPN with Whatcom County Health Dept. and resident in Columbia Valley)

- Revise Whatcom County Council stakeholder list to include all County Council members. **O'Shaughnessy (complete)**

4. Stakeholder letter:

O'Shaughnessy reported that with the help of the committee, all stakeholder contact mailing information has been compiled with the exception of the National Institute of Health, U.S. Department of Health, and a local business. As a result, 48 of the 53 stakeholders will receive the invitation letter.

Cloward is still working to get the letter signed by Piotrowski and will mail it to O'Shaughnessy who will work with NWCAA staff to mail out the letter.

Action item(s):

- Draft stakeholder contact information spreadsheet for mailing purposes. **Julie (complete)**
- Provide O'Shaughnessy with information to complete stakeholder mailing information spreadsheet. **All CAC members (complete)**
- Get stakeholder letter signed by Piotrowski. **Cloward (complete)**
- Provide O'Shaughnessy with signed stakeholder letter for mailing. **Cloward (complete)**
- Mail out stakeholder letter. **O'Shaughnessy (complete – mailed August 11, 2014)**

5. Strategic planning work session:

O'Shaughnessy presented, for committee consideration, a spreadsheet that lists all "ring 1" affiliations on the "x" axis and a list of action areas (categories) on the "y" axis to identify areas in which each of those affiliations may be involved in their effort to support the CAC charge.

Ring 1 affiliations:

- EW community members
- Vulnerable populations
- WCFPD #14
- OppCo
- Kendall Watch
- Whatcom County
- NWCAA
- Health practitioner

Categories (action areas):

- Baseline data
- Monitoring data
- Education & outreach
- Woodstove change-out
- Energy assistance program
- Clean & dry fuels
- Enforcement
- Funding

Each committee member present, representing their affiliation, identified the categories in which they would be involved, providing detailed actions associated with each.

Committee questions and/or comments:

- More accurate information for the number of households may be available through WC Planning & Development
- It would be helpful if NWCAA had a clean air message handout and/or sticker to give residents
- Investigate the possibility to use grant funds for “repair” when woodstoves are removed

Cloward pointed out that although the spreadsheet helps to identify specific tasks each affiliation will participate in, a strategic plan is still necessary.

Action item:

- Cloward will draft strategic plan for discussion purposes at our August meeting.