

**AIR QUALITY ADVISORY BOARD  
REGULAR MEETING  
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2012**

**DATE:** Monday, September 17 2012  
**LOCATION:** 215 N. Mason Conference Room 1-A  
**TIME:** 5:30 – 8:30 pm

**For Reference** Greg McMaster, Chair - 484-3348  
Ben Manvel, Council Liaison - 217-1932  
Lucinda Smith, Staff Liaison - 224-6085

**Present:** Scott Groen, Dennis Georg, John Schroeer, David Dietrich, Greg McMaster, Hugh Mackay, Rich Fisher, Michael Lynn  
**Absent:** Nancy York

**Staff present** –Alexis Hmielak, Lucinda Smith, Randy Hensley,

**Guests:** Greg Behm, Energy Board

**Call meeting to order:**  
Greg McMaster called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

**Agenda Review** - The order of presentation was changed to have Randy Hensley present first.  
**Public Comments** –none

**Parking Plan**

The AQAB continued its discussion about the Parking Plan from the August 20 meeting, and considered a recommendation for City Council. Randy Hensley, Parking Services and Transportation Budget Manager, was present to answer questions.

- To answer a question from Greg McMaster and correct information in an article by the Coloradoan newspaper regarding the Parking Plan budget, Randy Hensley stated the offer submitted for neighborhood parking permits is recommended for funding.
- Dennis Georg put together a draft recommendation from the AQAB for the Parking Plan as a starting point.

**Discussion:**

- Greg McMaster stated that expecting neighborhoods to be 60% - 70% in agreement with neighborhood parking permits might be unrealistically high and that a lower guideline would be easier to implement. Randy Hensley stated that number is just a guideline. Their plan is to engage the neighborhoods to find out what works for them.
  - Another idea under consideration is to have different weightings for resident owners, absentee owners and renters; with resident homeowners having the highest weight, and renters the lowest. It would be one vote per property. Greg was concerned that weighted voting is a rights issue and a potential controversy.
- To answer John Schroeer who asked how other cities have implemented neighborhood parking permit programs, Randy Hensley stated Denver imposed their program without input from neighborhoods.

- Dennis Georg felt this plan is a good pragmatic start but the City will have to experiment and implement the parking program until they can figure out how to make it work. He felt it was important the City Parking Manager should be able to make decisions and not have his hands tied.
- Randy Hensley clarified the timing of the initial program implementation is important and that it will stay in place until a neighborhood chooses to remove it. He also stated he is already working closely with the CSU parking program.

David Dietrich moved and Hugh Mackay seconded a motion that the AQAB submit the following recommendation to City Council regarding the Parking Plan:

The AQAB has reviewed the recently completed Parking Plan. Progress in this area has been made. With the following three modifications, the AQAB advises the City Council to support the plan:

1. Accelerate the implementation of paid downtown parking.
2. Implement clear requirements for new development to address the parking requirements for employees, customers, residents and service providers. These can include setting the requirements for the support of minimum parking equivalents and for the support of alternative modes of transportation.
3. Engage CSU (students and staff) to understand and support their strategy for providing student parking on and near campus.

These modifications are intended to further the complex balance among business owners, community interests, and citizens.

The AQAB passed these recommendations unanimously (8-0-0) on September 17, 2012. Please contact me if you have any questions or want additional detail on the recommendations. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on the City's Parking Plan.

Motion passed unanimously

### **Review and Approval of August 15, 2012 minutes**

Hugh Mackay corrected a minor typo on page 2.

John Schroer moved and David Dietrich seconded a motion to approve the August 15, 2012 minutes as amended.

Motion Passed unanimously

### **West Nile Virus Update**

Greg McMaster is a member of the West Nile Virus Advisory Committee that reports and makes recommendations to the City Manager whether or not to spray for West Nile Virus in Fort Collins. Greg voted "no" on the recommendation for spraying because of concerns with process and the need for spraying. He will meet with the City Manager to discuss these concerns. He asked for input from the

AQAB on strategy for proceeding and if the AQAB wanted to weigh in with a recommendation to Council to revise the West Nile Virus advisory procedure.

