



MINUTES

Friday, April 6, 2012

RAQC MEMBERS PRESENT:

Andy Spielman, *Chairman, Hogan Lovells*
Melissa Chalona, *CTL|Thompson Inc.*
Don Hunt, *Colorado. Department of Transportation*
Darryl Jones, *Coventry Development*
Elise Jones, *Colorado Environmental Coalition*
Doug Linkhart, *Denver Department of Environmental Health*
Ben Manvel, *City of Fort Collins*
Jackie Millet, *City of Lone Tree*
Bob Murphy, *City of Lakewood*
John Putnam, *Kaplan, Kirsch, & Rockwell, LLP*
Jennifer Schaufele, *Denver Regional Council of Governments*
Jep Seman, *Corporate Advocates*
Skip Spensley, *Environmental Consultant*
Will Toor, *Boulder County*
Elena Wilken, *Colorado Association of Transit Agencies*
Tracy Winfree, *City of Boulder*

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)*
Paul Natale, *City of Commerce City*
David Stewart, *EnCana Oil & Gas (USA)*
Chris Urbina, *Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment*
Phil Washington, *Regional Transportation District*

RAQC ALTERNATES PRESENT:

Tareq Wafaie, *Colorado Department of Local Affairs*
Debra Perkins-Smith, *Colorado. Department of Transportation*
Martha Rudolph, *Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment*

RAQC STAFF PRESENT:

Ken Lloyd, Meg Alderton, Kate Cooke, Jerry Dilley, Misty Howell, Steve McCannon, and Kate Riegle.

OTHERS PRESENT:

Betsy Bartholomew, Launch Advertising; Michelle Bergen, Media-Visions; Kris Bohling, Wagner Equipment; Margy Christiansen, RAQC; Karen Hancock, City of Aurora; Randy Harrison, Clean Cities; Lyn Heinrich, APCD; Scott Jackson, EPA, Region 8; Garry Kaufmann, APCD; Evelyn King; Brian Marszi; Melissa Miles, CSSGA; Mike Silverstein, AQCC; Jeff Sudmeier, CDOT; and Bob Yuhnke, SWEEP.

The meeting was called to order at 9:40 a.m. by Chairman Andy Spielman. A quorum was present.

Approval of Agenda

Elena Wilkens moved to approve the agenda. Seconded by Jep Seman. Motion passed without objection.

Approval of Minutes

Jep Seman moved to approve the minutes. Seconded by Darryl Jones. Motion passed without objection.

Informational Items

Chair

Andy Spielman informed Council that former RAQC member and CDOT employee Jennifer Finch recently passed away and asked everyone to observe a moment of silence.

He introduced Tracy Winfree as a new Board Member. Tracy is the Transportation Manager for the City of Boulder.

Executive Director

Ken Lloyd introduced Meg Alderton, the new Communications Manager for the RAQC.

He informed Council that he has been invited to speak at the EPA's Local Government Advisory Committee meeting on April 19, in Denver. This is an open meeting and Ken invited Council Members to attend if they are interested.

Ken told Council about the recently announced Suncor settlement, which includes approximately \$1.2 million for Supplemental Environmental Projects. There will be a competitive process through CDPHE for allocation of the funds. He said that staff is preparing a proposal to do some additional innovative fleet work in Commerce City and Northeast Denver. He asked members to let him know if they had additional program ideas.

Members

Elena Wilkins told Council about the CASTA spring training scheduled for May in Fort Collins. She noted that there will be an entire day dedicated to CNG vehicles.

Debra Perkins-Smith said that Congress failed to pass a transportation funding bill. She encouraged Council to talk to the delegation on transportation funding.

Public Comment

Bob Yuhnke, Director of SWEEP, shared results from a USGS and NOAA study on methane emissions at the Denver-Julesberg oil and gas field, which were published in a technical journal on February 21, 2012. He encouraged Council to look at this research. Council asked him to circulate the link for the study.

