

OLYMPIC REGION CLEAN AIR AGENCY  
2940 B Limited Lane NW  
Olympia, Washington 98502

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

December 9, 2009

Members present: Clay Harwood, Pacific County (Chair)  
Ross Gallagher, Mason County  
Mike Doherty, Clallam County  
Phil Johnson, Jefferson County  
Ann Burgman, City of Lacey  
Craig Ottavelli, City of Olympia  
Terry Willis, Grays Harbor County  
Grant Munro, City of Port Angeles Representative

Members absent: Art Starry, Thurston County Representative

Ecology: Sean Lundblad

Legal Counsel: Fred Gentry of Bean, Gentry, Wheeler & Peternell

Staff Present: Fran McNair, Executive Director; Robert Moody, Compliance Supervisor,  
Mark Goodin, Professional Engineer; Dan Nelson, Public Information  
Officer; Lynn Harding, Administrative Services Manager; Jimmy Werner,  
Senior Air Monitoring Technician; and Debbie Moody, Recorder

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m.

There were no additions or omissions to the Agenda. Harwood introduced Craig Ottavelli of the City of Olympia. Gallagher moved approval of the Agenda. Burgman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. Burgman moved approval of the Consent Agenda. Munro seconded the motion and it carried, with Ottavelli abstaining.

**PUBLIC COMMENT / INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS**

Rohm and Haas

McNair introduced Fred Moore, Environmental Manager and Rich Gibson, Environmental Health and Safety Leader from Rohm and Haas. Gibson noted Rohm and Haas have been purchased by Dow Chemical and the handouts and slides will have both names. Moore and Gibson gave a brief history of the plant and description of their products.

Willis noted she was a resident in the community when the company came in. She stated the community was in an uproar with regards to what they thought would be a hazardous issue. Willis stated it has been just the opposite. Willis noted Rohm and Haas has been very responsive to the community and have taken care of possible threats in such a way that many people are unaware of what the company actually does. Gibson stated the company welcomes people for tours.

Willis asked about containment—what if there was a chemical spill, how is it contained? Gibson noted every storage tank has secondary containment with the capacity to hold the entire discharge. If there is a release in the air, modeling shows it will stay within a safe area. We are fortunate that we aren't in the middle of a highly populated area such as Chicago.

The Board thanked Rohm and Haas for their presentation. McNair noted she has accompanied

staff on an inspection of the company and she feels they are a superb source and have an excellent safety program.

Harwood called a brief recess at 10:35 am and took the time to thank Joan Machlis and Ann Burgman for their time on the Board. The meeting reconvened at 10:50am.

#### State Auditor Entrance/Exit Interview

Harwood introduced Julie Rupe and Troy Niemeyer of the State Auditor's Office. Rupe noted she will be at the office through the next week and is currently auditing fiscal years 2008 and 2009. She stated she would leave her contact information with the Board and if anyone has anything in particular they would like her to look at to give her a call. Rupe noted she is currently looking at the open public meetings, general revenues, payroll, procurement of public works contracts, restricted funds, and cash receipting as well as looking at the Title V program.

Harwood asked if there were any questions. There were none. Harwood thanked the Auditor's for coming in.

### **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

#### Compliance Update

Robert Moody, Compliance Supervisor noted we have one appeal before the Pollution Control Hearings Board regarding an outdoor burning case. It probably won't go before the Board until sometime around June. Simpson Lumber in Shelton was recently issued a Notice of Violation (NOV) for excessive opacity. The NOV is considered a High Priority Violation (HPV) which means it will show up at higher levels and will require a bit more scrutiny. Simpson was aware of the violation and they have already begun fixing the problem. Ottavelli asked R.Moody to explain excessive opacity. R.Moody noted in this case there was too much dust coming out of one of their cyclones.

R.Moody noted that he and Mike Shults, Air Quality Specialist met with the Fire Chief in Grays Harbor County. The meeting went well and we discussed the possibility of extending the current Thurston County outdoor burning permit system into their area. We are very early in the process. Willis asked what they are currently doing that is different than Thurston County. R.Moody noted they do nothing at this time. The permit we have here in Thurston County is available on our website and basically it is used for education purposes. The idea would be to let the people in Grays Harbor get their permit online or at their fire departments.

We are very hopeful that by the next Board meeting, Soil Key will not be a topic. It appears everything should wrap up this month. Pacific Gro, in Pacific County, has been doing some experimental process work this past week. It seems to have gone ok in that we didn't have any odor problems. Atlas Pellet Company in Shelton will be shutting down for the next three months. Gallagher stated they have a lot of inventory; maybe they are just doing sales and not producing. R.Moody stated that was what we understood.

The woodstove rebate (in house) program is going well. Of the \$40,000 the Board set aside, we have committed \$24,000. Most of the change outs this time around are from uncertified to certified stoves. Ottavelli asked if he could get more details about the program. R.Moody stated he would get him the information.

#### ORCAA Permit Actions

Mark Goodin, Professional Engineer, stated LOTT has received their final approval for the

cogeneration plant and upgrade of their digester gas treatment system. Previously the biogas that was being produced in the digesters was flared. This project will allow them to burn the gas in a cogeneration engine and produce heat which in turn heats the plant. It will also produce electricity for their plant as well as the Hands-On Children's Museum. Goodin also noted as a result of the enforcement team's actions Simpson decided to install a baghouse. That permit has been finalized. One noteworthy application that is pending for Department of Information Services' is for the installation of ten emergency generators. This is one of those equipment installations that seem to fall through the cracks. A lot of businesses think because they are smaller, emergency generators, they don't need permits, when in fact they do. Willis and Ottavelli requested NOC packets for emergency generators be sent to their offices.