Discussion:

- Summary of major points presented for discussion included:
  - **Policy:** Fort Collins has invested significantly in developing an excellent larviciding program, extensive monitoring system, and good public education as key elements of their West Nile Virus program to reduce human infection of this serious disease. In adopting the WNV Policy in 2007, the goal was to reduce the need of adulticide spraying only to extreme outbreaks as it is recognized that a) it is not possible to prevent all cases, b) there are public concerns over human and environmental health consequences of spraying adulticides, and c) funds are limited in choosing among many serious health and other concerns that are underfunded in the city. The WNV Advisory Committee was formed to provide a balanced perspective of all factors relevant to Policy and citizen interests in the cases of adulticide spraying recommendations to the City Manager. Greg supports the policy, but emphasized that after these significant efforts by the City, it is the responsibility of the individual to take steps to prevent infection through behavior, repellents, and other measures (which is the most effective form of prevention possible).
  - **Process:** Errors in the process include:
    - The retracted recommendation for spraying the prior week of spraying due to an inaccurate calculation of the Vector Index (VI) raises concerns about quality assurance and control in calculating the VI and transmission of data throughout the system.
    - Policy stipulates the Advisory Committee members are to have 24 hours to provide their recommendation to City Manager following recommendation for spraying by Larimer County Health & Environment Dept. The Advisory Committee was given less than 12 hours for the recommendation, and this was during the main business hours on a Wednesday. In the case of Greg, he struggled with time to get his initial concerns into the deliberations and was unavailable at the end of the afternoon to discuss his concerns with the City Manager.
    - Information passed from the County to the City/Advisory committee contained errors, omissions, and typos, all leading to difficulty in understanding the recommendation. The most significant problems included incorrect map of the zones to be sprayed and clear information for how specific traps were selected or omitted in calculating the VI index for those zones.
    - Serious concerns about calculation of the VI and the resultant recommendation for spraying include:
      - ✓ All individuals involved in the discussion were using a trigger point of 0.75 in the VI calculation (using all traps) for the city to consider adulticide spraying, and this value was not reached.
      - ✓ The VI is not intended to be calculated for very small areas within the city using just a few traps, as this is not statistically valid and greatly diminishes the effectiveness of spraying, yet this was done. The rationale used for inclusion or omission of specific light traps within the small areas being recommended for spraying was not provided. Regardless, only 1 or 2 of the 5 areas recommended for spraying were above the trigger of 0.75. While Greg appreciates the reasons to minimize the area sprayed to five zones, the

rationale supporting this was not valid, and at most spraying should have been restricted only to zones clearly above the 0.75 threshold.

- The WNV Advisory Committee to City Manager was formed to provide a balanced perspective of all factors relevant to Policy and citizen interests in the cases of adulticide spraying recommendations. It is not clear to Greg that all members of the Advisory Committee fully understood the science and history of discussions leading to policy, nor had the time to properly review the information before giving a recommendation to City Manager.
- **Data:**
  - At the time of spraying only 1 case of West Nile Virus had been reported for Fort Collins.
  - Mosquito population data for both *Culex* species throughout the year were generally quite low and fell within one standard deviation of historical levels. The seasonal pattern was tracking historical patterns and *C. tarsalis* populations were declining as expected in late August. *C. pipiens* populations were not showing much decline, but the number of *C. pipiens* mosquitoes were much less than *C. tarsalis*. The only cause for concern was the high percentage infection rate among *C. pipiens* noted in the gravid, not light, traps. Of particular note is that *C. pipiens* population levels are always considerably less than *C. tarsalis*, yet the vector index weighs them equally.
  - Almost universally Greg heard from people throughout the town, and many from within the proposed spray zones, that mosquito numbers were among the lowest in memory and not a concern. The trapping data support this observation, and Greg personally noted this in his experience as he and his neighbors all commented on the lack of mosquitos (his residence was within one of the spraying zones).
- **Notification:** There was inadequate notice to citizens there would be spraying.
  - Most/all individuals with only cell phones were not contacted because there is no system in place to call them on their cellphones. This was particularly a problem with students.
  - Phone notification by landline of individuals within the areas to be sprayed was inconsistent. It appears that the original registry for notification of spraying/opting out was not up-to-date or functioning.
  - There was insufficient time for the Coloradoan to put the notice on the front page, and instead the only notification was a small article at the bottom of the second page.
  - Radio coverage was very minimal and occurred after the first spraying.
  - Notification of citizens outside of the spray zones is also necessary so they are able to avoid the zones when being sprayed.
  - Greg had received feedback that citizens seeking information on the City Webpage on the spraying was inadequate to meet their needs or was difficult to find.
  - The lack of notification impacted residents and businesses. Not all individuals have, or choose to use, air conditioners. Those not notified did not close up their houses and usually kept their windows open and used fans to cool their houses, and normal activity levels continued. Not knowing when the spraying would occur on the street necessitated people coming inside earlier than they would. With poor notification, bee keepers could not take preventative actions. People with organic gardens were affected. Confusion on what to do with gardens and fruit trees was common among

