

## East Whatcom Community Council Clean Air Committee

### Meeting summary

August 12, 2020 (via video conference)

**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, Aly Robinson, Mark Schofield, Jacob Johnson, Curtis Metz; Julie O'Shaughnessy

#### **Agenda items:**

1. **Introductions** – No introductions necessary. All present know each other. Rebecca Cayan and Carl McDaniel, community members, were present.

2. **Approval of June 10, 2020 meeting summary** – Mark moved to approve the meeting notes. Phil seconded the motion with the correction to remove reference that Peaceful Valley hired Cowden to chip the remaining material.

3. **Open public comment** – None

4. **Announcements**

**Carl** – Shared that the Mount Baker Foundation verbally expressed that they will dedicate \$100,000 per year for the next five years toward community projects. Currently trying to establish a Board or way to decide how the funds will be dispersed and to which projects. Projects need to benefit the community and not an individual. Decisions will be community driven.

5. **Wood stove replacement update**

**Mark** – At our last meeting, Mark reported that several projects were not be completed prior to the COVID shutdown. Since then, contractors have been able to go back to work under the existing phase and have completed the projects. All projects on the CEC side are completed.

6. **OppCo's work status with clients**

**Mark** – OppCo is not yet going back into homes for weatherization or CEC energy audits. OppCo has developed COVID safety protocols to be used when re-entering homes to ensure safety. Currently in the process of procuring all necessary safety equipment, some of which is in short supply. OppCo has adopted department standards that need to be met before going back in to homes.

Because staff is unable to go into homes, quality assurance inspections on completed projects will occur “virtually”.

**Carl** – For the ductless heat pumps installed there is typically a 10-year warranty. Carl has received calls from residents experiencing problems with their heat pumps. Contractors honor the equipment warranty, but there is no labor warranty. Is there something in the original agreement that covers the cost of labor for a period of time or does it vary from contractor to contractor?

**Mark** – Believes that it would vary from contractor to contractor, but is unaware of these issues being brought to OppCo’s attention. All program participants signs a participant approval and inspection form acknowledging proper installation and approval of workmanship and products. Residents also acknowledge responsibility for any future repairs or maintenance needs. If there are issues, OppCo definitely wants to know about it from the program participants.

## 7. Biomass committee

**Phil** – The Washington Wood Coop continues to acquire and stockpile wood. Working on connecting with people who want to work for “wood credit” via the wood bank. Currently have approximately 30 cords left from the original 190 cords.

At some point will re-connect and work with OppCo to establish energy assistance requirements.

**Mark** – Is not involved in the wood bank via the energy assistance program, but is happy to help with getting the appropriate people involved.

## 8. Fall chipping event

**Rebecca** – Confirmed with Gabe Zender that the first chipping date will be September 8, the Tuesday after Labor Day. People have already signed up and an email will be sent to residents who have participated previously. Trying to advertise as best as possible during COVID times. The event is being promoted at the resource center and in the Peaceful Valley newsletter.

If the chipping event is only two days, there should be enough money left over to pay for a spring chipping event.

**Aly** – Asked about the possibility of using funds to make chipping promotion signs to place on public right-of-ways.

**Carl** – Said that it might not be a great time to put more signs out along with the political signs because they are getting removed as quickly as they’re placed.

## 9. Ecology grant status update

**Julie** – NWCAA received an additional \$44K for the woodstove replacement program from the Department of Ecology. The agreement between NWCAA and OppCo will be revised to reflect the increase in funding along with deliverables.

## **10.NWCAA outreach**

**Julie** – NWCAA is working on outreach campaign to promote actions/behavior to dry and store wood that will result in money saved and hotter fires. There are five different messages that will be printed on corrugated yard signs for placement on public right-of-ways.

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

**Julie** – Since the last meeting, there have been no complaints received and there have been no days with any level of impaired air quality.