

SOUTHWEST CLEAN AIR AGENCY

Board of Directors Meeting  
January 7, 2021 at 3:00 PM  
Southwest Clean Air Agency  
11815 NE 99th St. Suite 1294  
Vancouver, Washington

This meeting will be held by video conference using Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81677716119>

Meeting ID: 816 7771 6119

Or call in by phone (669) 900-9128

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order  
SWCAA Chair Bob Hamlin
- II. Roll Call/Determination of Quorum  
SWCAA Chair Bob Hamlin
- III. Board of Directors Minutes  
Board of Directors Minutes - November Meeting
- IV. Changes to the Agenda  
SWCAA Chair Bob Hamlin
- V. Consent Agenda
  - A. Approval of Vouchers
  - B. Financial Report
  - C. Monthly Activity Report
- VI. Info Items & Public Comment  
None
- VII. Public Hearing  
None
- VIII. Unfinished Business/New Business

**A. Election of Chair and Vice Chair**

**Summary** – SWCAA’s Business Rules state that the Chair and Vice Chair need to be elected for each calendar year. The current Chair is Bob Hamlin and the Vice Chair position is Ryan Smith.

**Recommendation** – Elect the Chair and Vice Chair for Calendar Year 2021.

IX. Control Officer Report

**A. Biden Announces Intent to Nominate Michael Regan for EPA Administrator, Rounds Out Clean Air and Climate Team (December 17, 2020)** – President-Elect Joe Biden announced that he will nominate Michael S. Regan, Secretary of the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality, to be the next Administrator of EPA. Secretary Regan has served in his current role since January 2017 and, among other things, has led the Department’s efforts to establish a “net-neutral by 2050” goal for decarbonization for North Carolina; worked to address emerging contaminants, including per- and polyfluorinated alkyls (PFAS); and, in 2018, established an Environmental Justice and Equity Advisory Board. He previously worked at the Environmental Defense Fund and in EPA’s Office of Air and Radiation, as well as managed an environmental consultancy. Secretary Regan earned his bachelor’s degree from North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University and his master’s degree from The George Washington University. Biden has also announced a number of other selections for various positions related to clean air and climate change. Gina McCarthy, who served as the 13th Administrator of EPA, and is currently the President and CEO of the Natural Resources Defense Council, has been named by the President-Elect as his choice for National Climate Advisor. Brenda Mallory, Director of Regulatory Policy at the Southern Environmental Law Center, has been named as the nominee for the Chair of the White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ). For further information: <https://buildbackbetter.gov/nominees-and-appointees/climate/>

**B. EPA Issues Cost-Benefit Rule for Clean Air Act Rulemaking (December 9, 2020)** – EPA finalized a rule that governs how the agency calculates costs and benefits for rules promulgated under the Clean Air Act. The rule, “Increasing Consistency in Considering Benefits and Costs in the Clean Air Act Rulemaking Process,” requires EPA to take new steps in three areas of the rulemaking process. First, it requires the agency to prepare a benefit-cost analysis (BCA) document for all future Clean Air Act regulations with economic impacts over \$100 million or that disproportionately affect an industry, group, or area; or those that are novel or relevant for other policy reasons. Second, the rule requires that BCAs use “best practices” in economic, engineering, physical and biological sciences. These include the requirements set for cost-benefit analysis by the Office of Management and Budget, as well as by EPA’s “Guidelines for Preparing Economic Analyses” (which outlines practices for assessment of the value of reduced health risks and improved environmental quality, appropriate baselines, discounting, cost and benefit allocation, data transparency, and presentation of the results, including non-monetary information). Finally, to prevent co-mingling of “benefits” and “co-benefits” to justify a regulation, the rule requires that BCAs, in addition to presenting a proposed rule’s total costs and benefits, separately report the public health and welfare benefits attributable to the specific pollution-reduction or other objectives targeted by the CAA provisions under which the rule is promulgated. The cost-benefit rule will become effective immediately upon publication in the Federal Register. For further information: <https://www.epa.gov/air-and-radiation/final-rule-increasing-consistency-considering-benefits-and-costs-clean-air-act>

**C. Study Finds EPA Regulatory Analyses May Significantly Undercount Air Pollution Health Costs (December 7, 2020)**

– A new study published in the journal Health Affairs finds that EPA’s model underpinning its regulatory analyses undervalues public health costs by as much as 40 percent. The study, authored by researchers at The Analysis Group in Cambridge MA, evaluated the Environmental Benefits Mapping and Analysis Program–Community Edition (BenMAP-CE) tool. It compared health care costs for a set of patients who were hospitalized for respiratory or cardiovascular issues in 2016 with data for the same set of patients in 2015, when none of the patients had been hospitalized for these conditions. By comparing the total costs for each year, the team was able to identify additional costs associated with treatment for respiratory and cardiovascular conditions. The study’s results suggest that policy analyses using the BenMAP-CE model substantially underestimate the potential health care benefits of reductions in air pollution and found that costs related to physician and clinic visits, ambulance and other medical transport, prescription drugs, supplies, home health care and other costs were not included in the model. Including these additional categories would increase BenMAP-CE health care cost estimates by approximately 40 percent for respiratory and cardiovascular patients. The study suggests that the benefits of reducing air pollution may be undercounted in regulatory actions and argues that the inclusion of the full range of air pollution induced health costs would improve regulatory decision-making by EPA. For further information:

