

## East Whatcom Community Council

### Clean Air Committee

#### Meeting summary

January 12, 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

**Co-chair Outreach:** Carl McDaniel

**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; Dean Zender & David Camp, Wood Bank; Seth Preston - Northwest Clean Air Agency

**Present:** Rebecca Cayen, Mark Schofield, Mark Buford, Dave Camp

#### **Agenda items:**

- 1. Introductions** – All present introduced themselves and identified their role at work and in the community.
- 2. Approval of September 2022, meeting summary** – Tabled until next meeting.
- 3. Open public comment** – None
- 4. Announcements** – None
- 5. Wood stove replacement update** –

Mark Schofield – The contracts were signed by Opportunity Council and NWCA for the time period through 2023 for the wood smoke reduction program. The program is designed to replace older stoves that do not meet new standards and add a heat pump. There is funding for about 17 projects for this period. Currently there are 20 people on the list to receive an upgrade. They will be starting with properties that are in the most affected areas using the data received from the air monitors. Currently bids are out to contractors, and they are just waiting for replies. They are still looking for people to sign up by calling Eryn Spellman at 360-734-5121 ext. 1102. Even though the list is larger than the amount they are currently able to handle, they are looking for alternatives if some of the current projects fall through for various reasons.

#### **6. Wood Bank update** –

Woodland Co-operative – Continuing to deliver out of their Skagit County location. They do not have a lot left for this season. They are working on a covered space for Whatcom County and in the next month they should have the covered structure. It will be located on Highway 547 about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile west of the two 90-degree corners. It will be at \$280 per cord. The

cooperative hire people to do the wood splitting so there is a cost. They usually get tops from Georgia Pacific.

## **7. Possible outreach opportunities –**

Rebecca – Possible email alerts, or Nextdoor, or county emergency alerts. Maybe work on outreach in March given the covid restrictions lifted.

Mark Buford – Looked into putting information out on Nextdoor, but it is very expensive because Nextdoor says NWCAA does not fit its definition of “public agency.” So, to use Nextdoor, NWCAA would have to sign up as a “business” and pay for advertising.

Mark Schofield – Possible in-person informative meetings or fall outreach. OppCo did have a Community Energy Challenge table at last year’s Summerfest and got out information about the changeout program.

Dave - Would like to do outreach in Whatcom County because they will have a wood bank open and available.

## **8. 2022 schedule –**

Rebecca – Meeting every other month seems to be working. Everyone agrees.

## **9. NWCAA update –**

Mark Buford– Looked into any smoke complaints for November and December and into January, but NWCAA did not receive any. This is good news because there has been a number of atmospheric disturbances. There were exceedances of the PM2.5 standard on Nov. 21, Nov. 22 and Jan. 1. (Around Thanksgiving and New Year’s.) Looking at possible inversion layer soon and could call a burn ban soon. Wanted to know how to get that information out, maybe Facebook or Nextdoor. Possibly even target Nextdoor to get the information out. Wants to refer people to the PurpleAir sensors map for local air quality. Look into why readings are so high sometimes at the Water District location, which is the site of NWCAA’s primary monitor. Working to do this on the resource side rather than the EPA coming in and fining people. Every state in the northern tier has some place like this and it is hard to deal with, but the group is doing a good job.

Rebecca – EPA is welcome to come out to any event at any time. Also, she is looking for support and funding for the April chipping event.

Meeting ended, with the next session scheduled at 4:30 p.m. March 9 via Zoom.