

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING – via Zoom

September 9, 2020

Members present: Jim Cooper, City of Olympia (Chair)
Cynthia Pratt, City of Lacey (Vice Chair)
Greg Brotherton, Jefferson County
Randy Neatherlin, Mason County (10:08 am)
Tye Menser, Thurston County
Joan Cathey, City of Tumwater
Mary Ellen Winborn, Clallam County (10:06 am)
Tim Crose for Mike Runyon, Pacific County

Members absent: Wes Cormier, Grays Harbor County

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

Staff Present: Fran McNair, Executive Director; Mike Shults, Compliance Supervisor;
Mark Goodin, Engineering Manager; Odelle Hadley, Air Monitoring
Supervisor; Dan Nelson, Public Information Officer; Lynn Harding,
Administrative Services; and Debbie Moody, Office Manager/Recorder

Cooper called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Cooper asked if everyone was ok with the Agenda. There were no comments, the Agenda was accepted on consensus.

CHAIR REPORT

Cooper reminded the Board we will not be meeting in November as it falls on Veterans' Day. We will be meeting in December.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

CONSENT AGENDA

Cooper asked approval of the Consent Agenda. Pratt moved approval of the Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Personnel Policy-Reduction in Force/Furlough

McNair reminded the Board that at the August meeting we presented draft language for reduction in force options and based on the comments, we have included the draft language in our Policies and Procedures Manual. McNair explained we are looking for a motion to approve the manual, if that is the Board's decision. Cooper asked if there were any questions. (Cooper noted Winborn was signing on). Brotherton moved approval of the policy as presented. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

RCW 70.94 to RCW 70A.15 change in our Regulations

McNair explained during the legislative session, the Legislature decided to reformat 70.94, the Clean Air Act, into 70A.15. We had hoped the digits following the 15 would be identical to 70.94, however that isn't the case. The topics have not changed, but the numbers have. We have until 2025 to make the changes, McNair noted, however, we would like to start the process now and make the needed changes to our Regulations. (it was noted Neatherlin was signing in). Once we make the changes, we will need to send it off to the Code Reviser. Due to the length of the document it will take longer and likely won't be back before the Board until December, at the earliest.

Cooper reiterated staff is looking for a motion to update and file the CR102 with regards to our Regulations. Cooper asked if there were any questions. There were none. Brotherton moved staff proceed with the changes. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

DIRECTORS REPORT

Compliance Program Update

Shults noted staff continues to complete inspections as best they can while protecting themselves. Complaints have come down a bit due to burn bans in place. We have been busy with asbestos and demolition cases.

Engineering Program Update

Goodin had a couple of cases he felt were noteworthy. Fox Lumber is installing a baghouse at their facility in Montesano. This case was not only a permitting case, but involved enforcement as well; in fact, Shults along with our engineer Lauren Whybrew have spent many hours on this project. Paneltech is a specialty panel producing facility located at the port of Grays Harbor. This facility does use a lot of chemicals. You wouldn't know it was there as they don't typically have anything coming out of their stacks or vents, but they do emit a lot of air pollution and show up on our list often as they are continually upgrading and making changes to their facility.

Goodin noted McNair requested he speak briefly on Biochar. Goodin gave a brief overview of what Biochar is and how it is made through pyrolysis. Goodin stated the by products of the process are biochar, which resembles charcoal, and volatile gases. Unlike combustion where you are left with ash, in pyrolysis, if done right your leftovers are biochar and gases that can be burned. It is a thermal decomposition of wood, done at elevated temperatures and in a starved air environment. There are air emissions and they can be dangerous. Goodin explained biochar can be made legally and gave three examples: own personal use with a burn permit from ORCAA (occasional, not ongoing); biochar demonstration project with a burn permit from ORCAA (single use, not ongoing); and commercial production with a permit from ORCAA. A commercial operation must go through our Notice of Construction process and we have not received any applications for this type of project.

Brotherton noted he didn't see any other scalable, cheaper and climate change adaptive measure that we can make besides biochar. Maybe ORCAA could incentivize pyrolysis rather than slash piles. He felt it was something we could use in all our counties. Neatherlin added Mason County recently discussed this and he was amazed at the benefits, especially the extension of life for cattle. If we knew ORCAA was supportive, he might be able to discuss this more seriously.

