

Southwest Clean Air Agency

Board of Directors Minutes

November 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 November 3, 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
Kim Harless, Director, City of Vancouver
Robert Stowe, Director, Town of Cathlamet
Ruth Kendall, Director, City of Longview
Max Vogt, Director, City of Centralia

Excused: Arne Mortensen, Director, Cowlitz County
Sean Swope, Director, Lewis 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 October 6, 2022 minutes. Mr. Shumaker moved and Mr. Smith seconded that the minutes for the October 6, 2022, Board meeting be approved. Motion passed.

Consent Agenda

Mr. Hamlin asked for approval of the Consent Agenda including voucher numbers 119 through 145 and 147 and through 152 in the amount of \$15,617.22 which have been approved for payment by the Executive Director, voucher 115 in the amount of \$24,072.40, September 2022 Salaries and Benefits in the amount of \$172,414.08. Mr. Smith moved and Ms. Harless seconded that the Consent Agency be approved. Motion passed.

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Changes to Agenda

None

Info Items & Public Comment

None.

Public Hearing

None

Unfinished Business/New Business

Mr. Hamlin opened discussion on adoption of SWCAA's Consolidated Fee Schedule and recognized Mr. Papish. Mr. Papish said SWCAA is proposing for the Board to increase SWCAA's fees by last year's Western State's CPI which is equal to 6.1 percent and proposes to increase the per capita fee by three cents (from 55 to 58 cents). The three-cent per capita fee increase is equal to 5.45 percent instead of 6.1 percent due to rounding to the nearest cent. The proposed Consolidated fee schedule also includes some small administrative edits including reorganization of some of the fees for clarity and deletion of redundant fees. The proposed changes to the Consolidated Fee Schedule are found in Attachment A.

In 2017, SWCAA's Board of Directors approved a 20% fee increase. Fees had not been previously raised since 2008. At that time the Board recommended SWCAA revise 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 periodic larger (catch-up) fee increases. Beginning in 2019, SWCAA's Board started 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 1.8 percent.

On September 16, 2022, SWCAA posted its current proposal to increase the fees by last year's CPI. SWCAA posted the public notice on SWCAA's website and sent out public notification mailings to over 1,700 affected businesses and local governments. SWCAA also sent digital notifications to interested parties who have signed up on SWCAA's website to receive such notifications. In addition, SWCAA held a public hearing on the evening of October 18th. SWCAA received one written comment which is summarized in the Public Hearing Officer Report (Attachment B). No adverse comment was received regarding the proposed fee increase.

Mr. Hamlin asked if SWCAA receives public comment in general. Mr. Papish said it is uncommon for SWCAA to receive public comment. A controversial natural gas facility was proposed a few years ago which generated hundreds of public comments and a large

public hearing with around a 100 people providing comment. Most permits and rule makings are not controversial.

Mr. Vogt how much of the fee increase is related to costs and/or inflation. Mr. Papish said general costs are on the rise with inflation and it is best practice to keep pace with inflation to prevent large fee increases which can create a hardship on business.

Mr. Hamlin asked if anyone had questioned the use of the Western CPI. Mr. Papish said there are several CPI tables and there have been a couple questions about which CPI table SWCAA is using.

Mr. Shumaker asked if the rounding is always up and/or down. Mr. Papish said SWCAA rounds using the traditional method of rounding. This practice has been consistent year to year.

Mr. Hamlin asked for a motion. Mr. Shumaker moved to adopt SWCAA Resolution 2022-03 which adopts the proposed changes to SWCAA's Consolidated Fee Schedule. Mr. Smith seconded the motion, motion passed.

Executive Session

None.

Control Officer Report

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

EPA Announces 2024 HFC Phasedown Level, A 40 Percent Reduction (October 20, 2022)

EPA announced a proposal for the next year's hydrofluorocarbon (HFC) emission limits as part of its ongoing rollout of regulations implementing the American Innovation and Manufacturing (AIM) Act of 2019, passed on a bipartisan basis by Congress on December 27, 2020. The Agency's proposal establishes the methodology for allocating HFC production and consumption allowances for 2024 and later years, similar to the methodology used for issuing allowances in 2022 and 2023. EPA had announced the 2023 phasedown level of 10 percent on September 30, 2024, and the 2024 level of a 40 percent reduction represents the next step, with a final 2036 goal of an 85 percent reduction. HFCs are potent greenhouse gases (GHGs) sometimes used in refrigeration and air conditioning, aerosols, and foam products with a global warming potential hundreds to thousands of times greater than the same amount of CO₂.

