



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

SPOKANE REGIONAL CLEAN AIR AGENCY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

October 5, 2023 9:30 a.m.
Spokane Clean Air in Person and Remotely

BOARD MEMBERS:

Al French, County Commissioner, Chair (ABSENT)
Jim Simon, City of Spokane
Representative, Vice Chair
Rod Higgins, City of Spokane Valley
Tom Brattebo, Member at Large
Kevin Freeman, Mayor of Millwood, Small
Cities & Towns Representative

STAFF MEMBERS:

Scott Windsor, Executive Director
April Westby, PE, Supervisory Engineer
Lori Rodriguez, Compliance Manager
Michelle Zernick, Finance & HR Manager
Mark Rowe, Monitoring Section Manager
Lisa Woodard, Communications/Outreach
Manager
Calie Maki, Administrative Assistant
Margee Chambers, Rule Writer & SIP
Planner (ZOOM)

OTHERS PRESENT:

Karin Baldwin, Air Quality Eastern Section
Manager
Rob Dengel, Air Quality Deputy Program
Manager (ZOOM)
Sean Lundblad, Technical Services Section
Manager
Janice Bachelor, Eastern Specialist Outreach &
Communication
Abigail Ruskey, Ecology Planner (ZOOM)
iPad (ZOOM)

PUBLIC PRESENT:

WORK SESSION: 9:30am

1. Roll call for attending Board Members and staff in attendance.
2. Presentation given by the Washington Department of Ecology on the Overburdened Communities in the Eastern Region and the expansion of air monitoring in the overburdened communities in Spokane and Spokane Valley, specifically Division St to Sullivan Rd and Francis St to 4th St. Discussion ensued.
3. Updated information was given by Scott Windsor and Lori Rodriguez on the wildfire recovery. Lori provided destruction numbers. There were 369 primary homes destroyed, 447 effected homes, 600 total effected structures and 760 effected parcels. With the numbers given, that is a fifty percent

increase in Notice of Intents outside of the allocated budget for asbestos for the year. The workload is slowing down. All agencies are trying to work together with the wildfire communities to make sure all steps are taken. SRCAA has asked DNR about a possible chipping event, so the wildfire communities are not burning wildfire debris and causing poor air quality when starting their clean up process. Washington Governor submitted a request for disaster aid to help wildfire individuals. That will include debris removal and asbestos surveying. The county is funding a company to help with surveys for the approximate 50 uninsured property owners. Discussion ensued.

BOARD MEETING: 10:17am

1. Advisory Council Report – Scott gave an overview of the advisory council meeting. The Advisory Council received a presentation given by Ecology on overburdened communities. They also talked about wildfire recovery and SRCAs asbestos budget.
2. Executive Director’s Report – 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.
3. Public Comment – There were no public comments.

ACTION ITEMS/POTENTIAL ACTION ITEMS:

4. Consent Agenda – Action Item:
 - a. Approval of the September 7, 2023, Board Minutes
 - b. Approval of Vouchers for September, 2023, numbered 13327 thru 13336, and 13339 thru 13354, and 13356 thru 13361 with Claims totaling \$21,063.96 and Payroll numbered 13337, 13338 and 13355 and EFTs totaling \$196,331.43 – for a Grand Total of \$217,395.39

Rod Higgins moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented and Tom Brattebo seconded it. Motion passed unanimously.

5. Resolution 23-09 - A Resolution Modifying The Rule Writer / Air Quality Sip Planner Job Description To Air Resource Specialist

There were no public comments. Rod Higgins moved to approve Resolution No. 23-09 as presented and Tom Brattebo seconded it. Motion passed unanimously.

6. Executive Session(s) – There was no executive session.

NON-ACTION ITEMS:

7. Activity Reports – August

- a. Lisa gave an overview for August on school/community outreach events, asbestos, new media, wildfire, awareness campaign and upcoming events/presentations.
- b. Lori gave an overview of compliance. Half of the month of August was spent on wildfire. Trying to get back on track with usual business.
- c. April mentioned we are down one engineer, so she is to limp along with the two engineers and utilize a couple employees to help. We are working on registration for our 600 minor sources, so those mailings are ready for the first week of January. There are a few new permits this month along with big modifications to existing sources. Inland Paper is currently in a public comment period and the draft is available on our website.
- d. Mark gave an overview of the air quality for the month of August. The daily AQI on the 18th, 19th, 20th and 21st ranged from unhealthy to hazardous. The remainder of the month ranged from good to moderate. Daily monitoring average spiked on the 19th on Greenbluff. It was recorded at 317 mg/m³. PM₁₀ was elevated on the 19th and 20th by wildfire smoke. On the 13th Turnbull spiked due to dust from road maintenance. The maximum 24-hour average mass concentration was 281 mg/m³, which was recorded at Spokane Valley – Broadway & Glenn on the 19th. PM₁₀ readings exceeded the federal air quality standard (150 mg/m³) on the 19th and 20th. For ozone, the maximum 8-hour average concentration was 0.066 ppm and did not exceed 0.070 ppm, which was recorded at Turnbull on the 19th.
- e. Michelle's budget is only two months in so there is nothing big to report. With the wildfires and asbestos, she is keeping track of the time spent on it separately, as far as wages go. SRCAA is around \$30k in debt with time spent on wildfires and asbestos. The routine expenses are normal at this time.

8. Board Concerns – Jim Simon is not available for the November board meeting. The board was unaware if Commissioner French would be present for the November board meeting. Kevin suggested moving the meeting if needed. Nothing was decided.

Next Board Meeting – There will be a quorum for the next board meeting at 9:30 a.m., Thursday, November 2, 2023.

9. Adjournment – The board meeting was adjourned at 10:44 a.m.

COMMISSIONER AL FRENCH, CHAIR

SCOTT WINDSOR, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR