

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING – Hybrid via Zoom
May 10, 2023

A video recording of this meeting is available on the ORCAA YouTube channel at:
<https://www.youtube.com/@ORCAADan/videos>

Members present: Jim Cooper, City of Olympia (Chair) (via Zoom)
Greg Brotherton, Jefferson County (Vice Chair) (via Zoom)
Joan Cathey, City of Tumwater (via Zoom)
Jill Warne, Grays Harbor County (via Zoom)
Randy Neatherlin, Mason County (via Zoom)
Robin Vazquez, City of Lacey (via Zoom)
Dave Tobin, Pacific County (via Zoom)
Carolina Mejia, Thurston County (via Zoom)
Mike French, Clallam County (via Zoom)

Members absent:

Legal Counsel: Jeff Myers and Michael Throgmorton, of Law, Lyman, Daniel, Kamerrer and Bogdanovich (via Zoom)

Staff Present: Jeff Johnston, Ph.D., Executive Director; Robert Moody, Compliance Manager; Mark Goodin, Engineering Manager; Odelle Hadley, Ph.D., Senior Monitoring Specialist; Dan Nelson, Communications Manager; Lynn Harding, Financial Services Manager; Lauren Whybrew, Engineer; Rob Wyland, Air Quality Specialist; and Debbie Moody, Office Manager/Public Records Officer (all via Zoom)

Brotherton called the meeting to order at 10 a.m. as Cooper was in transit so he would be chairing the meeting.

Brotherton asked for approval of the agenda. Neatherlin moved approval, the motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Brotherton asked for a roll call of all in attendance.

CHAIR REPORT

Brotherton reminded everyone of the June meeting, requesting everyone do their best to make it in person.

Cooper noted he and Johnston discussed cancelling the August meeting. Neatherlin moved approval of cancelling the August meeting. The motion was seconded and carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

CONSENT AGENDA

Brotherton asked approval of the Consent Agenda. Tobin moved approval of the Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

PRESENTATION

Ozone 101

Johnston gave a brief introduction. Hadley went over the slides and explained what ozone is, where it comes from, the health and environmental impacts of ozone, and how and where we measure ozone.

NEW BUSINESS

Draft FY2024 Budget

Johnston briefly went over some of the improvements and accomplishments we have completed this current year and noted the proposed budget continues to make important investments for our agency. Johnston introduced the budget documents and asked Harding to present the budget.

Harding went over the assumptions, highlights, and summary of the budget. Harding briefly noted the increase of 6.3% for fees and assessments, 4% increase in salaries, and the new salary schedule.

Revenue and Expenditures are projected to be about 12% higher than 2023, coming in at \$3.1 million. Harding highlighted a few line items on the projected budget and the fund balance sheet and noted the list of building projects for the coming year.

Brotherton noted there may be questions between now and the hearing and asked if people can contact staff directly. Johnston noted questions are encouraged. Johnston also noted some of the other clean air agency's fee and salary increase percentages for comparison.

DIRECTORS REPORT

Compliance Manager Update

R. Moody stated complaints, inspections, and land clearing burn permits have ramped up. ORCAA staff will be attending the Grays Harbor Home & Garden Show this weekend – we will be there 9-5 Saturday and 9-4 on Sunday. OlyMAP met with several staff on May 1 and discussed the work they have been doing with regards to the Olympia area homeless camps that are part of the collaboration between ORCAA and OlyMAP.

As an example of the kind of issues ORCAA responds to, R. Moody mentioned an area out off 93rd where there have been issues with a land clearing burn. There are three parties involved, 2 households impacted by the smoke and the burner. Our inspector Rob Wyland was able to assist in mitigating the issues by working with all 3 parties.

Engineering Manager Update

Goodin highlighted the McKinley case noted it is further along than this month's engineering report shows. We are working with them on the conditions of the Approval Order, which contain the enforceable conditions. We will continue working closely with McKinley in issuing the final permit.

Senior Air Monitoring Specialist Update

Hadley stated April shows all sites in the “good” category. We did lose some data in Lacey to a power outage, and because of the timing of the installation of some new equipment, we do not have a full month for Raymond. The Grays Harbor Saturation study continues, and even with the highest peaks, we continue to be in the “good” category for the 24-hour average. It was noted the study will be complete in July.

