

East Whatcom Community Council Clean Air Committee (CAC) Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, November 9th, 2022 @ 4:30-6:00 p.m.

VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE - Please email sethp@nwcleanairwa.gov to receive your link to attend.

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.

Committee Guidelines:

1. Listen to understand, not to respond; seek clarity.
2. Voice opinions and questions openly in the meeting and not after; speak for yourself; everyone's opinion is valuable and worthy of attention.
3. Conflict over a topic is healthy; take nothing personally; engage in debate.
4. Do not expect consensus or certainty.
5. Explain why you don't agree with a proposal, but when a decision is made, buy in.
6. If people look like they have something to say, encourage them to speak.

Co-Chairs: Rebecca Cayen, Carl McDaniel

Members: Jerry DeBruin & David Moe – WCFD #14; Aly Robinson – Whatcom County Health Department; Mark Schofield – Opportunity Council; Curtis Metz, Jacob Johnson, Gabe Nelson – Whatcom County Fire Marshal; Viktor Vetkov – Slavic Church; Dean Zender & David Camp – Wood Bank; Seth Preston – NW Clean Air Agency

Present: Rebecca Cayen, Mark Schofield, Aly Robinson, Jacob Johnson, Seth Preston, Carl McDaniel

Agenda items:

1. **Introductions - None**
2. **Approval of August 10, 2022, meeting summary – meeting minutes approved.**

Motion: Carl McDaniel

Second: Aly Robinson

Passes: Unanimous

3. **Open public comment – None.**

4. **Announcements –**

Rebecca – Meeting with wildfire person to find funding for chipping event.

5. **WWU Air Quality Report issues–**

Seth – Because the winds have been moving recently, NWCAA has not had to call a burn ban because of the cold weather, but that is possible later if the air gets stagnant.

Aly – Meeting with Western report, they discussed next steps for related projects for Western. Also, how can they assist working with environmental health and resilience. We can get hard copies of the report, and they will post on their site, but it is not going to be widely distributed.

6. Wood stove replacement update –

Mark – Trying to focus on the Azure Way area. There are 12 completed projects and plans to do 3 more, then they will see what funding remains. They are still seeking interested parties to be part of the project. There is a request in the Hello Neighbor newsletter asking for people who want to participate.

7. Wood Bank update –

Carl – Spoke with David about getting a cord of wood for an elderly man with cancer. We told to try one other option then get back to him. Carl would have to go to Skagit county to get the wood for this person.

8. Outreach opportunities –

Aly – Make sure NWCAA has the word out every chance it can with the coming communication hub.

9. NWCAA update –

Seth – There were 7 exceedances between October 13 and 20; a burn ban was issued October 19 through October 21 because of wildfire smoke. (The ban applied to all of Whatcom, Skagit, and Island counties.) Highest PM2.5 level was recorded on October 19 in the Unhealthy range. One woodstove complaint was received for a residence on Little Big Horn on November 2.

- 10/13: 44.4 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$
- 10/14: 44.8 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$
- 10/16: 68.6 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$
- 10/17: 47.2 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$
- 10/18: 80.2 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$
- 10/19: 129.9 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$
- 10/20: 49.2 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}$

Next meeting will be January 11, 2023.