

## East Whatcom Community Council Clean Air Committee

### Meeting summary

October 10, 2018

**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; Viktor Vetkov, Slavic Church; Mark Sniffen, Whatcom County; Julie O'Shaughnessy, NWCAA

**Present:** Phil Cloward, Jerry DeBruin, Aly Robinson for John Wolpers, Mark Schofield, Mark Sniffen, Julie O'Shaughnessy, Richard Whitson (community member)

#### **Agenda items:**

**1. Introductions** – The committee introduced themselves along with community member, Richard Whitson.

#### **2. Approval of September 12, 2018 meeting summary**

Mark Schofield requested adding "moderate income households" to Julie's comments on the second page, second sentence to provide clarification the type of households who may qualify for ductless heat pumps through the Community Energy Challenge (CEC) Program.

Mark Schofield moved to approve meeting notes as amended. Jerry DeBruin seconded motion.

**3. Open public comment** – No public comments.

#### **4. Announcements**

**Mark Schofield** – Will not be present at the November meeting.

**Mark Schofield** – Provided the following update on the woodstove change-out program: There are 10 change-out projects in process at various stages and there are a number of potential change-outs under review.

**Richard Whitson** – Mentioned that he is aware of three additional households that are also interested in a change-out.

**Julie** – Shared that NW Clean Air Agency and the Opportunity Council are working closely to coordinate and optimize current funds available through the Ecology grant and Community Energy Challenge to achieve the greatest number of change-outs.

**Julie** – Stated that although there is an implementation delay of the federal EPA New Source Performance Standards which require manufacturers of wood heating devices to decrease emissions to 2.0g/hour in 2020, Washington State Department of Ecology is pursuing a regulation change that would uphold the 2020 particulate standard in Washington state. Also included in the proposed regulation revision is a wood stove

education and enforcement fee from \$35 per stove to \$50 per stove with a built-in inflationary factor.

## 5. Woodshed status update

**Phil** – The remaining sheds are still stored at Mount Baker High School. Have secured trailers for delivery and reviewed the woodshed recipient list with Richard Whitson to identify households still wanting woodsheds. Volunteers may need help from fire district personnel to unload sheds when ready. No date has been secured as of yet due to scheduling conflicts. Hope to get sheds delivered before Thanksgiving.

## 6. Biomass committee update

**Phil** – The Skagit wood bank is going gangbusters, but the Whatcom County wood bank has run into a snag. Planning and Development Services said that a conditional-use permit is necessary to establish the location because of the way a portion of the property is zoned (R5). Working with the county to obtain the permit for temporary storage (no production).

**Mark Schofield** – Mentioned that several Opportunity Council clients have been inquiring about when cordwood will be available via the wood bank.

**Phil** – A definitive timeframe has not yet been identified because of the permitting challenges.

**Richard Whitson** – Asked if the Opportunity Council is still the entity that provides pressed logs via the Energy Assistance Program.

**Mark Schofield** – Confirmed that Opportunity Council does provide that service.

## 7. Focused outreach update

**Julie** – Partnered with Eryn Spellman (OC) on door-to-door outreach to connect with households who have either had several incidents of high opacity or who have a wood-heating exemption. From that outreach an additional three households have been identified as possible change-out clients. Outreach will continue to focus on the 25 households who fall into these two categories.

Seth Preston is working with graphic designers to enhance the text on the sandwich boards (burn small hot fires and store wood properly) so that they are easier to read from a distance. Once that is done, four additional boards will be printed so that there are enough to post at all Columbia Valley entrances. We are continuing to make sure that all publications are translated into Spanish as well as Russian.

“Clean Burning” packets will be delivered to Kyle White at the Opportunity Council so that they can be provided to wood stove change-out recipients.

**Richard Whitson** – Asked and it was confirmed by Julie that the wood-heating exemptions expire annually, which means that residents need to re-apply each year. Opportunity Council reviews and determines if a household income qualify.

## 8. Air quality and complaint update

**Julie** – There was a slight escalation in PM 2.5 recently with the cooler morning and stable air, but no exceedances. No wood stove complaints were received since last meeting.