

Southwest Clean Air Agency

Board of Directors Minutes

September 1, 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 September 1, 2022.

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

Excused: None

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 August 4, 2022 minutes. Dr. Melnick moved and Mr. Stowe seconded that the minutes for the August 4, 2022, Board meeting be approved. Motion passed.

Consent Agenda

Mr. Hamlin asked for approval of the Consent Agenda including voucher numbers 45 through 47 and 49 through 73 and 75 through 77 in the amount of \$14,111.80 which have been approved for payment by the Executive Director, vouchers 48 and 74 in the amount of \$37,086.30, July 2022 Salaries and Benefits in the amount of \$167,852.64. Dr. Melnick moved and Mr. Smith seconded that the Consent Agency be approved. Motion passed.

Changes to Agenda

None

Info Items & Public Comment

Mr. Hamlin opened discussion on the proposed changes to SWCAA 400 and recognized Mr. Papish. Mr. Papish said SWCAA likes to keep the rules up to date by an annual or every other year revisions of the rules. Pursuant to the U.S. Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7401 et seq.) and the Washington Clean Air Act (RCW 70.94), the policy of SWCAA is to prevent violations of federal, state and local air pollution regulations, to provide uniform administration and enforcement of the aforementioned regulations, and to effectuate the requirements and purpose of Chapter 70A.15 Revised Code of Washington (RCW). The General Regulations for Air Pollution Sources (SWCAA 400) establish rules to control and regulate emission of air contaminants from sources within the jurisdiction of the Agency.

The Agency is proposing the following changes to SWCAA 400:

Administrative editing.

Minor revisions to rule language to increase rule clarity. The word 'shall' is replaced with 'must' in affected rules sections.

Update adoption by reference of federal rules.

Adoption date of Federal rules updated. Adoption citations for Federal New Source Performance Standards updated to match current delegation. Adoption of federal plan for landfills in 40 CFR 62 Subpart OOO. (400-025, 400-070, 400-115).

Update definitions.

VOC. (400-030).

Add exemption from water heater standards for pool heaters.

Water heater standards revised to exempt pool heaters from second tier emission standards. (400-070).

Revise Small Unit Notification category requirements.

EPA test method citations added for small boilers/heaters. Gasoline added to allowable fuels for emergency service engines. (400-072).

Add registration and permitting exemptions.

Registration and permitting exemptions added for gas fired rooftop comfort heating units and gas fired freeze protection units. (400-101, 400-109).

Permitting for coffee roasters.

Requirement for mandatory permitting of select equipment moved from general requirements section to permit application section. (400-070, 400-109).

Mr. Papish said the next step is for SWCAA to public notice the proposed changes, hold a public hearing and collect comments. Any comments will be brought before the board in November at which time SWCAA hopes to adopt the proposed changes to SWCAA 400.

Mr. Hamlin opened discussion on lead in aviation gas and recognized Mr. Papish. Mr. Papish said he had a short presentation regarding the use of lead in aviation gas. Thomas Midgley Jr. developed leaded gas and the first CFCs (freon). Unfortunately, his inventions had huge environmental impacts including lead poisoning and depletion of the ozone layer. Mr. Midgley is believed to have caused more harm to life on the planet than anyone else in history. Lead was introduced into gasoline for its antiknock properties which allowed for increased octane and safety. It was branded as ethyl and became wildly popular until the 1970 Clean Air Act which introduced catalytic converters to automobiles. This forced the gasoline industry to remove lead from gasoline. Finally in 1996 all leaded gasoline was banned by the Clean Air Act for use in vehicles other than aircraft, racing cars, farm equipment and marine engines. A number of other countries continued to use leaded gas until 2021 when the last remaining country (Algeria) stopped using leaded gas in vehicles making it a global ban.

The Clean Air Act reduced the lead emissions and reduced lead concentrations in the blood of children in the United States. Children are particularly vulnerable to lead poisoning and can suffer permanent impacts on the development of the brain and nervous system. The remaining gas that contains lead is used for piston driven engines like small planes. EPA conducted research on lead in the air at thousands of airports. It was determined that some of the larger airports are over the lead standard at the point of maximum concentration which is during taxi. Once the plane takes off the lead is reduced to within the lead standard as concentrations drop significantly with distance. In a January 2022 press release the EPA announced plans to issue a proposed endangerment finding for piston-engine aircraft that run on leaded fuel in 2022. EPA plans to issue any final endangerment finding in 2023. In February 2022 EAGLE Initiative (FAA & Petroleum Industry) announced a goal to transition to lead-free aviation fuels for aircrafts by the end of 2030.

