

MINUTES

REGIONAL AIR QUALITY COUNCIL

Thursday, October 2, 2008

RAQC MEMBERS/ALTERNATES PRESENT:

Andy Spielman, *Chairman, Hogan and Hartson, LLP*
Brad Beckham, *Colorado. Department of Transportation (alternate for Russell George)*
Ben Manvel, *City of Fort Collins*
Jim Martin, *Colorado. Department Public Health and Environment*
Jana Milford, *University of Colorado at Boulder*
Nathan Rabinovich, *National Jewish Health*
Joan Ringel, *Citizen Member*
Nancy Severson, *Denver Department of Environmental Health*

RAQC MEMBERS/ALTERNATES NOT PRESENT:

Theresa Donahue, *Smart Energy Living Alliance*
Mark Johnson, *Jefferson County Department of Health and Environment*
Melanie Worley, *Douglas County/DRCOG*

RAQC STAFF PRESENT:

Ken Lloyd; Jerry Dilley; Sandi Garcia; Misty Howell; Steve McCannon; Kate Riegler

OTHERS PRESENT:

Kevin Briggs, APCD; Margy Christiansen, RAQC; Dennis Creamer; Darby Doll, Johnston Wells Public Relations; Aimee Fenlon, CCD- Dept of Aviation; Abby Gaffney, Davis, Graham & Stubbs; Zac Graves, CDOT; Doug Lempke, CDPHE; Pam Milmoie, Boulder County Department of Health; Jeff Schwarz, DSMB; Jim Shaw, Wagner Equipment; Natalia Swalnick, American Lung Association; Eric Triplot, Faegre & Benson; Ben Veller, Fullbright & Jawerski; Scott Wagner, Wagner Equipment; Sabrina Williams, Denver Environmental Health;

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by Vice Chairman Joan Ringel. A quorum was present at 3:05 p.m.

Approval of Agenda and Minutes

Jim Martin moved to approve the agenda. Seconded by Brad Beckham. Motion passed without objection.

Informational Items

Chairman
None.

Executive Director

None.

Committees

None.

Members

Jim Martin informed Council that the Public Utility Commission (PUC) has formally approved the replacement of two units at Xcel Energy's Arapahoe facility.

Approval of Minutes

Nancy Severson provided Misty Howell with some grammatical edits for both the August 20 and September 8 meeting minutes.

Nancy Severson moved to approve the minutes from the August 20 and September 8 with the grammatical edits. Seconded by Ben Manvel. Motion passed without objection.

Public Comment

None.

Air Quality Control Commission's Ozone SIP Pre-hearing Process

Ken Lloyd informed Council that he and Andy Spielman presented the Ozone Plan and SIP along with the APCD regulation changes to the AQCC on September 18 to set for hearing in December 2008. He distributed a schedule and provided an overview of the AQCC pre-hearing process to Council.

Doug Lempke told Council the RAQC, as the sponsor, is automatically a party to the AQCC process.

Council decided to tentatively schedule a meeting for November 19 to discuss any issues that arise from the AQCC pre-hearing meetings.

Discussion of Next Steps in Ozone Planning Process

Ken Lloyd outlined the next steps in the future ozone planning process. He reviewed the details of potential modeling and technical analysis, which included evaluating possible model improvements and baseline emissions inventory development. Ken summarized the components of the strategy evaluation and noted legislative issues. He also provided a schedule of work through December 2009.

There was discussion on whether there would be additional improvements in the monitoring system. It was suggested that monitors be considered in areas where the modeling showed increased ozone and/or precursors for ozone. Ken indicated the ACPD is reviewing the monitoring system.

Nancy Severson suggested the State set up a technical group for the purpose of better understanding the model performance.

Joan Ringel inquired about the legislative activities. Jim Martin stated that the APCD legislative staff is drafting a bill to address the collection plate revisions and the expanded boundary for a North Front Range Inspection and Maintenance program.

Discussion of Letter to Air Quality Control Commission on Next Steps in Ozone Planning

Ken Lloyd provided Council with a draft letter to the AQCC which outlined the future direction for the planning process to reduce ozone concentrations as discussed by Council at the September 20 meeting. Ken asked Council for comments and direction on the letter.

Council discussed the letter and made a few language changes. Overall Council believed the letter conveyed the correct message, specifically that there is still more work to be completed beyond the SIP.

Changes included:

- The last sentence of paragraph one should reference the new ozone standard;
- The first sentence of paragraph two, remove “we want to assure you that” ‘
- The last sentence of paragraph six, change “will work with” to “encourage; and
- The first sentence of paragraph seven, remove “our” after ...Commission on.

Jim Martin moved to approve the letter with the language changes noted above. Joan Ringel seconded. Motion passed without objection.

Audit of 2007 Financial Statements

Ken Lloyd reviewed the Audit of the 2007 Financial Statements with Council. He said the RAQC is in good financial standing.

There was discussion on the uncertainties with the budgets of contributors in the current economy.

Nancy Severson suggested the RAQC revisit its voluntary programs so that local governments could implement the programs on their own. She said doing this could be a strategy for the RAQC to connect with local governments. Ken Lloyd explained that RAQC staff already works with local governments on ways they can execute the RAQC’s voluntary ozone and other programs to make them part of the local government’s outreach programs.

Council accepted the audit of the 2007 financial statements.

Public Comment

Doug Lempke, AQCC, stated the AQCC has had very preliminary discussion on extending the pre-hearing process. He explained that it is unlikely that the AQCC would set a hearing for December 2009 based on other work already on their schedule. He also noted that any strategies not included in the SIP do not have to follow the same legislative review process.

Sabrina Williams, Denver Environmental Health, supported the idea of a technical scientific workgroup to look at the modeling. The purpose of the group would be to look at model performance without policy considerations. She suggested Jana Milford chair the workgroup.

Pam Milmoie, Boulder County Department of Health, expressed her appreciation for the schedule outlining the next steps for reducing ozone concentrations. She said having modeling results during stakeholder discussions would be very helpful.

There was a brief discussion on how the 2010 base case information could be utilized as well as alternative approaches to determining which strategies reduce more ozone. It was suggested that base case sensitivities for 2015 and 2020 could be determined in more detail after discussions with Environ.

Adjournment

There being no further business before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 4:05 p.m.