



MINUTES

Friday, April 8, 2011

RAQC MEMBERS PRESENT:

Andy Spielman, *Chairman, Hogan Lovells*
Debra Baskett, *City and County of Broomfield*
Melissa Chalona, *CTL|Thompson Inc.*
Bob Fitzgerald, *City of Aurora*
Richard Long, *Citizen*
Ben Manvel, *City of Fort Collins*
John Putnam, *Kaplan, Kirsch, & Rockwell, LLP*
Jennifer Schaufele, *Denver Regional Council of Governments*
Jep Seman, *Corporate Advocates*
Nancy Severson, *Denver Department of Environmental Health*
Skip Spensley, *Environmental Consultant*
David Stewart, *EnCana Oil & Gas (USA)*
Will Toor, *Boulder County*
Chris Urbina, *Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment*

RAQC MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Reeves Brown, *Colorado Department of Local Affairs*
Eric Doering, *Town of Frederick*
Rick Garcia, *Department of Urban Housing and Development (advisory)*
Don Hunt, *Colorado. Department of Transportation*
Darryl Jones, *Coventry Development*
Elise Jones, *Colorado Environmental Coalition*
Linda Morton, *Morton Consulting Co*
Bob Murphy, *City of Lakewood*
Paul Natale, *City of Commerce City*
Nancy Sharpe, *City of Greenwood Village*
Elena Wilken, *Colorado Association of Transit Agencies*

RAQC ALTERNATES PRESENT:

Jennifer Finch, *Colorado. Department of Transportation*
Martha Rudolph, *Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment*

RAQC STAFF PRESENT:

Ken Lloyd; Sarah Anderson; Jerry Dilley; Misty Howell; Stephanie Lind; Steve McCannon; Aneka Patel; and Kate Riegle.

OTHERS PRESENT:

Kris Bohling, Wagner Equipment; Andrew Casper, COGA; Margy Christiansen, RAQC; Kathryn Clay, Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers (via phone); Dennis Creamer, Consultant; Lesli Ellis, NFRMPO; Greg Fulton, Colorado Motor Carriers Association; Karen Hancock, City of Aurora; Ted Heyd, LiveWell Wheat Ridge; David Hill, EnCana Oil and Gas; APCD; Julio Iturreria, Arapahoe County; Scott Jackson, US EPA; Pete Jacobsen, Colorado Stone, Sand, and Gravel Association; John Jacus, Davis, Graham and Stubbs; Mark Larson, CWPMA; Allyson Mendenhall, DesignWorkshop; Tracy Sakeachi, Colorado Motor Carriers Association; Michael Snow, Citizen; Mark Sponsler, Colorado Corn; Dr. Sandra Steinmark, Kaiser Permanente; Jessica Osborne, CDPHE; Mike Salisbury, SWEEP; Mike Silverstein, APCD; Tareq Wafaie, DOLA; Bob Yuhnke, SWEEP; and Becky Zimmerman, DesignWorkshop.

The meeting was called to order at 9:36 a.m. by Chairman Andy Spielman. A quorum was present.

Approval of Agenda

Debra Baskett moved to approve the agenda. Seconded by Dick Long. Motion passed without objection.

Approval of Minutes

Jep Seman moved to approve the March 4 and March 16 meeting minutes. Seconded by John Putman and Nancy Severson. Motion passed without objection.

Informational Items

Chair

None.

Executive Director

Ken Lloyd announced that today is Stephanie Lind's last day at the RAQC. She has accepted a position with the Federal Highway Administration in Lakewood.

Members

Nancy Severson noted that the Sustainable Land Use Measures and the Air Quality Planning Process Workshop held yesterday was very informative. Ken Lloyd noted that Council would be receiving a report on the workshop later in the meeting.

Public Comment

None.

Legislative Update

Margy Christiansen provided Council with updates on current legislation of interest. She reported that HB1082, concerning emissions testing in Larimer/Weld counties, died in the Senate. She said Legislative Council held a hearing on March 25 regarding the Regional Haze SIP. Legislative Council voted to introduce a bill to approve the SIP revisions. This bill, HB 1291, was passed with a unanimous vote in the House Health and Environment Committee. Margy noted that a bill that has been drafted in opposition to HB1291 has a slim chance of moving forward. She also informed Council that Ken Lloyd was very helpful in getting the legislators to understand the intent of HB1291 and she expects good conversation on the floor during second reading.

Ken Lloyd provided Council with information regarding HB 1275, concerning an engine idling standard for certain commercial diesel vehicles. He said the bill as amended addressed most of the concerns brought up by Council at the March 16 meeting. He said there is still the issue of

local preemption. Council discussed the need to see local preemption clearly defined in the bill. Ken told Council that the sponsor asked Legislative Council for help with definitions in the bill. Greg Fulton, Colorado Motor Carriers Association, stated it is important to provide guidance for drivers. He reminded Council that they have worked with agencies to make sure the standard is consistent, uniform, and addresses safety with regards to rest periods.

John Putman moved to take a position of support on HB 1275 under the condition that the bill 1) clearly defines its applicability to commercial diesel vehicles over 14,000 pounds only, 2) defines rest areas, and 3) gives consideration to adding additional sensitive areas to the 1,000 feet exemption. Seconded by Will Toor. Motion passed without objection.

Panel Discussion – Alternative Fuels Options and Market Penetration

Ken reminded Council this topic is continued from the March 4 meeting and introduced the panelists. He also noted that Kathryn Clay from Alliance for Automobile Manufactures was joining the conversation via phone.