those who knew of the spraying, and those unaware of the spraying would not know of the need for precautions.

○ **Miscellaneous:**

- The upcoming Labor Day weekend was very influential in the urgency of the recommendation for spraying, yet this was never a factor discussed, nor considered, in the policy.
  - One low-income neighborhood in County adjacent to the city was sprayed despite knowledge the data did not suggest a need for doing so (paid for by the County).
  - Cost of spraying was not known at the time of the AQAB meeting, but it likely was a significant amount of money that is not included in the WNV budgeting.
- Dennis Georg wondered if City staff provided any checks and balances to the process.
  - Greg Behm suggested, if the system breaks down, it should default by doing nothing.
  - David Dietrich pointed out HOAs and some neighborhoods, including his, automatically spray when certain criteria are met.
  - Dennis George suggested, if there is an established process and it was followed to the best of the committee's ability, it should be sufficient. However, if members of the West Nile Virus Advisory Committee were not properly informed and made a decision from insufficient information, that could be another issue.
  - Dennis felt the AQAB should not make a recommendation at this time. He suggested Greg McMaster talk with the City Manager first and the advisory committee should then meet to discuss if the established process was properly followed. If the advisory committee does not agree, then Greg could seek other avenues to revise the process. The AQAB board members agreed with this approach.

**Climate Action Plan Update**

Lucinda Smith, Interim Director of Environmental Services presented an update on the community carbon reduction goals focusing on recommended actions and the interim target.

- Even though progress has been made there is a continuing urgency for action.
  - Greenhouse gas emissions from fossil fuels was at a record high in 2011.
  - 40,000 daily heat records were broken in 2011.
  - There is a strong statistical link between certain weather events and climate change.
  - Extreme heat events in Denver are predicted to increase significantly from 9 per year to 88 per year by 2050.
- An interdepartmental energy management team meets regularly to talk about community and municipal carbon activities and track progress. They produced an annual status report on the Fort Collins Climate Action Plan. Since this is a BFO year, the report includes: GHG emissions progress; list of annual reductions; progress relative to interim milestones; and recommended future actions.
- Fort Collins Progress:
  - Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions are down 14.7% from the 2005 baseline year, even with a 13.5% increase in population. Core emissions dropped 9% this year.
  - The 2050 GHG reduction target is 80% reduction. This will require many changes.
    - John Schroeer stated that goal does not seem unrealistic because he anticipates huge technological changes in vehicles in the next 40 years.
  - Carbon emissions from electricity is going down because the fuel mix is changing by adding renewable energy.

