

MINUTES

REGIONAL AIR QUALITY COUNCIL Thursday, August 5, 1999

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Shirleen Tucker, *CHAIRMAN*
Theresa Donahue, *City & County of Denver*
Jane Norton, *Colo. Dept. Public Hlth & Env.*
Tom Norton, *Colo. Dept. of Transportation*
Don Parsons, *DRCOG*
Jim Scherer
Sharon Votruba, *City of Thornton*
Melanie Worley, *Douglas County*

MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE:

Dennis Arfmann, *Holme Roberts & Owen* (Excused)

OTHERS PRESENT:

Ken Lloyd, RAQC; Misty Howell, RAQC; Jerry Dilley, RAQC; Annmarie Jensen, RAQC; Patrick Cummins, RAQC; Angie Binder, City of Aurora; Jim Ives, City of Aurora; Jon Gallo, Citizen Representing State Senator Andrews; Marie Mackenzie, Arapahoe County; Bob Farmer; Bob Haislip, Citizen Representing State Senator Andrews; Susan Thornton, City of Littleton; Harum Willis, Adams County; Jim Brandon, Environmental Systems Products; Becky Brooke, Stealey & Associates; Larry Mugler, DRCOG; Linda Capra, SE Business Partnership; Doug Lempke, AQCC; Bob Lowdermilk, AQCC; Gerald Gallagher, APCD; Rick Barrett, APCD; Jeff May, DRCOG; Larry Gupton, State Auditor's Office; Lou Skull, State Auditor's Office; Dave Chambers, City of Aurora; Eric Erving, City of Littleton; Julio Iturreria, Arapahoe County; Ingrid Lindemann, City of Aurora; Tom Waynewood, Arapahoe County; Margie Perkins, APCD; George Gerstle, CDOT; Mike Silverstein, APCD; and Margy Christiansen.

The meeting was called to order at 3:40 p.m. at the Aurora Central Library. A quorum was present.

Approval of the Agenda

Don Parsons moved to accept the agenda. Seconded by Jane Norton. Motion passed without objection.

Approval of the Minutes

Theresa Donahue moved to accept the minutes. Seconded by Melanie Worley. Motion passed without objection, Sharon Votruba abstained.

Welcome and Introductions

Shirleen Tucker welcomed everyone to the RAQC meeting. Council members and members of the audience introduced themselves.

Informational Items

Chairman:

Shirleen Tucker reported the recent meeting with the Executive Committee of Denver Regional Council of Governments was productive.

Executive Director:

Ken Lloyd distributed to Council a letter from Spencer Havlick, Boulder Councilman, which outlined some issues and recommendations for Council to consider. Ken indicated that staff is preparing an initial response to Mr. Havlick's letter.

A meeting with the Air Quality Control Commission has been scheduled for August 19th at 11:30 am at 4300 Cherry Creek Drive South. The purpose of the meeting is to familiarize the new AQCC members and RAQC members with each other's work. Ken asked Council members to let him know if they can attend. Lunch will be provided.

Ken gave Council an update on the ozone status. Currently, the region is doing alright, but is still close to the standard. He stressed the importance of next year's program. Ken stated that the program has gotten good press and support from local governments.

Ken and Don Parsons met with the Town Council of Lone Tree. There was good discussion. Lone Tree would like to be involved with the RAQC.

Members:

Sharon Votruba presented recognition awards to former RAQC members who were present at the meeting - Susan Thornton, City of Littleton; Marie Mackenzie, Arapahoe County; and Ingrid Lindemann, City of Aurora.

Committees:

No Reports.

Arapahoe County Community Initiatives

Southeast Business Partnership - Alternate Mode Development

Linda Capra, Southeast Business Partnership, gave Council an overview of the work done through the Partnership. The Southeast Business Partnership partners local governments and businesses in the Southeast I-25 corridor (Hampden to Lincoln Ave).

The Southeast Business Partnership is working to get light rail to the Denver Tech Center, to improve I-25 and major arterials, and to get better bus service to the area. They also work with employers in the Denver Tech Center to encourage alternative modes of transportation.

The Southeast Business Partnership just published a Smart Growth agenda, which is a comprehensive look at growth issues.

