

**AIR QUALITY ADVISORY BOARD  
REGULAR MEETING  
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2013**

**DATE:** Monday, February 25, 2012  
**LOCATION:** 215 N. Mason Community Room  
**TIME:** 5:30 – 8:30 pm

**For Reference** Greg McMaster, Chair - 484-3348  
Ben Manvel, Council Liaison - 217-1932  
Melissa Hovey, Staff Liaison – 221-6813

**Present:** Michael Lynn, Scott Groen, Rich Fisher, David Dietrich, John Shenot, Greg McMaster, Nancy York, Tom Moore,  
**Absent:** Jim Dennison

**Staff present** Alexis Hmielak, Melissa Hovey

**Guests:** Ben Zuehlsolorff, CSU student

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

**Public Comments** – none

**Review and Approval of Monday, January 28, 2013 minutes**

Dave Dietrich moved and Tom Moore seconded a motion to approve the January 28, 2013 minutes as presented.  
Motion passed unanimously.

**Update on West Nile Virus Plan Review**

Greg McMaster presented an update on the West Nile Virus (WNV) Plan Review and what will likely will be presented at the March 12 City Council Work Session.

- West Nile Virus (WNV) migrated across the United States and came to Colorado in approximately 2002. In 2003 the City of Fort Collins began a broad-based preventative program.
- In July, 2008, the Technical Advisory Committee was convened consisting of a local physician, and one member each from the NRAB and AQAB. This Committee devised the West Nile Virus policy which was then passed by City Council. This Advisory Committee advises the Fort Collins City Manager if and when the Larimer County Health Director warrants spraying is necessary.
- In 2012 there was a 2 to 1 vote to spray. The process to come to this decision was controversial and, beginning November 2012, The Technical Advisory Committee met almost every week to review procedures and make recommendations how to improve the

process. Some of the issues under review are insufficient notification and too short of a turnaround time for the recommendation to the City Manager.

#### Discussion

- John Shenot: What are the health impacts of adulticide spraying? (Spraying is low volume fogging from trucks. There are no known human effects at that volume unless people have respiratory issues. Spraying was done from 10:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m. when people and other insects are generally not outside. The risks of getting West Nile Virus need to be weighed. The best prevention is personal behavior. Take personal responsibility to not get bit by mosquitoes).
- Dave Dietrich: HOAs in Fort Collins and Loveland spray independently from the City.
- Rich Fisher: Are you asking for a recommendation from AQAB to take back to the WNV Advisory Committee? (It is left up to the AQAB if it wants to make a recommendation).
- Rich Fisher: Until it can be proven that the risk to people is substantially reduced by spraying I think it is better to default to NOT spray. (“When in doubt don’t spray” was a policy before. The problem comes down to going against the recommendation of the county medical director who recommends spraying).
- Dave Dietrich: Does City Council have to approve the WNV plan? (Mike Calhoun was directed to have the WNV Advisory Committee review the plan. As long as we don’t change the policy, nothing has to be done. Council wants to be reassured we will follow the plan).
- Tom Moore: What information does the county health person use to determine spraying is necessary? (Dr. LeBailley is very knowledgeable. She gets data collected by the City and also from the State of Colorado and City of Loveland).
- Greg McMaster: The physician member of the Advisory Committee treats people with West Nile Virus. He said there is increasing evidence that WNV can stay with you for a long time and can later manifest into serious conditions like meningitis).
- Tom Moore: Is there any exposure monitoring being done regarding what amount of adulticide spray gets into a house? (No. We do not monitor that. They rely on other studies).
- Rich Fisher: What should the AQAB do? (They could support the program but restate adulticiding should only be done except as a last resort).
- Greg McMaster handed out the proposed guidelines for the 2013 West Nile Virus program.
- John Shenot: I suggest the AQAB support the City policy and intent of the policy and recommend the City Manager conform to the policy when making all operational decisions.
- Michael Lynn: Maybe there needs to be more specific language in the policy
- Scott Groen: If the Larimer County Health Department advises to spray and it is within the parameters of the policy I don’t think the AQAB needs to make a recommendation.

Nancy York moved the AQAB make a recommendation regarding the proposed 2013 West Nile Advisory Board process.

Motion died from lack of a second

- Since the AQAB did not have the actual policy to review, the board agreed to not make a recommendation to Council about it.
- Greg will email the policy to the board for their review and consideration. If anyone on the board feels strongly and wants to make a recommendation, it would be up to them as an individual to do so since there is no AQAB meeting before Council considers the policy.

### **Discussion of 2013 Work Plan and possible key focus areas for the year**

The board discussed their 2013 Work Plan and setting primary goals for the year. It was recommended the AQAB have two major areas of focus where the board can be as proactive as possible. Writing a white paper on one of these areas of focus was a possible outcome.

