



1600 South Second Street
Mount Vernon, WA 98273-5202
ph 360-428-1617
fax 360-428-1620
info@nwcleanairwa.gov
www.nwcleanairwa.gov

SPECIAL JOINT BOARD / ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

The meeting of the Board of Directors of the Northwest Clean Air Agency was held at 1:00 p.m. Thursday, August 9, 2018, at 10441 Bayview-Edison Rd., Mount Vernon, Wash.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Skagit County	Joe Lindquist Ron Wesen
Island County	Richard Hannold Bob Severns
Whatcom County	Satpal Sidhu
Member-At-Large	Terry Nyman

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Brian Heinrich

ALSO PRESENT:

NWCAA Advisory Council	Steve Crockett, Polly Dubbel, Kathryn Hanowell, Mary Hess, Sandy Paris, Rebecca Spurling, and Jill Wood
NWCAA staff members	Michele Armstrong, Jason Bouwman, Mark Buford, Christos Christoforou, Margie Garrigues, Alicia Huschka, Robyn Jones, Gail King, Toby Mahar, Agata McIntyre, Logan Moldenhauer, Julie O'Shaughnessy, Scott Pratschner, Seth Preston, Lyn Tober, and Laurie Caskey-Schreiber
Legal counsel	Simi Jain for Loch Clark

CALL TO ORDER

Board of Directors Vice Chairman Richard Hannold called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m.

APPROVAL OF PRIOR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

On motion by Satpal Sidhu, seconded by Bob Severns, the minutes for the June 14, 2018, meeting were approved 6-0.

ACTION ITEMS**Resolution 565 – Authorizes amending fiscal year 2019 Operating Fund – Alicia Huschka**

NWCAA Chief Financial Officer Huschka presented Resolution 565 for Board approval. This resolution authorizes the Agency to carry forward unspent funds that were previously committed to the legal services program (\$38,908), as well as carry forward funds that were appropriated in FY 18 toward the purchase of a new Agency vehicle. The van, which will be used to service the air monitoring stations, has been ordered, but did not arrive before FY 18 ended. Therefore the Agency will use the \$40,000 set aside for this vehicle, to finalize the purchase in FY 19.

Motion to approve Resolution 565 was made by Joe Lindquist, seconded by Sidhu, and approved 6-0.

Bills and claims

Board members discussed the bills and claims reports for June and July 2018. Severns made a motion to approve the June (\$632,139.67) and July (\$315,298.29) 2018 bills and claims. Lindquist seconded the motion, and the Board approved the bills and claims 6-0.

GUEST SPEAKER

NWCAA Executive Director Mark Buford introduced guest speaker, former Director of the National Association of Clean Air Agencies, Bill Becker to the Board of Directors, Advisory Council members, and Agency staff. Becker gave a detailed presentation of the history of the federal Clean Air Act, highlighting the significant points in time where major revisions occurred. (Full presentation will be included as an attachment to the minutes.)

Becker noted that since the implementation of the 1990 Clean Air Act, air pollutant emissions have declined, acid rain is no longer present like it once was, and there have been multiple health benefits. Analysis has shown that the Environmental Protection Agency's rules are cost-effective with a Benefit-to-cost ratio up to 18:1. However, Becker stated that there is still much work to be done. One out of every three people in the United States, live in counties with air quality concentrations are above the level of the National Ambient Air Standards.

Becker listed some of the known problems that result from air pollution:

- Cancer-causing effects from hazardous air emissions (25-35,000 people die from air pollution in the United States every year)
- Changes to our climate
- Visibility impairment
- Eutrophication of waterways

- Impacts on agricultural production

Becker also reviewed some adverse impacts if the Motor Vehicle Emissions Program is forced to rollback some the regulations that were adopted in 2012 and reapproved in 2017. Phase 2 included regulations to increase fuel economy in vehicles to nearly 50 mpg for cars built between the years of 2022-2025. Recently the Trump administration has determined that these new standards were “not appropriate therefore should be revised.” The following is a list of some of the issues that will result from the revisions that are currently being proposed:

- California and 13 other “opt in” states would lose significant GHG and collateral air quality benefits.
- Industries will be affected, since they will likely be required to invest in cost-ineffective strategies to make up for the “lost” emission reductions that were expected from the vehicle program.
- The rule, and the litigation that will follow, will create unnecessary uncertainty for the auto industry.
- Countries around the world will lose the benefits of the technological advancements and innovations triggered by the California program.

