

**East Whatcom Community Council Clean Air Committee**  
**Meeting summary**  
**August 9, 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, John Wolpers, Mark Schofield, Mark Sniffen, Seth Preston, Julie O'Shaughnessy

**Agenda items:**

**1. Introductions**

Linda Kerth, a citizen new to the area, heard about the Clean Air Committee at a community meeting so decided to attend to find out more information about alternative sources of energy.

**All** – Committee members welcomed Linda, introduced themselves, and provided a brief overview of the committee's purpose.

**2. Approval of July 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** - none

**5. Smoke impacts from BC fires**

**Seth** – Monitoring forecasts to determine when there may be some relief from the wildfire smoke. Ecology and the weather service report that a slow moving system will cause a temperature drop and a shift in winds on Sunday which will hopefully provide some relief.

**Phil** – A low pressure system off the coast has moved south and is bringing lightning strike to southern Oregon and northern California.

**Julie** – Provided monitoring data from July 31 through August 7 which shows high levels of particulate in the "unhealthy" range. NW Clean Air is not currently reporting official data to Ecology because the monitor does not meet all the siting criteria and is therefore not an official monitor, so this exceptional episode of high particulate due to wildfires should not impact our "attainment" status.

**6. Wood-burning heating exemption**

**Julie** – Drafted an information sheet and application form for exemptions to heat with wood during burn bans. An electronic link will be sent to committee members to “live test” and to provide feedback before the application process is finalized.

The four types of exemptions are low-income, one-time 10-day, temporary breakdown and inadequate source of heat.

**Mark Schofield** – Opportunity Council staff will be at the event and prepared to take low-income applications.

## **7. Biomass Committee update**

**Phil** – Washington Woodland Coop obtained a grant for the wood bank and a temporary site has been donated. Work is underway and the intention is to use a “hoop” building to provide dry wood storage. Coop members will provide wood for the upcoming heating season at “seasoned” moisture levels.

A meeting is set up with the Port of Bellingham to continue discussions about the efforts to establish a biomass business. In addition, Lehigh has voiced support for the proposed plan and having a neighbor to help deter trespassing and theft.

**John** – Asked if the temporary wood bank site is subject to similar theft or trespassing.

**Phil** – Is confident that the temporary site is secure.

## **8. Clean Air Committee’s fall community event, planning session**

**Julie** – May not be at the next meeting because of surgery, so wants to make sure that everything is ready to go for the September 19 community event.

**Mark Sniffen** – Thought that the community workshop on September 19 would be considered the next meeting with no meeting on September 13.

**Jerry** – Suggested meeting August 30 to ensure that event preparation is in order and complete. The committee as a whole agreed that meeting August 30 was a good idea.

**Julie** – Will send out a meeting invite for a check-in meeting on August 30 at 4:30 pm.

**All** – The committee reviewed the draft agenda and the meeting summary list from the July 12 Meeting Summary, Item 7, Clean Air Committee’s fall community event and concluded the following:

- The agenda was finalized to allow sufficient time for interaction with the heating vendors as well as time for the burning demonstration and power point presentation.
- The overall setup of the room and supporting equipment was reviewed (wood stove trailer for burning demonstration, tables for Innovations, Barron Heating, OppCo, NWCAA and pizza/cookies/drinks).
- Phil will provide wood for the burning demonstration.
- Jerry will check on the availability of a wood shed for the raffle (must be present to win).
- Julie will ask Zigi for his “bio” for introductory purposes.
- Julie will call Jessica to reserve meeting room for August 30<sup>th</sup> check-in meeting.
- John will provide cookies.
- Seth provided a draft of the event post cards and posters that will be distributed throughout the community.