

Southwest Clean Air Agency

Board of Directors Minutes

February 1, 2001

The regular meeting of the Southwest Clean Air Agency Board of Directors was held at the Southwest Clean Air Agency office, Vancouver, Washington on February 1, 2001 at 3:00 p.m.

Those present were: Jack Burkman, Chair, City of Vancouver  
Dan Cothren, Director, Wahkiakum County  
Milton Cox, Director, Member at Large  
Mary Ann Duncan-Cole, Director, City of Stevenson  
Linda Elliott, Director, City of Cathlamet  
Dennis Hadaller, Director, Lewis County  
Don Jensen, Director, City of Longview  
Craig Pridemore, Director, Clark County  
Bud Quinn, Director, Skamania County  
George Raiter, Director, Cowlitz County

Excused: John VerValen, Director, City of Centralia

Also Present: Staff: Robert D. Elliott, Executive Director  
Paul Mairose, Chief Engineer  
Virginia Fry, Secretary

Guests: Myron Saikewicz, Department of Ecology  
Len Dozier, Citizen  
Pamela Henker, H & H Wood Recyclers

Call to Order

Mr. Burkman called the meeting to order. A quorum was confirmed to exist. Mr. Burkman welcomed the new Board members and asked each member to introduce himself or herself. Mr. Burkman asked for consideration of the January 4, 2001 minutes. Mr. Pridemore moved and Mr. Jensen seconded that the minutes for the January 4, 2001 Board meeting be approved. Motion passed.

## Public Comment

None.

## Consent Agenda

Mr. Burkman asked for approval of the Consent Agenda including voucher numbers 463 through 515 in the amount of \$7,432.25 by the Executive Director, voucher numbers 516 through 520 in the amount of \$19,691.67 and the December, 2000 payroll in the amount of \$55,287.26, Resolution 2001-2 to transfer interest income to Operating Account 6901, the December Financial Report, and the December Monthly Activity Report. Mr. Pridemore moved and Mrs. Elliott seconded approval of the Consent Agenda. Motion passed.

## Public Hearing

Mr. Burkman opened the public hearing for the adoption of updated agency rules. Mr. Elliott explained that the purpose of this public hearing is to adopt rules that incorporate the agency's new name, incorporate the legal description of the ozone maintenance plan boundary, and adopt other minor changes to the agency's rules. He said the proposed rule updates were published in the Washington State Register on December 20, 2000. Mr. Elliott reported that a comment letter was received from BFGoodrich Kalama, Inc. asking that the requirement to submit emissions inventory by March 15th be extended to April 15th for their company. BFGoodrich also requested changes in the proposed sentence reading: "At a minimum, the sources satisfying the criteria of 40 CFR 51.320 et seq. (Subpart Q) will be submitted to EPA for inclusion in the national emission database." In response to BFGoodrich's comment letter, Mr. Elliott recommended adding language to the proposed regulation that would allow SWCAA to extend the emission submittal deadline beyond March 15th if a case-by-case review of the circumstances by the Executive Director warranted such action. He said the criteria in 40 CFR 51.320 et. seq. (Subpart Q) is merely a restatement of an existing EPA requirement for SWCAA. He recommended rejection of BFGoodrich's second comment.

Mr. Burkman asked for proponents. There were none.

Mr. Burkman asked for opponents. There were none.

Mr. Burkman asked for discussion by the Board. Following discussion, Mr. Pridemore moved, and Mrs. Duncan-Cole seconded approval of the proposed regulation changes with additional language being added to SWCAA 400-105 (1)(b) to read "upon written request to the Executive Director, an extension of the March 15th emission inventory submittal deadline may be allowed by the Executive Director on a case-by-case basis." Motion passed.

## Unfinished Business/New Business

Mr. Burkman opened the elections for the Chair and Vice Chair during calendar year 2001. Mrs. Duncan-Cole moved and Mr. Cox seconded unanimous approval of Mr. Pridemore as Chair. Motion passed. Mr. Raiter moved, and Mr. Cox seconded unanimous approval of Mr. Hadaller as Vice Chair. Motion passed. Mr. Pridemore thanked Mr. Burkman for the past two years that he served as Chair and expressed his pleasure in working with Mr. Burkman. He said that over the past two years, the Agency's public image and future direction has become more clear through Mr. Burkman's leadership. Mr. Burkman said that SWCAA has a very good Board of Directors.