For further information:

<https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/biden-administration-continues-phasedown-super-pollutants-combat-climate-change-and>

EPA Announces Upgrades and New Data for EJScreen (October 12, 2022)

EPA has announced improvements to EJScreen, the agency's environmental screening and mapping tool focusing on environmental justice (EJ), which include new updated data and

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features on the platform. These updates (EJScreen 2.1) include more information for the U.S. territories (e.g., environmental, demographic and index data) and supplemental EJ indexes. The supplemental indexes are in addition to the 12 environmental indicators and corresponding EJ indexes that were already on EJScreen. They are designed to help highlight vulnerable communities and include a five-factor demographic index (percent low-income, percent limited English-speaking, percent less than high school education, percent unemployed and low life expectancy). These supplements are intended to provide an additional perspective on possible community vulnerability. The EJScreen updates also include threshold maps that allow users to look across all twelve indexes at once, providing a cumulative perspective; the newest available 2016 – 2020 American Community Survey data from the U.S. Census; and other enhancements to the methodologies and calculations used on the platform. EPA is offering training for EJScreen 2.1 on November 2, 2022, for users to ask questions.

For further information:

<https://www.epa.gov/ejscreen> and <https://www.epa.gov/ejscreen/ejscreen-office-hours-training>

EPA Publishes Proposed Finding of Endangerment for Aircraft Lead Emissions, Sets January 17th Comment Deadline (October 17, 2022)

EPA published in the *Federal Register* (87 Fed. Reg. 62,753) its proposed finding that lead emissions from aircraft engines that operate on leaded fuel cause or contribute to air pollution that may reasonably be anticipated to endanger public health and welfare under Clean Air Act section 231(a). Consideration of an endangerment finding is a first step in the process of exercising EPA's and the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) statutory authorities to address lead pollution from aircraft. EPA has stated that this "proposed finding, if finalized, would not apply new requirements to entities other than EPA and FAA" and notes that it is not, at this time, proposing lead emission standards for aircraft engines. Should EPA finalize the endangerment finding it would then take action to propose regulatory standards. A final finding of endangerment would also trigger FAA's statutory mandate to set standards for the composition or properties of an aircraft fuel or fuel additive that would control or eliminate aircraft lead emissions. FAA has a set of integrated efforts underway focused on a safe transition of the piston-engine aircraft fleet to a lead-free future: 1) the Piston Aviation Fuels Initiative (PAFI) and 2) the FAA-industry partnership to Eliminate Aviation Gasoline Lead Emissions (EAGLE). FAA has also approved the safe use of an unleaded fuel that can be used in many piston-engine aircraft, as well as other aircraft-specific unleaded fuels. EPA will hold a public hearing on this proposed action on November 1, 2022 and accept public comments until January 17, 2023. For further information: <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2022-10-17/pdf/2022-22223.pdf>

Research Study Finds Black Carbon Particles in Fetal Blood and Tissue (October 6, 2022)

Research published in *The Lancet Planetary Health* reported findings of black carbon particles in the circulatory systems of fetuses even at the earliest points in the pregnancies studied. The report further found the substances in fetal liver, lung, and brain tissue, indicating that maternally inhaled particles cross the placenta and enter the fetal bloodstream and organs. According to the researchers, "These findings are especially concerning because this window of exposure is key to organ development." The study looked at sets of samples from babies at birth as well as at seven-20-weeks' gestation, from mothers who had never smoked. In the study of babies at birth, the researchers found a strong correlation between the particle load and residential ambient exposure

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to black carbon during pregnancy. They noted that particulate matter from combustion is ubiquitous in the air, and it appears maternal exposure can have adverse impacts on pregnancy and birth outcomes, possibly linked to disease risk later in the life of the infant.

For further information:

[https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanplh/article/PIIS2542-5196\(22\)00200-5/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanplh/article/PIIS2542-5196(22)00200-5/fulltext)

Board Policy Discussion Issues

None.

Issues for Next Meeting

- A. Public Hearing.
 - 1. As Necessary.
- B. New Business/Unfinished Business.
 - 1. SWCAA 400 Rule Revisions Decision
 - 2. Executive Director Evaluation Process
 - 3. Air Toxics Rulemaking Proposal
- C. Board Policy Discussion Issues.
 - 1. As Necessary.
- D. Meeting Date and Location.
 - 1. January 5, 2023 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 January 5, 2023 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 2022	N 2022	D 2022
Clark County	+	+	+	+	+	+	C	+	+	+	+	C
Cowlitz County	+	+	+	+	+	+	C	0	+	+	0	C
Lewis County	0	0	+	0	0	+	C	+	+	+	0	C
Skamania County	+	+	+	+	+	+	C	+	+	+	+	C
Wahkiakum County	+	+	0	0	+	+	C	A	+	+	+	C
Cathlamet	0	+	+	+	+	0	C	+	+	A	+	C
Centralia	0	+	+	+	0	+	C	0	+	0	+	C
Longview	+	+	+	+	+	0	C	+	+	0	+	C
Stevenson	+	+	+	+	+	A	C	+	+	+	+	C
Vancouver	0	+	+	+	+	0	C	+	+	+	+	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 3:27 p.m.

Chair 

Executive Director 