Goodin explained there is an avenue to take the material out of the woods and burning it, while reclaiming energy. Currently McKinley, in Clallam County, does take the material and use it, as do several other facilities in our jurisdiction. A biochar would be met with the same hurdles; can you get

the material out of the woods cost effectively. Asking if ORCAA is supportive, we are supportive of any technology that can meet the air pollution laws in the state. We would consider them the same way we would any other business.

Menser noted he believes there may be a commercial facility in Lewis county. McNair noted we would check. Cooper asked what Silver Springs does with the larger woody debris they receive. Goodin noted they do keep a stockpile of woody debris to use as a balancing measure for their compost. When needed, they rent a tub grinder and grind what is needed and recycle it back into the compost. Nelson added WSU has a program called Center for Sustaining Agricultural and Natural Resources. They have a biochar research program in the works currently.

Air Quality Program Update

Hadley noted August we had almost complete data with 31 good days, losing one day in Raymond. Ozone monitors are still running although typically we end them in September. Due to the wildfire smoke, we assume Ecology will continue running them because the smoke can amplify ozone.

Hadley reminded the Board we ended the Saturation Study in Mason County and she is working on writing the report which will be brought back later.

We have been able to access all our sites, Hadley continued, we've made one trip to Cheeka Peak and one to Aberdeen. Hadley has been spending most of her time finalizing the Community Toxics report and plans to present a brief synopsis at some time in the future.

Hadley shared the link to the fire.arinow.gov site she had mentioned at a previous meeting. She explained the map to the members.

Hadley explained McNair had requested she go over the forecasting of the smoke and where to go from here. Hadley showed a satellite picture of the fires and smoke from the weekend. Her concern over the weekend was knowing a wind was heading our way and would be pushing the smoke over our entire area. Hadley showed several maps covering a few days timeline. Hadley did note we do expect the smoke to continue to get worse throughout the week, and likely through the weekend. It was noted the air will likely continue to be in the red and purple.

There were some questions that focused on health and Hadley noted we can give people information on the air quality, but we need to direct people to the health departments or doctors with regards to health, heat, etc. There was some additional discussion regarding temperatures, weather, homeless, smoke, air quality, staying safe, etc.

Pratt asked if there was a way to get the links from the zoom chat. It was noted staff would send the links to the board.

Education and Outreach

Nelson noted he has been busy doing a lot of background stuff with regards to our website. He has been busy with the air quality alerts as well. Nelson stated he spent some time changing the links on our website to match the new 70A.15 and if you have problems finding the RCW you can access it through our site. The woodstove program is ongoing, and we recently signed off on six new applications just this week.

Finance/Administrative Update

Harding stated we will be bringing a budget amendment to the Board to allow us to take the additional \$35,000 for the woodstove program. We will have a Finance Committee meeting in October, and we will report back to the Board, on the budget, following that meeting. Harding stated our tenant activity remains the same with one vacancy upstairs. Harding explained we have some

minor maintenance issues we will be dealing with. We are currently scheduling carpet cleaning for the common areas, we had active bee nests that have been removed.

Harding stated she continues to keep staff informed of our Wellness program and upcoming activities. Harding noted we expect a SAO audit near the end of this year and is interested in the logistics being that they audits are being conducted remotely.

Executive Director's Report

McNair stated she appreciates Hadley staying on top of the air quality and working with Nelson to get the information out to our jurisdiction. We continue to have staff meetings once a month and feel it is important to stay connected, McNair stated. McNair explained she feels we are more effective from the office; however, staff is doing a really good job. We don't really expect to have everyone back into the office until sometime next year, McNair added. Once the vaccine is available, we are hoping staff will go in and get one. We do encourage our staff to get their flu shot each year as well.

Cooper asked if we are assisting staff with their home offices, if they need chairs, desks or whatever to be comfortable and productive. McNair stated we have not had to do that thus far, other than a laptop. Cooper asked if staff can take items home if needed. McNair stated they can if needed.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Myers shared a photo of Throgmorton's newborn twins. Menser stated he would not be available at the October meeting.

There was nothing further.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:22 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 September 9, 2020, in Olympia, Washington.

ATTEST:



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

Jim Cooper, Chair
ORCAA Board of Directors

DATED: 10/20/2020