Will Toor commented on a number of studies that revolve around oil and gas and suggested that the RAQC spend some time to understand the implications of these studies.

Conversation with Don Hunt, Executive Director, Colorado Department of Transportation

Andy Spielman introduced Don Hunt, Executive Director, Colorado Department of Transportation.

Mr. Hunt indicated his previous background is primarily in the private sector but he supports public/private partnerships. He directed Council to a handout which provided an overview of CDOT's air quality programs and projects. He indicated that he and Debra Perkins-Smith would answer questions specific to the handout, but that his discussion was going to be a high-level overview.

Mr. Hunt said that he has established some overarching themes to make changes within CDOT, which include improving business processes, getting more out of the existing system, partnering with the private sector to augment public funds, and choosing better transparency and accountability in what CDOT does.

He said it was clear from the Governor's Transition Report that one of CDOT's biggest problems has been working with partners to distribute grant money. He hired a Director of Process and Improvement to help map out the processes and streamline processes to help make everything run more smoothly. He said another piece of process improvement is project delivery and performance. He noted that the Federal Highway Administration is concerned with CDOT and local government performance. CDOT is working to cleanup all pieces of that process to assure that funds are not lost.

He said CDOT has some ongoing efforts to try to get more out of the existing system. He used the I-70 pilot project as an example of thinking out of the box. This project uses pacing to make travel times more predictable and safer. Early results indicate the program is successful. He also said that CDOT is developing a smart phone app for the mountain corridors which will use some of the information currently available on CDOT's website as well as a prediction component to help users make better choices regarding travel times. CDOT is considering Peak Period Shoulder Lanes. There is an opportunity to use existing pavement to add a lane to I-70 on Sunday afternoons. He also said there may be a need for congestion pricing as additional lanes are added. He noted that there is no formal policy regarding this pricing option yet. He said that CDOT current has several components of travel operations management, including Travel Demand Management, active travel management, incident management, and Peak Period Shoulder Lanes within its departments. He is currently considering whether it makes sense to bring them together under travel operations management.

Mr. Hunt said that the FASTER program has allowed for public/private partnerships. He noted that CDOT has issued an RFQ for the US36 project. Other examples of these partnerships are the twin tunnel project and the I-70 speed pacing. Mr. Hunt indicated CDOT is exploring long-term solutions for the I-70 corridor with private partners.

Mr. Hunt said that CDOT has begun to increase its transparency with the Bridge Enterprise money through FASTER. CDOT has included the projects on its website with budget information and the start and completion dates. He said that under the leadership of Debra Perkins-Smith, CDOT is increasing its performance management reporting on the web to include five major performance indicators, which are congestion/reliability, safety, highway/pavement/bridge condition, overall project development performance, and on-time on-budget performance.

He indicated CDOT is working to have more effective cash management practices given the current budget situation. They are looking at employee management and dealing with budget cuts and how to keep employees motivated.

The Governor kicked-off his initiative, TBDColorado, which is a private nonprofit set up to look into State processes. This group includes 40 different regions within the State. Each region invited 30-40 people to participate in discussions on transportation, health care, overall budget issues,

personnel structural issues, and education. Mr. Hunt said Council get more information by going to www.TBDColorado.org.

John Putman inquired about the status of the mileage-based user fee pilot project. Mr. Hunt indicated that there is a need to change from the gas tax to a mileage-based fee and CDOT is looking for ways to introduce the concept in Colorado. Debra Perkins-Smith said CDOT is still in the investigation phase. The next phase would be to hold focus group and stakeholder meetings to get a handle on the issues. They expect to have some recommendations in October/November.

Jep Seman asked if CDOT was planning to join RTD on a tax increase initiative. Mr. Hunt responded that he does not think that enough funds can be raised at a State level to accomplish what needs to be done in urban regions. He thinks that a gas tax increase would be beneficial and noted that it has not been increased in 20 years. He said CDOT considered a joint tax initiative; however, the proposal was not supported by the Metro Mayors Caucus.

