

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING – via Zoom

April 14, 2021

Members present	Jim Cooper, City of Olympia (Chair) Cynthia Pratt, City of Lacey (Vice Chair) Joan Cathey, City of Tumwater Randy Neatherlin, Mason County Carolina Mejia, Thurston County Jill Warne, Grays Harbor County Frank Wolfe, Pacific County
Members absent	Bill Peach, Clallam County Greg Brotherton, Jefferson 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, Senior 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 10:02 a.m. Cooper requested roll call.

Cooper asked for a motion to approve the Agenda. Neatherlin moved approval of the Agenda. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

CHAIR REPORT

Cooper wanted to make sure the Board members saw the letter they received from Ecology. Cooper requested a staff briefing and a recommendation of what a work plan might look like to increase our relationship with the tribes across our region. Cooper felt a summit, perhaps annually, may be a suggestion. McNair noted the letter isn't quite accurate. We are involved with tribes, McNair stated. McNair added we can have a briefing on where we are and what we are doing, but it is important to know none of the locals were aware of this letter until it was finalized and being sent.

Pratt noted the Finance Committee met this morning and went over the current FY21 budget and we are at 86% on revenues and 71% on expenditures. Revenues were a bit high due to a fine and investigative fee for an 'after-the-fact' construction permit. For the draft FY22 budget, our investments are down a bit and our benefits look to be coming in a bit less than we anticipated. We had a brief discussion on burn permits. Pratt noted Cooper wanted to check in with counties to see how they are doing with revenue coming in so finance can decide on the assessment. Cooper added the projected increase is 1.4% and Mason County noted they were good with the increase. Pratt noted the cities in Thurston County are doing well and it was her understanding Thurston County was doing well.

Pratt stated the committee also went over some of the building projects we will be looking at over the next five years.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Cooper noted we did have a member of the public online and asked if they wished to speak. Jana Wiley, lives out off Rich Road area. She had received a letter from Thurston County stating land clearing was going to be taking place across from her property. Currently there are huge piles on the property that are being prepared for burning. It appears the burn will occur following two very unhealthy summers of wildfire smoke, and during a pandemic. Wiley noted several people she is concerned about, including herself, are high risk.

Cooper asked if there were any questions of comments from the Board. Pratt asked what UGA Wiley is in? Wiley stated RR1-5. Located between 79th and 77th off Rich Road. Mejia noted Wiley had contacted Thurston County about this same issue and it was her understanding McNair suggested she participate in this meeting. Mejia thanked Wiley for her comments.

R. Moody noted the permit has been issued in an area that land clearing burning is allowed. We had been advised by council that we cannot reject an application to burn but can add conditions to it. We have met with the contractors and discussed working with us as far as checking wind direction, having fans on site etc. to improve combustion. We are looking for a SSW to carry the smoke away from Wiley's residents. McNair noted they are only allowed to burn Monday through Friday as well. Wiley did note she is aware that a burn pile will not just stop burning because it is the weekend and she is concerned with the pandemic and burning.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

PRESENTATION

Woodstove Reduction Program and Air Quality

Hadley reminded the Board one of the members asked if our programs caused the long-term reduction in PM2.5 in the region. Hadley had said she would look at the data and see what she could find out. Hadley presented a slide show explaining there are 2 variables controlling PM2.5 concentrations; one, the amount of PM2.5 emitted (in our region it is generally from wood smoke), and two, weather (wind speed and atmospheric stability). Hadley noted she used both Thurston County and Port Angeles data to compare, noting we recently added Port Angeles to the woodstove reduction program. The chart showed back in the late 90s and early 2000s in the Thurston county we regularly had over 20 days (winter) where the air quality was unhealthy for sensitive groups or worse. Over that time the numbers declined, and we now have less than 10 days, averaging 5. Hadley went over different slides explaining the different metrics.

Nelson clarified in 2015 we added all of Thurston County, expanding the program from just Lacey, Olympia, and Tumwater. McNair added some information regarding upcoming funding, stating we are expecting a bit more than we have had in the past years.

Pratt asked if the data can be used to augment our information to get additional funding. McNair stated she has used the data. Nelson stated he would be using the data during the next grant cycle. He felt it was great information, not only for us, but it should be encouraging for other air agencies.

DIRECTORS REPORT

Compliance Program Update

R. Moody noted activities have picked up now with the dryer weather. R. Moody shared some information regarding a complaint we had received on March 9, in the Lacey UGA area. Staff arrived onsite and talked to the burner, noting his activity was illegal and a Notice of Violation would be issued, and requested they extinguish their fire. We then received a burn permit application and Nelson noted it was in the UGA and denied the permit. On March 10, we received yet another complaint the person was burning again. We called and the violator requested the amount of the penalty if they continued to burn. After further discussion, the violator stated they would continue to burn. The final result, one of the trees they felled, damaged a power line which blew a transformer, which damaged Comcast internet service in the area, which is what caused the issues we had during the March Board meeting.

