

## East Whatcom Community Council Clean Air Committee

### Meeting summary

February 12, 2020

**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); Curtis Metz, Gabe Nelson, Jacob Johnson - Whatcom County Fire Marshal; Viktor Vetkov - Slavic Church; Julie O'Shaughnessy - Northwest Clean Air Agency

**Present:** Phil Cloward, Jerry DeBruin, Aly Robinson, Mark Schofield, Jacob Johnson, Julie O'Shaughnessy

### **Agenda items:**

- 1. Introductions** – No introductions necessary. All present know each other. Community members Rebecca Cayen and Carl McDaniel attended.
- 2. Approval of January 8, 2020 meeting summary** – Mark moved to approve the meeting notes. Aly seconded the motion.

**3. Open public comment** – None

#### **4. Announcements**

**Jerry** – The next meeting for Paradise Lakes Country Club is February 29, the last Saturday of the month at 10:30. If we (Fire Department, Fire Marshal & NWCAA) want to attend the meeting, we can coordinate.

#### **5. Wood stove replacement update**

**Mark** – We are not seeking additional projects at this time because we need to complete the current projects in order to determine the amount of funding that remains. There are 25 projects in various stages of the change-out process. Eleven projects will be included in the next invoice. Contractor bids are being obtained, heat pumps and stoves installed and quality insurance inspections are being conducted. Once these projects are completed, remaining funding for additional change-outs will be determined. Although new projects are not being taken on at this point, potential clients are given the option to be put on a waiting list.

**Phil** – Has received several comments from community members on how much their electric bill has decreased with their new heating equipment.

#### **6. Biomass committee**

**Phil** – The Washington Wood Coop is hauling wood that still needs to season before it will meet dry wood standards. It will be processed and stored until it is at 20%, or below, moisture content. The Swinomish tribe has expressed interest in the wood for their tribal

elders. The Coop has tentatively committed wood to the Swinomish tribe. Of the 120 cord, 65 are uncommitted.

The Coop is still considering a pellet mill, but needs to secure a steady user of pellets.

## **7. Outreach activities/ideas**

### **Spring chipping event:**

**Rebecca** – Talked to the Conservation District the event promotion flyer. The previous flyer will be edited for a new timeline (the month of April), but will otherwise be the same. There are currently two days of chipping funded. Project Neighborly and/or Mount Baker Foundation may fund additional days. The Chamber of Commerce will print the flyer and it will be included in the “Hello Neighbor” and Peaceful Valley newsletter in early March.

**Aly** –An application for the chipping project was submitted a few days before the deadline after determining that the chipping project was an appropriate project. “Project Neighborly” grant cycle ended, but there is a grant catalog identifying all applicants. There is the ability to contribute to projects to help see them come to fruition.

## **8. Air quality and complaint update**

**Julie** – There were no new complaints regarding wood stove smoke or outdoor burning since our last meeting. There were no air quality exceedances of any type.