

Southwest Clean Air Agency

Board of Directors Minutes

March 3, 2022

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 3, 2022.

Those present were: Bob Hamlin, Chair, Skamania County
Ryan Smith, Vice-Chair, Member at Large
Dr. Alan Melnick, Director, Clark County
Ruth Kendall, Director, City of Longview
Sean Swope, Director, Lewis County
Ben Shumaker, Director, City of Stevenson
Arne Mortensen, Director, Cowlitz County
Max Vogt, Director, City of Centralia
Kim Harless, Director, City of Vancouver
Robert Stowe, Director, Town of Cathlamet

Excused: Lee Tischer, Director, Wahkiakum County

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 3, 2022 minutes. Dr. Melnick moved and Mr. Smith seconded that the minutes for the February 3, 2022 Board meeting be approved. Motion passed.

Consent Agenda

Mr. Hamlin asked for approval of the Consent Agenda including voucher numbers 232 through 259 in the amount of \$36,177.16 which have been approved for payment by the Executive Director, December 2021 Financial Statement, January 2022 Financial Statement, December 2021 Salaries and Benefits in the amount of \$152,610.95 and January 2022 Salaries and Benefits in the amount of \$149,066.19. Mr. Smith moved and Dr. Melnick seconded approval of the Consent Agenda. Motion passed.

Changes to Agenda

None

Info Items & Public Comment

Mr. Hamlin opened discussion on the Statewide Emission Inventory and recognized Mr. Papish. Mr. Papish said the data is from Washington Department of Ecology and every few years they put together a comprehensive inventory of all emissions in the state. The data used for this discussion is from 2017. There are twenty-five emission source categories and the percentage of pollutants from each source category is shown in tons. Mr. Papish said the discussion will focus on the top six pollutants and the top four emission sources for each pollutant. The slides showed for carbon monoxide, ammonia, particulate matter (PM2.5), sulfur dioxide and volatile organic compounds the top pollution source is wildfires. On road mobile sources are the largest contributor to nitrogen oxides.

Dr. Melnick asked if methane was represented in this inventory. Mr. Papish said this inventory does not include any of the greenhouse gas emissions.

Mr. Hamlin asked if the coal-fired power plants are represented in the inventory. Mr. Papish said they are included in the large point source category.

Mr. Mortensen and Dr. Melnick suggested a presentation on the environmental effects or the effects on people from these pollutants for a future meeting.

Mr. Vogt asked which pollutant is the worst for SWCAA's jurisdiction. Mr. Papish replied it is fine particulates or PM2.5 as it is often referred to. While the slide shows wildfires to be the largest contributor that is only during the summer and for a short amount of time. Residential wood combustion is a large contributor in residential settings during the winter months.

Dr. Melnick asked if a geographic representation of the location of the pollutants could be presented. Mr. Papish said he would research this data and get back to the board.

Mr. Hamlin asked if the data could be shown by county verse statewide. Mr. Papish said this data was available by county.

The Board thanked Mr. Papish for his presentation.

