

Air Quality Advisory Council
December 3, 2002
Minutes

Members present: John Garberson, Leif Griffin, Alexandra Gorman, Jan Hoem, Dave Levinson, Dan McCaffery, Mickey Reese, Ann O'Hagan, and Dick Shimer

Members absent: Jim Leiter, Ron Mueller, Ellen Porter, Sue Spanke, John Waverek and Garon Smith (Liaison)

Staff: Shannon Therriault

Others: Dixie and Allen Robertson, Tony Tweedale and Don Nicholson

1. Chair.

Because Ron Mueller could not be at the meeting, and Tony Ward, the vice chair, was no longer on the Council, the committee voted for Mickey Reese to chair the meeting for the evening. The Council will elect a chair and vice chair at January's meeting.

2. Minutes

The Council approved the September minutes with the one correction. Add the following sentence to the end of "Non-Attainment Effects":

The Council also discussed a benefit of NSR requirements, in that they lock in any emission reductions that have previously been achieved.

3. Introductions

Dixie and Allen Robertson from Alberton came to talk about slash burning. Their son ended up in Intensive Care for five days following a slash burn on Southside Road. A logging sale was burning green slash, creating a lot of smoke that just hung in the valley. Their biggest concern is how to avoid it in the future, because it seems to happen every year. When they called the 9 Mile District, they told the Robertsons that they "had a right to burn" and that air quality was fine. The Robertsons understand the need to burn, but feel the loggers shouldn't have lit all those piles at once.

Don Nicholson was there because he was interested in the discussion about autobody shops.

4. Smoke Management

Dave Levinson, meteorologist for the Montana-Idaho State Airshed Group, gave a talk on how the monitoring unit works. The Airshed Group is made up of all the major burners in the state. Its intent is to minimize smoke impacts while using fire to meet land management objectives and to reduce fuel hazards to meet state laws. Member burners submit proposed burns to their airshed coordinator, who submits them via the internet to the monitoring unit. Dave looks at meteorological models and information and air quality data to forecast how well smoke will disperse the next day. In conjunction with information about who wants to burn where, he places restrictions by airshed, impact zone, elevation and/or by burn. The Montana DEQ uses the information in the fall for their ventilation hotline. Shannon uses the information in the spring, summer and fall to place restrictions on Missoula County's outdoor burning hotline. Dave's talk generated a lot of discussion. He agreed to give a talk on the Blue Skies Modeling Initiative and one on general meteorology in the future. For more information about the Airshed Group, visit www.smokemu.org.

5. Committees

The Council ran out of time to talk about forming committees. They will do this at a future meeting. Don Nicholson, owner of Mountain States Collision Repair at 1944 Birch Street, was interested in participating on the committee that will discuss autobody shop emissions.

6. Department Update

Shannon reported that Cyra had contacted her and said that, for a variety of reasons, the CO emission inventory would not be done until the end of February.

7. Next meeting: Tuesday, January 7.