

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

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING – via Zoom**

October 14, 2020

Members present	Jim Cooper, City of Olympia (Chair) Cynthia Pratt, City of Lacey (Vice Chair) Greg Brotherton, Jefferson County Wes Cormier, Grays Harbor County Joan Cathey, City of Tumwater
Members absent	Randy Neatherlin, Mason County Tye Menser, Thurston County Mary Ellen Winborn, Clallam County (10:06 am) Mike Runyon, Pacific County
Legal Counsel	Jeff Myers and Michael Throgmorton of Law, Lyman, Daniel, Kamerrer and Bogdanovich
Staff Present	Fran McNair, Executive Director; Robert Moody, Compliance Manager; Mark Goodin, Engineering Manager; Odelle Hadley, Air Monitoring Specialist; Dan Nelson, Public Information Officer; Lynn Harding, Administrative Services Manager; and Debbie Moody, Office Manager/Public Records Officer

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 asked Pratt to give a brief update on the Finance Committee meeting. Pratt noted the finance report was very positive, stating we have received 30% in revenue and 27% has been spent in the first quarter. Pratt stated we did have a discussion on the Title V program balance, however overall, it was a very positive meeting. Harding corrected Pratt, noting the expenditures is currently at 24%.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no public comments.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

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

**PUBLIC HEARING**

Rule 1.11 – Federal Regulation Reference Date

R. Moody explained this is the exercise we go through annually to change the date of the Federal Rules we have adopted into our regulation. We have not received any public comment. Staff recommendation is to approve the date change. Cooper opened the hearing at 10:05 am and

asked for any comments. There were none. The hearing was closed at 10:05 am.

Pratt moved approval of Rule 1.11-Federal Regulation Reference Date rule change. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### Resolution 279 Budget Amendment 001: Woodsmoke Reduction Grant

Harding noted we are seeking approval to add \$35,000 to the Woodstove Reduction program. The funds will assist in some of the changes that have taken place in the program. A new task was added to the program to assist staff in making it a bit easier to expend the funds in all three counties. In brief, we are combining each of the three funds (one for each of the three counties participating) into one fund and adding an additional \$35,000.

Nelson added we do require pre-approval of jobs prior to spending so we are able to set the funds aside. Currently, Nelson continued, out of the \$295,000-which includes the additional \$35,000-we have allocated \$200,700 to date. Adding in administrative and marketing costs we would need to include about \$59,000. We anticipate spending the entire amount and hope to request additional funds after the first of the year.

Brotherton asked if we moved from the word Bounty to Recycling. Nelson stated we have and it was at the request of several Native American Tribes in Eastern Washington that objected to the 'bounty' – it is a statewide change for all programs.

Harding stated an updated budget is attached to the resolution. Brotherton moved approval of Resolution 279 Budget Amendment 001. The motion was seconded. Cooper stated he was abstaining from the vote as he is in the process of utilizing the program. The motion carried with a majority of those present. (4 yes; 1 abstain)

## **DIRECTORS REPORT**

### Compliance Program Update

R. Moody stated we did receive a lot of complaints during the smokey timeframe. Most areas continued to allow recreational fires. In an asbestos case, ORCAA vs. Campbell, we prevailed, and they have until November 6 to appeal to Superior Court.

### Engineering Program Update

Goodin stated we may be thinking there would be a lull in permitting, but the opposite is true. It appears to be a statewide thing, Goodin noted. Speaking to his counterparts at other agencies, there has been an uptick in permitting actions. Goodin explained it appears the permitting is related mostly to wood products and waste management (compost, etc.). Going over some of the permitting activities, Goodin stated Ascensus has applied to apply a limit on their potential to emit. Doing this, Goodin noted, will get them out of the Title V program. BHP Billiton Canada was a proposed potash facility that has since been abandoned. DES Capitol Campus, like Ascensus in that they have established limits on their emissions in order to stay out of Title V program as well. Grays Harbor Energy, which has been on this list for quite some time, has been completed. We have a contract with EFSEC to write permits and conduct compliance activities for this facility. EFSEC has finally issued the permit.