Public Hearing

None

Executive Session

None

Unfinished Business/New Business

None

Control Officer Report

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

In Draft Reports CASAC Recommends EPA Make PM NAAQS More Protective of Public Health (February 4, 2022) – The Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee (CASAC) released two draft reports – prepared by the CASAC Particulate Matter (PM) Review Panel – one each on the review of EPA staff draft documents prepared for the agency’s reconsideration of the PM National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS): the Policy Assessment (PA) and the Supplemental Integrated Science Assessment (ISA). In the draft report on the Draft PA, Panel members write, regarding the annual PM_{2.5} standard, that “all CASAC members agree that the current level of the annual standard [12 micrograms per cubic meter, $\mu\text{g}/\text{c}3$] is not sufficiently protective of public health and should be lowered. As to the level of the annual PM_{2.5} standard, the Panel states in the draft report that “the majority of the CASAC finds that an annual average in the range of 8-10 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}3$ would be appropriate” for various reasons, including, among others, that “the range of 8-10 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}3$ is supported by placing more weight on epidemiologic studies with mean concentrations below 10 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}3$, including some newer studies not cited in the ISA and by considering Canadian studies, some of which had means even lower than 8 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}3$. A recommendation of 8-10 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}3$ is also supported by placing emphasis on the protection of vulnerable demographic groups. Panel members also write in their draft report that the majority of CASAC members finds “that the available evidence calls into questions that adequacy of the current [35- $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}3$] 24-hour standard” and, “conditional on retaining the current form, the majority of CASAC members favored lowering the 24-hour standard.” This majority finds that a range of 25-30 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}3$ would be adequately protective. The Panel further comments in this draft report that “CASAC is concerned that the compressed timeframe for this and other recent CASAC reviews has made it difficult for the CASAC to provide the highest quality review possible. The compressed timeframe for simultaneously reviewing large documents is not optimal. It is also not optimal that the timeframe does not allow for development of second drafts of documents that incorporate CASAC advice (should the CASAC recommend second drafts). The CASAC recommends that for future reviews, the EPA follow a review plan that allows for adequate time for the CASAC to review the documents and for sufficient time for the EPA to incorporate CASAC advice into second drafts (if requested by the CASAC). CASAC will meet virtually to discuss the two draft reports, and take public comment, on February 25, February 28 and March 4. For further information:

https://casac.epa.gov/ords/sab/f?p=105:19:9896424682485:::RP,19:P19_ID:966#draft

DOT, DOE Announce \$5 Billion EV Infrastructure Funding Framework, Joint Infrastructure Office (February 9, 2022) - The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) and Department of Energy (DOE) jointly announced a \$5 billion framework to fund electric vehicle infrastructure under a National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) Formula Program

established by the 2021 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL). The program will be administered by a DOT and DOE Joint Office of Energy and Transportation that was created through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) to deploy a network of electric vehicle chargers, zero emission fueling infrastructure, and zero-emission transit and school buses. The program will provide nearly \$5 billion over five years to help states create a network of EV charging stations along designated Alternative Fuel Corridors, particularly along the Interstate Highway System. If those are fully built out with charging stations roughly every 50 miles, states can instead fund infrastructure on other public roads or in accessible areas such as public parking facilities, schools and parks. The funds apply under an 80-20 cost share, meaning state or private funds must make up 20 percent of the projects funded. The cost of developing the plans is reimbursable from the federal money. The total amount available to states in Fiscal Year 2022 under the NEVI Formula Program is \$615 million. States must submit an EV Infrastructure Deployment Plan before they can access these funds. In states that do not submit a plan, DOT will award the funds directly to local jurisdictions or give it to other states. State plans must be submitted to the Joint Office of Energy and Transportation by Aug. 1. The Federal Highway Administration will issue approvals by Sept. 30. A second, competitive grant program designed to further increase EV charging access in locations throughout the country, including in rural and underserved communities, will be announced later this year. For further information:

https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/bipartisan-infrastructure-law/nevi_formula_program.cfm

Fifty House Members Urge President to Rescind EO Calling for Federal Government to Achieve 100 Percent ZEV Acquisitions by 2035 (January 24, 2022) – Fifty members of the U.S. House of Representatives sent a letter to President Biden expressing “strong opposition” to Executive Order (EO) 14057, issued on December 8, 2021, and asking that the President withdraw it. In particular, the lawmakers object to the provision of the EO, titled “Catalyzing Clean Energy Industries and Jobs Through Federal Sustainability,” calling for a “coordinated whole-of-government approach” under which “the Federal Government shall use its scale and procurement power to achieve 100 percent zero-emission vehicle acquisitions by 2035.” The signatories argue in their letter that this policy “ignores the challenges presented with forcing a single-technology approach to the federal government’s vehicle procurement. It also completely disregards the opportunities presented to reduce both cost and emissions immediately through traditional and emerging liquid motor fuels.” The order, they say, leaves no significant role for high-octane liquid fuels in achieving the efficiency advances the Administration seeks: “Cleaner liquid motor fuels, like ethanol, renewable diesel and sustainable aviation fuel, can make substantial contributions to national security and sustainability. Biofuel manufacturers are developing carbon capture projects designed to reduce the carbon intensity of ethanol and are working to continue reducing emissions in the near future.” The Representatives also state that as the nation, in the past year, has faced a pandemic, national disasters that have strained the energy grid and cybersecurity attacks on our fuel supply, “it is inappropriate and irresponsible to make sweeping decisions that increase energy dependence on our greatest international threat.” Rep. Ashley Hinson (R-IA) and Rep. August Pfluger (R-TX) led their colleagues in sending this letter. In a press statement, Rep. Hinson said, “President Biden's Executive Order ignores the benefits of readily available biofuels and relies on offshore supply chains controlled by the Chinese Communist Party – delivering a win to our greatest adversary and a gut-punch to Iowa’s biofuel producers and the American energy industry. The Administration needs to rescind this out-of-

