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BOARD MEETING MINUTES

The Board of Directors of the Northwest Clean Air Agency met at 1:30 p.m. Thursday, March 11, 2021, via video conference.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Skagit County	Mary Hudson Ron Wesen
Island County	Bob Severns Janet St. Clair
Whatcom County	Todd Donovan
Member-At-Large	Terry Nyman

ABSENT: Brian Heinrich

ADVISORY COUNCIL: Mary Hess

ALSO PRESENT:

NWCAA staff members	Mark Buford, Alicia Huschka, Robyn Jones, Toby Mahar, Agata McIntyre, Seth Preston, and Laurie Caskey-Schreiber
Legal counsel	Svend Brandt-Erichsen

CALL TO ORDER

Board of Directors member Bob Severns called the meeting to order at 1:32 p.m.

APPROVAL OF PRIOR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

On motion by Todd Donovan, seconded by Ron Wesen, the minutes for the Feb. 11, 2021, meeting were approved 5-0 (*Mary Hudson arrived shortly after the vote*).

ACTION ITEMS

Bills and claims

Board members discussed the bills and claims reports for February 2021 (\$382,896.21). Donovan made a motion to approve the February 2021 bills and claims. Janet St. Clair seconded the motion, and the Board approved the bills and claims 5-0.

STAFF REPORTS

Director's report – Mark Buford

Buford reported to the Board on the following matters:

- The Fiscal Year 2022 preliminary Agency budget will be presented to the Advisory Council on March 25, 2021. Once this group provides feedback to Agency staff, the budget will next be presented to the Board of Directors Finance Committee (Janet St. Clair (chair), Ron Wesen, & Todd Donovan), during a pre-board meeting on April 8, 2021. This meeting typically lasts about an hour.

During the May 13, 2021 Board meeting, the full Board of Directors will review the budget and have an opportunity to provide comments. Staff will incorporate those comments for presentation at the June Board meeting. In June, a Fiscal Year 2022 budget must be adopted by the Board. That budget will go into effect July 1, 2021.

- The ALCOA Intalco non-attainment area, which was recently put on hold by the new federal administration, is now off of the hold status and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is moving forward with designating a small area around the ALCOA facility as out of attainment with the SO₂ NAAQS. The next steps will be working with the EPA, the Washington State Department of Ecology, and ALCOA to formulate a plan to get the area back into attainment.
- Buford has been meeting with staff from the Whatcom County Planning department about their proposed regulations for reducing greenhouse gases and exploring strengthening the rules around outdoor marijuana growing operations. Buford has also been involved with a waterfront coalition group, who are interested in replacing the engines of the local fishing trawler fleet.
- Buford invited the Whatcom division Specialized Emergency Response Program (SERP) Chief, Chuck Henkel, to the April Board meeting to speak about their need for updating their self-contained breathing equipment (SCBA), which is now 25 years old, and is well past the recommended expiration use date. The cost for acquiring this new SCBA would be approximately \$170,000.

Buford mentioned that this type of grant would be funded out of penalty revenue. Buford will provide an update about the cumulative reserve funds and discuss plans for this fund after the SERP presentation.

- The Biden administration recently appointed Michael Regan as the Director for EPA.

New source review and air operating permit update – Agata McIntyre

NWCAA Engineering Manager Agata McIntyre reported on the February 2021 construction permit (new source review) activity.

During February, the Agency received seven applications for construction permits and issued one construction permit.

Among those applications received, was one from Janicki Industries. The company is consolidating six existing permits into one construction permit and one regulatory order with facility-wide emission limits. This will clarify the facility-wide emission limit and make implementation more straightforward.

Enforcement update – Toby Mahar

NWCAA Compliance Manager Toby Mahar reported on February 2021 enforcement activities. One Notice of Violation was issued to a tenant who was engaged in burning illegal materials inside of a rental home in Concrete.

Mahar has met with a sub-group of the Advisory Council to work on updating the Agency’s penalty policies. The meeting went well. St. Clair mentioned that she has a special interest in outdoor burning policy issues, so she too would like to be engaged in the process to update these regulations.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to consider, the meeting adjourned at 1:58 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 11, 2021, in Mount Vernon, Washington.

ATTEST: 
Terry Nymman, Secretary
NWCAA Board of Directors


Brian Heinrich, Chair
NWCAA Board of Directors

DATED: March 11, 2021