

MINUTES

REGIONAL AIR QUALITY COUNCIL

Thursday, April 3, 2008

RAQC MEMBERS/ALTERNATES PRESENT:

Andy Spielman, Chairman, *Hogan and Hartson, LLP*
Theresa Donahue, *Metro Denver Health & Wellness Commission*
Mark Johnson, *Jefferson County Department of Health and Environment*
Doug Lempke, *Colorado. Department Public Health and Environment (alternate for Jim Martin)*
Ben Manvel, *City of Fort Collins*
Jana Milford, *University of Colorado at Boulder*
Nathan Rabinovich, *National Jewish Medical and Research Center*
Joan Ringel, *Citizen Member*
Nancy Severson, *Denver Department of Environmental Health*
Melanie Worley, *Douglas County/DRCOG*

RAQC MEMBERS/ALTERNATES NOT IN ATTENDANCE:

Brad Beckham, *Colorado. Department of Transportation (alternate for George Russell)*

OTHERS PRESENT:

Ken Lloyd, RAQC; Misty Howell, RAQC; Steve McCannon, RAQC; Jerry Dilley, RAQC; Kate Riegle, RAQC; Trevor Noel, RAQC; Sandi Garcia, RAQC; Margy Christensen, CCR/RAQC; Rebecca Cales, Transportation Solutions; Zac Graves, CDOT; Abby Gaffney, Davis, Graham & Stubbs; Darby Doll, JohnstonWells Public Relations; Carey Rangel, C.O.W.; Brian Lockard, Noble Energy; John Jacus, Davis, Graham, & Stubbs; Gail Hoffman, CDOT; Renee Allen, Envirotec; Carl Larson, CCR/RAQC; Ron Shaw, City of Englewood; Carly Gilbert, Environmental Defense Fund; Jeremy Nichols, Rocky Mountain Clean Air Action; Natalia, Swalnick, American Lung Association; Heather Stoud, Hogan & Hartson; Nancy Burke, CADA; Sabrina Williams, Denver Environmental Health; Jay Christopher, Suncor Energy; and Rick Griffith, ERAS, Inc.

The meeting was called to order at 3:05 pm by Chairman Andy Spielman. A quorum was present.

Approval of Agenda and Minutes

Council agreed to discuss the Legislation of Interest before the State Implementation Plan (SIP) items on the agenda. **Mark Johnson moved to approve the agenda as amended. Seconded by Melanie Worley. The motion to approve the agenda passed unanimously.**

Mark Johnson moved to approve the February 7 and March 6 minutes. Seconded by Nancy Severson. It was noted that the February minutes in the Legislation section should reflect that Council agreed to look for opportunities to support legislation that might help the implementation of strategies under consideration. **The motion to approve the minutes with the correction to the February minutes passed unanimously.**

Council requested that acronyms be spelled out in the minutes.

Informational Items

Chairman

Andy Spielman thanked staff for setting up the joint meeting in March with the North Front Range Metropolitan Planning Organization (NFR MPO).

Executive Director

Ken Lloyd introduced the new Communications Manager, Sandi Garcia, who officially begins working at the RAQC on April 14. Ken thanked Trevor Noel and staff from Launch Advertising and JohnsonWells Public Relations for stepping up while the Communications Manager position was vacant.

Committees

Joan Ringel announced the Ozone Stakeholder Modeling meeting will be held on April 10, from 9 a.m. to noon in the Junior Achievement conference room.

Members

None.

Public Comment

None.

Clean Air Fleets Diesel Emissions Reduction Program

Steve McCannon gave the Council a history and overview of the *Clean Air Fleets* diesel programs. He explained that the program began in 2004 as a result of the Regional Air Quality Council's diesel stakeholder process. Initially the program focused on school buses and has expanded to on- and off-road public and private vehicles. Steve reviewed the technologies used for the programs. He explained the funding sources and the program structure.

