

**Air Quality Advisory Council  
Draft Minutes – June 2, 2009**

Members/Alternates Present: Patricia Hogan, Jason Boeckel, Jan Hoem, Bert Chessin, John Garberson, Bill Flanery,

Staff Present: Mamie Colburn

Public Present: Guy Hanson, Matt Arno

- 1. John Garberson called the meeting to order.**
- 2. Recognize excused absences.** Tova, Garon, and Sue are unable to attend.
- 3. Minutes were approved from May.**
- 4. Agenda was approved with an addition. Added Jan's article.**
- 5. Public comment on non-agenda items:**
  - Matt Arno, Forester, wood products user, brought a copy of the letter he has submitted via email on the regulations to the board.
  - He has addressed in point number 2 that new regulations would not allow chip boilers which could potentially replace many woodstoves.

Guy Hanson made public comment:

- Stoves under 1 gram per hour cost approx \$2000 per stove. New Stoves can receive up to a \$1000 tax credits to married couples. Plus 30% federal tax credits
- Guy stated that Puget sound area received 1.3 million dollars for woodstove change out.
- Guy Hanson stated that Dan Henry a lobbyist for hearth products is supportive of trying to raise money for woodstove change outs.
- He presented a sheet that asked if a gram is a gram, why aren't woodstoves under one gram per hour were allowed in the air stagnation zone.
- Mamie said that replacing stoves in the air stagnation zone would be somewhat contradictory to the long term goal of having woodstoves replaced with cleaner burning devices in the air stagnation zone. The group discussed the pros and cons of a woodstove change out in the Air Stagnation Zone. Would people put in new stoves then they will not ultimately keep them in the house at time of sale? If woodstoves have a set life span and could not be replaced then are we increasing the total amount of emissions over time since those devices may now be used more frequently and wouldn't eventually need to be switched to another type of device? Net emissions increase or decrease would depend on the way these existing stoves in the Air Stagnation Zone are being used and how they would be used in the future.
- Mamie and Jason said that operator error is part of the reason pellet stoves are approved, because their emissions are more predictable at start up and stop.
- The Council asked that staff look at these questions and offer some additional information during the next meeting.

## **6. Article presentation by Jan Hoem.**

- Jan presented a 1 page article out of Science Magazine, 2009. CA officials calculated that corn ethanol worse than gasoline.
- Jan received a letter from the Missoula Area Firesafe Council. Nonprofit organization. New group working on fuels reduction and defensible space. Missoula already has Firewise (DNRC) and Rattlesnake Fuels Reduction group. In the Firesafe Council's second meeting they proposed to send a letter to the president of the University of Montana asking for a wood-fired boiler for heating purposes. She wanted the AQAC to be aware of this and asked the group if they should make comment to the University on the impacts of such a device.
- Jason pointed out that if it is over 1 million BTU's then it would fall under state rules. Baghouses may be used on this kind of unit, and it would have to be permitted as a New Source. This would require heavy permitting fees (\$150K) and stringent air pollution control devices. Mamie said that when she brought this up to Ben he had said that this idea has been floating around for some time. The group decided to weigh in later if this becomes more of a reality.

## **7. Air Regulation Open House Posters**

- Mamie had the posters used in the open houses set up around the room. She gave a description of how the open houses had gone so far.
- The members of the council liked the posters and thought they were an improvement over past fact sheet summaries.
- The members of the council decided that after the meeting was over they would walk around the room and look at the posters.

## **8. Staff Report.**

- Mamie presented on the volunteer recognition vouchers to the members of the AQAC. At Downtown tonight on July 16<sup>th</sup> is a Western Montana Volunteer Center Volunteer recognition event. These vouchers allow the first 100 volunteers to get a free ice cream cone and also for each person to enter a raffle for a \$50 Missoula Downtown Association gift certificate. Thank-you to the volunteers on the AQAC for dedicating their time.

## **9. Public comment on agenda items. None**

## **10. Announcements and Other Business:**

- Bill wanted to know if the council should pass on the idea of woodstove change outs in the Air Stagnation Zone. Jan and Jason answered that they were not in support of these change outs. The total amount of emissions could increase once folk get these new stoves.

Bill and the Council would like to request from the staff:

- Quantitative estimate of number of stoves in the Air Stagnation Zone
- Emissions that might be reduced by change out of those stoves

Next meeting is July 7<sup>th</sup>. Bert will not be here at the next meeting.