

AIR QUALITY ADVISORY COUNCIL

Draft Minutes - July 6, 2010

Members / Alternates Present: Bill Flanery, John Garberson, Jan Hoem, Sue Spanke, Mark Loeffelbein, Tova Sardot, George Hart

Members Absent: Beth Berlin

Staff Present: Benjamin Schmidt

Public in Attendance: Matt Arno

1. John Garberson called the meeting to order.

2. Excused Absences Recognized. Bert Chessin, Katie Lane, Patricia Hogan, and Garon Smith absent.

3. Agenda Approved.

4. April Minutes approved with one hanging line struck.

5. No public comment on non-agenda items

6. Article Presentation. Jan Hoem presented two articles. The first article was “Explaining the equation behind the oil spill disaster” by Robert Bea. The article appeared in the July 3rd, 2010 issue of Science News and described what ingredients go into making a disaster. Jan also presented a page of graphs from the June 18, 2010, Volume 328, Science Magazine special issue on the Changing Oceans. The graphs showed average sea level rise, storm duration trends, Arctic sea ice coverage, ocean temperature changes, ocean acidity changes, and ocean carbonate ion changes.

George Hart will give next month’s article presentation.

7. Update from Woodstove Subcommittee. Jan reviewed the Woodstove subcommittee minutes. The subcommittee will draft a letter to the Air Pollution Control Board presenting their initial ideas and asking for guidance and feedback from the Board.

Staff was asked to look at how many days each winter were over 25 (30) $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ for Missoula.

Tova agreed to look at what other states had done with woodstove regulations.

A comment was made that we should verify that we have an air quality issue in the Missoula Valley that needs to be addressed. Maybe the steady air quality improvements we have seen over the last few years indicate that no new measures need to be taken and that the existing rules are taking care of the problem.

8. Staff report. Staff reported that the first Waste Water Treatment Plant or EkoCompost odor complaints had come in. A woodstove educational campaign is in progress for the Seeley Lake area.

9. Public comment. Matt Arno stated that it is good that the AQAC and Department are being proactive. Matt felt that education needed to be emphasized; we should get the word out about the tax credits available for new stoves and we should be encouraging people to change out to cleaner stoves. Fire places should be gotten rid of inside the city limits because they are dirty and provide minimal heat. Matt stated that he had a philosophical problem telling people they have to get a rid of their woodstoves for heat. The department should allow people to change out older stoves in the Air Stagnation Zone for newer cleaner stick stoves.

George Hart (AQAC member) stated that the woodstove committee may just end up doing a burn clean educational campaign. We need to learn about masonry stoves and other new devices that may be able to burn as consistently clean as a pellet stove. We should continue to look for ways for people to burn wood responsibly.

10. Announcements, other business. John stated that the air in Missoula appeared incredibly clean the last few months. Ben responded that during the past months the valley had experienced pollutant dispersing winds which resulted in cleaner air.

Sue Spanke commented that the road dust from construction in North Higgins is fairly thick. The construction people need to be encouraged to do a better job controlling the dust.

Sue also stated that there is a summer wood burning problem from recreational fire pits in the city. Sue asked if the Department could do a PSA on this subject that emphasized the health impacts of wood smoke on people. This is especially a concern in the city where people live close together and the plume of smoke is almost always affecting someone else's property or home. Staff stated that the Department does not really have time to do a PSA on this now but that the issue could be mentioned at the next Air Pollution Control Board meeting.

11. Meeting was adjourned: Next meeting is August 3, 2010.