

**Air Quality Advisory Council  
Draft Minutes—June 3, 2008**

Members/Alternates Present: Tova Sardot, Garron Smith, Bill Flanery, Steve Stoll, Jan Hoem, Dick Shimer, Dan Cottrell, Katie Evans, Patricia Hogan, Sue Spanke, John Garberson

Staff Present: Mamie Colburn, Shannon Therriault

Public Present: Students with the National Science Foundation Research for Undergraduates Program. Mary Sherman, Kevyn Gardner, Ashley Evanoski, Tegan Shoener, Stacy Maynard, Christina Hayes, Alice Zhang,

1. John Garberson called the meeting to order.
2. Absences were recognized.
3. Agenda was approved. Dan's article was included in the approved agenda.
4. Minutes were approved.
5. Public comment on non-agenda items – none.
6. Journal article presentation by Dan Cottrell.
  - a. Article: The Great American Woodstove Change Out. This was presented in August of last year here in Missoula and a wildfire smoke conference.
  - b. Handout of presentation was given and discussed briefly.
  - c. The presentation talks about stove change outs and the effects on health. It also address how to get the message out to consumers. Consumers respond to asthma prevention. This program may be helpful to the council in making future recommendations about woodstoves.
  - d. One part of the presentation is a map of the counties exceeding the limit. One of these is Lincoln county in MT.
7. Recommendation to the Air Board on Draft Wildfire Smoke Emergency Episode Avoidance Plan (EEAP) 90-Day Board Order. (Shannon Therriault presenting.)
  - a. Background information. Federal Clean Air Act and MT Clean Air Act give authority for regional programs.
    - SIP: State Implementation Plan. State's plan on how they are going to maintain national standards. SIP only contains regulations that are necessary for us to attain the standard for something we're not in compliance for or that we're required to have in the Clean Air Act - like the EEAP.
    - The fed's can enforce these rules if we're not doing it the right way. Air regulations go through multiple stages to be approved. AQAC is part of this process as is the Board. The City Council and County Commissioners will approve or deny recommendations as a package. The Board of Environmental Review must also approve. Final items are sent the governor who in turn sends these to the EPA.
    - Changing air regulations is a long and involved process. We don't change often but we need to keep up with the state.
  - b. The EEAP is authorized and part of the Clean Air Act. It is addressed in Chapter 4 of our Missoula City-County Air Pollution Control Program. The EEAP is our alert system and it's specifically designed to help us avoid violating the standard. We are being at least as stringent as the state by having this. In 2000 the EEAP was found to be not totally appropriate because of how much smoke rolled in. The 90-Day board orders addressing smoke were begun.

- c. In 2000 John Coefield and others at the DEQ looked at visibility associated with 1 hour averages In PM 10. They created the visibility ranges. Under the assumption that the PM10 and assuming that it's all PM2.5. Steve Stoll points out that these visibility ranges (guidelines) have limitations. Steve is concerned that regulations wouldn't be made based on these. Shannon explained that these are yet another tool for communities and people who don't have access to real time monitors to help them make decisions at their specific location. Regulatory decisions will be made upon monitors not visibility guidelines.
- d. EPA has a tool called the Air Quality Index that uses the past 12 hours of information and predicted conditions for the next 12 hours for 24 hours total particulate matter alert levels. During the wildfire season in 2007 the MT DEQ adopted more stringent alert levels than the AQI. These were based upon numerous studies done throughout the country that showed the health impacts of PM2.5 from wildfire smoke. WA state also promulgated similar, more stringent alert levels.
- e. In the currently used Missoula alert system there are 3 different stage 2 warnings. This is confusing. By dropping the alert levels wording and focusing on health descriptors we focus on the preferred outcome: educating the public about how to reduce their exposure. The visibility index will further help people evaluate how these alert levels, based on monitoring information, compare to the conditions at their exact location.
- f. Discussion of these changes included the following thoughts and concerns:
  - Were these health effects found in WA state only? (Answer: No these are studies conducted throughout the country.)
  - Are these alert levels of particulate matter appropriate for us here in MT? What are ID and OR doing?
  - Will we get a cry wolf situation if we call too many alerts?
  - What do we have to lose by moving to a stricter standard if we are just making recommendations and not requirements of people?
  - Were these studies conducted on children, one of the most severely affected groups; we need to consider them.
  - Is there information about how wildfire smoke affects pregnant women and will our alert levels have warnings for this group?
- g. The Council would like to defer any recommendation to next month. Next month we'd like to continue the discussion and review the pros and cons of moving to an EEAP which is more protective of health. Garron will work with the staff to give information on how the new draft 2008 EEAP would have been used in the 2007 wildfire smoke season (as an example of it's implementation).

8. Staff Report:

- a. Mamie briefly introduces herself for those not at the last meeting.
- b. Erick Englebert will be returning to the health department to work in the land division of Environmental Health.
- c. The Greenhouse Gas working group has recommended to City Council that the city of Missoula hire a Sustainability Coordinator. The City Council was receptive and this is likely to happen.

9. No public comments.

10. Announcements: Next meeting July 1. (40 Year Anniversary of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.)  
Blackfoot river clean-up is on Saturday July 26<sup>th</sup>.

11. Meeting was adjourned.