Mark Sponsler, Colorado Corn Growers Association, provided Council with background on the Colorado Corn's work to increase ethanol use in flex fuel vehicles to support the renewable fuel standard as well as its outreach to educate consumers. Council discussion included whether corn-based ethanol affects food prices and how the offering of a mid-grade blend has increased consumption.

Bob Yunke, Southwest Energy Efficiency Project (SWEET), told Council that the focus of a SWEET analysis of alternative fuel options was compressed natural gas (CNG) and electric vehicles. He urged Council to continue to look at the co-benefits of ozone strategies. Mike Salisbury, SWEET, presented data that showed criteria pollutants tailpipe emissions for different light duty vehicle technologies. He also discussed the infrastructure challenges associated with electric vehicles. Mr. Salisbury provided copies of *Ozone Precursor and GHG Emissions for Light Duty Vehicles Comparing Electricity and Natural Gas as Transportation Fuels* and *What Can Cities Do to Promote the Deployment of Electric Vehicles* to Council for reference.

Council discussed the re-charging issues related to electric vehicles and how SWEET incorporated that issue into its analysis. Discussion also included the limitations on market penetration for these alternative fuels/technologies. Kathryn Clay, Alliance for Automobile Manufactures, emphasized the need for all the options to be available so that automakers can make their own business decisions with regard to the technologies.

Panel Discussion – How the built environment can influence air quality planning, public health protection and the region's economy

Ken Lloyd welcomed and introduced the panelists for the built environment discussion.

Rebecca Zimmerman, Design Workshop, provided Council with an overview of the Riverfront Park project in Denver. She said the core values for the project focused on creating a strong pedestrian-oriented urban character with a dynamic urban, mixed-use environment. Design Workshop developed standards and guidelines for developers that would create and maintain a standard of quality that would sustain real estate values as well as, promote cohesive development patterns while allowing for diversity and variety in design and construction of individual projects.

Sandy Hoyt Stenmark M.D., Kaiser Permanente, presented information on the relationship between the built environment and public health. She noted that exposure to traffic emissions has been linked to premature death, cardiac symptoms, diminished lung function, lung cancer, and increased hospitalizations. She outlined a few impacts of ozone on respiratory disease, including that the risk of dying from respiratory causes increases 2.9% for every 10 ppb increase in ozone exposure. Dr. Stenmark provided information regarding active transportation choices and how they affect health.

Jessica Osborne, Active Community Environments Coordinator with CDPHE, provided Council with information on CDPHE's role in community development. She said that they are working to provide opportunity for a healthy choice to be the easy choice. During her presentation she outlined the details from LiveWell Colorado's *The Built Environment Policy Blueprint*. Ms. Osborne also shared pictures that illustrated possible changes to a neighborhood in Albuquerque, New Mexico, under a built environment.

Ted Heyd, LiveWell Wheat Ridge, presented background on the LiveWell Colorado grant and communities. He outlined the Wheat Ridge Coalition developed under the grant, as well as some of the LiveWell Wheat Ridge and Active Community Environments projects that have been initiated. In conclusion, Mr. Heyd outlined the next steps for LiveWell Wheat Ridge.

Council discussion included the need to educate employers and the health industry on the benefit measures like pricing transit passes to help decrease health care costs. Ms. Osborne said it is important to get past the avoidance conversations and get active transportation and exercise back into lifestyles.

The importance of creating partnerships to share the messages and encourage support of programs like LiveWell was also discussed. In response to a question, Mr. Heyd said that developer participation in LiveWell or mixed-use communities varies because it is very economically-driven. Ms. Osborne noted that it is cheaper to incorporate at the beginning of a development.

Council also briefly discussed school site selection with regard to transportation options. Dr. Stenmark said that school sites are an example of how transportation options are not always considered because school districts construct them on the cheapest land. It was noted that there is a need for partnerships to foster shared use and promote the benefits to school districts. Will Toor noted that municipal planners in general buy into the built environment vision but that is not the case with school districts.

There was no public comment.

Report on DRCOG/RAQC/EPA Workshop: Sustainable Land Use Measures and the Air Quality Planning Process

John Thomas, Director, Community Assistance and Research Division Office of Sustainable Communities, U.S. EPA, reminded Council that the EPA Administrator, after meeting with Governor Ritter, directed EPA staff to get involved and help the RAQC think about how to more formally consider sustainable communities and smart growth strategies in air quality planning. He said there is also a contractor effort to help move the process forward. DOLA contributed money to help DRCOG add some elements to their Focus model to support the ability to analyze these types of strategies.

EPA is also looking at some spreadsheet-based and GIS interface-based sketch tools that allow for experimentation and use of innovation to show the impacts of bundled land use strategies. The purpose of the tools is to help determine if the baseline accurately portrays what is actually being done and to look at whether credit can be taken in the SIP baseline for these types of strategies.

He provided Council with background from the Workshop. He said it was helpful to hear that tackling this issue is challenging for everyone given the limited resources. Mr. Thomas indicated EPA presented some information to the group and then there were small group discussions during the Workshop. Discussion included the importance of thinking through priorities to help determine where to make investments, the importance of improved accessibility and fiscal consideration, and the need to engage local governments by providing tools for their use in decision making.

Skip Spensley said eventually the RAQC will need to show credit worthiness of the options under consideration and expressed his frustration that EPA has not been able to provide any examples where SIP credit was given for land use/transportation measures. It was also noted that most of the measures would be included in the baseline because they are considered under conformity planning. Mr. Thomas indicated EPA is looking to validate spreadsheet programs which would allow experimentation with bundling, but how that would intersect with the formal DRCOG/NFR model still needs to be determined. Mr. Thomas said there is a need to get out of the box and use innovation to input into the models and to get EPA policy and air programs on the same page.

Adjournment

There being no further business before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 12:25 p.m.