touch Executive Order and work with our renewable fuel industry to bolster national security, create American jobs, and lower emissions.” For further information:

[https://mcusercontent.com/ffedde7e54b71a41a9505fff1/files/bdf3496c-8add-c740-96c0-0e3eff5e04a6/1.24.21 Letter to POTUS re EO 14057.pdf](https://mcusercontent.com/ffedde7e54b71a41a9505fff1/files/bdf3496c-8add-c740-96c0-0e3eff5e04a6/1.24.21%20Letter%20to%20POTUS%20re%20EO%2014057.pdf)

Mr. Papish said the lawsuit by 350 Seattle, et al has been appealed. He said he would update the Board as more information becomes available.

Mr. Papish said SWCAA completed their fiscal year 19/20 and 20/21 audit with the State Auditor’s Office. There were no findings or management letters.

Mr. Hamlin opened discussion on returning to in-person meetings and recognized Dr. Melnick. Dr. Melnick said the case numbers for Clark County are coming down. While the numbers are decreasing, they remain high and vaccination rates are still low. The CDC has changed masking requirements to consider hospital rates along with case numbers. Governor Inslee has also lifted the indoor mask mandate effective March 12, 2022. Conditions are improving, however, guidance from Washington Labor and Industries has not been released. The Board decided waiting until May to meet in-person and/or a hybrid option is the best course of action.

Board Policy Discussion Issues

None.

Issues for Next Meeting

A. Public Hearing.

1. As Necessary.

B. New Business/Unfinished Business.

1. Fee Restructuring
2. Cost of Living Adjustments
3. Merit Pool
4. Budget

C. Board Policy Discussion Issues.

1. As Necessary.

D. Meeting Date and Location.

1. April 7, 2022 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 7, 2022 at 3:00 p.m., Southwest Clean Air Agency, Vancouver, Washington.

Board Meeting Attendance:


JURISDICTION	J 2022	F 2021	M 2021	A 2021	M 2021	J 2021	J 2021	A 2021	S 2021	O 2021	N 2021	D 2021
Clark County	+	+	+	+	+	+	C	+	+	+	+	C
Cowlitz County	+	+	+	+	+	+	C	+	+	0	0	C
Lewis County	0	+	+	+	0	+	C	+	+	0	+	C
Skamania County	+	+	+	0	+	+	C	+	+	A	+	C
Wahkiakum County	+	0	+	+	+	+	C	0	0	+	+	C
Cathlamet	+	+	+	+	+	+	C	+	+	+	+	C
Centralia	+	+	0	+	+	0	C	0	+	+	0	C
Longview	+	+	+	+	+	+	C	+	+	+	+	C
Stevenson	+	+	+	+	A	+	C	A	0	0	+	C
Vancouver	+	+	+	0	+	+	C	+	0	0	+	C
Member-At-Large	0	+	+	+	+	+	C	0	+	+	+	C

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

Mr. Hamlin adjourned the meeting without objection at 3:46 p.m.

DocuSigned by:

AFF05AE8DA0E4F1...
 Chair

DocuSigned by:

7A3556CB273B487...
 Executive Director