



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 12, 2020, at 1600 S. 2nd St., Mount Vernon, Washington.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Skagit County	Mary Hudson Ron Wesen
Island County	Janet St. Clair
Whatcom County	Todd Donovan Brian Heinrich
Member-At-Large	Joe Lindquist for Terry Nyman

ABSENT: Bob Severns

ALSO PRESENT:

NWCAA staff members	Mark Buford, Alicia Huschka, Agata McIntyre, and Laurie Caskey-Schreiber
Legal counsel	Svend Brandt-Erichsen

CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF PRIOR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

On a motion by Mary Hudson, seconded by Ron Wesen, the minutes for the Feb. 13, 2020, meeting were approved 5-0 (Joe Lindquist arrived shortly after the vote).

ACTION ITEMS

Resolution 580 – Authorizing the Greenhouse Gas Funding contract with Island County

Todd Donovan moved to approve Resolution 580, which allows NWCAA to enter into a contract with Island County for \$25,000 to be used to fund a greenhouse gas emission inventory. Wesen seconded the motion, and Resolution 580 was approved, with a 5-0 vote (Janet St. Clair abstained from the vote).

Bills and claims

Board members discussed the bills and claims reports for February 2020 (totaling \$447,933.09). Wesen made a motion to approve the February 2020 bills and claims. Janet St. Clair seconded the motion, and the Board approved the bills and claims 6-0.

STAFF REPORTS

Executive Director's report – Mark Buford

Buford reported to the Board on the following matters:

- Buford consulted with the Skagit County Health Department, and made the decision to encourage telecommuting for most of the NWCAA employees, in an attempt to create social distancing to fight the COVID-19 virus outbreak. Fortunately, NWCAA is well positioned with technology to facilitate productive remote work. The Agency will be adapting its policies as the situation unfolds.
- Working with our partners at the State and Federal levels, progress is being made related to the nonattainment designation near the Intalco Aluminum smelter. More details will be available at the April meeting.
- Buford recently attended the Mount Vernon City Council meeting. He spoke with the group about NWCAA and air quality in our jurisdiction. His visit was mentioned in the Mayor's Newsletter.
- The Agency recently hired a new Atmospheric Measurements Manager to replace Axel Franzmann, who is set to retire at the end of May. The new employee will start May 1, 2020.
- Several employees recently attended and presented at the National Association of Clean Air Agencies conference on Permitting and Compliance, which was held in St. Louis, Missouri.

NWCAA staff gave presentations on anaerobic digesters, the permitting process, and shared information about the Agency's database, STRATUS. Buford hopes to offer a version of this database to other Clean Air Agencies for their use. If our system works for them, NWCAA would charge a nominal fee, and other agencies would be allowed to customize the system for their own use.

New source review and air operating permit update – Agata McIntyre

NWCAA Engineering Manager Agata McIntyre reported on the February 2020 construction permit (new source review) activity.

In February, the Agency received four applications for construction permits and issued two construction permits.

McIntyre discussed the application that the Agency received for FPE Renewables LLC. FPE Renewables has a NWCAA permit for their anaerobic dairy digester. They are seeking to revise their permit to allow the existing engine/generator to use natural gas instead of the digester to make electricity during normal, day-to-day, operation. Permit changes are also needed to address flare operation. During a recent inspection, NWCAA inspector Matt Holmquist noted concerns about flare operation. One key concern is making sure that the flare is running hot enough to provide proper combustion when digester gas (which contains hydrogen sulfide, a highly toxic chemical) is sent to the flare.

Enforcement update – Toby Mahar

NWCAA Compliance Manager Toby Mahar reported that the Agency issued nine violations in February, including permit and asbestos violations.

The FPE Renewables (dairy digester) construction application noted in the previous section was in response to the violation they received for failing to control the release of H2S directly into the atmosphere. Farm Power also received a violation for a similar infraction.

During February, two penalties were issued. Complaint load was normal.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to consider, the meeting adjourned at 2:02 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 12, 2020, in Mount Vernon, Washington.

ATTEST: Joe Leguizuit for TN
Terry Nyman, Secretary
NWCAA Board of Directors

[Signature]
Bob Severns, Chair
NWCAA Board of Directors

DATED: April 9, 2020