- Melissa Hovey presented work plan items from last month's discussions. She cut and pasted this year's work plan into a spread sheet to match up to Council's 2013 calendar.
- Two major areas of focus were suggested:
  - Oil and gas
    - Melissa Hovey: Even though Council is considering a ban on fracking, there will still be some land use code components of this issue. The city is currently in negotiations on operator agreements. The AQAB may want to weigh in on this, also.
  - Public transportation
    - John Shenot: Since we are the Air Quality Advisory Board, I think we should determine which problems we are trying to solve. Transportation is one of them. However, we are not the Transportation Board. We should only focus on the air quality aspect of transportation.
- Melissa Hovey: Two other issues relative to the AQAB are: continued involvement with the Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC); and to keep City Council well informed on health impacts of air quality.
  - Michael Lynn: The BAC is a subcommittee of the Transportation Board. They address many things that do not have to do with air quality. I suggest discussing with them the possibility that an AQAB representative only attend the meetings which address air quality. It is not productive for me to attend meetings that do not discuss air quality.
  - Greg McMaster: The AQAB could suggest transportation changes that would better impact air quality and human health.
  - Melissa Hovey: The AQAB Bylaws state the board needs to interact with the Planning and Zoning Board and the Transportation and Energy Board. Right now the Energy board is rewriting the city's energy policy.
- Nancy York: There is an education issue about automobile use and its impact on air quality that needs to be addressed. People do not want to consider reducing vehicle miles travelled.
  - Melissa Hovey: Staff is addressing education about idling, smoking vehicles, and eco driving. Perhaps the AQAB wants to be more actively involved in those programs.
- Tom Moore: Regarding health impacts, one thing the AQAB could do is have an educational outreach open house where we emphasize reducing exposure to source activities. We could partner with other boards like Planning and Zoning and Transportation on this. Air quality impacts to widening Timberline and home building should be addressed.
  - John Shenot: I agree with this idea but suggest we do not dig down to the project level. I think the AQAB can have a role where we educate what are the public health impacts of air pollution and how are we doing as a city.
- Tom Moore: The City's Energy Policy is important. The AQAB could look at climate change and air quality issues and advise Council how to reduce exposure by better management choices.

- Tom Moore: If Council approves a ban on oil and gas development, could we have someone come and tell us what the fallout will be from this decision? (Melissa: I am on the staff Oil and Gas Committee. However, we will not know in March what the fallout will be. We would like to see the AQAB becoming more active with what happens outside the city. Perhaps what we do here could influence Weld County).
  - Greg McMaster: To conduct a public forum will take much work and planning. We only have so much time. Perhaps we should have a sub-committee or spend time each meeting to plan this event. We need to come together with a clear understanding of the implications of different aspects of air quality and get the community to think about how policies can affect them. We need to be proactive and remind Council of air quality issues, i.e. Fort Collins is out of ozone compliance.
  - John Shenot: We can start our discussions with the development of a white paper to identify the issues and how they affect people, and what kinds of decisions would improve them.
- Greg McMaster: In summary, the AQAB's two issues are oil and gas and public education about air quality, that could include a white paper.
  - Greg McMaster: The white paper would be about how air quality impacts human health.
  - Tom Moore: Public education could be an action-oriented event that gives examples of how to enact progress, how to change people's exposure to mobile sources, and what can you do to reduce your exposure.
  - Michael Lynn: The spreadsheet of issues relative to the AQAB that Melissa gave us has many topics. We need to quantify and qualify them and determine what area is not covered.
  - Dave Dietrich: We need a subcommittee to organize a public meeting or it will never happen.
- Greg McMaster: Any suggestions for discussion items at our next meeting?
  - Nancy York: New research on air quality
  - Melissa Hovey: Fire season is coming up. You could discuss how to be proactive and get information out there now. Maybe even discuss respiratory relief centers.
  - John Shenot: I volunteer to develop an outline or template this board could discuss at the next meeting for our approach to our two projects.

### **Updates & announcements**

- Melissa Hovey sent the board an article about a High Park fire study that is looking for volunteers to wear monitors.
- Transportation Board meeting report (February 20, 2013)
  - Nancy York attended and reported that Transport was a common theme in the meeting. The message was we need better transportation.
- Bicycle Advisory Committee report
  - Michael Lynn reported the meeting was cancelled.
- Oil & Gas update (including City Council potential ban)
  - A panel of experts and stakeholders conducted a meeting to discuss oil and gas development in our area, organized by State Legislators and the League of Women Voters. Dave Dietrich will try to obtain a videotape of the event.

- Tom Moore: The state is trying to amend its reporting to increase tonnage (threshold) limit of source. This will harm our ability to understand the impact on air quality in Fort Collins because half of ozone precursors can't be counted at a higher level. We would have to estimate. The state can't pay for more staff to measure them because they don't have proper staffing and taxes to fund this,
  - Melissa Hovey: The City of Fort Collins is a stakeholder and is participating in the writing of these comments. I can also share the City's comments to the CDPHE.
- Melissa Hovey: The Healthy Sustainable homes program is looking for volunteers for training that begins in April.

**Adjourn**

Nancy York moved and Greg McMaster seconded a motion to adjourn.  
Greg McMaster adjourned the meeting at 8:00 pm

Approved by the Board on March 18, 2013

Signed

  
Alexis Hmielak Administrative Secretary II

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/ / Date

