

## East Whatcom Community Council Clean Air Committee (CAC)

### Meeting summary

May 6, 2015

4:30-6:00 pm

**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.

#### 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.

**Chair:** Lou Piotrowski (excused)

**Acting Chair:** Phil Cloward

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

**Present:** Phil Cloward, Dave Moe, John Wolpers, Mark Schofield, Julie O'Shaughnessy

#### Agenda items:

1. **Introductions** – No introductions necessary. Only committee members present.
2. **Approval of April 1, 2015 meeting summary**

**John** – Under the tire amnesty announcement, remove "An Ecology employee will also be in attendance" as that is not the case.

#### **Motion:**

- Mark Schofield moved to approve meeting notes, as amended.
- John Wolpers seconded the motion.

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

#### **Whatcom County Health Department Tire Amnesty update**

**John** – As part of the health department's efforts to offer disposal and clean-up options to the Maple Falls, Deming, and Columbia Valley area, the first weekend (May 2) of the tire amnesty program went well. A total of 42 cars came through and most had the maximum number of tires allowed, filling up several bins. Many of the tires were very dirty, indicating they had been buried or had been used as an embankment of some type. Whatcom County Health Department staff was briefed on safety procedures prior to the

event. Overall, the event was a success and staff is hoping to have the same results for the remaining two weekends. Advertisement for the event included meeting with community groups and placing flyers with tear-off tabs at strategic locations. In addition, a small radio station in Van Zandt announced the event. Tires collected are recycled.

**Phil** – Suggested that community members could reach out to identify areas where tires have been deposited and encourage people to participate in the recycling event.

### **Woodstove bounty program**

**Julie** – The program is currently on hold until it's clear how much money is still available via the Ecology woodstove change-out grant. Up-to-date change-out numbers from OppCo are necessary before NWCAA can decide whether to go ahead with the program. Current figures are anticipated within the next week, which will allow NWCAA to decide whether or not to proceed. If the NWCAA proceeds with the event, advertisement will be similar to what Whatcom County Health Department used for the tire amnesty event.

## **5. Strategic plan update**

**Phil** – No progress to report at this time. The plan needs to incorporate a way to address chronic offenders and complainers.

**Julie** – The NWCAA burn ban policy will explore additional ways in which recalcitrant offenders can be addressed. In addition, Julie sent John Wolpers the Clean Air Committee Charge that identifies each stakeholder's area of participation in achieving the overarching goal of improving air quality in Columbia Valley and asked him to add where and how the health department will participate.

**Dave** – Stated that outdoor burning is becoming less of an issue in the valley and that it is very rare to respond to the same house twice. Garbage fires are rare and most fires consist only of natural vegetation.

## **6. Biomass committee update**

**Phil** – May need to ask for letters of endorsement or recommendation from some of the stakeholders to help secure seed money. The September timeline is still reasonable for the wood bank and a meeting with OppCo is anticipated at the end of June. Dry wood storage at people's homes is also a concern to ensure that dry wood stays dry. Exploring dry-storage options with a Ferndale company that manufactures high-impact safety panels (4'x8') that may be used to cover wood piles. Would also like to consider the possibility of offering businesses that work with the community wood bank the benefits associated with assisting a 501(c)(3) entity (OppCo).

## **7. Outreach/community events/strategy update**

**Julie** – Aly from the Opportunity Council is willing to participate in weekend outreach, which is intended to continue through October. Outreach hasn't occurred recently due to conflicting schedules and availability challenges of staff.

**Dave** – Expressed that weekday outreach is easier to staff than weekend outreach.

**Mark** – Stated that it may be more difficult to find people at home on weekdays. He also inquired about when and how Aly might complete intake forms during the door-to-door outreach.

**Phil, Mark, & Julie** – Identified additional community meetings to attend for outreach including the Lions Club, KendallWatch, the Chamber of Commerce, Peaceful Valley Country Club, East Whatcom Regional Resource Council, and Misty Mountain Realtors.

**Julie** – Aside from the woodstove bounty program update given at the beginning of the meeting, a summary of all woodstove change-out activities since the inception of the program was provided. The summary included woodstove-to-woodstove, woodstove-to-heat pump, incentive change-outs, and whether the project was paid via funding from the Ecology grant only, or from the Ecology grant and additional funding from NWCAA Resolution 505. Julie clarified that NWCAA Resolution 505 expands the program by paying the property owner's portion that is required by the Ecology grant. By paying the owner's portion, households that would not otherwise be able to participate in the program due to financial constraints, receive a cleaner source of heat and help to improve air quality.

**Dave** – Approved Mark and Julie's request to use the fire district's reader board to help advertise the expansion of the change-out program.

## **8. Monitoring & complaint summary**

**Julie** – No complaints were received since the last meeting. The water district monitor is the only one currently operating. No health-based exceedances noted within the last month.

### **2015 meetings, 4:30 – 6:00 p.m. - EWRRRC, 8251 Kendall Road, Maple Falls, WA:**

Jan. 21	April 1	July 1	Oct. 7
Feb. 4	May 6	Aug. 5	Nov. 4
March 4	June 3	Sept. 2	Dec. 2