



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

## **BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

The meeting of the Board of Directors of the Northwest Clean Air Agency was held at 1:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 11, 2018, at 1600 S. 2nd St., Mount Vernon, Wash.

### **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

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

### **ALSO PRESENT:**

NWCAA staff members	Mark Buford, Alicia Huschka, Toby Mahar, Agata McIntyre, Seth Preston, Chadd Tripp, and Laurie Caskey-Schreiber
Legal counsel	Loch Clark

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Board of Directors Chairman Brian Heinrich called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

### **APPROVAL OF PRIOR BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

On motion by Ron Wesen, seconded by Bob Severns, the minutes for the September 13, 2018, meeting were approved 6-0 (*Joe Lindquist arrived shortly after the vote*).

### **ACTION ITEMS**

#### **Resolution 569 – Approve Agency joining Municipal Research and Services Center's (MRSC) Small Works Roster – Alicia Huschka**

NWCAA Chief Financial Officer Alicia Huschka presented Resolution 569 for Board approval. This resolution authorizes the Agency to establish a small public works process. This would improve the timeliness and efficiency of projects that involve small public works. The Agency does own its building, which means that upgrades or maintenance projects will occasionally occur. The Agency would be allowed to select a contractor from the MRSC roster versus taking the time and labor to go through a more extensive process.

The Agency would pay an annual fee of \$135 to the MRSC to contract with them to have their official rosters hosted in the online database for NWCAA's small public works projects for the NWCAA.

Motion to approve Resolution 569 was made by Satpal Sidhu, seconded by Joe Lindquist, and approved 7-0.

#### **Bills and claims**

Board members discussed the bills and claims report for September 2018. Rich Hannold made a motion to approve the September (\$297,126.43) bills and claims. Wesen seconded the motion, and the Board approved the bills and claims 7-0.

### **STAFF REPORTS**

#### **Director's report – Mark Buford**

- **New NWCAA employee –**

Buford introduced Chadd Tripp, the new Air Quality Specialist I, to the Board. Tripp joined the Agency on October 1, 2018. He previously worked for the Department of Ecology conducting underground storage tank inspections. Tripp's work will focus on inspecting gasoline dispensing facilities and other similar sized facilities.

- **Woodstove regulations –**

Buford and Julie O'Shaughnessy recently attended a NACAA workshop in Sacramento, California, on residential use of woodstoves. While there, he met with state and other local Air Directors. Some of the discussions centered around the potential harm that may result in rolling back the 2020 compliance date for low emitting wood stoves. Buford heard from several other states that are experiencing air quality problems related to residential woodstove use.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency established a two-phase approach for addressing woodstove emissions. The first phase went into effect on May 2015, and it set the standard for woodstove emissions at 4.5 grams of smoke per hour. The Washington State Department of Ecology adopted this standard statewide in 1988.

The phase two standard that was set to take effect in May 2020 limits smoke to 2.5 grams per hour. In March 2018, Congress passed a bill that would extend the implementation date for Phase 2 standards to be enacted in 2023. Many feel disappointed in this direction, and

unfortunately local air agencies are not allowed to have more stringent standards than state standards.

Vendors have already created 77 models that would meet the Phase 2 requirements. NWCAA is actually one of the larger customers for woodstoves in Washington, having spent close to \$1 million on change-outs for woodstoves in the Columbia Valley area. Buford feels strongly that industry needs to step up and sell the public lower emitting woodstoves. Buford explained that it is very labor intensive to do enforcement on poor performing woodstoves.

Buford will let the Board know when there is an opportunity to weigh in on this issue.

- **Natural gas pipeline problem –**

Buford reported that due to a ruptured pipeline owned and operated by Enbridge north of Prince George, British Columbia, all of the refineries in NWCAA's jurisdiction and the Whidbey Naval Air Station have had to curtail their operations to conserve natural gas. So far the air quality has not been significantly impacted, but the Agency will also be monitoring the start-up process once that occurs.

- **Monitoring equipment Van purchase –**

The Agency is still working on finding a service van to purchase. The original budget was \$40,000 to acquire a vehicle from the state list of vendors. The Agency was unsuccessful in acquiring a van via the state process, and it now looks like the van purchase could cost between \$50,000 and \$60,000. A budget amendment will be brought forward once Agency staff identify a vehicle to purchase.

### **New source review and air operating permit update – Agata McIntyre**

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

During September, the Agency issued two construction permits for the Shell and BP refineries.

One of the construction permits that the Agency issued during the first week of October is for Teal Jones, an existing lumber facility located in Sumas.

Teal Jones received approval to install eight new lumber dry kilns and three 16 MMBtu/hr natural gas boilers. This permit will allow them to dry up to 106 million board feet of lumber per year. This project was above the toxics screening thresholds for acrolein, acetaldehyde, and formaldehyde so it required a special toxics review (Health Impact Assessment) from the Washington Dept. of Ecology. This review was in addition to the normal toxics review that Agency staff perform for all construction permits. Ecology finished its assessment and recommended project approval based on the limits set in the permit. Agency staff held a 30-day comment period and hearing for this permit. The only comments received were in support of the project, so the Agency issued the permit.

Teal Jones will begin a phased construction period, building four dry kilns at first and the other four later.

**Enforcement update - Toby Mahar**

NWCAA Compliance Manager Toby Mahar reported that the agency issued five enforcement actions during the month of September.

Two of the three violations issued involved illegal outdoor burning activities. One case involved a resident in Columbia Valley who was burning garbage and demolition debris. Another case was located near Concrete, regarding dismantling a mobile home and burning the debris.

Also in September, penalties were issued to the BP refinery for an odor violation and to the Tesoro refinery for excess sulfur dioxide emissions resulting from equipment failure.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to consider, the meeting adjourned at 2:15 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 Oct. 11, 2018, in Mount Vernon, Washington.

ATTEST:   
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Terry Nyman, Secretary  
NWCAA Board of Directors

  
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Brian Heinrich, Chair  
NWCAA Board of Directors

DATED: November 8, 2018