Engineering Program Update

Goodin noted it was a great story and to tie it a bit further, in our jurisdiction you can burn wood in enormous amounts. It is being done at a lot of our mills, Sierra Pacific, Weyerhaeuser Raymond, McKinley, etc. These sources have controls that take out a lot of the particulate and they can burn responsibly. Under the permit report you will see a lot of cases associated with lumbermills and other facilities that do burn biomass.

We have several permits out the door as final and we have a few more that are waiting on final payments before they are sent out. We have quite a bit of workload and if you have any questions or need information on a specific permit, please ask.

Cooper stated he had heard there may be a newly proposed wood waste facility in Grays Harbor county. Goodin didn't recall. Goodin noted it is likely in the discussion phase and we typically get involved once they have funding and hire a consultant who submits a permit.

Air Quality Program Update

Hadley noted March was a great month for air quality in our region. We had 100% data complete at all our sites. Also, 31 days of good air quality at every site, Hadley pointed out. We installed Ozone back at the Lacey site. Ozone is a summer pollutant and not typically an issue in March, but we wanted to be ready for summer. This year, Hadley continued, we were told Ecology would not be operating their official Ozone monitor in Yelm due to construction in the area. It will be suspended for up to 2 years.

Hadley stated she continues to get up to Cheeka Peak for routine maintenance. We have been asked to collaborate on a proposal to the National Science Foundation to install additional monitoring equipment at Cheeka Peak. This would be 1 of 12 sites installed around the country. If it gets funded, we will be working with UW.

The Toxics Paper Hadley had submitted for publication has been accepted for publication and has been published in Atmospheric Environment. A link was made available and would be accessible for the next 40 days.

Education and Outreach

Nelson stated we have allocated 100% of our current woodstove grant and have requested additional funding. It does appear we may be getting additional funding and McNair will give additional details. Because we are so successful, it puts us in a good position to seek a renewal of

the grant next year, and, we will request more funds in the next biennium. We are also working on opening the program to a larger range in our jurisdiction.

Outdoor burning has been very active and recently we have talked to Grays Harbor County regarding a test permit program for residential burning in their jurisdiction. We will follow up with them and report back to the Board next month.

We have done some additional mailings and outreach to communities and contractor associations on asbestos and demolition.

Finance/Administrative Update

Harding stated we are in the middle of a state audit and they had hoped to have it complete by last Friday, however it is ongoing. In the packet, there was an entry letter. Areas they are auditing, included evaluating compliance with our grants (woodsmoke reduction), reviewing our accounts payable, general disbursements, procurement policies and purchases and other areas as well.

As of last Friday, Harding noted, the update with our auditor is they are happy to report there is nothing substantial that needs to be reported. The auditor will be providing an update to the Board at either the May or June meeting.

Our E-Well City application was submitted to AWC in February and has been approved. This means, for calendar year 2022, ORCAA will continue to receive the 2% reduction in premiums. Our Wellness Committee is active with a new challenge starting in May. It is an activity challenge, Race to the Finish, that will keep ORCAA staff engaged mentally and physically.

Harding noted the 3rd quarter report was also in the packet and if there are any questions let her know.

Myers noted, in relation to the audit, there is a gentleman making requests to government agencies, his name is Erik Hood. Myers wanted to make sure staff segregated the audit materials to be prepared for a possible request.

Executive Director's Report

McNair stated it has been interesting working with Ecology with regards to the woodstove reduction program. McNair noted she has been working with Dave Grant, who is incredible. He has asked the other agencies if they have spent their allocations and PSCAA stated they would not be able spend the last \$20,000. Grant spoke with the other agencies to see if they wanted any additional funds and we requested \$10,000 if we could get it. In the end, none of the other agencies asked for the funds. We waited for Ecology to decide. Because we hadn't heard, McNair stated, she contacted them. They stated it all needed to be in writing, so we had to wait for that process as well. In the end, one other agency did ask for \$10,000 as well (Spokane). We are now hoping to get the additional \$10,000 soon. We know we will fully expend the funds if we get it in time.

McNair explained she also spoke with Ecology about the fact that we often see uncertified stoves on Craig's list. We do not want that to happen and we thought it would be great to have a state-wide program to buy up uncertified stoves and get them recycled. We will be discussing this at the Air Directors meeting in May. McNair noted we do try to serve the underserved. We do not serve the tribes as they have their own allocation for these programs, but we do work collaboratively with the tribes on situations that arise.

The President is asking that EPA have a greater flexibility of grant funds with additional dollars going into the 103 and 105 funds, which is monitoring money that we are allocated. The 103 dollars are the only funds we get directly from EPA; the 105 funds are filtered through Ecology.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

There was nothing for the Good of the Order.

EXECUTIVE SESSION (per RCW 42.30.110)

Amicus Briefing – Pending Litigation (RCW 42.30.110(1)(i))

Cooper noted we do have an item for Executive Session. He stated Zoom will enable the waiting room, staff will depart from the meeting. Cooper recessed to Executive Session at 11:15 am and noted it will be no longer than 15 minutes. Cooper noted they will adjourn the meeting during the session and no decisions will be made.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:29 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 April 14, 2021, in Olympia, Washington.

ATTEST:



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

Jim Cooper, Chair
ORCAA Board of Directors

DATED: 5/12/2021