Spokane Regional Clean Air Agency

1610 S. Technology Blvd., Suite 101
Spokane, WA 99224
SpokaneCleanAir.org

Advisory Council Minutes
January 22, 2026

Members Present:

Tony Masiello, Member at Large (Zoom)
Hal Ophus, Business Community
John Dietzman, Environmental (Zoom)
Ron Edgar, Chemistry
Doug Bleeker, Fire Protection (Zoom)
Janna Loeppky, Industry (Zoom)
Jana McDonald, Air Pollution Control (Zoom)
Jackie Etter, Agriculture (Zoom)

Staff Present:

April Westby, Executive Director
Michelle Zernick, HR & Finance Manager
Derek Aubrey, Compliance Manager
Brandy Dickinson, Compliance Inspector

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

1. **Introductions:**

2. **Approval of the October 23, 2025, Minutes:**
   a. John moved to approve the October 23, 2025 minutes, Hal 2nd. Minutes approved.

3. **Updated Advisory Council Rules of Procedure**
   a. The Advisory Council voted to approve the updated Rules of Procedure.

4. **Election of Vice Chair for 2026**
   a. John nominated Ron Edgar for Vice Chair, Jackie 2nd. The Advisory Council voted to have Ron Edgar continue as the Vice Chair for 2026.

5. **Schedule of Meetings for 2026**
   a. April presented the Advisory Council meeting schedule for 2026.

6. **Executive Directors Report**
   a. April attended the Washington Air Quality Manager Group meeting in Seattle on January 7th where the major topic of discussion was funding. We met with the Ecology Director Casey Sixkiller to express our opposition to the proposed funding reductions and to communicate the potential cuts and impacts on programs, staff, and operations at local clean air agencies. The state Air Directors are also continuing to work on a unified legislative outreach effort to communicate the value of our work and the consequences associated with the funding reductions.
   b. The annual Northwest Air Quality Manager Group meeting at EPA Region 10, scheduled for January 5–6, was canceled by EPA.
   c. Ben Wick has been appointed to fill the position for Spokane Valley

d. We are still in the process of filling the Small Cities/Towns representative position on our Board. The nomination process closed on December 31, and ballots were mailed during the first week of January. The two nominees for the position are Terri Cooper and Ellen Standen. The ballots are due in February, and we hope to have a new Board member elected by the March meeting.
e. Ecology issued their biennial 2025 Report "Overburdened Communities Highly Impacted by Air Pollution." Spokane County has one of the identified 16 communities discussed in the report. SRCAA is reviewing the report and will submit questions and comments to Ecology. We are reviewing the report and submitting questions and comments to Ecology. The comment period has been extended until February 15, 2026.
f. We mailed out the annual registration billing on January 5th to ~585 registered facilities in Spokane County. The mailing includes the annual registration form, which must be returned to SRCAA with emissions-related information for 2025, along with the annual registration invoice. What we billed out was in line with what we budgeted.

7. Solid Fuel Burning Device Program Overview

a. Brandy gave an overview of the solid fuel burning device (SFBD) program, what qualifies as SFBD and our strategy to prevent PM 2.5 from exceeding Federal Health Standards during air stagnation. Presentation is attached. Discussion ensued.

8. Advisory Council concerns

a. We will be having a public hearing at the Board meeting on February 5, 2026, on the proposed fee changes to our NOC fees.
b. We recently learned that the new appointee from the Health District does not reside within Spokane County. We are currently looking for someone who resides within Spokane County to fill that Public Health seat.
c. Ron will attend the February 5 Board meeting for the Advisory Council. No other updates or concerns.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 a.m.

The next Advisory Council Meeting is scheduled for February 26, 2026.

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Advisory Council Member

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April Westby, Executive Director