1. Mr. Elliott reported that the Columbia River Gorge Interagency Coordination Team is meeting in the SWCAA conference room on the third Thursday of each month at 1:30 p.m. He said that the public is welcome to attend the meetings. Mr. Elliott explained that a \$200,000 grant proposal has been submitted to the U.S. EPA as a partnership between SWCAA, Washington DOE (Department of Ecology) and Oregon DEQ (Department of Environmental Quality). He said the grant proposal has three primary elements for the Gorge Air Quality Work Plan: (a) funding of initial scientific investigations including some modeling and monitoring, (b) enhancement of public outreach efforts, and (c) utilization of a facilitator at public meetings to assist the gathering of public input. A decision on approval of the grant request will be known in March 2001. If approval of the grant is given, the information will be gathered and become part of the Work Plan that will be submitted in August 2001 to the Gorge Commission for their approval.

2. Mr. Elliott reported that there are several air quality bills that have been introduced in the 2001 session of the state legislature: (1) House Bill 1033 encourages Board of Director membership by state legislators on local air authority Boards. Mr. Burkman reported that HB 1033 would also eliminate the City of Vancouver as well as Clark County membership, because they are regulated by SWCAA. Following further discussion, the Board asked Mr. Elliott to draft a letter to the House Agriculture and Ecology Committee explaining the difficulties created for our Agency if HB 1033 passes. Mr. Raiter suggested that individual Board members also send E-mails expressing their concerns with HB 1033; (2) House Bill 1034 deals with outdoor burning issues. Mr. Elliott explained that there was an error in the language of HB 1034, which resulted in Substitute HB 1034 being prepared. He said this bill gives more authority to local air agencies on outdoor burning issues. Mr. Elliott said that Representative Pennington is pleased with the way SWCAA is implementing the outdoor burning law; (3) House Bill 1030 proposes incentives for the purchase of clean emission vehicles; (4) House Bill 1031 allows the use of high occupancy (HOV) lanes by clean emission vehicles. Mr. Elliott explained that a proposed HOV lane in Vancouver would run the last three or four miles of Interstate 5 to the I-5 bridge. He said this bill proposes to let the cleanest air pollution cars also use the HOV lanes; and (5) House Bill 1032 establishes some limitations on the motor vehicle emission testing program.

3. Mr. Elliott reported that on January 11, 2001, the Washington Court of Appeals denied Mr. Bowers' request for reconsideration of his appeal of SWCAA's Reasonably Available Control Technology (RACT) Order for TransAlta Centralia Power Plant. He said that Mr. Bowers now has thirty days to appeal to the Washington Supreme Court. Mr. Pridemore said that power plants are one of the major contributors of air pollution. He said the issue of new power plants in Southwest Washington is going to become a timely issue for the Board over the next year or two. Mr. Elliott stated that there are already potentially 1,000 megawatts of power proposed through the construction of power plants in Cowlitz and Lewis Counties. Mr. Elliott reported that Governor Locke's recent proclamation said that clean air agencies are to allow temporary power plants to immediately begin operating and then take care of the permitting later. He said that SWCAA has also had inquiries for multiple one megawatt diesel units. Mr. Elliott said that in the Tacoma area there are 30 one megawatt diesel units being brought in on trailers. Mr. Pridemore asked if there were any air pollution controls on these units. Mr. Elliott said they have some. Mr. Mairose, said they are required to do offsets, however, diesel units are inherently dirty, even with clean technology. Mr. Elliott said these diesel units are temporary, but the natural gas power plants being built in Cowlitz and Lewis Counties are intended to be permanent at 245 megawatts each. The board requested that Mr. Elliott include education at the March Board meeting on power plants, including what the temporary power plants effect is going to be, and what the permanent plant long term effects are going to be. The Board also requested a speaker from the Bonneville Power Administration to address power generation and its affect on the power grid.

