

## East Whatcom Community Council Clean Air Committee

### Meeting minutes

August 20, 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 WCFPD #14; Mark Schofield, OppCo; Wain Harrison, Whatcom County Fire Marshal; Rebecca Brown & Julie O'Shaughnessy, NWCAA

#### **Agenda items:**

1. **Introductions:** None, no new participants present

2. **Approval of July 16, 2014 meeting minutes**

#### **Motion:**

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

3. **Open public comment:** None, no public present

4. **Announcements**

O'Shaughnessy shared that her and Brown attended a "Strategies to Reduce Residential Wood Smoke" conference in Missoula, Montana where success stories, new information, and resources were shared and may be useful in the Columbia Valley. Details of the conference will be shared in future meetings as agenda items warrant.

5. **Wood bank pilot project at EWRRRC**

Mark Schofield provided the following:

- On 7/22, Paul Schissler met with Opportunity Council staff (Mark, Lorena and Jessica) to discuss the potential for a wood bank pilot project at EWRRRC.
- The pilot project could focus initially on serving ELAFS (Early Learning and Family Services)/Head Start families in the Colombia Valley.

- LIHEAP (Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program) funds may be available to pay for cord wood for eligible households. It's anticipated that this program will be established by the next energy assistance season.
- The assurance of consistent wood quality (moisture content) and quantity (uniform cords) may be a challenge. Cloward offered to help OppCo staff detail the specifications for type and quality of wood if OppCo decides to make an offer to purchase cord wood.
- The group discussed temporary structures for wood storage at the EWRRRC for this pilot project.
- Updates will be provided to the CAC as this idea evolves.

**6. Strategic plan (1 hour 5 minutes)**

Cloward presented components of a strategic plan. He will complete one facet of the plan to potentially be used for all components.

**Action item:**

- Cloward will draft strategic plan for discussion purposes at our August meeting. Work still in progress.