

**East Whatcom Community Council Clean Air Committee**  
**Meeting summary**  
**May 10, 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, John Wolpers, Mark Schofield, Mark Sniffen, Seth Preston

**Agenda items:**

1. **Introductions** – Introductions were not necessary. Only Clean Air Committee members were present.
2. **Approval of April 12, 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**

**All** - Members discussed a situation that was brought to the CAC's attention by David Moe of WCFD #14. It appears as though someone is trying to sell a wood shed that was provided by the CAC for storing firewood. After a discussion, the members asked NWCAA to write a follow-up letter to all wood shed recipients expressing hopes that the sheds are working for them, and also reminding them that their applications for wood sheds include a pledge to (a) keep the sheds at the applicants' addresses and (b) to use the sheds solely for firewood storage. Meanwhile, Phil is attempting to make contact with the apparent seller to make sure that they have not sold the shed.

**Phil** – Said the East Whatcom Regional Resource Center is continuing to look into the possibility of converting its building's heating system to a wood-fired generator. Continued high heating bills are driving the conversation. Center representatives have had preliminary contacts with the Washington departments of Natural Resources (DNR) and Commerce, and with Washington State University. Also, NWCAA is aware of the discussions. It's all preliminary at this point, and more information will be developed and shared.

5. **Pressed log research – info and update**

**Mark** – Julie had heard complaints from a few people about the quality of pressed logs they had received during the past heating season, which reportedly did not burn as well as others had in the past. Mark checked into the situation with the vendor, CHS Northwest. In the past, CHS has provided logs supplied by North Idaho Energy Logs or Home Fire Prest Logs in Ferndale. He was brought a sample of each log. Mark said a third kind of log may have been used because CHS ran out of inventory of other brands. It's possible that's

what led to the lower-quality performance, but he will continue to check. Phil suggested the logs may have been exposed to weather, which led to the problems.

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

**Phil** – Phil said he is planning to pick up some more completed sheds from Mount Baker High School and arrange delivery on the next few Saturdays. He said the local Saturday Christian men’s group has been very supportive, and that the CAC may want to consider providing the group with some recognition.

**7. Biomass committee update**

**Phil** – No new developments.

**8. Outreach ideas**

**All** - The group is interested in continuing to work toward a September event at the EWRRRC to provide people with information about proper woodstove use, available resources, etc. More details will develop over the summer.

**9. NWCAA’s draft outreach strategy for 2017-2018**

**Seth** - In addition to information previously shared by Julie (below), Seth noted that he is trying to expand the time that NWCAA advertises information about home heating with wood. Previously it has been focused from November through February. Seth is working with Comcast and some local Whatcom County radio stations to stretch that timeframe out earlier (starting September). More details to come.

<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Outreach topic</b>
Spring 2017	Start gathering and seasoning your wood now for next heating season <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Get message posted to FD reader board</li> <li>• Post to fire department, NWCAA and KendallWatch websites</li> </ul>
Sept 2017	Community workshop/presentation to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• demonstrate the subtle nuances of wood burning</li> <li>• demonstrate maintenance of wood burning equipment</li> <li>• remind community that air quality burn bans will be called and that enforcement will occur</li> </ul>
Sept 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NWCAA to send letter to residents who received a heavy smoke warning this year, reminding them that we will be back out and that resources are still available.</li> <li>• Include DVD on how to burn cleanly and how to choose a wood stove with the letter. Also, include website link in case people don’t have DVD players.</li> </ul>
Sept 2017	NWCAA to partner with Opportunity Council to get wood-burning exemption forms filled out during the LIHEAP intake process and get the forms returned to NWCAA as soon as possible

The date of the workshop will be confirmed at a later date.