The Board thanked Mr. Papish for his presentation.

Public Hearing

None

Unfinished Business/New Business

Mr. Hamlin opened discussion on the CPI fee increase proposal and recognized Mr. Papish. Mr. Papish said SWCAA's Board of Directors has requested SWCAA bring a CPI fee increase to the Board for consideration on an annual basis.

In 2017, SWCAA's Board of Directors approved a 20% fee increase. Fees had not been previously raised since 2008. The Board recommended revising fees on an annual basis equal to the Consumer Price Index (CPI) to keep up with inflation. The purpose of incremental CPI fee increases is to avoid having to do larger (catch-up) fee increases every several years. Since 2019, SWCAA's Board has been adopting annual CPI fee increases to

SWCAA's fees. Last year the Board adopted a 1.3 percent increase to SWCAA's fees and a one cent increase to the per capita fees paid by local governments. The per capita increase was rounded to the nearest cent and went from 54 to 55 cents, resulting in an increase equal to 1.85 percent instead of 1.3 percent.

SWCAA will public notice, hold a public hearing and collect public comments related to raising SWCAA's 2023 fees by last year's Western State's CPI which is equal to 6.1 percent and raising the per capita fee by three cents (from 55 to 58 cents). The three-cent per capita fee increase would be equal to 5.45 percent instead of 6.1 percent. The comment period will be open for 30 days.

Executive Session

None.

Control Officer Report

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

President Signs Inflation Reduction Act (August 16, 2022) - President Biden has signed the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) into law. The law (H.R. 5373) includes \$369 billion in proposed investments to address clean air and climate issues, including hundreds of millions in funds that state and local clean air agencies can use to address climate change, clean technologies, emission reductions and environmental justice. It also includes billions of dollars that advance clean air agency goals, programs, and missions. The U.S. Senate passed the IRA on August 7, 2022 on a vote of 51-50 and the U.S. House passed the bill on August 12, 2022 with a vote of 220-207, using the budget reconciliation process. For further information:

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/5376> and

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2022/08/17/state-fact-sheets-how-the-inflation-reduction-act-lowers-energy-costs-create-jobs-and-tackles-climate-change-across-america/>

Researchers Release Analysis of Data on Air Pollution Exposures and Associated Health Impacts for Over 7,000 Cities Around the World (August 16, 2022) - The Health Effects Institute (HEI) published a report detailing how the biggest cities and urban areas in the world "face some of the worst air quality on the planet." In Air Quality and Health in Cities, released under HEI's State of Global Air Initiative, researchers provide a comprehensive and detailed analysis of 2010 to 2019 air pollution levels and related health impacts in 7,239 cities worldwide, with a focus on fine particulate matter (PM2.5) and nitrogen dioxide (NO2). Among their findings: In 2019, 1.7 million deaths linked to PM2.5 occurred in the cities covered by the analysis, with the greatest health impacts from PM2.5 exposures occurring in Asia, Africa and Eastern and Central Europe. In 2019, 86 percent of the covered cities exceeded the World Health Organization's 10-microgram-per-cubic-meter guideline for annual NO2 exposure, affecting approximately 2.6 billion people. (HEI notes that PM2.5 levels have tended to draw more attention to hotspots around the world because less data has been available for NO2 on a global scale.) The HEI report is accompanied by an interactive website with tools that can be

used to explore, compare, and download data and graphics. For further information: <https://www.stateofglobalair.org/sites/default/files/documents/2022-08/2022-soga-cities-report.pdf>, <https://www.stateofglobalair.org/resources/health-in-cities> and <https://www.stateofglobalair.org/>