Goodin continued with Sierra Pacific Industries (SPI). They produce kiln dried lumber and have applied to replace their kilns with 8 new ones. They are also requesting an increase in the production limits which will result in an increase in emissions. Due to the nature of their permitting it



will trigger Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) permit from Ecology. We are currently working with Ecology to assist SPI in getting through the PSD action. Silver Springs has asked to modify their compost facility. This request will increase their capacity and emissions. We have drafted a preliminary determination and sent it to them for review. We have requested additional controls on the first stages of composting and expect to have several meetings with them and their consultant.

Cathey questioned why we would allow them to increase their emissions when they are already an odor problem. Cathey felt the issue of wanting more control at the front end seems to be an old issue, not a new one. Goodin explained it is new. In this case they trigger a permit. Because of this, we can evaluate emissions and in doing so, we have the authority to require more controls to meet the standards in order to allow the increase in emissions. If they implement the controls we are requesting, their emissions should be substantially reduced.

### Air Quality Program Update

Hadley explained while the air quality in September was not great, it did allow for beautiful photography. She noted the cover photo was shared by Lauren Whybrew's sister and was taken in the San Juan Islands. Hadley noted the summary for September shows quite a lot more numbers than we typically see, and, she had to add another category that we have not used. Hazardous was added and used in every county. It was pointed out the averages for the month, in each county, were well over the unhealthy levels every day. Hadley added, if we weren't able to file for an exceptional event with EPA this would be indicative that we are over the max for the year.

Hadley stated she has gotten many people asking if this is the worst air quality we have ever had. Hadley had a chart showing 2018 we spent more time in Unhealthy conditions, however 2020 we hit hazardous. Over 20% of the time, between June and September 2020, was spent in very unhealthy or worse. Hadley shared charts to show the same information in different ways. The answer to the question is yes, this is the worst smoke event we have had in this area.

September is officially the last month we track ozone as it is a summer pollutant. Hadley noted as it shows, we never reached the standard, however there was a spike around September 7 through 11. That spike may be attributed to the first smoke event we had. Hadley explained wildfire smoke can amplify ozone concentrations, but it is a complicated relationship because it can also suppress ozone buildup.

We were able to deal without sites during these episodes. We fixed the Shelton site after it began having communication issues during the smoke event. The Raymond monitor was very dirty after the smoke events and we had some trouble getting it calibrated so we did lose some data. Hadley noted she continues to work on the Community Toxics project which is due next month. Hadley plans on giving a summary of that project at a later meeting. Hadley stated she assisted Ecology on answering questions regarding the smoke events from the public. We received excellent feedback on the blog. Hadley also noted she attended an EPA Purple Air webinar where they explained the corrections, quality control of the data and how they are using the data. She stated there is a correction factor on the site that people should use (EPA correction factor).

Hadley wanted to share she had talked to the National Weather Service regarding their ability to assist in tracking future smoke events and assisting in alerting people. There was some discussion regarding WAQA and AQI and their differences and confusion it does cause some people. Hadley stated the National Weather Service does use the AQI.

### Education and Outreach

Nelson added the AQI/WAQA issue has been a discussion of the Northwest Air Quality Communicators' group for many years. The basic message the communicators' group pushes is



regardless of which measurement you look at, if you leave the green zone, take the proper precautions. McNair added the other air agencies aren't consistent with what they use either. Some use WAQA and some use the AQI. She noted the air directors will be discussing this at the January meeting.

Nelson continued, noting he added several links to the Board packet. We have several links to our online mapping, some of which are available to the public while others are strictly for inhouse use only. Our online burn permits are tracked for compliance and you can see we currently have 22 ongoing land clearing burns in our jurisdiction. Our Thurston County burn permit program is extremely successful, so successful that 14 days into the burn season and we have about 1000 burn permits open in Thurston County. Nelson explained a few years ago, 5% of those permits would have been invalid due to being in a no burn area. Last year that number dropped to 1.5% and thus far, we have had 8 invalid permits for the nearly 1000 we received. Each year the education has helped remind people where they can't burn. There has been some discussion, Nelson stated, to make the online permitting jurisdiction-wide through our website. We have a few fire districts that still offer paper permits, so we will be discussing this with them.

