

MINUTES

REGIONAL AIR QUALITY COUNCIL Thursday, October 2, 2003

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jim Scherer, *CHAIRMAN*
Randy Ahrens, *City & County of Broomfield (via phone)*
Dennis Arfmann, *Holme Roberts & Owen*
Theresa Donahue, *The Adams Group*
Dave Sladek, *The Clayton Group*

ALTERNATES IN ATTENDANCE:

George Gerstle, *Colo. Dept. of Transportation*
Doug Lempke, *Colo. Dept. Public Health & Environment*

MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE:

Tom Norton, *Colo. Dept. of Transportation*
Doug Benevento, *Colo. Dept. Public Health & Environment*
Ed Tauer, *City of Aurora*
Melanie Worley, *Douglas County/DRCOG*

OTHERS PRESENT:

Ken Lloyd, RAQC; Misty Howell, RAQC; Gerald Dilley, RAQC; Sara O'Keefe, RAQC; Steve McCannon, RAQC; Nicole Hurd, RAQC; Jeff Schwarz, Schwarz, McNab & Bailsy PC; John Van Kirk, City of Aurora; Patty Stulp, EMC; Ken Wonstolen, COGA; Shirleen Tucker, CDPHE; Heidi Heltzel, CACI; Beth Weibert, Colorado Corn; Bernie Lange, Colorado Corn; Lucy Nolan, EMC; Tim Cunningham, American Lung Association/Clean Cities Colorado; Jim Snyder, Big Clean Trucks; Robert Lowdermilk, AQCC; and Barbara Charnes, CCA.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Jim Scherer at 3:05 p.m. A quorum was present at 5:05 p.m.

Approval of Agenda and Minutes

Postponed until a quorum present.

Informational Items

Chairman

Jim Scherer informed the Council that he participated in the RAPIDScreen (clean screen program) kickoff event. He stated the event was very successful with good exposure.

Jim also told Council that beginning in October he and staff will be meeting with local governments to keep them involved in the work of the Council. Staff will provide the schedule to members so they can attend the meetings.

Executive Director

Ken Lloyd reminded Council of the upcoming meeting schedule. The next meetings will be November 13 and December 4.

Ken informed Council that he and Margie Perkins attended the Colorado Petroleum Association Annual meeting to give them an update on ozone.

Ken also introduced Nicole Hurd, a graduate student working part-time to help with the Repair Your Air Campaign.

Committees

None.

Members

Theresa Donahue let Council know that DRCOG has been reviewing its modeling program. The meetings, which has included RAQC staff participation, provide an opportunity for input on modeling protocol.

Public Comment and Discussion

None.

Program Update

Carbon Monoxide Maintenance Plan

Ken Lloyd indicated the CO maintenance plan was unanimously approved by Legislative Council and has been forwarded to the Governor for submittal to EPA. Approval from EPA is expected by late Spring.

Repair Your Air Campaign

Steve McCannon gave Council an update on the Repair Your Air campaign. He indicated that the launch of the RAPIDScreen program will increase the number of records available for the RYAC. In an attempt to get more participation, the next mailing will be sent on CDPHE letterhead. To increase awareness of the campaign, staff is planning to follow-up with the media, to contact local governments for advertising in newsletters and to work to get free promotion on Car Talk radio.

There was discussion on what conditions might cause a false failure.

The goal of the program is to repair 250 HC vehicles.

Clean Air Fleets and School Bus Emission Reduction Program

Sara O'Keefe gave Council an update on the Clean Air Fleets program. She explained the components of the outreach effort. She indicated that the RAQC has applied for a grant through Clean School Bus USA to assist with the school bus portion of the program.

Sara stated that once five Clean Air Fleets designations have been approved and a press event will be held shortly to recognize the five entities.

Through the Clean Air Fleets program nine projects have been approved, seven for biodiesel and two for biodiesel and retrofit, for a total of \$13,000.

Early Action Compact for Ozone

Ken Lloyd reviewed the status of the Early Action Compact (EAC) with Council. He indicated that the meteorological modeling, and 2002 and 2007 emission inventory processing is complete. The contractor is behind schedule on the photochemical modeling, but will have the 2002 base case completed by October 6 and the 2007 base case completed by October 13. Sensitivity control scenarios are expected to be complete by the end of October.

Ken stated the next meeting of the Modeling Review Panel will be on Friday, October 17 from 12:00-4:00 pm.

He indicated that the RAQC/APCD staff is currently analyzing strategies under consideration.

There was discussion on the scheduling options for meeting the EAC deadlines, while allowing the General Assembly time to consider the plan. Doug Lempke proposed an additional option in which the RAQC proposes a less defined EAC plan to the AQCC at its December meeting. The AQCC would then broadly

notice the hearing so that the plan could be better defined through the hearing process. Revisions and changes to the plan would have to be done through the AQCC hearing process. AQCC approval in March would allow time for the legislature to review and approve the plan before the end of the session.