4. Mr. Elliott reported that EPA announced its proposed rulemaking for reducing emissions from nonroad engines and motorcycles. He said that EPA has concluded that nonroad spark-ignition engines rated at or above 25 horsepower and land-based recreational engines are contributing to air pollution problems. He said EPA is now seeking input on a proposed national program to control emissions from engines used in nonroad applications.
5. Mr. Elliott reported that EPA has decided to regulate mercury emissions from power plants. EPA's 1998 mercury study concluded that fossil fuel-fired power plants are the largest source of human-generated mercury emissions. EPA has now determined that regulations for mercury emissions to the atmosphere are appropriate and plans to develop regulations and issue them for public comment by December 2003. Mr. Elliott said that the mercury emissions come from the coal and that the TransAlta Centralia Power Plant has low mercury emissions.
6. Mr. Elliott reported that there has been more discussion regarding climate change impacts and two new reports on the likely impacts on public health and ecosystems in the United States have been released.
7. Mr. Elliott said that EPA has signed landmark regulation to reduce air pollution emissions from buses and semi-trucks; however, President Bush has asked to review this 11th hour decision by former President Clinton to require such a dramatic reduction in emissions from diesel engines. He said it is unknown if this rule will continue in the same form as it was proposed.
8. Mr. Elliott reported that in Portland, Oregon's 2000 Market Building, tenants are now being provided an electric vehicle by the landlord for short trips throughout the day.

#### Board Policy Discussion Issues

Mr. Pridemore opened discussion regarding Mr. Moeller's outdoor burning proposal. Mr. Elliott explained that Mr. Moeller generally would like outdoor burning banned in all of Clark County. He said that Mr. Moeller's most recent proposal would cut back outdoor burning in rural north Clark County quicker than the Agency has planned to do. Mr. Elliott said that Mr. Moeller would like the Agency to immediately end burning on weekends in rural north Clark County, and eliminate all burning from November through March and July through August. Mr. Elliott said the agency's policy has been to bring the public along gradually in rural areas and he believes that to act on this proposal right now would create many problems, including causing a SWCAA staffing problem. He said the agency is already dealing with a big workload from the January 1, 2001 ban of outdoor burning in the Battle Ground urban growth area, Centralia/Chehalis urban growth areas, and within the Longview/Kelso city limits. He said that as SWCAA moves forward, there will be a time when Mr. Moeller's proposal would be a good step in phasing out outdoor burning. Following discussion, the Board decided to continue the existing policy and asked Mr. Elliott to send Mr. Moeller a letter outlining their decision.

#### Issues for Next Meeting

- A. Public Hearing.
  1. As necessary.
- B. New Business/Unfinished Business.
  1. Presentation on Power Plants and Air Quality.
- C. Control Officer's Report.
  1. As Necessary.
- D. Board Policy Discussion Issues
  1. As Necessary.

Mr. Elliott reported that there are optional reading handouts available. Today's handout is "Indoor Air Quality: A Time For Recognition".

The next Board of Directors meeting will be held on March 1, 2001 at 3 p.m. at the Southwest Clean Air Agency, Vancouver, Washington.

Board Meeting Attendance:

JURISDICTION	J 2001	F 2001	M 2000	A 2000	M 2000	J 2000	J 2000	A 2000	S 2000	O 2000	N 2000	D 2000
Clark County	+	+	+	+/+	+	+	+	+	+	C	+	C
Cowlitz County	+	+	+	+/0	A	0	+	+	0	C	+	C
Lewis County	+	+	+	0/+	+	+	+	0	+	C	+	C
Skamania County	0	+	+	+/+	0	+	+	+	+	C	0	C
Wahkiakum County	0	+	0	0/+	0	+	+	+	+	C	0	C
Cathlamet	+	+	0	0/0	0	+	+	0	+	C	0	C
Centralia	0	0	+	+/+	+	+	0	+	+	C	0	C
Longview	+	+	0	0/+	+	+	+	0	+	C	+	C
Stevenson	+	+	0	+/+	A	+	0	A	0	C	+	C
Vancouver	+	+	+	+/A	+	A	+	A	+	C	+	C
Member-At-Large	+	+	0	0/0	0	+	+	+	+	C	+	C

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

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

  
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 Chair

  
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 Executive Director