Our email alert program, Nelson continued, is growing. In the last few days, we had over 500 new subscribers. We currently have approximately 10,000 subscribers, up from 4,800 last year at this time. Of those subscribers, 30% of them share or push those emails out to their own subscribers.

We also have a gasoline facility map that has been utilized by quite a few people. The information is there for not just the public, but for the contractors and stations to assist them in meeting the testing and permitting requirements.

As discussed previously, we have added \$35,000 to our woodstove change out program and we are looking good to fully expend our funds by the end of the calendar year. Nelson stated he hopes to request additional funds if there are any available after the first of the year. Nelson showed a map of the change outs, noting there is many more in the Olympia/Lacey area as that is where we started our efforts.

Cooper asked Nelson to send him the data he cited regarding outdoor burning in Thurston County. He was curious if there is another data point from the compliance that matches, or doesn't, complaints to burning in the cities and urban growth area. If that is something we can pull together it would be great. Cooper reminded everyone that we had done outreach a couple of years ago to talk about charging a fee for outdoor burn permits and the feedback was, because of the lack of compliance in the cities and UGAs, we had more work to do. Cooper noted this appears to be showing a huge success. He was interested in seeing what the outreach plan and timeline would be to get to a full regional online permit and, an outreach plan to get to a decision around a fee in Thurston County in time for our budget season (this upcoming budget).

#### Finance/Administrative Update

Harding thanked Pratt for covering the first quarter finance report, noting it was a very positive report. She reiterated we have received 30% of our budgeted revenue. Our grant work and reimbursements reflecting that will be seen in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of our fiscal year. On the expenditure side, we have expended 24% of our funds. A large portion of that is attributed to our insurance payment.

#### Executive Director's Report

McNair noted majority of staff are still working remotely and we anticipate engineers will be working remotely (other than Mark Goodin), until sometime next year. McNair stated her focus is, once we have a vaccine, we can start bringing staff back into the office. McNair noted she has been

encouraging staff to get their flu shots and is hopeful they are getting them. Compliance staff continues to do the inspections they can and also responding to complaints. As mentioned earlier, the AQI/WAQA discussion was a major portion of the Air Directors' Meeting in September. We, the air directors, will be pushing Ecology to take a stronger role on this issue.

McNair noted, during the heavy smoke days, Mason, Jefferson and Pacific counties put into place 'no recreational fires' when the smoke was very bad. It was unfortunate the other 3 counties continued to allow recreational fires. McNair stated perhaps each of the Board members could consider, or discuss with staff, not allowing recreational fires when we have these extreme events. Cooper suggested staff send an email to the counties citing some of Hadley's data and mention the 3 counties that did restrict recreational burning. McNair stated she could do that if the rest of the Board was ok with it. Brotherton noted it wasn't the commissioners who made the decision, it was the Fire District, so including them in the email would be helpful.

McNair reminded everyone there is no meeting in November, so our next meeting is December. Cooper noted December will be the last meeting for Cormier and asked if we knew of any other changes. McNair stated there could be changes in January when the commission/city councils choose the Boards you will be part of. We are sorry to see Cormier leave, McNair stated.

Cooper stated January might be a good time to remind our jurisdictions they can have a staff alternate to attend in the place of the appointed Board member.

#### **GOOD OF THE ORDER**

Nelson stated he forgot to mention he has been working on asbestos and demolition education to the counties and cities and wanted to call out Mark Siegler of Grays Harbor County. He was specifically complimentary of ORCAA, and wanted to acknowledge Mike Shults for the outstanding work he has done in their communities.

#### **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 October 14, 2020, in Olympia, Washington.

ATTEST:



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

Jim Cooper, Chair  
ORCAA Board of Directors

DATED: 12/10/2020