Will Toor asked if CDOT is considering any scenarios that include pricing existing lanes. Mr. Hunt said he has not had a conversation with Governor Hickenlooper about managing existing general purpose lanes. Currently, the Federal Highway Administration does not allow existing general purpose lanes on the highway system to be converted.

Elise Jones said that FASTER provisions direct CDOT to include criteria for reduction of GHG emissions. Mr. Hunt said the FASTER provision is the major reason for the agreement with SSTI to look at the impacts. Debra Perkins-Smith directed Council to page 2 of the presentation handout, under Energy Smart Transportation and explained that CDOT in partnership with the Governor's Energy Office is currently developing a model to measure GHG emissions that will work with CDOT's revenue model. CDOT should get the model in the summer to begin testing.

Mr. Hunt said it is clear from the study that CDOT's authority to undertake programs to reduce GHG is not great and they need all the help they can get from partners to make a difference.

There was discussion on financing roads with increased sales tax. Skip Spensley encouraged CDOT to do more than study mileage-based user fees because he believes it is going to be the future of financing for roads.

Jep Seman asked about the rolling speed harmonization and the extent to which CDOT is looking at the truck issue. Mr. Hunt said the system is running on Sundays between 2-6 p.m. and they have been able to see a difference in traffic patterns with just one tractor truck on the road. CDOT is meeting with Colorado Motor Carriers to work to get truckers to not use the corridors during specific times.

Tracy Winfree indicated she is excited about the US36 projects. She noted that concerns have been expressed regarding the one-directional lane as it merges from US36 into north I-25. She said RTD is investigating these issues/concerns. Mr. Hunt indicated CDOT is involved in discussion of directional lanes.

Will Toor asked how CDOT would engage around discussions on speed limit change. Mr. Hunt said he would prefer CDOT use active traffic management rather than just lowering the speed limit. He indicated there are dozens of variable speed signs that can be used but enforcement needs to be figured out.

Public Comment

Randy Harrison said the Clean Cities program has partnered with Move Colorado to address the notion of electric vehicles and the fiscal issues they represent. He wanted to reinforce they are trying to work with CDOT to provide a choice to drivers which includes an option to pay by the mile. He said they are concerned that bills like HB1167 will set a precedent that might prohibit alternative fuel choices in the future.

Bob Yuhnke, SWEEP, encouraged CDOT to look at broader policy options associated with FASTER for reducing GHG emissions. He suggested rail should be re-prioritized over lane expansion in order to change pattern of development. Mr. Hunt indicated that there are not currently funding sources for rail.

Results from Remote Sensing High Emitter Pilot Program

Ken Lloyd provided Council with background on the program. Garry Kaufmann provided a presentation to Council. He also indicated that the AQCC will be looking at the emissions program at its May meeting.

Garry indicated that during a 2009 audit of the program, an independent contractor calculated that a remote sensing program would only achieve 5% of the ozone precursor reductions of the current program. He said based on current technology and number of units, emission reductions from a remote sensing based program appear to be substantially less than from the current IM240 program, principally because RSD technology identifies fewer high emitting vehicles. These findings indicated that RSD is a good tool to identify high emitters as part of a voluntary repair or Scrapage program.

He concluded that based on study results the Legislative Audit Committee recommended that High Emitter Provisions from HB06-1302 be repealed. SB12-034, repealing these provisions passed the Senate and the House. He noted that with the passage of SB12-034 RSD High Emitter is still permitted, but not mandated.

Garry said that the State will continue to use RSD to Clean Screen vehicles and conduct fleet characterization studies. He stated there is also potential to use the RSD to identify high emitting vehicles as part of a voluntary repair or scrapage program to achieve emissions reductions and study unresolved questions.

