

Southwest Clean Air Agency

Board of Directors Minutes

March 4, 2021

The regular meeting of the Southwest Clean Air Agency Board of Directors was held in the Southwest Clean Air Agency office, Vancouver, Washington on March 4, 2021.

Those present were: Bob Hamlin, Chair, Skamania County
Ryan Smith, Vice-Chair, Member at Large
Erik Paulsen, Director, City of Vancouver
Joe Gardner, Director, Cowlitz County
Robert Stowe, Director, Town of Cathlamet
Dr. Alan Melnick, Director, Clark County
Lee Tischer, Director, Wahkiakum County
Sean Swope, Director, Lewis County
Ben Shumaker, Director, City of Stevenson
Ruth Kendall, Director, City of Longview

Excused: 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 February 4, 2021 minutes. Mr. Gardner moved and Dr. Melnick seconded that the minutes for the February 4, 2021 Board meeting be approved. Motion passed.

Consent Agenda

Mr. Hamlin asked for approval of the Consent Agenda including voucher numbers 245 through 269 and 271 in the amount of \$21,298.36 which have been approved for payment by the Executive Director, voucher number 270 in the amount of \$20,700.00, December 2020 Salaries in the amount of \$116,263.65, December 2020 Benefits in the amount of \$45,863.57, January 2021 Salaries in the amount of \$107,996.46 and January 2021 Benefits in the amount of \$45,716.39. Mr. Shumaker moved and Dr. Melnick seconded approval of the Consent Agenda. Motion passed.

March 4, 2021

Changes to Agenda

None

Info Items & Public Comment

None

Public Hearing

None

Unfinished Business/New Business

None

Executive Session

None.

Control Officer Report

Mr. Papish summarized the information provided in the Control Officer Report and offered to answer any questions.

New DOJ Memo Withdraws Bans on SEPs, Settlement Limits (February 4, 2021) Citing a day-one Executive Order from the Biden Administration, the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) has withdrawn a series of policies limiting the Department's environmental enforcement tools. In a memorandum to DOJ's Environment and Natural Resources Division (ENRD), Deputy Assistant Attorney General Jean E. Williams withdrew memoranda that blocked supplemental environmental projects (SEPs), narrowed ENRD's enforcement priorities, and blocked the use of mitigation measures in environmental settlements reached with DOJ. "Because these memoranda are inconsistent with longstanding Division policy and practice and because they may impede the full exercise of enforcement discretion in the Division's cases, I have determined that withdrawal is appropriate pursuant to Executive Order 13,990," Williams wrote. President Biden's January 20, 2021 executive order directed all federal agencies to "immediately review" regulations and other agency actions that conflict with the new administration's commitment to addressing climate change and environmental justice. "After further assessment, the Division may issue new guidance regarding matters addressed in the now withdrawn documents", the memorandum reads. For further information: <https://www.justice.gov/enrd/page/file/1364716/download>

Federal Court Vacates and Remands EPA's "Science Transparency" Rule (February 1, 2021) – The U.S. District Court for the District of Montana granted a motion by EPA to vacate and remand the January 6, 2021 rule, "Strengthening Transparency in Pivotal Science Underlying Significant Regulatory Actions and Influential Scientific Information," also known as the "Science Transparency" or "Secret Science" rule promulgated by the Trump Administration. The rule, "Strengthening Transparency in Pivotal Science Underlying

March 4, 2021

Significant Regulatory Actions and Influential Scientific Information,” would have limited EPA’s discretion to consider, in its regulatory decision-making, scientific research for which underlying data are not publicly available. For further information:

[http://www.4cleanair.org/sites/default/files/Documents/EDF-v-EPAD Mt Motion to Vacate 1-31-21.pdf](http://www.4cleanair.org/sites/default/files/Documents/EDF-v-EPAD_Mt_Motion_to_Vacate_1-31-21.pdf) (EPA motion for vacatur and remand) and

<http://www.4cleanair.org/sites/default/files/Documents/EDFvEPA-DMtOrder02012021.pdf> (U.S. District Court order dated February 2, 2021)

New Administration Withdraws Previous Administration’s Proposed FY 2021 Budget Cuts (January 31, 2021) – President Biden sent a letter to Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) and the President of the Senate Kamala Harris officially withdrawing 73 proposed rescissions to the recently adopted FY 2021 budget that the previous Administration sent to Congress on January 14, 2021. The proposed rescissions would have resulted in decreases of \$27.4 billion to federal programs, including EPA. Specifically, they would have reduced approximately half of the funds appropriated for state and local categorical grants (the account that includes Section 103/105 funding) and cut the funds for the Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA) from \$90 million to \$10 million. Reductions were also proposed for EPA’s Office of Research and Development and environmental education and environmental justice programs. For further information: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statementsreleases/2021/01/31/letter-from-president-joe-biden-to-the-speaker-of-the-houseof-representatives-and-the-president-of-the-senate/>