Steve indicated there are four (4) programs currently underway in 2008: Clean Air Fleets for Blue Skies, retrofitting school buses; Colorado Retrofit Project (CORP), retrofitting public works vehicles; Pueblo Retrofit Project, retrofitting school and transit buses in Pueblo; and Auxiliary Power Units (APU) Project, retrofitting over-the-road vehicles. All of these programs will be completed by December 2008.

For 2009-2011, the Regional Air Quality Council has been granted Congestion Mitigation/ Air Quality (CM/AQ) funding of approximately \$5.3 million for *New Energy Fleets Collaboration* through Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG). He gave the Council an overview of this project.

Staff is also discussing implementation of an Idling Reduction and Retrofit Program and funding through the Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA) to work with the Colorado Contractors Association on retrofit projects.

Council discussion included whether railroad engines were considered for retrofits, what percent of public fleets were included in the programs and research opportunities for high risk populations.

“Let’s Take Care of Our Summer Air” 2008 Media Advertising Program

Betsy Bartholomew, Launch Advertising, provided an overview of the summer ozone campaign and the direction of the 2008 campaign. She reviewed some of the information from the pre- and post- season surveys. The advertising strategies for year four (2008) include:

- New messaging about the impacts of ozone pollution
 - New television spot(s)
 - New :60 radio spots
 - New collateral pieces for community outreach
- Maintain campaign tone, look and feel for continuity and impact
- Add an online community component to the website (the O-Zone)

Betsy outlined the next steps, timeline, and budget for the campaign.

Council discussed the target group for the campaign. Betsy indicated the advertising is focused on the contributors rather than the high risk groups to motivate a change in behavior in those individuals whose activities add to the ozone pollution. The ozone alert notices would be a better place to target getting information to high risk groups. She stated the campaign will also reach out to women, as a test demographic, via radio spots. It was also suggested that fuel efficiency be used to motivate citizens to check tire pressure and gas caps. Betsy indicated these types of messages could be disseminated through the radio spots.

The Board agreed to the direction of the campaign. Launch will provide storyboards and scripts for the television and radio spots at the next meeting for Council approval.

Discussion of Legislation of Interest

Ken Lloyd stated there has not been much activity at the Legislature directly affecting the work of the Regional Air Quality Council. He mentioned that staff has met several times with the Old Car Council, County Clerks, the Department of Revenue and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment to discuss how to tighten the collector plate requirements.

Separately, several other groups have been looking at the legislative needs to tighten the collector plate requirements and to expand the inspection and maintenance (I/M) program to the North Front Range. Ken explained that under current statute the Air Quality Control Commission (AQCC) has the authority to expand the enhanced program area to the basic program area. The problem is that while the basic area in the North Front Range includes most of Larimer County, it currently only includes the area around Greeley in Weld County.

Ken introduced John Jacus, Davis Graham & Stubbs, LLP, who presented information on concepts for a vehicle inspection and maintenance (I/M) program late bill. Ken stated he and John also talked with Jim Martin to gauge support from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment.

Mr. Jacus indicated that he has spoken with some legislators who are interested in sponsoring the bill, but wanted to know the position of the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. Mr. Jacus reviewed the details that would be included in the bill. He said this bill would put more tools in the box for use in the State Implementation Plan (SIP) as the process moves forward.

Some Council members had concerns that the late bill would leave stakeholders out of the process since any changes would have to be made through the Air Quality Control Commission (AQCC) public hearing process. Council discussed how this bill might affect the stakeholder process and participation. While Council members recognized the validity of the concepts for moving the process forward, they also expressed concerns about supporting the concept of a late bill without seeing the language.

Nancy Severson moved to express to the Colorado Department of Health and Environment (CDPHE), Air Pollution Control Division (APCD), the Air Quality Control Commission (AQCC), and State Legislators that the Regional Air Quality Council (RAQC) supports the concept of legislation which would give the Air Quality Control Commission authority to expand the inspection and maintenance (I/M) program area and which would close the collector car loophole in the program. The Regional Air Quality Council will rely on the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment and the bill Sponsors to keep the bill from expanding beyond this original intent. Seconded by Nathan Rabinovich. Motion passed without objection.

