



1600 South Second Street  
Mount Vernon, WA 98273-5202  
ph 360-428-1617  
fax 360-428-1620  
info@nwcleanairwa.gov  
www.nwcleanairwa.gov

## **BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

The meeting of the Board of Directors of the Northwest Clean Air Agency was held at 1:30 p.m. Thursday, December 8, 2022, at 1600 South Second Street, Mount Vernon, WA.

### **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Skagit County	Mary Hudson Ron Wesen
Island County	Tara Hizon via ZOOM Janet St. Clair
Whatcom County	Todd Donovan Brian Heinrich
Member-At-Large	Terry Nyman

### **ALSO PRESENT:**

NWCAA staff members	Mark Buford, Alicia Huschka, Toby Mahar, Agata McIntyre, Seth Preston, and Laurie Caskey-Schreiber
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### **CALL TO ORDER**

Board of Directors Chair Mary Hudson 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 November 10, 2022, meeting were approved 5-0 (*Brian Heinrich and Tara Hizon arrived after the vote*).

## **ACTION ITEMS**

### **Revisions to salary scale for Air Quality Engineers – Mark Buford**

NWCAA Executive Director Mark Buford reviewed the salary scale memo, included in the Board packets.

NWCAA has two salary ranges for Air Quality Engineers, one for permit writers with a professional engineer (PE) license and one for permit writers without a PE license. The salary differential between these two groups has become large and an adjustment is warranted to close the gap. The current salary range at step 9 for an Engineer with PE is \$20,580 higher than the same step for the other Engineer salary range. The Agency would like to make a salary modification to the Air Quality Engineer salary range by increasing each step in the 9-step salary scale to be \$5,000 less than the Air Quality Engineer with PE.

Donovan made a motion to approve a salary modification for "Air Quality Engineer," adjusting each step in the 9-step range to be \$5,000 less than each step in the 9-step salary range for the "Air Quality Engineer with PE," to become effective January 1, 2023. Brian Heinrich seconded the motion, and Board members voted 6-0 (*Hizon arrived after the vote*) to approve the revision.

### **Bills and claims**

Board members discussed the bills and claims reports for November 2022. Janet St. Clair made a motion to approve the November 2022 (\$384,060.95) bills and claims. Wesen seconded the motion, and the Board approved the bills and claims 6-0.

## **STAFF REPORTS**

### **Director's report – Mark Buford**

Buford reported to the Board on the following matters:

- Staff at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) decided to maintain the National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) for ozone that was established in 2020. The Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee (CASAC) – part of the formal NAAQS review process – may challenge this EPA decision, pending their review. Whatever the outcome, it would be difficult for EPA to review new science as part of this 2020 review faster than they are reviewing new science as part of their scheduled 2025 review of the same NAAQS. Ozone in high concentrations contributes to smog and is a threat to public health. NWCAA measures ozone in the air and ozone is generally not a cause for concern in our jurisdiction. It is commonly related to and downwind of large metropolitan areas and often related to transportation sources (internal combustion engines in vehicles).

The NAAQS for particulate matter (PM) that was established in 2020 has also been under review. The staff at EPA appear to be recommending changing the annual standard for PM<sub>2.5</sub>, but not the daily standard. Buford believes this change is more

likely to occur prior to the 2025 scheduled review as there is general agreement that the current standard is inadequate.

- EPA staff recently audited NWCAA's monitoring stations. They reported three findings:
  - 1) The Custer station needs a fire extinguisher.
  - 2) A wasp nest was found on an adjacent building at the Custer station.
  - 3) They requested that equipment certification certificates be taped onto the equipment rather than being kept elsewhere.

Overall, they were pleased with the operation of NWCAA's monitoring stations.

Buford added that our Atmospheric Measurement Manger, Evan Bing, participated in the U.S. Department Air Quality Fellowship program, and he was recently a presenter at an international conference in Thailand. NWCAA staff members Toby Mahar and Agata McIntyre, have also been recruited to assist EPA with their policy work. Buford acknowledged that the NWCAA staff are well respected in their fields of expertise.

- Buford reported that a staff member from San Juan County government has reached out to him, about possibly having their county re-join our jurisdiction. Currently, the Department of Ecology is responsible for meeting their air quality needs. Buford stated that San Juan County withdrew from the NWCAA jurisdiction in 1983. Board members supported Buford exploring the possibility of San Juan County rejoining NWCAA.
- Buford recently met with the Advisory Council and updated them on the federal and state actions to address Environmental Justice issues. He intends to update the Board in February or March of 2023. Buford also asked Board members to review the composition of the Advisory Council and determine if new members should be added, and if so, what type of person or what specialty area, should we be seeking to add to the group.

#### **New source review and air operating permit update –Agata McIntyre**

NWCAA Engineering Manager Agata McIntyre reported on the November 2022 construction permit (New Source Review) and Air Operating Permit activity.

The Agency received two applications for construction permits and issued three permit decisions.

McIntyre noted that Agency staff recently completed the renewal of one of our large sources, the Phillips 66 oil refinery, air operating permit. These permits need to be renewed every five years. This renewal involves a lengthy complex process, so this work takes time to complete.

One of the construction permits that the Agency recently received was for a new manufacturing business in Ferndale called Vicinity Motor Corporation. This business will be constructing electric buses. To paint these trucks and buses they will be installing a large-scale spray booth.

**Enforcement update – Toby Mahar**

NWCAA Compliance Manager Toby Mahar reported that NWCAA issued seven notices of violation (NOV) and four penalties in November. Mahar highlighted the following:

- **Case 4628 & 4630** Rick Carlson was found causing large illegal outdoor fires containing prohibited materials by Skagit and Whatcom County Fire Marshals.
- **Case 4626** – HFSinclair Puget Sound Refinery had excess flare emissions on 5/18/22 and data losses at continuous emissions monitors.
- **Case 4627** – HFSinclair Puget Sound Refinery had a series of significant operational cold weather-related upsets during 12/25/21 – March 2022. NWCAA expects facility weatherization to prevent excess emissions events.
- **Case 4557 & 4560** – Marathon Anacortes Refinery had excess emissions events.
- **Case 4552 & 4611** – Bornstein Seafoods failed to obtain a permit before installing and operating an industrial fryer and required control equipment. Emissions from the fryer operation resulted in numerous complaints and verified nuisance odors.
- **Case 4610** – Advanced Powder Coating denied access to the NWCAA inspector.

Odor complaints fell within the normal range. Most of them related to smoke impacts and fish odors.

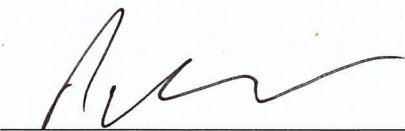
**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to consider, the meeting adjourned at 2:30 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 December 8, 2022, in Mount Vernon, Washington.

ATTEST:



Terry Nyman, Secretary  
NWCAA Board of Directors

Todd Donovan for



Mary Hudson, Chair  
NWCAA Board of Directors

DATED: February 9, 2023