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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, December 14, 2023, at 1600 South Second Street, Mount Vernon, WA.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Skagit County	Mary Hudson Ron Wesen
Island County	Tara Hizon
Whatcom County	Eric Johnston
Member-At-Large	Terry Nyman

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Melanie Bacon
Todd Donovan

ALSO PRESENT:

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

CALL TO ORDER

Board of Directors Chair Ron Wesen called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

APPROVAL OF PRIOR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

On motion by Mary Hudson, seconded by Tara Hizon, the minutes for the Nov. 9, 2023, meeting were approved 5-0.

ACTION ITEMS

Resolution 612 – Adopt changes to NWCAA’s Regulations – Mark Buford

NWCAA Executive Director Mark Buford presented Resolution 612 for Board approval. This resolution updates the section of NWCAA’s rules that pertain to public records regulation and the definitions sections. Resolution 612 also updates NWCAA regulation Section 104, adoption-by-reference of state and federal rules. A public hearing took place on Dec. 5, 2023, and no comments were submitted. If approved today, the rule changes will go into effect 30 days later, on Jan. 14, 2024.

Hudson made a motion, seconded by Eric Johnston, to approve Resolution 612. The Board approved the resolution 5-0.

Bills and claims

Board members discussed the bills and claims reports for November 2023. Johnston made a motion to approve the November (\$391,537.91) 2023 bills and claims. 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:

- Buford recently attended the Environmental Protection Agency’s Region 10 annual meeting. EPA shared their plans to review more air operating permits in the future.
- Buford also attended the annual Georgia Basin – Puget Sound Transboundary Air Basin meeting. The group discussed mutual issues or concerns for the shared airshed.
- Staff at NWCAA are learning more about metal-shredding facilities. ABC Recycling has announced that they intend to install a shredder in Bellingham, and this news has garnered a lot of attention from the public; however, they have not yet submitted a permit application to NWAA.
- The installation of the new fire alarm system has been completed. The Fire Marshal and department have inspected the new system, and they are satisfied with it.
- The Advisory Council continues their work in identifying worthy projects that the Agency might want to consider funding from the Petrogas settlement money. The Advisory Council will meet again in January to further define the process to solicit proposals for these funds.
- Buford announced that NWCAA recently hired Tammy Dixon from Whatcom County government to be the Agency’s new Public Records Officer.

- The Washington State Department of Ecology recently terminated their permits with ALCOA – Intalco, which means NWCAA will now issue asbestos clean-up permits for that area and regulate any future business that start-up at that site. Another goal for this area, will be to work with the EPA to modify or end the 20-year air monitoring plan. This plan was specifically developed for this location because of the non-attainment zone that was established for Intalco related to their high sulfur dioxide (SO₂) emissions. Since the Intalco plant has ceased production, the SO₂ emissions in the nonattainment area have been reduced to almost zero.
- Olympic Pipeline recently had a 25,000-gallon fuel leak in the Conway area. NWCAA had an inspector on site with the FLIR camera to help determine the extent of the spill.

New source review, air operating permit, and rule change update –Lyn Tober for Agata McIntyre

NWCAA Chemical Engineer Lyn Tober reported on the November 2023 construction permit (New Source Review) and Air Operating Permit activity.

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

Tober noted that one of the applications received was from Wilcox Family Farms in Skagit county. They will be installing a new crematorium at one of their facilities, and this will double their capacity for disposing of deceased chickens.

Enforcement update – Toby Mahar

NWCAA Compliance Manager Toby Mahar reported that NWCAA issued one notice of violation (NOV) in November.

- **Case No. 4690** – was a NOV issued to Mario Ramos for an unpermitted illegal burn on Guemes Island. The Fire Marshal and the Fire Department had to respond to the fire, and they used 6,000 gallons of water to extinguish it.

Mahar also reported that there were two penalties issued.

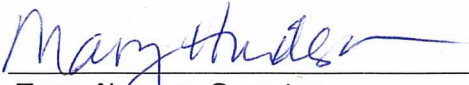
- **Case No. 4654** – Phillips 66 Refinery addressing flaring events, heater NOx emissions, and sulfur recovery unit SO₂ emissions.
- **Case No. 4655** – was issued to Paul Blake for illegal burning during a burn ban.

ADJOURNMENT

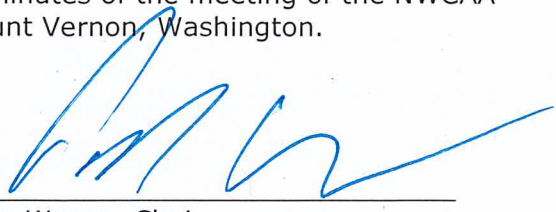
There being no further business to consider, the meeting was adjourned at 2:16 p.m.

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 14, 2023, in Mount Vernon, Washington.

ATTEST: 

Terry Nyman, Secretary
NWCAA Board of Directors



Ron Wesen, Chair
NWCAA Board of Directors

DATED: Feb. 8, 2024