

**Air Quality Advisory Council  
Draft Minutes – January 5, 2010**

**Members / Alternates Present:** All members present. Beth Berlin, Jason Boeckel, Dan Cottrell, Bill Flanery, John Garberson, Jan Hoem, Patricia Hogan, Bert Chessin, Sue Spanke, Tova Sardot, Garon Smith.

**Staff Present:** Mamie Colburn

**Public Present:** Mark Loeffelbein, Katie Lane, George Hart, Jeff Briggs

- 1. John Garberson called the meeting to order.**
- 2. Excused Absences Recognized.** All members present.
- 3. Agenda was approved.**
- 4. November minutes were approved. (December meeting was cancelled.)**
- 5. No public comment on non agenda items.**

**6. Article Presentation.** Beth Berlin presented on recovery of liquid methane gas for energy production from landfills. **Trash to gas: Landfill energy projects increasing** By Jason Dearen, Associated Press.

[http://www.seattlepi.com/printer2/index.asp?ploc=t&refer=http://www.seattlepi.com/business/1310ap\\_us\\_garbage\\_to\\_gas.html?source=rss](http://www.seattlepi.com/printer2/index.asp?ploc=t&refer=http://www.seattlepi.com/business/1310ap_us_garbage_to_gas.html?source=rss)

Liquid Natural Gas may get a boost in smaller communities from an upcoming energy bill. Landfill gases are collected from perforated pipes and then can be turned into a liquefied product. This is efficient in larger landfills; most of those covered in this article were in California. Our landfill here in Missoula heats its buildings using methane from on site. It creates fewer greenhouse gases to burn this than to let it release into the atmosphere. Why not get energy from this product if we can.

Bert Chessin will present next month's article.

**7. Council Applicant Interviews.** John Garberson reviewed the procedures for the interviews. Mamie reviewed the criteria upon which potential members would be judged, per AQAC policy approved in 2005. Mamie also reviewed the openings on the council. Two full positions were open and two alternate positions were open. John asked if any of either of the alternate members, Sue Spanke or Bert Chessin would like to be considered for full membership. Sue Spanke declined; Bert Chessin said he would like to. The membership discussed his participation over the last year and voted to make him a full member.

Three new applicants, George Hart, Katie Lane, and Mark Loeffelbein were interviewed by the council one at a time while the other applicants waited outside the meeting. Applicants were asked the same 6 standard questions. Following the interviews the applicants left the meeting and the council discussed the merits and potential contributions of each applicant. The council then voted by ballot to choose if each person was to be recommended for full membership, recommended for alternate membership, or not recommended for membership. Votes were read aloud and given as a

recommendation to the board chair who will make final decisions. Results will be given following final approval by the board chair.

**8. Smurfit-Stone Closure Discussion.** The Smurfit Stone discussion was an opportunity for council members to hear from one another and especially Jason Boeckel, council member and engineer at Smurfit-Stone. The conversation focused on the future use of the site. Jason described the multi-fuel boiler and its potential to be converted to a biomass boiler for electricity generation. Jeff Briggs, audience member and Smurfit-Stone employee added information on potential projects at that site. Appropriate scaling of the project was discussed as well. The group discussed the role that Smurfit has in disposing of hog fuel waste and its critical role in forest products industry. Some council members expressed concern that whatever industry moves to that site be “cleaner” than the existing use – that this is an opportunity to reduce air pollution. The council also discussed recommending (probably with a motion next month) to the Air Board that they stay involved and abreast of this issue as it develops.

**9. Staff Report.** The Department attended the Seeley Lake Community Council meeting on January 4 to report on the first 6 weeks of data collected from the PM2.5 real-time monitor. Since the monitor was put in place (per the community’s request) in mid-November, nineteen days have been over the 24-hour PM2.5 standard. Values have been found to change rapidly making prediction and mitigation efforts challenging. Seeley Lake Community is putting together a working group who can help address these issues, including looking for funding for a future wood stove change out program.

**10. Public comment.** None

**11. Announcements.** None.

**12. Meeting was adjourned.** Next meeting is February 2, 2009.