Ozone State Implementation Plan (SIP) Development Status and Next Steps

Ken Lloyd reviewed the ozone state implementation plan status.

Modeling: At the modeling stakeholder meeting on March 4, participants discussed the meteorological modeling and preliminary model evaluation and diagnostic testing for the June-July 2006 episode. Ken outlined the next steps for the modeling.

Mobile Sources/Fuels: Tighter cut points were adopted by the Air Quality Control Commission in March. The high emitter program is moving forward with the start of the HB 1302 pilot program in January. Staff has secured \$250,000 for a vehicle scrappage program and is working on a voluntary inspection and maintenance program in the North Front Range as well as evaluating the tightening of collector plate requirements. Fuels strategies include lower Reid Vapor Pressure (RVP) to 7.0 pounds per square inch (psi), reformulated gasoline, and eliminating the ethanol waiver. The Colorado Petroleum Association has commissioned a cost/supply impact study which is due by the end of April.

Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC) Stationary Sources: The Air Pollution Control Division (APCD) has prepared a series of issue papers on these strategies. Stakeholders met on March 5

to discuss issues. Another meeting is scheduled for April 10.

Oil and Gas Sources: Stakeholders met on February 26. A Western Regional Air Partnership (WRAP)-sponsored Independent Petroleum Association of Mountain States (IPAMS) emission inventory provided updated and refined emission estimates. The Air Pollution Control Division prepared issue papers on a range of potential strategies. The focus is narrowing to major sources of emissions, principally condensate tanks and pneumatic valves. The next meeting is scheduled for April 10.

Other Sources: Staff is relying on Regional Haze stakeholder process for analysis of Nitrogen Oxide (NOx) control options and waiting for photochemical modeling sensitivity results to determine the impact of NOx on Front Range ozone. Commercial and consumer products will be affected significantly by the new Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) national rule that is effective January 2009. There was a transportation stakeholder meeting on March 19. The consensus at the meeting was that a mandatory employer-based travel reduction program was not feasible or supported as a State Implementation Plan strategy at this time. There was considerable interest in developing a pilot program/study to gauge effectiveness and overcome barriers to implementation.

Ken then reviewed the next steps for the process and suggested additional meeting dates for Council in order to complete work and provide a proposed State Implementation Plan to the Air Quality Control Commission in September. Misty Howell will confirm availability with Council members via email.

Meeting dates:

Thursday, May 1 – regular meeting

Wednesday, May 21 – additional meeting

Thursday, June 5 – regular meeting

Wednesday, June 18 – additional meeting (possible joint meeting with North Front Range MPO)

Thursday, July 3 – regular meeting cancelled due to holiday

Thursday, July 10 – additional meeting

Thursday July 24 – additional meeting

Thursday August 7 – regular meeting

Wednesday August 20 – additional meeting (possible joint meeting with North Front Range MPO)

Thursday September 4 – regular meeting – approve proposed SIP

Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) New Ozone Standard

Ken updated Council on the new ozone standard by the Environmental Protection Agency Administrator on March 12. The new standard lowered the primary and secondary standards to 0.075 parts per million (ppm). The current form of the standard was maintained. The State will submit a recommendation to the Environmental Protection Agency regarding attainment or nonattainment status in March 2009 based on 2006-2008 ozone data. The Environmental Protection Agency will make final designations by March 2010 based on 2007-2009 ozone data. State Implementation Plans (SIPs) would be due to the Environmental Protection Agency by March 2013. Attainment of the standard would be required between 2013-2030 based on the severity of an area's ozone problem.

Ken stated that the Environmental Protection Agency is projecting that two-thirds of metropolitan areas will be in nonattainment for this standard.

Public Comment

Jeremy Nichols, Rocky Mountain Clean Air Action, strongly encouraged the Council to set as its goal in the current State Implementation Plan (SIP) process the 0.075 parts per million (ppm) standard.

Adjournment

There being no further business before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 5:45p.m.