

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

December 9, 2015

Members present: Jim Cooper, City of Olympia (Chair)
Steve Rogers, Pacific County
Cynthia Pratt, City of Lacey (Vice Chair)
Wes Cormier, Grays Harbor County
Phil Johnson, Jefferson County
Dan Di Guilio, City of Port Angeles

Members absent: Mary Ellen Winborn, Clallam County
Sandra Romero, Thurston County
Tim Sheldon, Mason County

Legal Counsel: Jeff Myers and Julie Carignan of Law, Lyman, Daniel, Kamerrer and Bogdanovich

Staff Present: Fran McNair, Executive Director; Robert Moody, Compliance Supervisor; Mark Goodin, Professional Engineer; Odelle Hadley, Senior Monitoring Technician; Nick Grant, Network Administrator/Monitoring Tech; Dan Nelson, Public Information Officer; Lynn Harding, Administrative Services Manager; and Debbie Moody, Office Manager/Recorder

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

Cooper asked for approval of the agenda. Cormier moved approval of the Agenda. Pratt seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

CHAIR REPORT

Cooper stated there is no report from the Chair.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public in attendance.

CONSENT AGENDA

Pratt moved approval of the Consent Agenda. Cormier seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

By-Laws

McNair noted we had sent the By-Laws out last month for comment and we have incorporated the comments. McNair briefly went over the changes.

Cooper noted there was no language to mandate review of the By-Laws. McNair stated we have brought them to the Board as issues arise. After discussion the Board requested language be added reflecting review of the By-Laws periodically, but not less than every three years. The language will be added to paragraph 17 of the By-Laws.

Pratt moved approval of the By-Laws as amended. Di Guilio seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Prior to started the reports, McNair introduced newest staff member Nick Grant. Grant is our Network Administrator/Monitoring Tech, filling Moore's vacant position.

Compliance Program Update

R.Moody stated there were no significant issues, currently, in his program. The compliance group has begun revising the asbestos regulations and will be bringing a draft to the Board at a later date—timeline unknown at this time. Our plan is to streamline the process, making it easier for those applying for permits, as well as our staff.

R.Moody explained EPA has a 'next generation' program and are seeking ideas for using technology to minimize problems. R.Moody noted he submitted the idea of creating an "app" for smart phones that would make gasoline record tracking easier. The idea, R.Moody explained, was station operators could use their phone to do self-inspections and track record keeping. The station, ORCAA, and even their repair vendors, could have access to the report. EPA liked the idea and we are currently working with them, University of California Santa Barbara, the University of Chicago, as well as the South Coast Air Management District.

Engineering Program Update

Goodin noted engineers have been working steadily on permits. Two important cases include Sierra Pacific Industries in Shelton and Nippon in Port Angeles. Sierra Pacific is planning on rebuilding the lumber mill and replacing all equipment, except the existing boiler. The permit is pending and we will be scheduling a public hearing. Nippon is asking us to revise pre-existing limits we imposed during permitting. Their current permit limits their use of oxides of nitrogen. They have also requested approval to use their existing oil-fired boilers under limited use status. We will be holding a public hearing, January 26, in Port Angeles.

Di Guilio asked if these applications need Board approval. McNair noted we hold the hearing and approve or deny permit applications. We will report decisions back to the Board.

Cooper requested staff send out calendar requests/invites to Board members for public hearings. Members can decide whether or not to attend.

Air Quality Program Update

Hadley noted her report covers October and November. October showed a majority of good days, while there were a few moderate days throughout the region. November showed the air quality beginning to degrade at the sites. We did declare a burn ban in late November, with Lacey clearing up quicker than Port Angeles. Rogers asked when the monitor for Pacific County will be running. Hadley noted the monitor will be moved to a school in South Bend in January.

Once I get Nick up to speed, Hadley continued, I will work on getting caught up on several projects including the Port Townsend report.

Hadley noted the burn ban, for Thurston County, was called November 27-30. We called a voluntary burn ban and banned land clearing burning in Clallam County for a longer period.

We hope to install the final Thurston County Saturation Study monitor in January, Hadley stated. We hope to have it installed at the Fire Station on Sargent Rd in Rochester.

Education and Outreach

Nelson gave additional information on the November burn ban, noting we started with a voluntary ban prior to Thanksgiving. Media had mixed coverage, likely due to the holiday. Nelson stated Puget Sound Clean Air fractured Pierce County into three parts, which confused the media even more. We did send out our email alerts which seems to be working well. Currently, Nelson noted, we have about 1700 outdoor burn permits in Thurston County.

We have allocated nearly 30% of the wood smoke reduction grant funds and are hoping to find additional money later in the year.

Nelson stated he met with the Olympia Organization of Home Owners' Association and will be meeting with the Lacey Organization of Home Owners' Association as well. Nelson explained he has met with other Home Owner Associations and members who have requested specific information to share with their groups. In October, Nelson continued, we sent out a notice to several hundred Associations in Thurston and Mason Counties to let them know what information we have available, as well as letting them know we can do visits to educate their members about air quality issues.

We continue to have conversations with Nisqually Pines homeowners, Nelson noted. This neighborhood is in a burn area, located near Yelm and is densely populated so we receive many complaints.

Cooper asked if Puget Sound's fracturing of Pierce County has any impact on us. Nelson noted the biggest problem is it confuses people and the media. If the media doesn't understand what they need to report, they may not cover any of the areas. We have a history here of doing partial areas as well, Nelson stated. We have called bans in East Clallam due to the fact there are distinct geographical differences and a natural split via the mountain range. Cooper asked if we should communicate with Puget Sound. McNair stated we have talked to them to no avail.

Finance/Administrative Update

Harding noted we ended November with receipt of 45% of revenues and our expenditures at 40%. We still have 2 vacant offices and continue showing them and doing our best to get the word out. Harding wanted to remind the Finance Committee we will be meeting prior to the January Board meeting. Harding acknowledge ORCAA's Wellness Committee, Jennifer DeMay and Aaron Manley, stating they have assisted with many wellness activities and educational opportunities.

Executive Director's Report

McNair stated she attended the Air Directors' meeting and shared Puget Sound Clean Air has contracted with Innocentives who promoted a challenge to come up with equipment, for installation on uncertified woodstoves, to make them comply with air regulations in Washington. They have chosen 3 vendors and it appears they may do a trial in Whatcom County, working with Northwest Clean Air.

We had a pediatrician from the UW come in and talk to Northwest Air Directors about a children's asthma study, looking at indoor and outdoor air quality in Yakima. They have been following a group of children for several years and have determined people need a piece of equipment in the home to clean the air.

McNair noted the Outdoor Burn Committee will be meeting directly after the Board meeting today.

McNair noted she had spoken at the Tumwater Rotary recently and there was a lot of discussion regarding outdoor burning, as well as asbestos and demolition. We received an email from a citizen in Rochester regarding air quality in the area and was she was pleased we will be placing a monitor in the area. McNair explained the possibility of expanding our no burn area and the citizen stated she would be happy to share her experiences with air quality in her area.

Pratt requested staff speak to Lacey Rotary and noted she would email a contact name to McNair. McNair noted she will be talking to Tumwater Kiwanis in January and would be happy to do other talks as needed. Cooper requested McNair come and talk to the council, during a work session, to discuss outdoor burning.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There were no items for Executive Session.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

ADJOURNMENT


There was nothing further from the Board.

The meeting adjourned at 11:10 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 December 9, 2015, in Olympia, Washington.

ATTEST:


Francea L. McNair, Executive Director
Olympic Region Clean Air Agency


Jim Cooper, Chair
ORCAA Board of Directors

DATED: January 13, 2016