

Minutes
Joint Municipal Action Committee
June 13, 2014

PRESENT Clare Petrich, Chair (Port of Tacoma)
Debbie Winskill, Vice-Chair (Tacoma School Board)
Tim Reid (Metropolitan Park Board)
Erik Hanberg (Metropolitan Park Board)
Robert Thoms (Tacoma City Council)
Kurt Miller (Tacoma School Board)
Nancy Davis (Metropolitan Park District)

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Clare Petrich called the meeting to order at 8:06 a.m.

INTRODUCTIONS

The attendees introduced themselves. Also in attendance were: Craig Kenworthy, Puget Sound Clean Air Agency; and Kim Dodds, City of Tacoma

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved with the addition of a discussion on JMAC Bylaws.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Kurt Miller moved for approval of the minutes of May 9, 2014 and Eric Hanberg seconded. The chair declared the motion passed.

AGENDA ITEMS

Smoke Reduction Zone/Nonattainment – Craig Kenworthy began the presentation by stating he would be discussing the area of urbanized Pierce County and that nonattainment means the County is in violation of the Federal Clean Air Act standard. The EPA is required to set standards for six criteria pollutants and that means there are pollutants at a regional level that cannot be above a certain level in the air. A monitoring network is used to evaluate these levels. Every five years, the EPA is required to review and revise standards based on the latest science. In 2006 the EPA tightened the standard on what is called fine particulate matter, and the County went into violation at that point. The monitor that is in violation is at the former South End Community Center at 78th and L Street. Fine particulate is pollution formed by incomplete combustion, i.e. diesel fuel, wood, some industrial processes, ships, and locomotives. There are two fine particulate standards. One is averaged out over the entire year. One is a 24 hour standard to make sure people are not exposed to high levels of pollution for short durations.

Mr. Kenworthy explained that fine particulate is about 1/30th the size of a human hair and can actually pass into the blood stream. This can cause heart attacks and strokes, asthma and pulmonary distress. Diesel fine particulate is a toxin that can cause

increased cancer rates and risk. Studies also show that urbanized air pollution and fine particulate are linked to health effects in infants, children, and pregnant women.

Mr. Kenworthy continued there are also other significant consequences of being put into a nonattainment status. One affects economic development. If businesses producing that pollutant in a significant amount want to expand or if new businesses that produce particulate matter want to move into the area, the law requires that they use much more expensive pollution control equipment. Also, transportation projects cannot make pollution worse. If we do not act, federal highway funding could be diminished or reallocated.

There was discussion on how the weather and other factors such as forest fires affect air quality. The County needs to remain below EPA's daily standard with the redesignation request. The redesignation request will be submitted in the fall of 2014 after a public comment period and the EPA has twelve to eighteen months to respond.

The County has been working to reduce pollution from all sources. Over half of the pollution is from wood smoke. The stove replacement program continues to have funding to encourage people to change to a cleaner heating device. There has been enhanced enforcement of burn bans. There are 220,000 households in the county area and approximately 70,000 have some form of wood burning device. The focus is on changing out the old devices. The only exemption is the wood burning device is the only source of heat. There was discussion on funding and conservation assistance services for homeowners and landlords, and what is done during the different burn ban stages. There was discussion on the cost of running natural gas lines to homes, the laws in Washington, and the possibility of requesting state or federal funding.

There was discussion on the regulations for larger businesses as opposed to smaller businesses. The County also must show that it will not reviolate during the next ten years and model what pollution will look like in future years and growth is factored into that as well. There are cleaner fuel rules in place for ships coming into the ports. The cleaner car standards are helping as well. EPA is going to tighten the stove manufacturing standards and beginning in 2020 all the new stoves sold in the area will be much less polluting.

Mr. Kenworthy continued that ozone is another pollutant that has federal standards. For Snohomish, King and Pierce counties ozone is a summertime pollutant. It is the combination of chemical precursors in the atmosphere, heat, and sunlight which is why it is only a summer issue. The two kinds of pollution are volatile organic compounds (VOC) and nitrogen oxides. Those cook in the atmosphere on a hot summer day and cause ozone or smog which is a lung irritant. Because of the topography, wind speeds and where the chemicals are produced, the pollution builds up during the day in southeast King and in Pierce counties. The County is not in violation but EPA is required to come out with a new draft standard later this year. The tighter standard may put the County at risk depending on where the ozone violation level is. There is a need to reduce transportation emissions which contribute to pollution. There are four classifications of ozone pollution: marginal, moderate, severe, and California. The new strategic plan includes gathering data from mobile monitoring, community monitoring, and pedestrians.

For more information or to receive burn ban text alerts go to: www.pscleanair.org or email: CraigK@psccleanair.org.

DISCUSSION OF MUTUAL INTERESTS AND CONCERNS/FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

The agenda items of Mental Health Issues Discussion and the JMAC Bylaws Review were deferred to a future meeting.

There was discussion on inviting Representative Jake Fey and Senator Steve Conway to attend the August 8, 2014 JMAC meeting to discuss the goal to attain legislation that would allow the county to be in attainment.

SETTING OF NEXT MEETING AGENDA

Mental Health/Chemical Dependency Presentation (Kim Dodds, City of Tacoma)
Mental Health Issues Discussion – Where do we go from here?
Budget Presentation (Tadd Wille, City of Tacoma)
Review of JMAC Guidelines

Future Agenda Items

Mental Health Services in Tacoma/Pierce County
Mental Health Care Report: Port of Tacoma (John Wolf)
Discuss and List Combined Legislative Goals
Legislative Agenda (Representative Jake Fey and Senator Steve Conway)
(August 8, 2014)
Trades, Apprenticeship, Regional Partnerships (Tacoma School District, Bates Technical College and City of Tacoma)
Presentation on Charter Review on June ballot (July 11, 2014) (City of Tacoma)
Statewide Earned Sick Leave Policy (Representative Laurie Jinkins – Sept. 12)
Update on 2015 U.S. Open (November/December 2014)
Youth Mental Health Issues: Trafficking, Housing/Shelters, Gangs, etc.
Economic Development and Impacts
Earth Week Citizen's Academy Update (Anders Ibsen)
Affordable Housing Policies (Anders Ibsen / Lauren Walker)
Foss/Hylebos Recontamination (Port of Tacoma)
Economic Development and Impacts
Earth Economics (Metro Parks Tacoma)

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Friday, July 11, 2014 at 8:00 a.m. in Conference Room 248. Minutes for July to be taken by Metro Parks Tacoma.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 a.m.