

Southwest Clean Air Agency

Board of Directors Minutes

March 2, 2023

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 2, 2023.

Those present were: Ryan Smith, Vice-Chair, Member at Large  
Ben Shumaker, Director, City of Stevenson  
Lee Tisher, Director, Wahkiakum County  
Robert Stowe, Director, Town of Cathlamet  
Ruth Kendall, Director, City of Longview  
Max Vogt, Director, City of Centralia  
Arne Mortensen, Director, Cowlitz County  
Kim Harless, Director, City of Vancouver  
Richard Mahar, Director, Skamania County

Excused: Dr. Alan Melnick, Chair, Clark County  
Sean Swope, Director, Lewis County

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

Guests: None

Call to Order

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

Board of Directors Minutes

Mr. Smith asked for consideration of the February 2, 2023 minutes. Mr. Mortensen moved and Mr. Mahar seconded that the minutes for the February 2, 2023, Board meeting be approved. Motion passed.

Consent Agenda

Mr. Smith asked for approval of the Consent Agenda including voucher numbers 271 through 306, 306 through 308 in the amount of \$23,869.43 which have been approved for payment by the Executive Director, voucher 305 in the amount of \$10,957.36, December 2022 Salaries and Benefits in the amount of \$178,605.48. Mr. Tisher moved and Mr. Vogt 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. Smith opened discussion on the Executive Director Performance Review and recognized Mr. Papish. Mr. Papish said the Performance Review Subcommittee met on Thursday, February 9th to discuss the Executive Director performance review process. The committee is recommending a process for evaluation that would involve a high-level survey of staff regarding the overall performance of the agency and its Executive Director to help inform the review along with a goal setting exercise for the upcoming fiscal year that would be used for next year's evaluation.

Mr. Shumaker said the Board wants to gain feedback from staff and will present two questions: (1) is the agency accomplishing it's goal in relation to the mission statement and (2) does the director support the mission statement. He said the Board wanted to keep the questions simple and confidential. There was discussion about continuing the current questionnaire as well as setting goals as part of the next evaluation.

Ms. Kendall asked if the questions being presented to staff would have value to the Board. She expressed concern since there were issues with the prior director. Mr. Shumaker said these questions were a starting point.

Mr. Mortensen said it could be difficult to establish goals. Ms. Kendall suggested seeing if other air agencies set goals for their directors. Mr. Smith agreed it might be difficult since the director is somewhat bound by the state rules and regulations. Mr. Papish said he could reach out to the other air agencies for goal ideas and he would work on some ideas for the next sub-committee meeting.

The Performance Review Subcommittee would perform the Executive Director's review in late March and it would be shared with the full Board at the April Board meeting during executive session.

Mr. Mortensen said depending on when the next sub-committee meeting is scheduled he may be unavailable. Mr. Smith asked if anyone would like to volunteer to take Mr.

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Motensen's place. Discussion ensued. There were no volunteers and it was determined the sub-committee could meet without Mr. Mortensen if necessary.

Mr. Papish said he would arrange for the scheduling of the sub-committee.

#### Executive Session

None.

#### Control Officer Report

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

#### **Executive Order Expands Federal Environmental Justice Ambitions (February 15, 2023)**

President Joe Biden has signed an executive order (EO) that expands on his administration's earlier EO 13985 of January 20, 2021 (Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government). The new EO, "Executive Order on Further Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government", requires federal agencies to produce annual plans to ensure that underserved communities can benefit from their policies. It also requires agencies to designate senior leaders who are accountable for advancing equity. Agencies are directed to produce public equity action plans every year to "assess and include actions to address the barriers underserved communities may face in accessing and benefitting from the agency's policies, programs, and activities." Each agency must establish teams to coordinate their equity initiatives. The EO also established a White House Steering Committee on Equity "to ensure that equity and environmental justice efforts are consistent and mutually reinforcing." For further information:

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2023/02/16/executive-order-on-further-advancing-racial-equity-and-support-for-underserved-communities-through-the-federal-government/>

#### **EPA Announces Upcoming Public Meetings on Reconsideration of Ozone NAAQS**

**(February 13, 2023)** - EPA's Science Advisory Board staff announced two public meetings of the Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee's (CASAC) Ozone Panel, which continues its work to provide advice to EPA on the agency's ongoing reconsideration of the December 2020 final decision to retain the current ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) without revision. During the first meeting, to be held virtually on March 2, 2023, the CASAC Ozone Panel will be briefed by EPA staff on the *Policy Assessment (PA) for the Reconsideration of the Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards, External Review Draft Version 2*. During the second meeting, to be held in person in Durham, NC and virtually on March 29 and 30, 2023, the Panel will peer review the PA and, on March 29, hear oral statements from members of the public wishing to provide them; For further information:

<https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2023-02-13/pdf/2023-02983.pdf>,

