



1600 South Second Street
Mount Vernon, WA 98273-5202
ph 360.428.1617
fax 360.428.1620
www.nwcleanair.org

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

The meeting of the Board of Directors of the Northwest Clean Air Agency was held at 1:30 p.m., Thursday, September 10, 2015, at 1600 South Second Street, Mount Vernon, Washington.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Island County	Richard Hannold
Skagit County	Ron Wesen Joe Lindquist
Whatcom County	Brian Heinrich Carl Weimer
Member-At-Large	Terry Nyman

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jim Campbell

ALSO PRESENT:

NWCAA staff members	Mark Asmundson, Mark Buford, Robyn Jones, Toby Mahar, Agata McIntyre, Julie O'Shaughnessy, Katie Skipper, and Laurie Caskey-Schreiber
Legal counsel	Loch Clark

CALL TO ORDER

Board Chair Brian Heinrich called the meeting to order at 1:32 p.m.

APPROVAL OF PRIOR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

On motion by Joe Lindquist, seconded by Carl Weimer, the minutes for the August 13, 2015, Board meeting were approved 6-0.

PRESENTATIONS

Agency Executive Director Mark Asmundson introduced Derek Long to the Board. Long is the Executive Director for Sustainable Connections, a nonprofit organization located in Whatcom County that offers a variety of sustainability programs to businesses. Asmundson mentioned that both Sustainable Connections and the Washington State University Energy Program presented funding proposals at the Advisory Council meeting in September. The

Advisory Council unanimously voted in support of funding the Sustainable Connections proposal.

Asmundson invited Sustainable Connections to share its funding proposal with the Board.

Long presented the proposal (*full version attached*) from Sustainable Connections, which has three components to it:

1. Expansion of the Community Energy Challenge to more commercial buildings – at the cost of \$150,000 it will:
 - o Work with 78 more businesses
 - o Take on 30 significant projects
 - o Create \$800,000 - \$900,000 in construction spending
 - o Reduce at least 550 metric tons per year of CO₂
2. Fund the marketing and outreach program for the Georgetown University Energy Prize competition. \$150,000 would assist with:
 - o Increasing awareness and participation among the citizens of Anacortes and Bellingham in this competition to win five million dollars
 - o Gaining national recognition for these cities' implemented conservation practices.
 - o Providing opportunities for long-term benefits to these communities from changes in personal behavior to reduce energy use.
 - o Increasing the chances of Anacortes or Bellingham winning the \$5 million dollar prize money.
 - o Potentially reducing up to 1,500 metric tons per year of CO₂.
3. Provide \$50,000 in incentives for retrofitting apartment buildings. This would address a nationwide problem – making apartment buildings more energy efficient. The goal is to develop an approach that other cities can replicate. These retrofits are expected to reduce up to 200 metric tons of CO₂ emissions per year.

Bellingham City Council member Pinky Vargas and Anacortes City Council member Ryan Walters addressed Board members and expressed their support for the funding proposal. Both were enthusiastic about the opportunity to work with Sustainable Connections and their well-connected network of businesses. Vargas and Walters hope to use the marketing skills of Sustainable Connections to push their cities into the top tier of competitors for the Georgetown Energy Prize. Being engaged in this process will help both cities reduce their energy consumption.

ACTION ITEMS

Resolution 522 – Authorizing contract with Sustainable Connections for a greenhouse gas reduction project and amending the FY 2016 budget to fund the new project – Mark Asmundson

Asmundson informed the Board that following approval of the Resolution, the balance of uncommitted greenhouse gas mitigation funds will be approximately \$400,000. He added that if this resolution is adopted, it would authorize the agency to fully fund the \$350,000 Sustainable Connections' proposal.

Lindquist made a motion, seconded by Weimer, to approve Resolution 522. The Board approved the resolution 6-0.

Bills and claims

Weimer made a motion, seconded by Richard Hannold, to approve the August 2015 bills and claims, totaling \$386,707.41. The bills and claims for August were approved 6-0.

STAFF REPORTS**Director's report – Mark Asmundson**

Asmundson reported to the Board on the following matters:

- Robyn Jones recently joined NWCAA as an engineer. Jones worked for the Phillips 66 refinery in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Jones is adjusting to her new work very well and we are pleased to have her join our agency.
- Our website redesign is moving along and is on schedule. We expect to have the re-designed website operational by the end of the year. Communications Program Manager Katie Skipper is doing an excellent job of managing this project.
- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will soon be announcing a new standard for ozone. The new standard is expected to be between 68 and 70 parts per billion (ppb), as compared to the current standard of 75 ppb. The ozone data from the Mud Mountain station in Enumclaw, was not good this year—ozone levels were higher than normal, so agency staff have some concerns about the final number EPA selects.
- NWCAA had been addressing two appeals to the Pollution Controls Hearing Board (PCHB), and the agency succeeded in settling one of those appeals, however, the agency received word that another appeal was recently filed within the last few days. The agency is back to addressing two active appeals with the PCHB.
- One of our long serving Advisory Council members, Bill Black, has recently retired from Chemtrade. He has elected to continue his service on the Advisory Council and the agency is very pleased with this decision.
- Asmundson requested that Board members Lindquist, Terry Nyman, and Ron Wesen, meet with him after the meeting to discuss some personnel matters.

New source review and air operating permit update – Agata McIntyre

Agency Engineering Manager Agata McIntyre reported that during August the agency received two applications for construction permits and issued two construction permits.

McIntyre explained that one of the construction permit applications that NWCAA received is a fairly large project from the Tesoro refinery. Tesoro is proposing to build a unit to extract xylene during the refining process. Tesoro would also be installing a vapor recovery unit system at the marine shipping dock, which would reduce the amount of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) that ships release into the air.

Enforcement update – Toby Mahar

Compliance Manager Toby Mahar, reported on enforcement issues that occurred in August.

Mahar noted that the agency issued two penalties for outdoor burning, both of which were referrals from county fire marshals. Mahar remarked that complaints were down during the month of August, as compared to the numbers collected in June and July of this year.

OTHER BUSINESS

Asmundson distributed a graph, which highlighted the readings for particulate matter (PM2.5) that were taken on August 22 and 23, 2015. During both of these days, the air quality in Mount Vernon was very poor, and on Sunday, August 23, 2015, it reached the "Very Unhealthy" category, due to the wildfire smoke that was coming from the fires burning in the Newhalem area.


Deputy Director Mark Buford explained that the agency received some advanced warning (from state resources) that the weather pattern was going to cause problems for this area. Through social media (Facebook), the agency was able to put out some agency messages alerting the citizens about the poor air quality during the actual event. Skipper added that social media channels have proven to be good tools for sharing information quickly. The messages are reaching a lot of people, and the public is expressing appreciation for the frequent and timely posts.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to consider, the meeting adjourned at 2:24 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 September 10, 2015, in Mount Vernon, Washington.

ATTEST: 

Terry Nyman, Secretary
NWCAA Board of Directors



Brian Heinrich, Chair
NWCAA Board of Directors

DATED: October 8, 2015