

East Whatcom Community Council Clean Air Committee (CAC)

Meeting summary

February 3, 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, Mark Schofield, Jerry DeBruin, John Wolpers, Wain Harrison, Julie O'Shaughnessy

Agenda items:

1. **Introductions** – No introduction necessary. Only committee members present.

2. **Approval of January 6, 2016 meeting summary**

Motion:

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

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

4. **Announcements** – No announcements.

5. **Cord wood vendors and vouchers**

Mark – The two cord-wood vendors participating in the program are currently out of dry wood. OppCo has decided not to deliver cord-wood to clients for the remainder of this heating season since no dry wood is available. This will allow the wood to dry out over the summer and be ready for next heating season. At this time, only pressed-wood logs are available to clients. The two vendors currently involved in the project will be “carried over” as valid vendors for next wood-heating season.

Jerry is aware of a person who has a large quantity of dry wood who may be a potential cord-wood vendor for this program. Jerry is also curious if the two current vendors will be able to expand their supply next wood-heating season.

Mark asked Jerry to pass along the person's contact information and he will discuss potential wood delivery for this heating season with Lorena Shah. However, since the program started a bit late in the season, it may be more beneficial to focus efforts on preparing for next wood heating season and creating a robust program.

Phil is confident that the two vendors currently involved in the program will be able to supply additional wood next year.

6. **Biomass Committee update**

Phil – Public meetings were held in Concrete and Kendall, as scheduled, to gauge interest in and get direction for formulating a cooperative effort to market woodland products. Forty-two people attended the Kendall meeting.

Wain – The meeting was very interesting and was attended by a broad range of people. Wain anticipated that jurisdictional questions regarding the establishment of new businesses on commercial properties would be asked, but the meeting was far more preliminary in nature. Very creative money-making ideas about alternative products were discussed.

Phil – The next step is to meet with the Port of Bellingham and coordinate future efforts that utilize the Department of Commerce grant and Port support.

7. Residential woodshed construction and delivery - All

Julie – To date, 35 woodshed applications have been received, 12 have been delivered, and two of the 35 have reconsidered for various reasons, leaving 21 applicants ready to receive woodsheds. So far, program advertisement has included the 85 residents who have received new woodstoves via the change-out program and word-of-mouth.

Currently, there are 34 assembled woodsheds ready for pickup from the schools (Nooksack Valley High School has 22, Mt. Baker has 12). Delivery is very labor intensive and requires at least six volunteers, which is challenging to coordinate. On January 18, Phil and Julie worked with AmeriCorps volunteers to deliver all woodsheds that had been built.

Phil, Jerry and Julie met earlier today to strategize delivery. The plan is to rent a trailer from Westside Building Supply to move constructed woodsheds from the schools to the resource center. Delivery to residents will occur over the next few weeks, if enough volunteers are available. All deliveries will be documented and any volunteers will be asked to sign a liability release form.

An overview of the wood shed program and application information will be provided at the next KendallWatch meeting.

8. Outreach

Julie – Continued participation and attendance of local meetings and community events and resources will occur when possible.

9. NWCAA enforcement/education efforts

Julie – Review: In early December a postcard summarizing resources was distributed throughout neighborhoods in the Columbia Valley urban growth area. In late December, a postcard also was distributed announcing that enforcement for excess wood smoke was starting in January. So far, no outreach/enforcement canvassing has occurred. It is NWCAA's intent to mobilize staff prior to a period of impaired air quality to help work the "bugs" out.

10. Strategic plan

Phil – Nothing new to report.

Julie – Suggested the development of a Clean Air Committee timeline to document the committee's accomplishments and events.

Mark – Recommended expanding the timeline to include the committee's future efforts.

John – Suggested that a future meeting be designated as a work session to develop the summary and timeline, perhaps late spring.

Wain – Stated that a summary would be very useful.

11. Air monitoring data and complaint update

Julie – There were no exceedances of the 24-hour, 35-micrograms-per-cubic-meter (ug/m³) average standard, and there were no woodstove complaints during the last month.

2016 meetings, 4:30 – 6:00 p.m. – East Whatcom Regional Resource Center, 8251 Kendall Road (starting March 2016)

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