Emissions from Fossil Fuel Combustion Responsible for Nearly One in Five Total Global Deaths in 2018 (February 9, 2021) – Researchers released a study in which they estimate that “exposure to particulate matter from the burning of fossil fuel accounted for 18 percent of total global deaths in 2018 – a little less than 1 out of 5.” In “Global mortality from outdoor fine particle pollution generated by fossil fuel combustion: Results from GEOS-Chem,” published in *Environmental Research*, researchers from Harvard and the three British institutions, the University of Birmingham, University of Leicester and University College of London, report on their use of the chemical transport model GEOS-Chem, a 3-D global model of atmospheric chemistry that has a high spatial resolution allowing for the globe to be divided into a grid with boxes as small as 50 kilometers (km) x 60 km so that air pollution levels can be viewed box by box. Among their findings are an estimated annual 8.7 million premature deaths globally; although the majority of these deaths were in China and India parts of the eastern U.S., Europe and Southeast Asia were also flagged. The researchers conclude that their study “demonstrates that the fossil fuel component of PM_{2.5} contributes a large mortality burden. The steeper concentration-response function slope at lower concentrations leads to larger estimates than previously found in Europe and North America, and the slower drop-off in slope at higher concentrations results in larger estimates in Asia. Fossil fuel combustion can be more readily controlled than other sources and precursors of PM_{2.5} such as dust or wildfire smoke, so this is a clear message to policymakers and stakeholders to further incentivize a shift to clean sources of energy.” For further information:

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0013935121000487> and

<https://www.seas.harvard.edu/news/2021/02/deaths-fossil-fuel-emissions-higherpreviously-thought>

Washington State Legislature Introduces a Bill Concerning Long-Term Forest Health and the Reduction of Wildfire Dangers (January 13, 2021). The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has direct charge and responsibility over all matters pertaining to forest fire services in the state. The forest fire-related duties of the DNR include enforcing all forest fire-related laws, investigating the cause of forest fires, and directing fire suppression efforts. In 2007 the Legislature designated DNR as the state lead in developing a comprehensive forest health program for the state. As part of that designation, DNR was directed to gather and disseminate forest health information, to coordinate forest health monitoring activities, and to coordinate with universities and other agencies to provide landowners with technical assistance regarding forest health. House Bill 1168 creates a wildfire response, forest restoration, and community resilience account, and requires DNR to submit a biennial report to the legislature on expenditures and progress towards implementing the wildland fire protection strategic plan and forest health strategic plan. The bill requires DNR to develop a mapping tool to identify small forestland owners within wildfire risk areas, adds provisions regarding coordination, including with Indian tribes and with the US Forest Service, adds provisions to expand workforce development and training, and adds provisions to seek to accelerate NEPA for forest health and resiliency projects. A substitute bill introduced on February 2nd requires DNR to coordinate to develop the small forest landowner forest health program and to develop and implement a wildland fire aviation support plan. For further information:

<https://app.leg.wa.gov/billssummary?BillNumber=1168&Year=2021&Initiative=false>

Board Policy Discussion Issues

None.

Issues for Next Meeting

- A. Public Hearing.
 - 1. As Necessary.
- B. New Business/Unfinished Business.
 - 1. Cost of Living Adjustments
 - 2. Merit Pool
 - 3. ED Performance Evaluation.
- C. Board Policy Discussion Issues.
 - 1. As Necessary.
- D. Meeting Date and Location.
 - 1. April 1, 2021 at 3:00 p.m. Southwest Clean Air Agency, 11815 NE 99th Street, Vancouver, Washington.

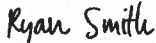
The next Board of Directors meeting will be held on April 1, 2021 at 3:00 p.m., Southwest Clean Air Agency, Vancouver, Washington.


Board Meeting Attendance:

JURISDICTION	J 2021	F 2021	M 2021	A 2020	M 2020	J 2020	J 2020	A 2020	S 2020	O 2020	N 2020	D 2020
Clark County	+	+	+	+	+	0	C	+	+	+	+	C
Cowlitz County	+	+	+	+	+	+	C	+	+	+	+	C
Lewis County	+	+	+	+	+	0	C	+	0	+	0	C
Skamania County	+	+	+	+	+	+	C	+	+	0	+	C
Wahkiakum County	+	A	+	+	0	0	C	0	0	+	+	C
Cathlamet	+	0	+	A	+	+	C	+	+	+	+	C
Centralia	0	+	0	+	+	+	C	0	+	+	+	C
Longview	+	+	+	+	+	+	C	+	+	+	0	C
Stevenson	0	+	+	+	0	+	C	+	+	+	+	C
Vancouver	+	+	+	+	+	+	C	+	+	+	+	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 3:31 p.m.

DocuSigned by:

67E11A8139C84F4...
 Vice-Chair

DocuSigned by:

7A3050CB275B407...
 Executive Director