

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

### Meeting summary

January 6, 2016

**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.

**Chair:** Phil Cloward, East Whatcom Community Council

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

**Present:** Phil Cloward, David Moe, Jerry DeBruin, John Wolpers, Wain Harrison, Lorena Shah, Julie O'Shaughnessy

### **Agenda items:**

1. **Introductions** –Introductions made since Lorena Shah was sitting in for Mark Schofield.

2. **Approval of December 2, 2015, meeting summary**

Motion:

- Wain Harrison moved to approve meeting notes.
- John Wolpers seconded the motion.

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

4. **Announcements**

**Julie** – Received a message from Jessica Bee about eight AmeriCorps employees potentially interested in helping to deliver wood sheds on January 18. Julie will be in contact with them on Friday to confirm whether they choose the wood shed program as their volunteer project.

5. **Cord wood vendors and vouchers**

**Lorena** – OppCo extended the Wood Vendors Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for several weeks because of the holidays. Two applications were submitted and approved: one from Jeff Osborne with Wood Rats and a second from John Horsman with Horsman Hauling. The program will be rolled out to OppCo staff tomorrow at their staff meeting and implemented within the next week or two. Several clients are currently interested in trying the cord wood (versus pressed wood).

Because of the later-than-expected start, this Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) pilot project will continue with the above two vendors for this heating season. Next wood heating season will include Osborne and Horsman along with additional qualified vendors who apply.

**Phil** – For optimal outcome, vendors should be sought out in August so that RFQ applications are approved by September and on the list to make deliveries.

**Lorena** – Delivery of wood will be to curbside. It will be determined whether or not this creates a problem for any of the clients. The LIHEAP program begins in October so even if vendor applications are received and approved, wood delivery to clients won't begin until October.

## **6. Biomass Committee update**

**Phil** – As you know, the East Whatcom Community Council formed a Biomass Enterprise Committee to look for economic development opportunities that could also improve the air quality in the Columbia Valley and Kendall area during inversions.

The Foothills Woodland Enterprise project is one of the early efforts of the Biomass Enterprise Committee, and the WA Department of Commerce has agreed to support the efforts with a \$30,000 grant. The grant will support efforts that connect and organize woodland owners with woodland workers who produce woodland products in the eastern foothills of Skagit and Whatcom County.

The project covers a two-year span beginning on January 19 and 20 with public meetings in Concrete and Kendall, respectively, to gauge interest and get direction in formulating a cooperative effort to market woodland products. Initially, the two key products will be low-moisture bulk and bundled firewood. Later, other forest products will be included.

Phil will continue to work with Wain regarding property development requirements associated with the industrial zoned property on Limestone Road.

**Wain** – If the proposed project is within the light industrial service area of Columbia Valley, structure and shared water requirements will definitely be taken into account for development. All good news and good work!

## **7. Residential wood sheds; construction & delivery - All**

**Julie** – AmeriCorps volunteers may help with the delivery of wood sheds. Their availability will be known on Friday. If they are available, we need at least two committee volunteers, a truck and trailer to delivery sheds.

**Phil** – There is a truck and trailer available. Manpower is what is needed. Shed inventory has built up because of the holiday season and recent weather (snow and ice). There are currently enough people willing to work at least once per week, without impacting the district, to start delivering sheds before January 18. It's been difficult securing volunteers to help with delivery, but will continue to reach out to community groups for assistance.

**Jerry** – If AmeriCorps volunteer are interested, it would be great to have their help.

**Julie** – Will call Phil on Friday regarding delivery on January 18, with the AmeriCorps volunteers. Will also be responsible for calling recipients to make sure they have a place for the shed to be readily placed and that they will be home to sign for delivery. Thirty two wood shed applications have been received to date as a result of contacting the 85 people who have participated in the woodstove change-out program, word-of-mouth advertising, and OppCo intake efforts. Additional outreach will be conducted once the constructed wood sheds are delivered.

**Dave, Jerry and Phil** – The challenge is to find the right equipment (trailer) and the necessary manpower to move them from the schools to Kendall, and from either the fire station or resource center to the residence.

**Phil** – Asked if there is a financial qualification to receive a wood shed.

**Julie** – No financial qualification for the 100 wood sheds available through the program. Recipient must live in Columbia Valley, have a need for a wood shed, burn at least 1 cord of wood per year, use it at the resident location for its intended purpose in order to receive one.

All wood shed delivery volunteers will be asked to sign a NWCAA liability release form unless they are already covered as an Opportunity Council employee for L&I.

## 8. Outreach

**Julie** – NWCAA staff is finalizing enforcement strategy for 2016. If no period of degrading air quality occurs in January, inspectors will be mobilized regardless to ensure the strategy is comprehensive in its implementation of addressing excessively smoky chimneys.

**Lorena** – How will residents who are not home receive the warnings and information?

**Julie** - Residents who are not home will receive any information by mail.

**Phil** – Community members are aware of NWCAA's enforcement efforts via the posters and post cards that have been distributed.

**Dave** – For safety purposes, it's important that NWCAA staff drive agency vehicles and wear clothing that clearly identifies them as NWCAA employees.

**Julie** – Door-to-door outreach will occur as frequently as fire department, Opportunity Council, and NWCAA staff are available.

**Phil** – The opacity concept is still unclear to some residents and may need additional explanation and real-life examples to make it clear.

## 9. Strategic plan

**Phil** – Nothing new to report.

## 10. Air monitoring date & complaint update

**Julie** – There were seven days in November, one in December, and three days in January that exceeded the 24-hour, 35 micrograms per cubic meter (ug/m<sup>3</sup>) average standard.

**Wain** – Asked if that is different than last year.

**Julie** – Yes, last year there were only two days the entire heating season that exceeded the standard. This heating season, there have already been two very stable weather periods during which these high levels were recorded.

**2016 meetings, 4:30 – 6:00 p.m. – Whatcom County Fire District #14, 7528 Kendall Road, Maple Falls, WA (starting October 2015 and until further notice):**

Jan. 6	April 6	July 6	Oct. 5
Feb. 3	May 4	Aug. 3	Nov. 2

March 2	June 1	Sept. 7	Dec. 7
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