Becker ended his talk by advising everyone to remain vigilant to ensure our clean air protections – and states’ authorities– are not jeopardized.

STAFF REPORTS

Director’s report – Mark Buford

Buford reported to the Board on the following matters:

- The Agency recently received a one-year, \$275,000 grant from the Department of Ecology to combat woodstove smoke problems in the Columbia Valley area. These funds will not only be used for replacing uncertified woodstoves, but also for installing new energy efficient heat pumps. This combined approach has led to air quality improvements elsewhere.
- Buford reported that State Senator Doug Ericksen recently sent a letter on behalf of a lumber facility located in eastern Whatcom County to express his concerns about the registered source fee increase for this business. Buford reminded Board members that the revisions that were made to the registered source fee schedule, were revenue neutral for the Agency. He also reminded Board members that the fees were based on actual emissions, so some sources experienced decreases in their fees, while others now have fees reflective of their pollution output. Some of these sources also have the option of installing updated control equipment, which in turn would reduce their registration fee.
- Buford and staff from Island, Skagit, and Whatcom counties’ health departments, have been working together to coordinate the messaging and clarifying roles for wildfire smoke events. The group has accomplished quite a bit, and hope to be better prepared for the next poor air quality event related to wildfire smoke.
- Buford expressed his disappointment that Congress recently voted to delay the implementation for the new regulations and standards for woodstoves. These regulations were to be implemented in 2020 by the EPA, and delaying them will

contribute to increases in air pollution. Buford stated that the Air Directors will be crafting a response to this decision.

New source review and air operating permit update – Agata McIntyre

NWCAA Engineering Manager Agata McIntyre reported on the June and July 2018 construction permit (new source review) activity.

During June and July 2018, the agency received four applications for construction permits and issued seven construction permits.

One of the applications received in July was from Paccar Technical Center in Mount Vernon. The facility tests semi-trucks. This permit application is for a new, mobile, dynamometer powered by a diesel generator that Paccar will use to test semi-truck engines. The purpose of the dynamometer is to allow truck testing under simulated road conditions without actually driving on roads. The mobile dynamometer sits on a trailer that can move from one place to another. Paccar will place semi-trucks on the dynamometer and the dynamometer's rollers will provide resistance to the truck's wheels so that the engine can be tested without having to drive on roads. Paccar plans to perform some of its testing in Mount Vernon, but will also deployed the mobile dynamometer to Colorado and Arizona to test truck engines at higher altitudes and in warmer climates.

Enforcement update – Toby Mahar

NWCAA Compliance Manager Toby Mahar reported that the Agency was very busy in June and July. Eight Notice of Violations and eleven penalties were issued during the two-month duration.

The Agency also collected payment from a series of penalties that were issued in 1998. The Agency had placed a lien on a property that the Olivine Corporation owned, and recently the property was sold. NWCAA received a check for \$44,000 to settle the penalty debt.

Odor complaints significantly increased in the month of July. The Agency received 56 odor related complaints, and about half of those were from Samish Island indicating ships in the Vendovi anchorage north of the island. Mahar has reached out to the US Coast Guard and Puget Sound Harbor Safety Committee to gain an understanding of jurisdictional boundaries and requirements for tankers carrying crude oil.

There were also multiple odor complaints indicating Ershigs, a fiberglass manufacturing plant located in Bellingham.

BOARD / ADVISORY COUNCIL DISCUSSION

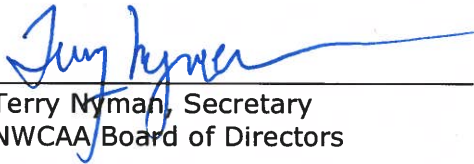
Board members and Advisory Council members conducted a discussion.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to consider, the meeting adjourned at 3:13 p.m.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify this is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the meeting of the NWCAA Board of Directors held on August 9, 2018, in Mount Vernon, Washington.

ATTEST: 

Terry Nyman, Secretary
NWCAA Board of Directors



Brian Heinrich, Chair
NWCAA Board of Directors

DATED: September 13, 2018