



Advisory Council Minutes

November 30, 2023

Members Present:

Ron Edgar, Chemistry
John Dietzman, Environmental
Tony Masiello, Member at Large (Zoom)
Brent Downy, Industry (Zoom)
Jackie Etter, Agriculture
Raymond Byrne, Environmental Public Health

Staff Present:

Scott Windsor, Executive Director
Amber Ellis, Administrative Assistant
Mark Rowe, Air Monitoring Manager

Guests

The meeting was called to order at 8 a.m.

1. Introductions:

Introductions of Advisory Council members and staff.

2. Approval of the September/October 2023, Minutes:

Minutes will be approved at the January meeting.

3. Executive Directors Report for September and October 2023:

The Washington Air Quality Managers Group (WAQMG) met in Spokane on September 6th. The meeting was in person and via zoom. Spokane's PNA Grant Project: PM2.5/air quality awareness campaign was presented and received encouraging feedback. After the meeting the group toured the WTE plant. Letters concerning the nomination and election process for the Board member representing small towns and cities were mailed out this month to begin the process. All nominations were due on 9/22/2023. The Agency was awarded with \$484,600 grant funds for our 2023-25 Local Partner Woodsmoke Reduction Grant. We plan to work with SNAP for income qualified woodstove replacements. Staff have continued to participate in the Wildfire recovery efforts in Spokane county. As part of the Department of Ecology's Overburdened Communities' Actions, the Agency had looked to install a monitor at the MLK community center in East Central. This has proven to be problematic in terms of timing and we will be looking for an alternative location for the monitor. With the recent retirement of two long-term employees, we have decided to eliminate one position and begin to recruit for the other position after the start of the new year. The DNR has removed some burn restriction as of 9/22/2023 and will be allowing

permit burns in areas in Northern Spokane County under DNR fire protection. HR has made significant progress on updating our Employee Handbook. The draft is currently being reviewed by management prior to forwarding to Legal. The EPA Region 10 Air Directors meeting will be held in Seattle on November 6 and 7. I plan on attending in person. Two nominations were received for the Small Towns and Cities representative on the Board of Directors. Ballots have been mailed out and are due back by October 31st. After further discussions with the MLK Community Center, it has been decided to locate the regulatory PM 2.5 monitor to The Hive on East Sprague. The facility is owned by the Spokane Public Library, and we can begin to install the equipment on the timeline that the DOE is looking for. This site meets the Overburdened Communities criteria. Staff have continued to participate in the Wildfire recovery efforts in Spokane county. As of 10/15/2023, the Agency has issued over 100 NOI's associated with the area wildfires. The current rate of positive testing is running around 16 - 20%. Once the NOI's have been issued, the materials may be disposed of at a local facility. The Agency has a position on the Advisory Council that needs to be filled this year. The Member at Large position will be advertised, and submissions evaluated during the month of November, with staff recommendations to be presented to the Board at the December Board meeting. The DNR and area Fire Agencies have removed all the seasonal burn restriction during the month of October.

4. Discussion of CCA/ Overburdened Communities DOE

Mark gave a presentation, and discussion ensued.

5. Wildfire Status

The Executive Director will be talking to the Board at the next meeting about how local wildfires could be handled in the future. Could we make any improvements or adjustments to our response? Discussion ensued.

6. Open Discussion – Current Topics:

Advisory Council members discussed the upcoming Board of Directors meeting and the date of the next Advisory Council meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:02 a.m.

The next Advisory Council Meeting is scheduled for January 25, 2024.

Advisory Council Member

Scott Windsor, Executive Director