

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

### Meeting summary

September 2, 2015

**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, Jerry DeBruin, John Wolpers, Wain Harrison, Julie O'Shaughnessy

#### **Agenda items:**

1. **Introductions** - No introductions necessary. Only committee members present.

2. **Approval of July 1, 2015 meeting summary**

**Motion:**

- Phil Cloward moved to approve meeting notes.
- Jerry DeBruin seconded the motion.

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

4. **Announcements**

- **Clean Air Committee members' status update** – In light of a Lou's prolonged absence, Julie will contact Lou to confirm whether or not he plans to return to the Clean Air Committee. Veronica, who recently has been unable to attend meetings due to personal obligations, confirmed that she wants to stay involved with the committee's efforts and will do so whenever and however possible. Olivia Rutherford, WCHD nurse, will not be able to attend meetings due to time constraints, but will continue to stay involved in the community through her work at the East Whatcom Regional Resource Center and be available to the committee as a resource.
- **Wood smoke reduction grant** – There is still no definitive word from Ecology on how much funding NWCAA will receive for the next biennium (2016-2017) wood

smoke reduction grant. An update will be provided as soon as information becomes available.

- **Phil** – David Austin, the new Maple Falls Library branch manager, expressed interest in the committee's efforts and was going to attend today, but a change in plans prevented his attendance. He is still interested and plans to attend future meetings.

#### **5. Cord wood vendors and vouchers – Phil (for Mark)**

**Phil** – The Opportunity Council will manage the cord wood vouchers, which will be funded by the Opportunity Council's Energy Assistance Program. Phil provided an overview of the draft vouchers and vendor information and qualification forms that he and the Opportunity Council staff (Lorena Shah) are developing. Details on the launch meeting, request for qualifications (RFQ), quality assurance and control, and delivery costs are still being finalized. Energy Assistance Program money can fund the cord wood, but cannot fund quality assurance activities.

**Julie** – Stated that the Washington state Solid Fuel Burning Device rule (WAC 173-433) defines seasoned wood as 20% or less moisture content. The draft RFQ identifies seasoned wood as 18-22% moisture content. For consistency purposes in upholding the WAC definition, Julie requested, via draft comment, that the definition in the RFQ be changed to match the WAC. She also stated that excess opacity would be the enforcement focus, when enforcement becomes appropriate, not wood moisture content. Practically speaking, moisture content will be managed through the cord wood voucher program, not NWCAA.

#### **6. Woodstove Bounty Program update**

**Julie** – Met with Opportunity Council staff to wrap-up program. Documentation is still in process for two last participants. The program brought in different participants, which was good. However, some refinements to how the program is implemented would be beneficial if the program was to be offered again in the future. For example, set it up as an ongoing event versus a one-day event, to make it easier for people to schedule pick-up times for their old woodstoves. The total number of participants was approximately 15. Since Ecology has approved residential woodsheds as an eligible component of the grant program, the building of woodsheds is more of a priority than another bounty program. Building woodsheds for people who plan to continue using woodstoves in their homes has the potential to provide more of an ongoing benefit than scrapping woodstoves that people may not have been using anyway.

#### **7. Biomass committee update**

**Phil** – No new developments to report at this time, but still a viable project. Trying to set up a meeting with Paul Schissler, who has entered into a new contract with Opportunity Council that allocates time and effort towards the pellet mill project (phase 2).

#### **8. Residential wood sheds**

**Julie** – Very excited about the approval of residential wood sheds as a component of the Ecology wood smoke reduction program. Thanks to Phil, pricing of shed materials has been obtained and people to construct them has been secured. The only delay is funding notification from Ecology. The remaining \$61,000 in this biennium budget is essentially spent.

**Phil** – Obtained two wood shed material quotes. Both quotes were below \$255. Local school wood shop instructors are willing to incorporate the building of the wood sheds into their curriculum. Once complete, it would be nice to acknowledge their time and effort with a plaque. Additional logistics will need to be finalized, such as who receives the wood sheds, how they will get delivered, and how the resident handles the wood once delivered.

**9. Outreach**

**Jerry & Julie** – Door-to-door outreach will continue as fire department, Opportunity Council, & NWCAA staff are available. The goal is to conduct outreach once per month.

**10. Upcoming community events**

**Julie** – No formal events scheduled at this time.

**11. Strategic plan**

**Phil** – Nothing new to report.

**12. Monitoring & complaint summary**

**Julie** – No air quality exceedances or wood stove complaints since last meeting.

**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