

Air Quality Advisory Council
Minutes
April 4, 2006

Members/Alternates present: Cynthia Aten, Lita Furby, John Garberson, Alexandra Gorman, Leif Griffin, Jan Hoem, Ron Mueller, Mickey Reese, JC Schneider, Ron Setzer, Dick Shimer, Garon Smith (Board Liaison), Sue Spanke

Members/Alternates absent: Jenny Cochrane (excused)

Staff present: Jan Scher

Others present: Robert Hart, Heidi Underberg, Vicky Watson

1. Voting membership included all members and alternates present.
2. The agenda was approved with no changes.
3. The minutes from March 7, 2006, were approved with the following change: On page 2, paragraph 2, insert “out” so that beginning of second line reads “...build your way out of congestion.”
4. Public Comment on non-agenda items—none
5. Discuss membership experience/expertise needs

Jan Scher explained that Lita Furby’s, Ron Mueller’s, and Mickey Reese’s terms all expire at the end of May. Currently, Mickey does not plan to re-apply, and Lita is intending to apply. The department already sent a vacancy announcement to the media, interested parties lists, Missoula County Fire Protection Association members, Chamber of Commerce, Missoula Downtown Association, Sustainable Business Council, UM’s Environmental Studies Program, and Missoula’s National Weather Service office. The announcement is also posted on the website. The application deadline is April 18th, which is 3 weeks from the initial posting and allows enough time to schedule interviews for the May meeting (if there are 6 or fewer applicants).

Jan Scher distributed a handout with current membership information including career, fields of expertise, 2005-06 attendance, and 2005-06 committee participation. Areas of expertise the Council members are interested in include: transportation, land use planning, fire ecology/behavior, health care, and meteorology. The Council asked Jan Scher to send another announcement that specifies these areas of interest while still inviting others to apply. Jan will send the announcement to the list above as well as people in the health (St. Pat’s, Community Medical Center, etc.), forestry (Ron Wakimoto at UM), geography (Sarah Halverson at UM) professions. Sue also suggested that she try to get an announcement on the noon-time announcements on KUFM.

Jan Scher asked if the Council would like to make any changes to the standard interview questions, which are: (1) Why do you want to serve on the Air Quality Advisory Council? (2) Why do you think you would be a good member? What strengths would you bring to the Council? (3) What is your perception of Missoula’s air quality? (4) What do you do at home and/or work to improve air quality? The group decided to add 2 additional questions: as a follow-

up to the second, add “What do you envision for Missoula’s air quality?” and after the fourth question, add “Do you have any interest or experience in any of the following fields: transportation, land-use planning, fire science/ecology, health care, and/or meteorology?”

6. Transportation emissions

Jan Scher reminded the group that the Air Pollution Control Board has asked the Advisory Council to make recommendations about ways the Board and/or Department could best use their resources to help address pollution from transportation. She distributed an updated list of brainstormed ideas, which included all recommendations from February and March panelists. Jan proposed that the group work on re-phrasing the ideas into recommendations that would be appropriate for the Board/Department, and discuss criteria to use for narrowing down the list. In general, recommendations that are appropriate for the Board/Department involve activities such as advocate, collaborate with, collect information about, conduct a study about, educate, and regulate. After discussion of several different approaches, the members agreed to each choose the recommendations they think will be most effective, re-phrase the choices in a way that makes sense for the Board and/or Department, rank the choices, explain the reasoning behind the choices, and send them to Jan Scher by Tuesday, April 11. Jan Scher will email the idea list and suggested action verbs to members as soon as possible.

7. Staff Report

The department has started getting some complaints about outdoor burning. The weather in the early part of March was a challenging to predict for the hotline, but air quality remained good. John Garberson asked if there was a decline in permits issued; in the Potomac area, there seems to be less burning than in the past. Jan said other departments had mentioned they weren’t issuing as many permits as they usually do early in March, but they had attributed it to the weather.

The department is continuing work on PM₁₀ redesignation, including correspondence with DEQ and EPA. Staff is scheduled to do presentation to Chamber of Commerce next week. Next month’s agenda interviews (if there are 6 or fewer applicants) and, depending on time available, a staff report on the CO saturation study, and staff report on the proposed particulate matter standards. Jan plans to report about oxyfuel season and wintertime burning in an upcoming meeting.

8. Public Comment—none

9. Announcements, Other Business

Garon Smith said that Lilian Calderon-Garciduenas conducted a study about lung function in grade-school students during the last two winters (2004-05 and 2005-06). She would like to compare the results to air quality data. Garon asked staff if they could provide this to her. Jan said staff can do this when the department receives the data, and that Ben Schmidt is the contact person for data.

Alex Gorman asked if staff could update the Council about CO monitoring at Malfunction Junction this winter—did the reconfiguration help? Jan said she would ask Ben if he could include that information when he discusses the CO saturation study.

10. The meeting was adjourned. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 2, 2006.

Copies of materials distributed at this meeting are available by contacting Jan Scher at 258-4755 or scherj@ho.missoula.mt.us.