

**East Whatcom Community Council Clean Air Committee**  
**Meeting summary**  
**July 12, 2017**

**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, Jerry DeBruin, Mark Schofield, Mark Sniffen, Seth Preston, Julie O'Shaughnessy

**Agenda items:**

1. **Introductions** – Introductions were not necessary. Only Clean Air Committee members were present.
2. **Approval of June 14, 2017 meeting summary**  
Motion:
  - Mark Schofield moved to approve meeting notes.
  - Mark Sniffen seconded the motion.
3. **Open public comment** – No public comment.

4. **Announcements**

**Julie** – Shared a map of the Red Mountain development and the area currently being logged. The developer contacted our Compliance and Enforcement Manager about possible disposal methods, specifically the possibility of burning. Since the material being generated is from within an urban growth area (UGA), burning is not allowed in accordance with NWCAA and Ecology rules and regulations. Our Compliance and Enforcement Manager also said that considering there are two parcels located just outside the UGA, NWCAA would greatly appreciate if slash from those areas could also be managed without burning. NWCAA thanked the developer for checking in proactively on this project and for the consideration of NWCAA's request.

5. **Residential wood sheds; construction & delivery update**

**Seth** – The last of the sheds, that have been built, have been picked up from Mount Baker High School. That brings the number of constructed and available sheds to 12. The number of applicants is currently 14 and there is a possibility that several more sheds will still be constructed once the school year starts again. The challenge may be finding volunteers to help deliver the last of the sheds. The local Christian's men's group has been very supportive, but they may be busy.

**Julie** - The trailer was returned to Westside Building Supply and the bill was paid (\$4,500).

**Jerry** – May have access to a smaller trailer to haul the last of the sheds so that we don't have to rent the trailer again.

6. **Biomass committee update** - No update this meeting (Phil had to leave the meeting).

## 7. **Clean Air Committee's fall community event**

**Julie** – Regarding the September 19 CAC event, the “invitation” is being developed and will be routed to committee members for comment before printing. It currently includes information about potential upcoming burn bans, exemptions and enforcement in addition to resources available to residents, Zigi's presentation and burning demonstration, and pizza! The postcards will be hand delivered to local businesses and venues once printed.

**All-** The committee discussed ideas, timelines and activities for the event. Under consideration are the following:

### Resources:

- Moisture meters
- Handouts and tip sheets on clean burning (all publications printed in English, Russian and Spanish)
- Raffle with a free wood shed as the grand prize
- Info on programs and resources available to residents (tabling by OppCo, NWCAA & heating vendors)

### Planning:

- Timeline 5:30-8:00pm
- Quiz, or something else that's educational & interactive, that determines what people do or don't know about clean burning and how the weather impact air quality.
- Mark suggested that people take the quiz and at the end go over the answers and reward people with a moisture meter
- Pizza (order from Westside in Everson), drinks
- Julie – draft event agenda and timeline for committee to comment
- Confirm agenda and timeline at the August meeting

### Presentation:

- Play the short wood-burning tutorial videos on laptops prior to intros
- Phil (?) - share the positive trend message, but also state that there's still work to be done. Perhaps start off with this message?
- Intro by each committee member so that community knows who the committee is and that there is support and a united front, especially in regard to calling burn bans and follow-up enforcement.
  - Mark Sniffen – include information on outdoor burning, UGA and burning rules in intro
- Ensure transparency by emphasizing the possibility of burn bans and enforcement
  - Burn bans – what are they, who calls them, can I burn during a ban, can I still burn if I lose power, how do I stay warm during a burn ban?
  - How many burn bans would have been called over the past two heating seasons?
  - Enforcement – what does it look like?
  - Exemptions – what are they, when are they valid and how do I apply?
- Zigi's clean burning presentation (Zigi is confirmed)
- Raffle off wood shed as the grand prize
- Vendor/tabling open house

### Communication:

- Mark Schofield suggested, “Learn to burn, get ahead of the ban” as a tag line. Also, suggested representing the “life cycle of burning” and the committee agreed that includes information about how to secure wood, dry it, burn it properly, and avoid burning garbage and other illegal materials.
- Use a sandwich board to advertise the event (also, use for future messaging)
- Jerry offered to post articulated message on fire district reader board regarding the event and the start of the heating season

- Mark Sniffen suggested adding “winter” to “Are burn bans in your future?” to better clarify the types of bans and the particular agency that calls them (safety vs air quality)
- NWCAA - make charts that show the positive trend and results over time of what we’ve accomplished so far
- Jerry will talk with resident about possibly getting wood shed back if not being used
- Julie to work with Mark Schofield to make sure the appropriate OppCo staff are identified and trained on how to fill out and submit form.

Committee members agreed to finalize the event agenda at the next meeting.