



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, March 14, 2019, at 1600 S. 2nd St., Mount Vernon, Washington.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Skagit County	Ron Wesen
Island County	Blaine Oborn for Bob Severns Janet St. Clair
Whatcom County	Satpal Sidhu
Member-At-Large	Carl Weimer for Terry Nyman

ABSENT:

Brian Heinrich
Mary Hudson

ALSO PRESENT:

NWCAA staff members	Rebecca Brown, Mark Buford, Alicia Huschka, Agata McIntyre, Seth Preston, and Laurie Caskey-Schreiber
Legal counsel	Simi Jain

CALL TO ORDER

Board of Directors Chairman Ron Wesen called the meeting to order at 1:33 p.m.

APPROVAL OF PRIOR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

On a motion by Satpal Sidhu, seconded by Janet St. Clair, the minutes for the Feb. 14, 2019, meeting were approved 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS

Chairman Wesen appointed the following Board members to the Finance Committee:

<i>Finance Committee</i>		
Chair	Bob Severns	City of Oak Harbor
Member	Brian Heinrich	City of Bellingham
Member	Ron Wesen	Skagit County
<i>Employer/Employee Relations Committee</i>		All positions are ex officio
Chair	Ron Wesen	Skagit County
Member	Satpal Sidhu	Whatcom County
Member	Bob Severns	City of Oak Harbor

PRESENTATION

Partners for Clean Air award – Rebecca Brown

NWCAA air quality inspector Rebecca Brown presented the agency's annual Partners for Clean Air Platinum award to Bellingham Professional Finishes. The company's co-owners Miranda Teel and Nick Haas were present to accept the award. The company switched from solvent based products to waterborne clear-coat products that emit far less Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs). By making this change they reduced their emissions by approximately 1,269 pounds of VOCs.

Teel stated that "we know that not only are the (solvent-based) products on the market toxic, they don't hold up over time." They also were concerned about the safety of their workers and customers, that "just made us feel that we should be committed to seeking out better options," she said.

Brown also noted some of the innovative practices that Bellingham Professional Finishes are using to save energy:

- The plant also installed high-efficiency lights.
- They installed a high-efficiency furnace.
- They also instituted a no-idle policy for their vehicles and purchased a five-passenger van to eliminate multiple two-passenger vans going to a single job site.

Board members congratulated Bellingham Professional Finishes for their efforts to reduce air pollution. This year the agency awarded 20 Gold and 33 Silver awards to businesses in its three-county jurisdiction.

ACTION ITEMS

Bills and claims

Board members discussed the bills and claims reports for February 2019 (totaling \$428,490.44). Sidhu made a motion to approve the February 2019 bills and claims. Carl Weimer seconded the motion, and the Board approved the bills and claims 5-0.

STAFF REPORTS

Executive Director's report – Mark Buford

Buford reported to the Board on the following matters:

- Buford and NWCAA Communications Manager Seth Preston recently met with the staff from the Department of Ecology regarding a communications plan related to the elevated Sulfur Dioxide (SO₂) readings near the Intalco Aluminum smelter. Continued high readings could lead to the area becoming out of attainment with the National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) for SO₂. Buford and NWCAA Engineering Manager Agata McIntyre will be meeting with the Department of Ecology and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to begin planning for how to address the potential non-attainment problem.
- The Agency located the portable monitoring trailer at Ferndale's Eagleridge Elementary School. This new monitor will measure SO₂ and particulate matter (PM). Students at this school will gain training in citizen science work.
- The State Auditor's Office will be conducting a two-year audit of the Agency over the next two weeks. Buford anticipates that they will be inviting Board members to the close-out meeting.
- On April 11, 2019, at 12:00 p.m. (before the board meeting), the Finance Committee (Severns, Heinrich, and Wesen), will meet with Buford and NWCAA Chief Financial Officer Alicia Huschka to review the draft budget for FY '20. Buford will be reviewing the proposed budget with the Advisory Council on March 21, 2019.
- Buford has been following the legislation that has been moving through the State legislative process. The bills concerning adopting the 2020 woodstove standards, failed to progress, however Buford is hopeful that these might be folded into the budget process. One bill that has been moving forward in the legislative process allows for outdoor burning within Urban Growth Areas to encourage wildfire prevention. Buford and others have concerns about this bill, and are working to ensure that the goals of wildfire risk reduction and clean air are met.
- Buford is concerned that the President's Fiscal Year 2020 budget proposes significant cuts to EPA. Washington State receives funding from EPA and passes them through to local clean air agencies. Cuts to these funds could impact a number of non-fee-based programs.
- The Okanogan Superior Court ruled in the Agency's favor regarding the appeal that was filed by Super Duper gas station (Annette Holdings) over the Pollution Control Hearings Board (PCHB) ruling. In response to that decision, Super Duper has filed another appeal with the Washington Court of Appeals, Division Three.

As for the ongoing Brooks Manufacturing company legal case, a hearing has been set for April 12, 2019 with the Washington State of Appeals Court, Division One, in Seattle.

New source review and air operating permit update – Agata McIntyre

NWCAA Engineering Manager Agata McIntyre reported on the February 2019 construction permit (new source review) activity.

In February, the Agency received seven applications for construction permits and issued ten construction permits.

McIntyre discussed the permit issued for Silfab Solar, a solar panel assembly facility, which recently purchased ITEK Solar. The facility relocated to the Bellingham waterfront. They use solvents to wipe down solar panels during the assembly process and needed a permit due to the amount of solvents they use. Silfab Solar also plans to install a new production line to increase their production in the near future.

Enforcement update – Rebecca Brown for Toby Mahar


Rebecca Brown, on behalf of NWCAA Compliance Manager Toby Mahar, reported that in February, the Agency issued a violation in response to an illegal demolition of a mobile home in Whatcom County.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to consider, the meeting adjourned at 2:19 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 March 14, 2019, in Mount Vernon, Washington.

ATTEST:  For
Terry Nyman, Secretary
NWCAA Board of Directors


Ron Wesen, Chair
NWCAA Board of Directors

DATED: April 11, 2019