

Southwest Clean Air Agency

Board of Directors Minutes

August 6, 2020

The regular meeting of the Southwest Clean Air Agency Board of Directors was held in the Southwest Clean Air Agency office, Vancouver, Washington on August 6, 2020.

Those present were: **Bob Hamlin, Chair, Skamania County**
Ryan Smith, Vice-Chair, Member at Large
Erik Paulsen, Director, City of Vancouver
Ruth Kendall, Director, City of Longview
Max Vogt, Director, City of Centralia
Joe Gardner, Director, Cowlitz County
Robert Stowe, Director, Town of Cathlamet
Ben Shumaker, Director, City of Stevenson
Bobby Jackson, Director, Lewis County
Dr. Alan Melnick, Director, Clark County

Excused: **Mike Backman, Director, Wahkiakum County**
Max Vogt, Director, City of Centralia

Also Present: Staff: **Uri Papish, Executive Director**
Traci Arnold, Office Administrator

Guests: **None**

Call to Order

Mr. Hamlin called the meeting to order. A quorum was confirmed to exist.

Board of Directors Minutes

Mr. Hamlin asked for consideration of the June 4, 2020 minutes. Mr. Smith moved and Mr. Jackson seconded that the minutes for the June 4, 2020 Board meeting be approved. Motion passed.

Consent Agenda

Mr. Hamlin asked for approval of the Consent Agenda including voucher 1 through 48 in the amount of \$34,255.01 which have been approved for payment by the Executive Director, May 2020 Salaries in the amount of \$110,714.58, May 2020 Benefits in the amount of \$44,245.69, June 2020 Salaries in the amount of \$108,855.73, June 2020 Benefits in the amount of \$44,435.20, the May 2020 Financial Report, the June 2020 Financial Report, the May 2020

Activity Report and the June 2020 Activity Report. Mr. Smith moved and Mr. Shumaker seconded approval of the Consent Agenda. Motion passed.

Changes to Agenda

None

Info Items & Public Comment

None.

Public Hearing

None.

Unfinished Business/New Business

Mr. Hamlin opened discussion regarding Southwest Clean Air Agency (SWCAA) not currently having a formal electronic signature policy and recognized Mr. Papish. Mr. Papish explained beginning in 2016, local agencies were specifically authorized to use electronic signatures by Chapter 19.360 RCW, and effective June 11, 2020, Chapter 19.360 RCW was repealed and replaced by the Uniform Electronic Transactions Act (UETA). UETA provides for essentially the same authority as Chapter 19.360 RCW with respect to a local agency's use of electronic signatures: Unless state or federal law requires a wet signature, an electronic signature can be used and must be given the same legal effect as a wet signature. Therefore, typical local government records requiring a signature - such as contracts, meeting minutes, and claim vouchers - can utilize electronic signatures in lieu of wet signatures. However, to use electronic signatures the agency must first adopt a policy.

Mr. Hamlin asked if board members or the public would need to have the software to provide electronic signatures. Mr. Papish said only the agency would need to purchase software, neither the board or the public would need to purchase software. Dr. Melnick added he is familiar with DocuSign and there is no need to have the software when your signature is requested.

Mr. Shumaker asked if this was for internal use only. Mr. Papish said initially it would be internal use only, but the long-term plan would include sending signature requests to the public as needed.

Mr. Hamlin asked for a motion to approve SWCAA's proposed Electronic Signature Policy. Dr. Melnick made a motion to adopt the proposed Electronic Signature Policy and Ms. Kendall seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Executive Session

None.

Control Officer Report

Mr. Papish summarized the information presented in the agenda and offered to answer questions in the Control Officer Report.

