

**Air Quality Advisory Council
Draft Minutes- August 5, 2008**

Members/Alternates Present: Tova Sardot, Jan Hoem, Jason Boeckel, John Garberson, Patricia Hogan, Dick Shimer, Bill Flannery

Staff Present: Mamie Colburn, Jim Carlson

Public Present: Bert Chessin

1. John Garberson called the meeting to order.
2. Absences were recognized. Katie Evans, Steve Stoll, Garron Smith – Excused.
3. Agenda was approved.
4. Minutes were approved with amendments (typographical errors) and Democracy in Action conference was corrected to Democracy School.
5. Public Comment on Non Agenda items. Bret Chessin introduced himself.
6. Journal Articles Presentation by Jason Boeckel. “10 Things to Scratch From Your Worry List.” By John Tierney. 7/29/08 and supporting documents from Edmunds.com and Reason.org. “Fuel Subsidies Overseas Take a Toll on U.S.” New York Times. Keith Bradsher. 7/28/08
 - Opening the car windows can reduce your fuel efficiency as much as turning on the A/C.
 - Plastic Bags take less energy to produce and fewer greenhouse emissions to manufacture and distribute than paper bags. Jason emphasized that plastic bags do not decompose in our current landfill system.
 - Fuel prices have impacted transportation and in turn natural resource prices.
 - Paper prices and natural resources are being significantly impacted by China.
 - The group discussed Chinese air quality for the Olympics. The drastic measures they are taking have improved air quality somewhat. FYI, California air is impacted by Asia.
 - 80-90% of global mercury comes from China and India.
 - Incremental improvements in pollution controls in the U.S. could be put to better use in developing countries that don't have any pollution controls. We're reaching a point of diminishing returns but we also have a responsibility to set a good precedence.
7. Presentation by Mamie Colburn with Jim Carlson. Missoula Transportation Planning Update.
 - **Intro:** Staff is involved in multiple facets of transportation planning in Missoula County. Today we'll give an update of these projects and potential ways for the council to be involved.
 - **Envision Missoula Process Outcome:** Participants wanted to encourage growth inward 1st then contiguous growth; encourage downtown to grow in density and height;

the majority of the participants supported increased funding for transit; complete streets and connectivity also favored.

- **Long Range Transportation Plan Phone Survey:** Random phone survey of landline homes in city and county. Respondents ranked safety, low environmental impacts, and reducing congestion as high priorities. Reducing single occupancy vehicle trips were listed as a low priority. The AQAC discussed the public's disconnection between congestion and single occupancy vehicle trips.
- **Universal List of Projects:** Committed and Wish List Transportation Projects outnumber funding by at least 3:1 maybe up to 10:1. Transit is requesting more funding than previously. "Getting in line" isn't a guarantee of funding. Jim – Transportation is in need of a paradigm shift. Many transportation funds are restricted to specific types of uses and all projects must have sponsors and be fiscally constrained. Signal optimization and intelligent transportation systems are another way to increase efficiency and reduce air pollution.
- **Criteria Documents to evaluate the Universal List of Projects:** Criteria documents will be used to evaluate projects by mode. For example: It's a way to compare all bike/ped projects to one another. Higher ranking projects may be prioritized for funding. Now is the time for groups to comment on these criteria so that they can be fine tuned before the ranking process begins. Due to time constraints the AQAC will not comment on these as a whole but individuals from the group will email any comments they have to staff and these will be passed on. Mamie will email those members not present to solicit for their comments.
- **Complete Streets:** The group ran out of time to discuss complete streets in detail. Mamie suggested that a committee be formed to review the 4 draft policies that have been written by ASUM, Bicycle Pedestrian Board, Community Form, and Bike/Walk Bus Alliance. As an alternative, Patricia will review these as her "journal article" and present to the group at the next meeting.

8. Staff Report:

1. 2008 Wildfire Smoke Plan has been distributed the Missoula County Fire Protection Association.
2. Air Quality has been relatively good over the past month.
3. Three fires are burning in remote areas of the Bitterroot. We will keep an eye on these for smoke impacts.
4. Guy from the Axmen wants to bring an outdoor wood boiler and/or boiler information to the September meeting.

9. Public Comment: none.

10. Announcements, other business: none. Next meeting is September 2nd at 7 pm.

11. Meeting adjourned.