

AIR QUALITY ADVISORY COUNCIL
Minutes - October 5, 2010

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

Air Board Liaison: Garon Smith was present

Student Associate: Tova Sardot was present

Members Absent: Beth Berlin, Dan Cottrell, Patricia Hogan, Bert Chessin

Staff: Beth Lankin, Sarah Coefield

Public: n/a

- 1. John Garberson called the meeting to order**
- 2. Excused Absences Recognized.** Katie Lane was absent.
- 3. Agenda Approved**
- 4. Minutes.** September minutes approved with revision of two typos.
- 5. No public comment on non-agenda items.**
- 6. Article Presentation.** The group discussed two articles from ScienceNews brought in by John Garberson. The first article, "Air pollution appears to foster diabetes," presents a correlation between air pollution and diabetes. The group was intrigued by the findings, but was clear that correlation is not the same as causation. The second article, "To tame traffic, go with the flow," focused on how setting lights to traffic can lead to smoother traffic and lower emissions. The article sparked discussion about changes in Missoula's bike lanes. The group was generally pleased that the bike lanes are easier to see and are starting to make sense.

George Hart will give next month's article presentation.
- 7. Woodstove Education Brainstorming.** The group proposed several methods to improve public education about particulate matter health effects and clean burning. Jan Hoem pointed out that the main points to address include who should be targeted, how to present the information and who could be the council's messengers. With that in mind, the group suggested partnering with the university, schools, hospitals, neighborhood councils, U.S. Forest Service and media to get the message out and reach the most

people. In addition, the group suggested looking at the health department website to see if there are opportunities for improvement or clarification and posting articles online with layman-friendly abstracts.

8. Staff report. Staff reported that Beth Lakin presented the council's letter to the Air Pollution Control Board, and responses are still coming in. The oxyfuel program is starting up again, and Ben Schmidt has been calibrating the carbon monoxide monitoring station. Staff are also preparing for the upcoming woodstove open house in Seeley Lake. The open house will be an educational event for the community to learn about different kinds of woodstoves and methods for clean burning. The Seeley Lake saturation study to monitor particulates around the community started October 5. In addition, Beth Lakin is leaving the county and Sarah Coefield is her replacement.

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

10. Announcements, other business. Garon Smith reported that the council's letter was presented to the Air Board. He said that Jean Curtiss was positive and thankful for the input.

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