NACAA asks EPA Administrator to Withdraw PM NAAQS Proposal (June 29, 2020) – The National Association of Clean Air Agencies (NACAA) submitted comments to EPA on the Administrator’s proposed decision to retain the current particular matter (PM) National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) without revision. In the comments, NACAA expresses its views that 1) the PM NAAQS review process was flawed, 2) this flawed process resulted in a flawed proposed decision, particularly with respect to the primary NAAQS for fine PM (PM_{2.5}); and 3) highly credible parties find that the scientific evidence supports strengthening the primary PM_{2.5} standards. Among the flaws of the process identified by NACAA are that the “Back-to-Basics Process for Reviewing National Ambient Air Quality Standards” memorandum issued in May 2018 by then-Administrator Pruitt resulted in a truncated process that sacrificed thoroughness, deliberation and scientific integrity for the sake of expediency; CASAC lacked the expertise needed to conduct the PM NAAQS review and the WASHINGTON UPDATE June 27 – July 3, 2020 www.4cleanair.org 2 Administrator’s October 2018 dismissal of the expert PM Review Panel exacerbated this deficit; CASAC did not consider the latest science; and CASAC’s approach to making a causal determination of mortality due to PM_{2.5} exposure demanded an unreasonable and unnecessary burden of proof. Based on these findings and others, NACAA has recommended that the Administrator withdraw the proposal, reappoint the former PM Review Panel, reconvene CASAC and allow for a revised review process that corrects the flaws of the previous review. For further information: http://www.4cleanair.org/sites/default/files/Documents/NACAA_CommentsPM_NAAQS_Proposal-06292020-lh.pdf

Study Further Bolsters Evidence of Causal Link Between PM_{2.5} Exposure and Premature Death (June 26, 2020) – In a study published in Science Advances researchers at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health provide “the most comprehensive evidence to date” of the causal link between long-term exposure to PM_{2.5} at levels below the current annual 12-microgram-per-cubicmeter health-based National Ambient Air Quality Standard and premature mortality among older Americans. In conducting their study, the researchers examined 16 years’ worth of data on deaths and PM_{2.5} exposures among 68.5 million Medicare enrollees, adjusting for such factors as body mass index, smoking, ethnicity, income and education and taking into consideration such factors as satellite data, land-use information and weather variables. Based on this study, they found that an annual decrease in PM_{2.5} pollution would result in a 6- to 7-percent decrease in mortality risk. This, in turn, led them to estimate that strengthening the annual PM_{2.5} NAAQS to 10 µg/m³ would save over 143,000 lives in one decade. In a press statement, a co-author of the study said, “The Environmental Protection Agency has proposed retaining current national air quality standards. But, as our new analysis shows, the current standards aren’t protective enough, and strengthening them could save thousands of lives. With the public comment period for the EPA proposal ending on June 29, we hope our results can inform policymakers’ decisions about potentially updating the standards.” For further information: <https://advances.sciencemag.org/content/early/2020/06/26/sciadv.aba5692> and <https://www.hsph.harvard.edu/news/press-releases/more-evidence-of-causal-linkbetween-air-pollution-and-early-death/>

EPA Releases Annual Air Quality Trends Report (June 8, 2020) – EPA released its annual report summarizing information about trends in and the status of air quality in the U.S. Our Nation’s Air – EPA Celebrates 50 Years! includes data through 2019 and documents dramatic improvements in air quality across America since 1970, during a time when the country experienced economic growth and increases in population, energy use and vehicle miles traveled. The report, which is online and interactive, focuses primarily on criteria pollutants, but includes information about certain hazardous air pollutants as well. According to EPA, from 1970 to 2019 emissions of criteria pollutants and their precursors decreased 77 percent, while the economy grew 285 percent. Emissions of hazardous air pollutants between 1990 and 2017 dropped 74 percent. Specifically, between 2017 and 2019, emissions of criteria pollutants and their precursors decreased 7 percent and the number of days listed as unhealthy for sensitive groups in the Air Quality Index dropped by 34 percent. For further information: <https://gispub.epa.gov/air/trendsreport/2020/#home>

EPA To Terminate COVID-19 Enforcement Discretion Policy by August 31, 2020 (June 29, 2020) – In a new memorandum, Assistant Administrator Susan Bodine, head of EPA’s Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance (OECA), has announced that the temporary pandemic enforcement policy outlined in a March 26, 2020 memo, will terminate on August 31, 2020. In the memo, EPA notes that “Nothing herein limits the ability of the EPA to exercise enforcement discretion on a case-by-case basis regarding any noncompliance, including noncompliance caused by the COVID-19 public health emergency, before or after the temporary policy is terminated.” The memorandum also notes that the policy could end prior to that date, with seven days’ public notice. For further information: <https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2020-03/documents/oecamemooncovid19implications.pdf>