City of Aurora - Street Sand Reduction Program

Dave Chambers, Manager of Street Services, briefed the Council on Aurora's Street Sand Reduction Program. Aurora has begun using alternative de-icers instead of salt and sand. Street sweeping is not necessary with the alternative because they dilute and dissipate. Ice-ban is also effective at lower temperatures.

Mr. Chambers explained the city paid \$20,000-\$25,000 to retrofit their street sanding trucks with tanks for the liquid de-icers.

There was some discussion on the impact of the chemical de-icers on water quality. Ken Lloyd stated that CDPHE is conducting a study on this subject. Tom Norton said that CDOT has done some studies and currently there have been no environmental findings.

City of Littleton - 20 years commitment to good air quality

Susan Thornton, Littleton's Mayor Pro-Tem, reviewed Littleton's commitment to air quality. Littleton has embraced DRCOG's Vision 2020 Smart Growth plan, supported the major recommendations from the RAQC's Blueprint for Clean Air and incorporated alternative modes of transportation into their planning.

Ms. Thornton indicated that the City of Littleton has been working for 20 years to get light rail and in July 2000 the project should be completed.

Public Comment and Discussion

Bob Farmer indicated that he does not agree with statements that the Carbon Monoxide Maintenance Plan Subcommittee was in agreement on the recommendations. He further stated that the I/M audit is too heavily weighted by CDPHE. He believes it is not an independent audit and that Council should look at it carefully.

Shirleen Tucker gave a brief overview of the I/M audit process. Ken Lloyd indicated that an independent contractor will be hired. The audit process includes a Technical Advisory Panel.

Status of Carbon Monoxide Maintenance Plan

Patrick Cummins introduced the presentations for the CO Maintenance Plan Committee updates.

Rick Barrett, APCD, gave Council an update on the technical analysis. Through the technical analysis, it was determined that the initial short-cut approach of comparing gridded emission inventories would not work because of changes in transportation data sets since the original SIP work in the early 1990's. As a result, the APCD will need to perform atmospheric modeling, which will have a higher probability of satisfying EPA and demonstrating compliance with the RAQC strategy package. The anticipated completion date for the atmospheric modeling is August 27.

Tom Norton asked how this comparison would affect 2020. The APCD is trying to extrapolate data for 2020 because DRCOG currently does not have data sets for that year based on its new population estimates.

Theresa Donahue expressed concern regarding the assumptions and cost components of the remote sensing strategy. It appears, the overall cost of the program versus the cost of the current program would be less. However, the funding sources are different. Theresa indicated there are considerable details with this approach that still need to be addressed.

Larry Mugler and Jeff May, DRCOG, gave Council an overview of the DRCOG's revised population and VMT projections. Based upon recommendations from DRCOG staff, APCD and RAQC staff are using the current 2020 forecast for the 2013 estimate and 2011 for 2006. Based on new information, the regional population forecast has been updated. DRCOG plans to perform a new conformity analysis based upon these new projections by March/April 2000. DRCOG staff will continue to work with APCD and RAQC staff.

Larry Gupton, State Auditor's Office, briefed Council on the Inspection and Maintenance Program Audit. The State Auditor's Office has contracted with Air Improvement Resources, Inc. to conduct the audit. A technical advisory committee has been established. This committee includes representatives from CDPHE (Jerry Gallagher and Rick Barrett), Dept. of Revenue (John Schoen), RAQC (Patrick Cummins), and the scientific community (Doug Lawson and Carl Howard). The contractor is maintaining close communication with RAQC staff on its efforts to develop a CO Maintenance Plan.

The audit report is to be completed by October 12, 1999. The Legislative Audit Committee will hold a hearing to review the report on October 25, 1999. State law requires the contents of the audit report to be kept confidential and not disclosed to the public until the report is released by the Legislative Audit Committee.

Patrick Cummins gave a brief summary of the range of costs associated with the proposed remote sensing strategy for the CO Maintenance plan. He also raised program issues that will need to be considered.

Patrick reviewed the schedule for the CO Maintenance Plan. Council will need to have a special meeting in September in order to review the proposed plan and approve it for submittal to the AQCC. It was determined that September 13 and 21 worked best for those present. Members were asked to reserve these dates on their calendars.

There being no further business before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 6:15 p.m.