<https://www.healthaffairs.org/doi/full/10.1377/hlthaff.2020.0008>

**D. EPA Celebrates Its 50th Anniversary (December 2, 2020)** – Fifty years ago, Congress approved President Richard Nixon’s plan to consolidate the environmental responsibilities of the federal government into a single agency, and on December 2, 1970, the Environmental Protection Agency was established. As it celebrated its 50th anniversary, EPA reviewed the significant environmental and public health milestones that have been achieved since its founding, summarizing the achievements of the Office of Air and Radiation as follows: “Since the Clean Air Act amendments of 1990, EPA has pioneered innovative, successful market approaches for curbing emissions from power plants to address acid rain and reduce air pollution transported across state lines. EPA air standards have also significantly reduced industrial toxic air pollution and, over the past 50 years, dramatically cut dangerous tailpipe emissions from vehicles and engines. Through multiple partnership programs, EPA has made strides in promoting energy efficiency, cutting greenhouse gases, and helping to heal the earth’s protective ozone layer. EPA is a leading resource in promoting a safe indoor air, helping to reduce exposure to mold, smoke, and radon. In addition, by setting standards for radiation pollution emissions, and maintaining a robust monitoring system for radiological emergencies, EPA’s air team works to protect public health from radiation pollution and ensure emergency preparedness.” For further information: <https://www.epa.gov/50>

**E. Kerry Named as Biden’s Climate Envoy (November 23, 2020)** – President elect Joe Biden named John Kerry to be a Special Climate Envoy with a seat on the National Security Council in the forthcoming administration. His nomination was one of six appointments focused on foreign policy and national security and will focus exclusively on climate change, although little was announced about the specific duties envisioned for the role. “America will soon have a government that treats the climate crisis as the urgent

national security threat it is,” Kerry tweeted. “I’m proud to partner with the President elect, our allies, and the young leaders of the climate movement to take on this crisis as the President’s Climate Envoy.” Kerry established World War Zero, a non-profit organization focused on mobilizing media and political leadership to enact policies to limit climate damage, in November 2019, and was previously a senator from Massachusetts, Democratic presidential candidate in 2004, and Secretary of State from 2013 to 2017. For further information <https://buildbackbetter.gov/the-administration/nominees-and-appointees/>

**F. Early-Life Events Affect Lung Health of Young Adults (November 12, 2020) –**

Researchers at Karolinksa Institute in Sweden announced a pair of studies in which they conclude that chronic lung disease in young adults can be traced to events in childhood. In “Assessment of chronic bronchitis and risk factors in young adults: Results from BAMSE [the Swedish population-based cohort]” (published in European Respiratory Journal) and “Early-life risk factors for reversible and irreversible airflow limitation in young adults: findings from the BAMSE birth cohort” (published in Thorax) researchers present their findings that although chronic bronchitis and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, which present with phlegm and irreversible airflow limitation, respectively, are lung diseases that typically afflict older adults – over 50 years of age – with a long-term history of smoking, “To our surprise, we found the prevalence of chronic bronchitis and irreversible airflow limitation to be rather high (5.5% and 2.0%, respectively), considering the young age of the study participants.” The analyses performed for the studies show that risk factors for chronic bronchitis include smoking, early-life exposure to air pollution and childhood asthma, while breast feeding was identified as a protective factor. Recurrent lung infections, asthma and exposure to air pollution were found to be risk factors for development of irreversible airflow limitation. The researchers determined that the air pollution to which the children were exposed was primarily local emissions from road traffic, “which implies that this preventable risk factor may play an important role in the development of chronic lung disease in young adults.” In a press statement issued by Karolinksa Institute, the researchers said, “In conclusion, our two novel studies demonstrate that chronic bronchitis and irreversible airflow limitation do exist in young adults and emphasize the importance of early-life events for maintaining lung health during adulthood. The take-home message is: If you want to prevent disease, early prevention is the key to success.” For further information:

<https://erj.ersjournals.com/content/early/2020/09/17/13993003.02120-2020>

X. Board Policy Discussion Issues

As Necessary

XI. Issues for Upcoming Meetings

- SWCAA’s Travel Policy Updates
- Revisions to SWCAA 400 Rules

XII. Adjourn

Notes:

(1) Served by C-TRAN Routes: 7, 72 and 76.

(2) Accommodation of the needs for disabled persons can be made upon request. For more information, please call (360) 574-3058 extension 110.