Bipartisan House Bill Would Support Growth of Sustainable Aviation Fuel (August 16, 2022) - Rep. Nikema Williams (D-GA) introduced the Aviation Emissions Reduction Opportunity (AERO) Act, legislation intended to reduce air pollution, stimulate clean energy job growth and spur innovation across the nation. Under the bill, \$1.5 billion in grant funding would be provided over five years to support Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF), as well as technology to reduce aviation noise, with the goal of moving the aviation sector toward net-zero emissions. Among the types of U.S. projects that could be funded are ones to produce, blend, transport or store SAF or develop, demonstrate or apply low-emission aviation technologies. The bill would require the use of U.S.-produced iron, steel, manufactured products and construction materials. The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) signed into law by President Biden this week includes a new tax credit of \$1.25 per gallon to support the sale and use of SAF that achieves a 50-percent reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions; an additional 1 cent per gallon would be added for each percentage point by which the fuel’s lifecycle GHG emissions reduction exceeds 50 percent, with a \$1.75-per-gallon cap on the total tax credit. Rep. Williams has noted that the AERO Act will build on the IRA and “provide long-term funding for programs that create cleaner skies, quieter neighborhoods, and good-paying union jobs.” For further information: <https://d12t4t5x3vyizu.cloudfront.net/nikemawilliams.house.gov/uploads/2022/08/AERO-Act-Text.pdf> and <https://nikemawilliams.house.gov/posts/congresswoman-nikema-williams-colleagues-introduce-bipartisan-legislation-to-make-aviation-more-environmentally-friendly>

Federal Health Agencies Unveil EJ Tool to Identify Communities Most Burdened by Cumulative Environmental Health Risks (August 10, 2022) - The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, in partnership with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Office of Environmental Justice, released the “Environmental Justice Index” (EJI), an online mapping and screening tool described as “the first national, place-based tool designed to measure the cumulative impacts of environmental burden through the lens of human health and equity.” The EJI uses data from the U.S. Census Bureau, EPA, the U.S. Mine Safety and Health Administration and the CDC to rank the cumulative impacts of environmental burdens on health for every census tract in the United States. “Cumulative impacts” is defined as “the total harm to human health that occurs from the combination of environmental burden such as pollution and poor environmental conditions, pre-existing health conditions, and social factors such as access to quality healthcare.” The tool creates a single EJI “score” for each census tract based on 36 environmental, social and health factors. It also scores communities on three “modules” in the tool: environmental burden, social vulnerability and health vulnerability. The scores and rankings are intended to help health officials prioritize action for communities most at risk from environmental health burdens. The tool’s databases and maps can also be used to educate and inform the public, analyze local factors driving cumulative impacts on health, and establish goals and measure progress towards environmental health and equity. For further information: <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/placeandhealth/eji/index.html>

EPA Announces Information About High-Risk Sources of Ethelene Oxide (August 3, 2022)

- EPA has issued a press release and provided detailed information on its website announcing that it had estimated elevated cancer risks – at or above 100 in a million – in residential areas near 23 commercial sterilizers due to emissions of ethylene oxide (EtO). (Currently, there are approximately 100 commercial sterilizers in operation in the U.S.) The risk information EPA provided is based on modeling of emissions from the facilities and, according to EPA, is current as of July 27, 2022. EPA noted that it will update the information as new and verified data becomes available. The website provides details about each high-risk site, including the specific location, maps, information about the schedule for that community’s meeting and registration instructions. EPA also plans to develop Clean Air Act standards to limit emissions of EtO and other hazardous air pollutants from commercial sterilizers, which EPA expects to propose later in 2022. At the same time, the agency will propose limits on how EtO can be used in commercial sterilization facilities in order to enhance worker safety. Additionally, EPA announced that it would review regulations for other industries that emit EtO, work with state and local agencies to reduce emissions, expand reporting requirements for commercial sterilizers, use enforcement actions (as necessary) and conduct research to better understand and monitor EtO. For further information: <https://www.epa.gov/hazardous-air-pollutants-ethylene-oxide> and <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-launches-community-engagement-efforts-new-ethylene-oxide-risk-information>

Board Policy Discussion Issues

None.

Issues for Next Meeting

- A. Public Hearing.
 - 1. As Necessary.
- B. New Business/Unfinished Business.
 - 1. CPI Fee Increase Decision
 - 2. SWCAA 400 Rule Revisions
 - 3. Executive Director Evaluation Process
 - 4. Air Toxics Rulemaking Proposal
- C. Board Policy Discussion Issues.
 - 1. As Necessary.
- D. Meeting Date and Location.
 - 1. October 6, 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 October 6, 2022 at 3:00 p.m., Southwest Clean Air Agency, Vancouver, Washington.

Board Meeting Attendance:

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

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

Mr. Hamlin adjourned the meeting without objection at 4:12 p.m.

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 Chair

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 Executive Director