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BOARD MEETING MINUTES

The meeting of the Board of Directors of the Northwest Clean Air Agency was held at 1:30 p.m. Thursday, October 14, 2021, via video conference.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Island County	Tara Hizon Janet St. Clair
Skagit County	Mary Hudson
Whatcom County	Todd Donovan
Member-At-Large	Terry Nyman

ABSENT:

Brian Heinrich
Ron Wesen

ALSO PRESENT:

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

CALL TO ORDER

Board of Directors Vice Chairman Mary Hudson called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

APPROVAL OF PRIOR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

On motion by Todd Donovan, seconded by Terry Nyman, the minutes for the September 9, 2021, meeting were approved 5-0.

NEW BOARD MEMBER

NWCAA Executive Director Mark Buford welcomed Oak Harbor City Councilmember Tara Hizon to the NWCAA Board of Directors. Hizon was recently appointed as a replacement for Oak Harbor Mayor Bob Severns.

PRESENTATION

Buford announced that the scheduled quarterly Financial Report Presentation will be postponed until the next Board meeting, which is scheduled for November 18, 2021.

ACTION ITEMS

Bills and claims

Board members discussed the bills and claims reports for September 2021. Donovan made a motion to approve the September (\$362,272.65) 2021 bills and claims. Tara Hizon 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 At-Large Board position, held by Terry Nyman, is set to expire at the end of December 2021. Nyman has agreed to serve another term. Board members indicated their support for voting on a renewal of that appointment in December.
- Also during the December Board meeting, there will be some renewal appointments for the Advisory Council members whose terms are set to expire in December. The Whatcom County Health Department has suggested a replacement for John Wolpers, so that appointment will also be brought forward in December.
- Buford has recently met with Department of Ecology staff about the Climate Commitment Act (CCA). This Act will be focused on reducing greenhouse gas emissions from the state's largest emitting sources and industries. The CCA also puts environmental justice and equity at the center of climate policy. The actions taken as a result of this act will hopefully ensure that disadvantaged communities see improvements in their air quality. Buford believes NWCAA will have a role in providing monitoring data for these communities.
- On a national level, the Environmental Protection Agency, is revisiting the National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) standard for particulate matter (PM 2.5). In years past, the Science Advisory Council recommended strengthening the standard to provide more protection from the harmful effects of exposure to particulates. The current standard is 12 micrograms per cubic meter (as an annual average) and the science appears to suggest that it should be in the 8-10 range. The Trump administration did not support the recommendation and disbanded the Advisory

Council. The current EPA administration is re-forming this Council and will once again continue the review process for PM2.5 standards. Buford stated that the only area in our jurisdiction that doesn't meet the NAAQS standard is the Columbia Valley community in east Whatcom County. Buford explained that there is also a 24-hour standard for the PM2.5 NAAQS with a similar storyline as the annual standard.

New source review and air operating permit update – Agata McIntyre

NWCAA Engineering Manager Agata McIntyre reported on the September 2021 construction permit (new source review) and air operating permit activity.

NWCAA permit writers are often engaged in the renewal process for our large source air operating permits as these permits are due for renewal every five years. NWCAA staff recently completed the renewal for the Shell Puget Sound Refinery's air operating permit. This is 272-page permit, one of the largest permits NWCAA issues. Happy to report that the work is completed on this project.

During September 2021, the Agency received one application for a construction permit. The permit application received was for Vectorwrx Theme Studios. They are a new operation that creates large, custom foam structures that are shipped all over the world.

The Agency issued four construction permits.

Enforcement update – Toby Mahar

NWCAA Compliance Manager Toby Mahar reported that NWCAA issued four notices of violation in September: Two cases involving an illegal demolitions and removal of asbestos, one sawmill dust situation between neighbors, and one illegal outdoor fire. The outdoor burning violation was a Skagit Speedway event where a car was burned during a fire safety burn ban.

The Agency also issued two penalties.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to consider, the meeting adjourned at 2:01 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 October 14, 2021, in Mount Vernon, Washington.

ATTEST: 

Terry Nyma, Secretary
NWCAA Board of Directors

Mary Hudson, Vice Chair
NWCAA Board of Directors

DATED: November 18, 2021

