

East Whatcom Community Council Clean Air Committee
Meeting summary
May 4, 2016
draft

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, John Wolpers, Jerry DeBruin, Julie O'Shaughnessy

Agenda items:

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

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

Motion:

- Mark Schofield moved to approve meeting notes.
- Jerry DeBruin seconded the motion.

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

4. **Announcements**

Julie – Brought the final appreciation awards for committee members to look at. Attendance at both school's board meetings is confirmed: Nooksack Valley High School - Thursday, May 19 at 7:00 pm and Mt. Baker High School - Thursday, May 26 at 6:00 pm. Clean Air Committee members are invited to attend.

Will also develop a recognition certificate for each students that acknowledges their community service and their contribution to the construction process.

Asked the committee for ideas on how best to thank the Men's Breakfast Group for their hard work delivering woodsheds.

Phil – The volunteers who delivered woodsheds don't expect anything and consider it a community contribution. A thank you letter would be the most appropriate way to recognize their efforts.

Jerry – Brought to the committee's attention an article in the Mt. Baker Focus, a publication of the Mt. Baker School District, which highlighted the woodshed construction as a way to help improve air quality in Columbia Valley. Jerry called Dave Moe and asked him to bring a copy of the article to the meeting so the committee members could read it.

5. Cord wood vendors and vouchers

Mark – The main takeaways from our last meeting were it was ok to look outside of the Columbia Valley for vendors. Phil is gathering a list of names of potential vendors. The RFQ will not be sent out for several more months. Lorena will then be back from leave and involved in the program.

Phil – The wood bank and biomass project have evolved since inception. Initially there was money to purchase wood, now there is not. Looking for ways to secure funds to aid the program so that wood can be purchased and used without restrictions and limitations associated with the LIHEAP program. This will make wood available to residents sooner than the October timeframe.

6. Biomass committee update

Phil – Still moving forward on the project. Will be meeting with Wain when he gets back. May have a lead for a writer for a project white-paper.

7. Residential woodsheds

Julie – Since the last meeting, an additional 6 sheds were delivered. In total, approximately 65 wood sheds have been delivered and approximately 75 applications have been received.

Jerry – Asked if the schools were going to be able to finish construction of all wood sheds before school ends.

Phil – Said that Nooksack Valley will, but that Mt. Baker may not. They are working hard to finish. More applications are needed for the remaining wood sheds.

8. NWCAA burn ban communication strategy

Julie – The wood stove (solid fuel burning device) regulation is being revised and will include burning exemptions for low-income households. NWCAA will work with Opportunity Council to qualify households.

In addition, NWCAA staff is meeting to develop a burn ban/burn cleanly-type message and an associated communication strategy. The targeted timeframe to disseminate the message is sometime in August.

Burn bans will be called in accordance with the state rule (WAC 173-433) and will be called in our jurisdictional area where monitoring data shows impaired air quality and meteorological data projects that it will continue.

Mark – Asked if the communication strategy will be delivered via multiple media. He pointed out that there are several summer events coming up where “tabling” may be effective.

John – Shared ways in which the health department reaches out to the public - press release, website, bulk mailing, radio, and email distribution lists as a way to reach the community.

9. NWCAA wood smoke reduction budget update

Julie – The current Ecology grant funding for FY2015-2017 is \$85,000. NWCAA Board of Directors approved an additional \$140,000 for smoke reduction efforts in the Columbia Valley.

For the quarter ending March, 2016 the approximate balance is \$35,000 in Ecology funding and \$20,000 in NWCAA funding. No additional Ecology funds will be available until July 1, 2017. Currently, there are no additional funding via NWCAA.

For the current grant, 15 stoves have been changed out and 6 are in progress. A list of 11 potential clients has been referred to Opportunity Council. Remaining funds will accommodate approximately 12 additional change-outs. It is anticipated that funding will be spent by the second or third quarter of 2016. This creates a gap in funding for almost a year (July 1, 2017).

It's important that we still work towards developing a waiting list for both woodstove change-outs and wood sheds so that we can demonstrate a need when the next round of Ecology funding becomes available.

10. 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).

NEW – Starting July 13, 2016 all meeting will be held on the 2nd Wednesday of the month.

Jan. 6	April 6	July 13	Oct. 12
Feb. 3	May 4	Aug. 10	Nov. 9
March 2	June 1	Sept. 14	Dec. 14