#### **Administration Releases U.S. National Blueprint for Transportation Decarbonization**

**(January 10, 2023)** - The Biden-Harris Administration announced the *U.S. National Blueprint*

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*for Transportation Decarbonization: A Joint Strategy to Transform Transportation.* An “interagency framework of strategies and actions,” the Blueprint is based on a September 2022 memorandum of understanding signed by the Administrator of EPA and the Secretaries of the U.S. Departments of Energy, Transportation and Housing and Urban Development to accelerate an affordable and equitable clean transportation future for the nation. The goal of the framework is to eliminate all U.S. transportation sector emissions – including from all modes of travel by land, air and sea – by 2050 with an interim step of achieving a 100-percent-clean electrical grid by 2035. The three key transportation decarbonization strategies overarching the Blueprint are increased convenience through improved community design and land-use planning, improved efficiency through increased options to travel more efficiently and deployment of cleaner, zero-emission vehicles, engines and fuels, including for cars, commercial trucks, transit, off-road, rail, maritime, aviation and pipelines, among others. In a joint statement, the four agency leaders say, “The Blueprint builds on President Biden’s Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Inflation Reduction Act, which together represent historic investments in the future of our nation that will transform how we move and live while we build the backbone of a safer and more sustainable transportation system.” For further information: [The U.S. National Blueprint for Transportation Decarbonization: A Joint Strategy to Transform Transportation | Department of Energy](#)

**Senator, with 33 Co-Sponsors, Proposes Joint Resolution to Disapprove EPA’s Final Heavy-Duty Truck Rule (February 8, 2023)** Senator Deb Fischer (R-NE), joined by 33 co-sponsors, proposed a joint resolution under which Congress would disapprove EPA’s final heavy-duty truck NOx rule (“Control of Air Pollution from New Motor Vehicles: Heavy-Duty Engine and Vehicle Standards”), which was published in the Federal Register on January 24, 2023, to take effect on March 27, 2023. Under the Congressional Review Act, Congress can reverse rules promulgated by the Executive Branch if a majority of Senators and a majority of Representatives vote in favor of a joint resolution and the President signs the action. In a press statement, Senator Fischer states: “The Biden Administration is saddling the trucking industry with an onerous regulation that would jack up vehicle costs and hurt good paying jobs. This aggressive EPA rule – which will hit mom and pop truck operations the hardest – is also ineffective because it incentivizes operators to keep using older, higher-emitting trucks for longer. During a period of high inflation and supply chain disruptions, the last thing this country needs is more expensive freight costs and fewer truckers. I am proud to be leading a large coalition of my colleagues to push back against the Biden Administration’s obsession with excessive climate regulations.” For further information: <https://www.fischer.senate.gov/public/cache/files/d2717a08-23cb-4337-ad55-3585fe6a00ed/maz23050.pdf>

Mr. Papish said there is a bill in the Washington State legislature related to aviation fuel and lead exposure. House Bill 1554 would grant authority to the Washington Department of Transportation to develop guidance aimed to reduce lead exposure at airport operations. Then airports would be required to develop plans to meet the guidance. The airport plans would be submitted to the local air agencies for review, oversight and enforcement. There are currently over fifty (50) airports in SWCAA’s jurisdiction. Mr. Papish is meeting with one of the bill sponsors to gain insight into the implementation.

Ms. Harless said the City of Vancouver is hosting a workshop with stakeholders at Evergreen March 2, 2023

Aviation to discuss House Bill 1554 and forwarded the information to Mr. Papish.

Mr. Mortensen said this would be his first year for determining COLA and merit. Mr. Papish said for several years the merit would vary, but the board decided last year to set the merit pool at 3% and of course the COLA varies depending on inflation. Mr. Mortensen expressed concern that 3% does not seem to incentivize going above and beyond. Mr. Mortensen said if someone works really hard they might be 3.2% while someone who does the bare minimum will receive 2.5%. Mr. Papish agreed there is very little variation of the merit pool applied from one staff evaluation to the other but still people seem motivated by the merit.

Mr. Smith asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Mahar made a motion to adjourn and Mr. Mortensen seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

#### Board Policy Discussion Issues

None.

#### Issues for Next Meeting

- A. Public Hearing.
  - 1. As Necessary.
- B. New Business/Unfinished Business.
  - 1. COLA decision for FY 23/24
  - 2. Executive Director Evaluation
  - 3. SWCAA Budget
  - 4. Updates to Civil Penalty Matrix
  - 5. Air Toxics Rulemaking Proposal
- C. Board Policy Discussion Issues.
  - 1. As Necessary.
- D. Meeting Date and Location.
  - 1. April 6, 2023 at 3:00 p.m. Southwest Clean Air Agency, 11815 NE 99th Street, Vancouver, Washington.

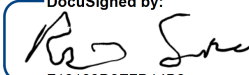
The next Board of Directors meeting will be held on April 6, 2023 at 3:00 p.m., Southwest Clean Air Agency, Vancouver, Washington.

Board Meeting Attendance:

JURISDICTION	J 2023	F 2023	M 2023	A 2022	M 2022	J 2022	J 2022	A 2022	S 2022	O 2022	N 2022	D 2022
Clark County	+	+	0	+	+	+	C	+	+	+	+	C
Cowlitz County	A	+	+	+	+	+	C	0	+	+	0	C
Lewis County	0	+	0	0	0	+	C	+	+	+	0	C
Skamania County	+	+	+	+	+	+	C	+	+	+	+	C
Wahkiakum County	A	+	+	0	+	+	C	A	+	+	+	C
Cathlamet	+	+	+	+	+	0	C	+	+	A	+	C
Centralia	+	+	+	+	0	+	C	0	+	0	+	C
Longview	+	+	+	+	+	0	C	+	+	0	+	C
Stevenson	0	+	+	+	+	A	C	+	+	+	+	C
Vancouver	+	0	+	+	+	0	C	+	+	+	+	C
Member-At-Large	+	+	+	+	+	+	C	+	+	+	+	C

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

Mr. Smith adjourned the meeting without objection at 3:40 p.m.

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 Chair

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 Executive Director