

**Air Quality Advisory Council
Draft Minutes – March 3, 2009**

Members / Alternates Present: Beth Berlin, Jason Boeckel, Bill Flanery, John Garberson, Steve Stoll, Bert Chessin, Sue Spanke, Garon Smith, Tova Sardot, Patricia Hogan

Staff Present: Mamie Colburn, Ben Schmidt

Public Present: Guy Hanson, Steve Nelson, George Hart

Students Present: Kate Ethridge, Lyneah Dykeman, Jesse Kircher, Caitlin Yarchever, Ansha Ryerson.

1. John Garberson called the meeting to order.

2. Recognize excused absences. Jan is unable to attend.

3. Minutes were approved from February with an edit from Steve Stoll on his presentation last month.

4. No public comment on non agenda items.

5. Article Presentation: Bert Chessin. “Surprise – Economists agree!” by Eric Pooley. Feb. 11, 2009. Bert presented an article from Slate.com on the economic impacts of global climate change. The article states that many economists have evaluated the possible economic impacts of climate change and come to some agreements. The article states that there is an emerging economic consensus that the cost of climate inaction will exceed the cost of climate action.

There was debate between council members that even if we took drastic actions, there may or may not be climate changes that we can stop. The article addresses how expensive action or inaction could be. Environmental Defense estimates during 2010-2030 cost impact of global warming could be 70-80 billion dollars a year, approximately 1 % of GDP (Gross Domestic Product). They estimate that inaction could increase those figures to up to 20% of GDP. Heated debate about global climate change and whether it has solutions or not ensued.

Bill will give next month’s article.

6. Permeable Parking Space Pilot Program at Home Resources: Steve Nelson.

Home Resources, is a non-profit building re-use center that is moving to a new location of Russell Street. They would like to create 5-10 unique permeable parking spaces as part of a demonstration project. These spaces will be “paved” with a matrix of recycled plastic inlaid with crushed glass. This may help mitigate the heat island effect and increase storm water infiltration. A sample cross section of this type of surfacing was brought in a demonstrated to the group.

A pilot project currently exists in Billings for the Platinum LEED certified Northern Plains Resource Council. Missoula Paving regulations in the Air Pollution Control Regulations are written for new vehicle use areas only and try to address PM-10. The area for this project is already currently a dirt parking lot so our rules do not apply. We will need a meeting between Health Dept. and the Office of Planning and Grants to verify the situation.

7. Draft Regulation Re-write: Feedback from last month and next steps: Staff. At last month's meeting the Air Quality Advisory Council gave feedback on the proposed regulation changes to staff. Mamie brought these comments to a meeting with staff members Ben Schmidt, Shannon Therriault, and Jim Carlson. The staff members discussed these recommendations and had the following feedback to the council:

A . Sole source permits in Zone M: Some council members were concerned that these should be restricted to some extent, especially for new construction. Staff thinks that they did not want to be more restrictive than necessary to meet air quality standards. Staff is proposing that all sole source permits for new construction be required to meet EPA certification or similar emissions levels. (*Since this meeting the staff is now considering requiring new construction that is hooked to electric utilities not be allowed a sole source permit.*) The only purpose of a sole source permit is to allow the burner to burn during Stage 1 Alerts. They are not required for burning when an alert is not in effect.

B. Woodstoves in Zone M. Some council members think that the restrictions currently in place in the Air Stagnation Zone should be expanded to Zone M. The staff thinks that this level of restriction is more than is required to meet air quality standards at this time. The goal is to be only as stringent as necessary to protect the standard and increase from there only when absolutely necessary.

C. Industrial Boilers. Some council members think that we should require permits for industrial boilers along with heat-source boilers. Staff thinks that creating regulations for industrial boilers has potential negative consequences with state government. Primarily, we cannot be more stringent than the state with out justification and we don't think that we have a strong enough case at this time.

Staff plans to bring draft written regulations to the next meeting for review.

8. Staff Report. Staff will meet with DEQ for a network review meeting this coming Monday. The purpose of this meeting is discuss air quality monitoring across the state and any upcoming changes for the next year. This is an annual meeting. PM10 sampling is planning to be discontinued in Seeley Lake as the preponderance of evidence collected so far shows that PM10 has not exceeded the standard.

9. Public Comment: Guy Hanson made comments on outdoor wood boilers and masonry heaters. He handed out an outline of his position and on both of these subjects. His argument is that Phase 2 outdoor wood boilers are efficient per the amount of BTU heat output. He also makes the point that these newer outdoor wood boilers are cleaner than previous units. Council members asked questions about the total emissions and the utility of such devices in heating larger homes. Staff made the point that though these units are more efficient per heat output their total amount of emissions per household is still higher than most homes.

Another member of the public said he was there in support of masonry heaters.

10. Announcements. Sue asked about the human health effects of de-icer. Staff will look into this.

11. Meeting was adjourned.