Some councilmembers expressed concern that this schedule would preclude stakeholders from participating in the RAQC's process. Ken stated that there would be less stakeholder input for the initial proposal but that stakeholders would be involved during the AQCC process. Doug Lempke indicated that the schedule is based on the best way to get legislative approval during the session.

Council agreed to let Ken and Doug work out the best schedule.

Ken Wonstolen, Senior Vice President, Colorado Oil & Gas Association, gave Council two handouts to help illustrate COGA's willingness to be proactive during this process. He expressed concern and frustration about the response from the contractor with regard to requested modeling data. Staff stated every effort would be made to help them get data from Environ.

Heidi Heltzel, Colorado Association of Commerce and Industry, indicated her members have concerns with the timeframe, modeling and peer review process for the EAC. She expressed her desire for CDPHE to be more forthcoming with information so that CACI can work more cooperatively with the RAQC and CDPHE on this process. Doug Lempke stated that he would work to get a point of contact for requesting information from the APCD to make the process easier.

Stan Dempsey, Colorado Petroleum Association, stated he is confident that discussions will continue. However, he shares Ken Wonstolen's concerns.

Congestion Mitigation/Air Quality Funding Program

Ken Lloyd explained that applications for CM/AQ funding for the 2005-2010 TIP are due October 3, 2003. He reviewed the types of eligible projects. He indicated that DRCOG has revised the scoring criteria. DRCOG CM/AQ projects can fall into three categories: Congestion management activities; Transit capacity; and Air quality improvement projects. Projects in the air quality improvement category will be scored on the same air quality criteria. Air quality projects are broken into two subcategories: conformity finding mitigation program and other air quality projects. Currently, there is \$2 million reserved for conformity finding mitigation, which is proposed to be used to support the Ozone Early Action Compact measures. The other air quality projects category has \$10.8 million available. Projects are judged primarily on their emission reduction benefit and cost-effectiveness. Projects that reduce emissions directly or indirectly through reduced VMT/VHT qualify.

Ken outlined the entities that are applying for the CM/AQ funds (there may be others):

- RAQC
 - *School bus retrofit/alternative fuels project
- Clean Cities Coalition
 - *E85 demonstration project
 - *CNG rental trucks
- Denver
 - *SMART Sign extension
- Cities/counties
 - *Street sweeping/deicing equipment

CM/AQ funds will be available October 1, 2004.

Ken informed Council that Clean Cities Coalition has asked the RAQC to sponsor their projects so they can apply for CM/AQ funds because they do not qualify to apply. Ken told Council it was their decision if this was something they wanted to do. Tim Cunningham gave Council an overview of the Clean Cities program.

Berny Lang and Beth Webber, Colorado Corn Growers Association, gave Council an overview of their "Hangtag" program to promote use of E85. The program will utilize the media to educate motorists about E85, educate automobile dealerships regarding the benefits of flex fuel vehicles, offer incentives to dealerships to sell flex fuel vehicles, use hang tags in new flex fuel vehicles to inform potential purchasers of the benefits of E85 and provide 5 free tanks of E85 upon purchase of a flex fuel vehicle (match funds will be used to purchase alternative fuels). The program will also seek to improve the fueling infrastructure by converting 5 gasoline pumps to E85. The program will increase E85 fuel (85% ethanol, 15% unleaded gasoline) consumption by 1 million gallons across the seven-county Denver Metro area during a twelve-month period by educating new vehicle purchasers about flex fuel vehicles and E85 fuel at automobile dealerships and through a media campaign. The total project cost is \$370,490, \$195,490 requested CM/AQ funds and \$175,000 match to be used for fuel purchases.

Jim Snyder, representative from Big Clean Trucks, told Council that his company offers full services leasing on trucks. The proposal would be to buy 10 alternative fuel trucks to be leased. The CM/AQ funds would cover the cost differential between CNG and diesel truck purchase price. The total project cost is \$355,000, \$180,000 requested CM/AQ funds and \$175,000 match. They estimate annual reductions of 3.3 tons of HC, 55 tons of NOx, 913 tons of CO and 2.5 tons of PM.

Quorum present at 5:05 p.m.

George Gerstle moved to support sponsoring both Clean Cities proposals so they may compete through DRCOG's process. Seconded by Dave Sladek.

There was further discussion. Dennis Arfmann asked how these two projects were selected to be considered by the RAQC. Ken stated that Clean Cities brought these projects to staff, there was no solicitation for projects. The discussion also included why a local government was not asked to sponsor these projects.

If these projects are selected by DRCOG to receive funds the RAQC's role would be to contract with CDOT and the company to administer the funds.

The motion passed 5-2.

Doug Lempke informed Council that the AQCC will not be meeting in October.

There being no further business before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.