

**East Whatcom Community Council
Clean Air Committee
Meeting summary
April 14, 2021 - 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: Rebecca Cayen, East Whatcom Community Council (newly elected)

Co-chair Outreach: Carl McDaniel, Community Member (newly elected)

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: Rebecca Cayen, Carl McDaniel, Mark Schofield, Jacob Johnson, Julie O'Shaughnessy, Betty Zender, Dean Zender, Aly Robinson.

Agenda items:

- 1. Introductions** – All present introduced themselves and identified their role at work and in the community.
- 2. Approval of March 10, 2021 meeting summary** – Carl moved to approve meeting minutes; Mark seconded the motion.
- 3. Open public comment – None**
- 4. Announcements – None.**
- 5. Wood stove replacement update:**

Mark – They are currently working on the final 2 wood stove changeouts. Hopefully they will be finished in one month. Julie moved funds from advertising account to changeout so they had enough funds to complete more than first anticipated. Has 70 people on the wait list for the next round of funding. There were 27 people assisted with this program through this grant cycle.

- 6. FY21 – 23 wood stove replacement update -**

Julie – Next grant cycle with Julie gone. NWCAA will be looking at helping 22 or 23 households with wood stoves older than 2000. List of who will be doing what. So, the work will still be going on

- 7. Biomass Committee**

Julie – Spoke to this group’s understanding of the biomass project as Phil has presented it over the years. She also discussed the current projects that NW Clean Air is working on up here.

Dean – Their program currently has 25 to 26 cords ready to be cut up. Yes, volunteers can get wood. Were a 4-member board organization and now only 3 but looking at 2 more to help out. They were doing this program not only in East County but all over the county. The wood is not free and Energy Assistance will not pay this program for the low income. They do incur costs in hauling, cutting, and some pay positions are required. It is named Washington Woodland Cooperative.

Mark – Has had prior discussions with Paul Schissler about the Opportunity Council getting cord wood rather than pressed wood but they would need some assurance of amount and quality before they could proceed. (Paul helped organize the Washington Woodland Cooperative.)

Dean – His family works up in East County at things like the food bank and they get the information to those in need that way.

Rebecca – Possibly have some wood stored at the HOA for distribution at the food bank. The building is already there and all it would need is doors and locks.

Dean – Stated they could be possibly try that and they will look into it.

Mark - Do you go through the full supply?

Dean – Yes and more and more people are hearing about the program so last year they went through about 18 cord, this year they are thinking 25. Also, they are looking for a hoop building to store the wood in to keep it dry.

Carl – Asked if Dean had a system in place that things are stacked in exact cord size stacks with good, dry wood?

Dean – They stack it in the half-cord increments and with fence posts between each stack and they are aged and dry.

Julie – The issue was having the wood less than 20% moisture.

Mark – Is willing to bring this operation to his agency and to see if they could come up with clear standards and expectations to move forward.

Dean - Hoop building should be up in a month. It will be on gravel so it will not be muddy when people drive in and out and the wood should stay dry.

Rebecca Chipping event-

Rebecca – Heard from one person who was skipped and one person with only part of the pile chipped. There was 45 cubic yards were chipped. Lot more people wanted the chips. The food bank orchard wanted some; the school wanted some chips but they did not say where to drop them so maybe next time. Several other people wanted it for various uses. It ended up 3 days because the chipper broke. There were 77 people on the list and more that took their piles out without letting anyone know. Rebecca already has people lined up for next event. She will be putting out a presentation to the FCA for funding for the chipping event. People are learning how to stack their wood and it is going smoothly.

Julie – Says she has already lined up a few thousand dollars for the next event.

8. NWCAA update

Purple Air sensor update

Julie – There are currently 9 PurpleAir sensors in the Columbia Valley UGA. She wanted an event to talk about the PurpleAir sensors. There is also a bakery in Glacier that a sensor will be installed. The goal is to identify problem areas to find areas to work on.

Mark – Suggested there needs to be a tutorial out to the public on how to use the sensors.

Julie – Will convey that to Evan.

Air Quality complaints & monitoring data

Julie – We had 3 days that were unhealthy (March 7 and 12 -13). A few days were close to unhealthy. It was fairly quiet for complaints this month.

DRAFT