The seasonal ozone monitor was installed in Lacey. Staff met with the Quinault air quality team. We have a signed contract with a firm for the CPO clean-up work and we plan on beginning that work on July 24. We are currently finalizing our Quality Management Plan with EPA, which is done every 5 years.

Communications Manager Update

Nelson noted last week was Air Quality Awareness Week and we saw quite a few views on social media, and specifically wanted to thank Clallam County for sharing the content. June 12-16 is Smoke Ready Week, and we will do another coordinated effort with agencies throughout the Pacific Northwest.

Nelson stated we expect to see hotter and dryer weather, with precipitation later in the summer and moving into an El Niño year. The projections are to expect higher chances of wildfires in late summer and into the fall.

Staff will be in Port Townsend next week for an event with the Port Townsend Health staff. We will discuss wildfire smoke preparedness.

Nelson noted a representative from a local bank stopped by the ORCAA office requesting asbestos and demolition information to leave in their lobby for homeowners.

The Woodstove Reduction Grant is wrapping up and we will be applying for a renewal of the grant for FY2024.

Johnston noted, if anyone has any suggestions regarding our woodstove reduction program, considering the kind of products we offer rebates on, now would be a good time for input. Nelson added, we are trying to balance reduction of particulate matter with climate change – specifically we are reducing wood burning and incentivizing natural gas, while many communities are in the process of limiting and discouraging the use of natural gas appliances. Brotherton expressed his concern with the possibility of mandating installation of heat pumps and wondered if ORCAA should pay attention to this possibility. Johnston noted if these conversations will be taking place with your jurisdictions, and you would like ORCAA involved, contact us.

Financial Services Manager Update

Harding reminded the Board members who are traveling for the June meeting, and want to get reimbursed, to turn in their W-9 form.

The ORCAA’s Wellness Committee (Aaron Manley, Tiffany Flores, and Lynn Harding) provides options to improve health. Harding noted we continue to encourage staff to get up and move. We currently have 84% of our staff participating in a walking challenge this month. The committee also encourages and promotes mental health awareness, providing a quiet space in the wellness room, puzzling table, and puzzle books.

Brotherton asked if the members will be staying after the June meeting for a socializing gathering. Johnston stated that was correct.

Executive Director Update

Johnston reminded the Board we have our budget hearing scheduled for the June meeting and we are thinking it will be over around 11:30 a.m. To be followed by a celebration with a short program from noon to 1:30 p.m. Johnston noted invitations should have been received and we are hoping we will be able to use our outdoor space, with some time for people to speak if they want, and then time to socialize with lunch provided.

Johnston did note, while we discussed bringing back performance measures this month, due to workload he will be bringing the document to the June meeting for short discussion.

The legislative session ended in April, and while there were a variety of things in play, there was nothing directly impacting our work. Johnston did mention a bill extending hog fuel tax exemptions through 2034, and we do have several sources that do take advantage of those tax breaks.

Brotherton had mentioned the agenda planner earlier in the meeting, Johnston stated, and we want to encouraged people to look at it and to let staff know if there is anything that you'd ever like to add to the agenda.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Brotherton offered a funny for the day – Why did the air quality index break up with the pollution index? Because it was a toxic relationship.

EXECUTIVE SESSION (per RCW 42.30.110)

There was no Executive Session.

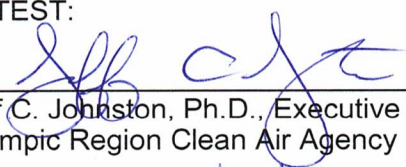
ADJOURNMENT

Brotherton adjourned the meeting at 11:21 a.m.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify this is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the meeting of the ORCAA Board of Directors held on May 10, 2023, in Olympia, Washington.

ATTEST:



Jeff C. Johnston, Ph.D., Executive Director
Olympic Region Clean Air Agency

Jim Cooper, Chair
ORCAA Board of Directors

DATED: 6/14/2023