

AIR QUALITY ADVISORY COUNCIL

Draft Minutes—August 3, 2010

Members / Alternates Present: Mark Loeffelbein, William Flannery, John Garberson, Jan Hoem, Patricia Hogan, Katie Lane, George Hart, Tova Sardot, Garon Smith

Members Absent: Dan Cottrell, Bert Chessin

Staff Present: Beth Lakin

Public in Attendance: Guy Hansen

1. John Garberson called the meeting to order.

2. Excused Absences Recognized. Beth Berlin and Sue Spanke absent.

3. Agenda Approved.

4. Minutes. July minutes approved with typo revision. April woodstove committee minutes approved upon consistent notation and typo revision.

5. No public comment on non-agenda items

6. Article Presentation. George Hart presented “Act Up. Act Now.” from *Yes!* magazine's winter 2010 issue. This article describes the potential impacts of climate change including increases in extreme weather, drought, sea level rise, and alludes to runaway positive feedback loops. Finally the article investigates the reasons for political inaction in the United States and suggests that the general public is warming to the idea of making lifestyle changes.

Katie Lane will give next month's article presentation.

7. Waste Water Treatment Plant/EKO Compost Odor Presentation. Beth Lakin gave a presentation on the odor study conducted in Summer 2009 to determine the sources of odor at the Missoula Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP) and EKO Compost.

The study found that the WWTP and EKO Compost contribute equally to odor issues in the area. The study relied upon point measurements of odors, volunteers, a public odor hotline, and surveys of the area. The study also included recommendations for mitigating odors. The WWTP has commenced with their Headworks project that should address the bulk of their odor problems; they have also been tasked with addressing odors from the TWAS tank and the solids handling building. EKO Compost will better manage their inventory of sludge and develop biofilters for their aerated piles.

7. Letter to the Air Pollution Control Board. Jan presented the letter written by the Woodstove Subcommittee to the Air Pollution Control Board. She explained how the subcommittee chose to focus on education on good burning and incentives because Missoula is currently under the new PM_{2.5} recommendations. The Woodstove Subcommittee also felt that it

was prudent to explore more stringent ways to control particulate in the event a single annual average exceeds the standard. Imposing this more stringent standard after exceeding the standard in a single year would be meant to avert exceeding the standard in the three year running average, thus avoiding going into non-compliance.

John Garberson and Patricia Hogan said they would support educating the public on woodsmoke. Garon Smith pointed out that the Air Pollution Control Board will probably not want to change the regulations until the EPA has formally adopted new standards. Patricia Hogan also raised concerns regarding recreational burning in the Air Stagnation Zone. She said that she was unsure of whether it was a significant problem but that she felt public education would be helpful.

The sheet of homeowner incentives put together by Beth Berlin was discussed. Guy Hansen pointed out several errors on the sheet that will be corrected. He also informed us of an additional grant from Northwest Energy.

It was decided that an additional paragraph would be added to the letter regarding the need for education. Beth Lakin and Jan Hoem will also look over the letter to make sure that the language regarding the proposed standards is clear and accurate. The Air Pollution Control Board does not meet in August so the letter will be brought back to the Council at their September meeting for approval.

8. Staff report. Staff reported that they are starting to see the effects of wildfire on PM_{2.5} levels.

9. Public comment. There was no additional public comment/

10. Announcements, other business. William Flannery mentioned an article that appeared in the Missoulian regarding woodsmoke dangers. The article also included a guide on visibility.

Patricia Hogan distributed copies of an article on the surprisingly strong polluting effects of gas-powered lawn mowers.

11. Meeting was adjourned: Next meeting is September 7, 2010.