- Carbon emissions from natural gas and transportation have remained basically the same.
- Another view on progress would be looking at the economic activity and life cycle footprint of materials that come into the city and items sent to the landfill that could have been recycled.
- The big picture programs that contributed to community reductions in 2011 are:
  - ClimateWise
    - Partners avoided over 149,000 MTCO<sub>2</sub>e in 2011 and saved over \$13M in 2011
  - Energy Policy
    - Citizens and businesses participating in City 2011 energy efficiency programs avoided over 20,400 MWH electricity (1.4% of community electricity use - The goal was 1.5%).
    - 6.5% of electricity investments in clean, renewable energy (4.6% from rate-base, 1.9% from voluntary Green Energy program subscriptions)
    - There were air pollution benefits as a result of reduced electricity and natural gas usage.
  - Waste Reduction through increased recycling
    - The “Non-Industrial” waste diversion rate increased to 47% in 2011, from 43% in 2010.
    - “Community” waste diversion rate, including industrial materials = 57% in 2011
  - Increased Transportation Efficiency
    - Transfort ridership grew by 46% since 2005.
    - The number of VanGo vans increased by 49% since 2005.
- The 2020 Forecast Update is done every other year. There are not many changes at this time. Utilities forecasts a lower growth rate.
- Recommended 2015 Interim Milestone and 2016 Milestone
  - Up to now we have been tracking on the 2012 “Intent to Reduce Emissions” milestone adopted by Council, of 3% below 2005.
  - We are almost at the goal and it is time to set a new milestone.
  - The recommendation is to work toward an interim milestone of 20% below 2005 by 2016.
- Recommended future actions:
  - Assess strategies to move toward 2016 milestone.
  - Keep moving forward with current strategies.
  - Investigate a waste-to-energy facility and integrated recycling facility
  - Boards need to discuss strategies in advance of next budget cycle

#### Discussion

- Dennis Georg stated it would have been helpful to have the interim report before making the AQAB budget recommendations. It would have helped clarify the progress that had been made and the gap that remains so they could have encouraged more aggressive strategies. He also felt the AQAB should remind Council it made a recommendation to fund items that will make an impact on meeting the air quality goal.
- Dennis presented the following draft recommendation to Council for the AQAB’s review and discussion:

David Dietrich moved and Scott Groen seconded a motion that the AQAB support the following recommendation to Council as presented by Dennis Georg:

The AQAB has reviewed the 2011 Climate Action Plan Status Report. The Board is encouraged by the progress being made. However, it is clear that the gap for meeting the 2020 and 2050 goals set

### **Oil and Gas Air Quality Impacts Discussion**

The Board continued their discussion about further steps to take to address this issue. Rich Fisher and Greg McMaster attended the recent City's Oil and Gas Advisory Committee meeting as representatives from the AQAB. The committee discussed possible recommendations how the City of Fort Collins can affect oil and gas development in the City. The next committee meeting will be October 4.

#### Discussion

- Greg McMaster stated the oil and gas advisory committee met and broke into groups to discuss various topics. The next step is that each of the subgroups will give the results of their discussions to staff summarized by topic area.
- Lucinda Smith stated some regulations may not go as far as the committee might want the Council will go because the City Attorney's office is obligated to a type of regulation that will not create a lawsuit against the City.
- Rich Fisher submitted a document with suggested possible oil and gas regulations or ordinances for the City.
- David Dietrich thought ozone could be an issue that could be addressed. It was his understanding it was addressed by oil and gas companies in Wyoming.
- To answer Dave Dietrich, Lucinda Smith stated setbacks from the wellhead versus boundary of drilling site are being researched. There is also a city noise ordinance that could be researched.
  - There was some discussion at staff level how to present the suggestions to Council. It is possible there could be a staff recommendation and a City Attorney's Office recommendation. They could be different.

**Brief updates & announcements**

- Lucinda Smith pointed out three AQAB members' terms expire at the end of 2012. One is term limited. Notices will be sent out inviting citizens to apply for the board.
  - Bike Advisory Committee report – Michael Lynn reported the Bike Advisory Committee meeting was cancelled.
- Lucinda announced there will be a Net Zero Cities symposium October 16 and 17, 2012.

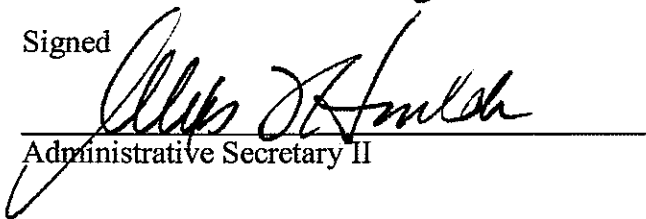
**Adjourn**

Scott Groen moved and John Schroeer seconded a motion to adjourn.

Greg McMaster adjourned the meeting at 7:55 pm

Approved by the Board on October 15, 2012

Signed

  
Administrative Secretary II

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Date / /