

East Whatcom Community Council Clean Air Committee

Meeting summary

January 9, 2019

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; Aly Robinson, Whatcom County Health Department; Mark Schofield Opportunity Council (OppCo); Veronica Dearden, Kendall Watch Community Action Group; Viktor Vetkov, Slavic Church; Mark Sniffen, Whatcom County Fire Marshal; Julie O'Shaughnessy, Northwest Clean Air Agency (NWCAA)

Present: Phil Cloward, Aly Robinson, Mark Schofield, Jerry DeBruin, Julie O'Shaughnessy, Carl McDaniel, community member

Agenda items:

- 1. Introductions** – No introductions were necessary.
- 2. Approval of December 12, 2018 meeting summary** - Mark Schofield moved to approve the meeting notes. Jerry DeBruin seconded the motion.
- 3. Open public comment** – No public comments.
- 4. Announcements**

Mark Schofield – Sent income guidelines to all who were present at the last meeting. Anyone who meets the criteria of the program (old wood stove, not operating as designed, wood as their primary source of heat, live in Columbia Valley) is eligible for a new wood or pellet stove and a ductless heat pump at no cost. Households that are over the income would pay \$195 for a Community Energy Challenge (CEC) energy audit. If that is a financial hurdle, NWCAA will pay the audit fee. Further details and a link to the CEC program are included in the email.

Julie – Emphasized that funding is available for additional clients.

Carl McDaniel – Asked how much funding is still available and would there be sufficient funds if he continued to promote the program. Also asked if fireplaces are eligible for replacement since they produce a lot of smoke.

Julie – Confirmed that sufficient funds are available and that there is a need for additional clients. Fireplaces are not considered a valid heat source and are therefore do not qualify for replacement. Fireplace *inserts* are a qualified device.

Julie – Asked for suggestions on how to better connect with the Russian-speaking community (Andre Vetkov).

Jerry – Connected with a Russian-speaking firefighter for assistance in promoting the program. Jerry provided Julie with the name and number of a firefighter who is willing to talk with Julie about the program and how he may be able to help promote the program.

Carl – Asked Julie to email him the program promotion flyer in Spanish, English and Russian so that he can share it with community members.

5. Woodshed status update

Phil – All remaining woodsheds (11) are now located at the Resource Center. Shed delivery will occur pending volunteer availability and weather conditions. Seven applications are in place, so four additional applications are needed.

6. Biomass committee update

Phil – Still working with the County to address the conditional-use permit issue. The Skagit wood bank is progressing nicely at an old sawmill location. Wood is not yet available but will be soon.

7. Outreach and change-outs

Julie – Four change-outs that include a new woodstove and a ductless heat pump are in “closing.” Additionally, four other change-outs are in process. Door-to-door outreach efforts identified three additional potential clients. Another four households have contacted Eryn Spellman, OppCo, directly to inquire about the program. This is probably due to Carl’s outreach efforts on Next Door. Finally, there are two change-outs in process through the CEC program.

Julie and Eryn Spellman, OppCo, conducted door-to-door outreach yesterday to complete the focused outreach list.

8. Air quality and complaint update

Julie – NWCAA received two complaints since the last meeting. One was on Flair Valley and the other was on Oak Court. Made contact with the resident, gave them a woodstove thermometer and fire starters, and talked about proper wood-burning techniques.

Aly – Asked if the resident is interested in a ductless heat pump.

Julie – They have a certified woodstove so is not eligible for the change-out program.

Julie – Provided graph of air quality data of both the hourly and 24-hr rolling total of PM2.5. There were no exceedances of the federal standard. However, PM 2.5 levels did come close on New Year’s Eve day for the 24-hr standard.

Phil – How will emissions from legal land-clearing burning be treated in relation to air quality monitoring data? There is a chance that stable air conditions will occur during the time of the Limestone land-clearing burn. The fact that burning is allowed is going to have to be considered.

Julie – The cause of increased emissions, should they occur, may be noted as attributable to a land-clearing burn. However, since this is one geographical air shed, wood smoke is wood smoke regardless and it will not change how Ecology views emissions.