Doherty wanted to thank staff for coming to Port Angeles for a peer to peer meeting as well as meeting with PenPly. Doherty asked if all of the counties/cities have been made aware they need to come to you for the emergency generators. McNair noted we are doing our best to get the word out. Goodin did note that emergency generators that are less than 500 hp are exempt and it may rule out quite a few businesses. Doherty noted the courthouse most likely has a larger generator. Goodin did explain that we can do 'after the fact' permits on these generators that have been in place. We'll get their specifications, issue a permit and get them registered.

Ottavelli asked about temporary generators, such as the City of Olympia is using during construction downtown. Goodin stated someone should give us a call on those and we can figure out what they may need.

#### Education and Outreach

Dan Nelson, Public Information Officer, stated he has been developing outreach materials for our 'road show' meetings. During our meetings we have received a lot of good feedback and we do have a draft to show you today. The large sheet will be a cardstock stand up board with a rack supplied with handouts that explain the permits we issue.

We have been focusing on air quality and the current state of our weather. It is very cold and due to the economic downturn people are burning more wood. We are not currently in a burn ban, however Puget Sound Clean Air called a Stage 2 in Snohomish, Southwest Clean Air called a Stage 1 in Clark, and Yakima is on their fourth burn ban of the year. We do have a new website, thanks to Mark Moore, that is basically a clearing house for all of the state and local agencies. They can post all of their information on one site and we have been letting the media know so they can use that tool to get the word out.

One last thing, Nelson noted, working directly with the other agencies we are participating in the Clean Burning grant. We have done a simple brochure that has been provided to vendors with regards to identifying clean burning devices – what they can and can't use in Washington.

#### Administrative Services Update

Lynn Harding, Administrative Services Manager, explained we are gearing up to generate our next Wellness Grant which will be sent to Washington Counties Insurance Fund. Last year we received \$1,000 and we used the funds to purchase pedometers and ergonomic balls. As you heard, we are in the middle of an audit. The audit will cost us approximately \$8,500. Harding noted the assessment billings will be going out at the beginning of January. Harding wanted to remind the Finance Committee that we need to have our quarterly meeting prior to the January meeting.

Harwood stated we need to select a new Finance Committee. Harwood stated the Chair will remain on the committee and asked for volunteers. Munro and Gallagher volunteered to be on the committee.

McNair stated she recently met with Dennis McLerran, Marsh Taylor and Norm Dicks. The agenda originally was to discuss the 105 dollars. These funds go through the federal government and are supposed to pay for 60% of our EPA related costs for monitoring. It currently covers only 10-20%. The dollar amount has not gone up in 15 years however the responsibilities have. Basically we wanted Dicks to know that we would like to ask that they not cut the 105 funding. We have heard they are not going to make the cut, but Dicks is now well aware of the situation and will be keeping an eye on it.

McNair did note that during the conversation with Dicks, she did sneak in Cheeka Peak. Jimmy Werner, Senior Monitoring Technician recently attended a meeting in Nashville. We had applied for Cheeka Peak to become an NCore site. Due to Werner's participation in the meeting, we are on the map for NCore sites, but we have yet to be notified. We have asked for additional funding and are waiting to hear. Werner has been working with the Makah Tribe and we'd like to hire people from the Makah Tribe to assist in running the site. EPA Region 10 was very supportive of our proposal and has sent a letter of support to the DC office.

McNair explained Nisqually Pines is a small community in unincorporated Thurston County. McNair stated she has set up a meeting with the home owners association in January and we are going to discuss alternatives to burning. Some of the options we want to discuss include specified burn days – one at the beginning of the season and one at the end. They do have a community chipper and we are hoping to encourage the use of it. We will update the Board on how the meeting goes.

The legislation season begins next month, McNair stated. It is 60 days and her feeling is it will go by quickly. McNair noted she believes the majority of the legislation will be looking at budget reductions; however there are a couple pieces of legislation that we will be watching, as they affect air issues. One has to do with greenhouse gases and the other has to do with agricultural burning. Willis asked McNair to send (via email) copies of the legislation to the Board.

McNair also noted she had heard Nippon will be on furlough for 2 weeks.

### Air Quality Summary

Jimmy Werner, Senior Air Quality Technician noted the newsletter highlights our Nisqually site. Werner explained we had to move the Nisqually site due to vandalism. We were lucky enough to find a local organic farm that was willing to let us use their property.

November was a good month for air quality. Having a lot of storms helped clean the air. The access road up to Cheeka Peak has been improved and makes that trip much more pleasant. Typically we have poor air quality over Thanksgiving weekend, but this year things stayed pretty clean.

Werner gave a brief history and explanation to our burn ban procedures. He noted the trigger for calling burn bans was lowered and we anticipate more burn bans. We constantly watch the forecasts because the weather determines when we will have a buildup of pollutants. Werner explained how a burn ban is determined and the steps we take to call a burn ban.

Werner noted we all work very closely together when we have to call a burn ban. We want to make sure the public is well aware of the burn ban status.

Thurston Regional Planning Council

There was nothing to report.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 11:43 a.m.

PRESENTED BY  
Francea L. McNair, Executive Director

APPROVED BY:  
The Majority of the Board

APPROVED and SIGNED this 13<sup>th</sup> day of January 2010