President Signs Executive Order to Expedite Environmental Review of Infrastructure Projects (June 4, 2020) – Citing his March 13th declaration of a national emergency attributed to the COVID-19 pandemic, President Trump signed an executive order directing federal agencies to use their “emergency authorities and other authorities” to expedite the review and permitting of infrastructure investments such as highways, civil works, energy and transportation projects, as well as projects on federal lands. The president has determined these interventions are necessary in order to help prevent “a potentially protracted economic recovery with persistent high unemployment.” The order, titled “Accelerating the Nation’s Economic Recovery from the COVID-19 Emergency by Expediting Infrastructure Investments and Other Activities,” instructs federal agencies to use, “to the fullest extent possible,” emergency procedures, statutory exemptions, categorical exclusions, existing analyses and other measures to expedite the review of these projects under the National Environmental Policy Act, the Endangered Species Act and the Clean Water Act, and to identify other authorities that may provide for emergency or expedited treatment of agency actions pertinent to infrastructure, energy, environmental or natural resources matters. In the introductory section of the order, the President states, “From the beginning of my Administration, I have focused on reforming and streamlining an outdated regulatory system that has held back our economy with needless paperwork and costly delays. Antiquated regulations and bureaucratic practices have hindered American infrastructure investments, kept America’s building trades workers from working, and prevented our citizens from developing and enjoying the benefits of world-class infrastructure.” The order requires the heads of federal agencies to provide status reports on their actions to advance the order’s

directives every 30 days for the duration of the national emergency. For further information: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/eoaccelerating-nations-economic-recovery-covid-19-emergency-expeditinginfrastructure-investments-activities/>

Mr. Papish said the agency is currently reviewing the general rules and is making some revisions which will be brought before the Board. Additionally, revisions are being made to the employee handbook which will also be brought before the Board. Mr. Papish also reminded the Board a cost of living fee increase will be proposed at an upcoming meeting.

Board Policy Discussion Issues

None.

Issues for Next Meeting

- A. Public Hearing.
 - 1. As Necessary.
- B. New Business/Unfinished Business.
 - 1. As Necessary.
- C. Board Policy Discussion Issues.
 - 1. As Necessary.
- D. Meeting Date and Location.
 - 1. September 3, 2020 at 3:00 p.m. Southwest Clean Air Agency, 11815 NE 99th Street, Vancouver, Washington.

The next Board of Directors meeting will be held on September 3, 2020 at 3:00 p.m., Southwest Clean Air Agency, Vancouver, Washington.

Board Meeting Attendance:


JURISDICTION	J 2020	F 2020	M 2020	A 2020	M 2020	J 2020	J 2020	A 2020	S 2019	O 2019	N 2019	D 2019
Clark County	+	+	+	+	+	0	C	+	+	0	+	C
Cowlitz County	+	0	+	+	+	+	C	+	+	+	+	C
Lewis County	+	+	+	+	+	0	C	+	+	0	A	C
Skamania County	+	0	+	+	+	+	C	+	+	0	A	C
Wahkiakum County	+	+	+	+	0	0	C	0	+	+	+	C
Cathlamet	+	A	0	A	+	+	C	+	+	0	+	C
Centralia	0	+	+	+	+	+	C	0	+	+	+	C
Longview	0	A	+	+	+	+	C	+	+	+	0	C
Stevenson	0	+	+	+	0	+	C	+	+	+	+	C
Vancouver	0	A	A	+	+	+	C	+	+	0	+	C
Member-At-Large	+	+	+	+	+	+	C	+	+	+	+	C

+ = regular member present; 0 = unrepresented; A = alternate present; C = cancelled meeting

Mr. Hamlin adjourned the meeting without objection at 3:25 p.m.

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 Chair

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 Executive Director