There was discussion on the NOx cut points and program funding. Garry said the State has partnered with the RAQC on the voluntary repair program which uses CDPHE in-house testing.

Public Comment

None.

Legislative Update and Discussion of Legislation of Interest

Ken Lloyd provided Council with updates on the legislation of interest. Senate Bill 12-034, which repealed provisions of HB06-1302 regarding high-emitting vehicles, passed in both the Senate and the House and is awaiting the Governor's signature. House Bill 12-1103 which would exempt counties from the IM240 testing passed the House, was heard in Senate State, Veterans, and Military Affairs Committee on April 2, 2012. No final action was taken due to illness with the Senate sponsor. Margy Christiansen is working to share the RAQC's opposition to the bill because of its regional implications for air quality.

Public Comment

Bob Yuhnke, SWEEP, indicated that House Bill 1258, which would deregulate the commercial sale of electricity, passed in the House and is in Senate committee. He said this is an important step for electric vehicle charging stations.

Debra Perkins-Smith said CDOT is also following this bill. CDOT is also opposing House Bill 1136 which prohibits public land to be used for commercial purposes. She noted that the bill would interfere with truck stop electrification and limit public/private partnerships. She said this bill has not been sent to committee as of yet.

Ken Lloyd indicated that he and Margy Christiansen would follow up with these additional bills.

Update on OzoneAware Program for 2012 Summer Ozone Season

Ken Lloyd said the original intent was to refresh the program in 2012, however, due to delayed funding the 2012 program will be a maintenance year and the components will remain the same. He then introduced the consultants for the RAQC's OzoneAware program, Betsy Bartholomew, Launch Advertising, and Michelle Bergen, Media-Visions.

Betsy indicated the 2012 messaging will continue to work to make people aware of ozone and get them engaged. She provided Council with an overview of the current program components. She noted that the RAQC was unable to get free bus boards from RTD this season but they will continue to inquire. Council also asked about the use of pump toppers and variable message signs. Betsy said they always contact the companies and try to get pump toppers, but it is not always successful. The RAQC does use the variable message signs for ozone alerts. There was discussion on ways to get free press and Ken asked Council to let him know if they were aware of any opportunities. It was suggested that staff make a greater effort to increase the number of pledges received this season.

John Putman asked how the OzoneAware messaging interacts with the EnginesOff! messaging. Ken Lloyd indicated that RAQC staff is involved with the EnginesOff! program. The RAQC does include idling as one of the tip messages.

In response to a question, Ken said that the RAQC's TDM project, Every Trip Counts, expands the bike messaging into Jefferson County. He also noted that staff attends regional events throughout the year.

Public Comment

Bob Yuhnke, SWEEP, said the biggest reduction would come from driving electric vehicles and suggested Council add that as part of the Smart Choice messaging. In response, Ken Lloyd reminded everyone that part of the motor vehicle program through the RAQC encourages use of electric vehicles and includes messaging in its outreach component.

Jep Seman shared that he just returned from the New York Auto Show where he met with automakers and electric vehicles are just not being purchased, even with the tax credits available. He indicated it will take a lot of high level thinking to make a change in this area.

Karen Hancock, City of Aurora, asked if the RAQC has an exhibit that could be placed in the lobby of the Aurora City building. Staff will work with her to provide information.

Plans for Next Meeting

Council discussed topics for upcoming meeting which included:

- Discussion and review of oil and gas studies
 - It was clarified that this should be a briefing that presents the studies, their methodology and differences
 - It was suggested that industry should be given the opportunity to provide their opinions on the studies as well.
- Update on how the studies will influence future emission inventories
- Discussion on EPA rules and their differences to get a sense of the gap magnitude of emission and health impacts
- Legislative Wrap-Up

Mike Silverstein, AQCC, indicated that the APCD will be presenting information on these oil and gas studies to the Air Quality Control Commission at its May meeting and invited Council Members to attend.

Adjournment

There being no further business before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 12:20 p.m.