

**AIR QUALITY ADVISORY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2013**

DATE: MONDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2013
LOCATION: Community Room, 215 N. Mason Street
TIME: 5:30–8:30pm

For Reference: Rich Fisher, Chair 970-221-4389
Ross Cunniff, Council Liaison 970-420-7398
Melissa Hovey, Staff Liaison 970-221-6813

Present:
Greg McMaster
Dave Dietrich
Scott Groen
Rich Fisher
Tom Moore

Absent:
Nancy York
John Shenot
Jim Dennison
Michael Lynn

Staff Present:
Melissa Hovey, Staff Liaison
Dianne Tjalkens, Admin/Board Support
Lucinda Smith, Director of Environmental Service
John Phelan, Energy Services Manager
Mike Calhoon, Parks Supervisor
Dan Weinheimer, Policy and Project Manager

Guests:
Mark Houdashelt, citizen
Kathryn Schoen, citizen/CSU student

Call meeting to order: Rich Fischer called to order at 5:32pm.

Public Comments:
None

Review and Approval of October 21, 2013 minutes

Greg moved and Scott seconded a motion to approve the October 21, 2013 AQAB minutes as presented.

Motion passed: 5-0-0

AGENDA ITEM 1: Board Discussion of Work Plan Items

Rich Fisher, Chair led a discussion to develop the 2014 Work Plan.

Dave and Rich came up with a draft work plan 2014 via email. They reviewed the 2013 work plan. Rich would like to make the work plan briefer and divide it into focus areas and specific areas of interest. Rich reviewed the work plan draft. He mentioned the bylaws as background information for the discussion. He asked if the list of 8 items was excessive. Melissa took notes on the work plan draft.

Comments/ Q & A

- Scott said that the board cannot impact regional oil and gas production and therefore the list is excessive. He would like the qualifier removed from the item on ozone problems.
- Tom said the regional transport of air pollution is the real issue.
- Scott asked what impact we can have on it, as opposed to what we can impact in our city.
- Tom said we are interested in working on the regional transport problem.
- Melissa said the board worked on CFCs in the past and the City of Fort Collins, Longmont and Loveland, wrote their own ordinances on CFCs which spurred the state to take action, leading to other states, and later the federal government. The point is we can address regional issues.
- Greg said we should pay attention to all aspects of ozone issues.
- Melissa recommended having at least one statement be very broad so unforeseen issues that may come up throughout the year can be addressed, instead of being limited by the work plan.
- Rich added that the major focus areas are generalized statements, but the specific areas of interest add details. We want the City to be more aware of air quality issues. With regard to mobility management, perhaps we want to be more specific with opportunities like the Lincoln or Harmony corridors.
- Tom asked if there was going to be a Sustainability Plan.
- Lucinda clarified that there would be a Community Sustainability Plan.
- Greg said that any recommendation the board gives Council, should include sustainability.
- Dave asked what our interest is in Specific Area #8, Bike Advisory Committee.
- Melissa clarified that it is a subsection of the Transportation Board. She read from the bylaws that the AQAB is to coordinate work with the Transportation Board. The purpose of having a representative is to advise on air quality issues.
- Tom wondered if the committee was the interest or if the air quality effects of bicycle services are actually what should be addressed. He mentioned an article in the paper that there are four different entities in the City that are working on bicycle lanes and paths.
- Mike Calhoon said there are Parks, Streets and Natural Areas that all serve different needs of the community, there should be more coordination, but there is a lot already. They are working with Streets on Woodward.
- Tom talked about the new miles of bike trails that are planned, but wondered about the plan for maintenance of the existing trails.
- Rich said the failing of the 2013 work plan was that there were too many things to do and there wasn't a plan to get through it. His hope is to actually try to work from the 2014 work plan, with important things that are on the horizon that the City is going to be looking at.
- Melissa reminded the board that the AQAB agreed to provide a white paper to Transportation.

Tom moved to accept the 2014 work plan with revisions. Scott seconded. Motion passed unanimously, 5-0-0.

Melissa will make the changes suggested by the board and send a final draft to the board.

AGENDA ITEM 2: GHG Goals, Energy Policy, Climate Action Plan

Lucinda Smith, Director of Environmental Services and John Phelan, Energy Services Manager presented information on current and accelerated GHG emission reduction goals, revising the Energy Policy, and updating the Climate Action Plan.

Lucinda gave a PowerPoint presentation on the background of the Greenhouse Gas Goals and the Energy Policy. She said that stakeholders include City of Fort Collins, boards and commission, and Platte River Power Authority. She showed a graph of GHG Emissions and Goals, with an 80% reduction by 2050. She discussed how the Climate Action Plan is a strategic plan. John discussed Energy Policy. He showed a graph of 2005-2012 reduction of community emissions while seeing population growth and economic growth. A critical point in framing the GHG, Climate Action Plan, and Energy Policy is economic health. The cumulative effect of 10 years of programs is \$20 million savings annually. He discussed the successes of Climate Wise, FortZED and waste diversion. Lucinda said the Road to Zero Waste draft plan estimates a creation of over 400 jobs if all strategies are implemented. She discussed air quality improvements, and specific pollutants that were reduced in 2012. She said that 25% of households have a member with a respiratory problem. The need for action has increased as the scientific findings of climate change have come to light. There have been significant changes in technology opportunities as well. There are other planning initiatives underway as well that can be worked with in collaboration. John showed a Venn diagram of how the Energy Policy and GHG Goals overlap in the areas of electricity, natural gas and transportation fuels (92% of CO₂). Lucinda said they have identified three alternatives for goals. She showed a slide of goal alternatives, magnitude/timeline and annual reduction required. She said that Alternative B shows 100% reduction, but that is not physically possible without offsets and/or energy production. She added that Alternative C is actually the most aggressive, to reduce emissions by 80% below the baseline by 2030. She knows this board is interested in looking at shorter term objectives. The City needs to work with Platte River Power Authority to identify these short term goals. John showed an outline for the content of the Energy Policy that staff has been working on with the Energy Board. The three main areas of focus are the built environment, energy supply and distribution, and transportation. The GHGs adopted by Council will affect the Energy Policy. He discussed consultant projects that are ongoing, including the GHG Goal Evaluation, and the "Stepping Up" White Paper. Lucinda said that the first project was to sketch out at high level potential pathways that would allow Council to see the feasibility of achieving goals. She showed a graph of the emissions forecast based on the three alternatives. John compared the Brendle Group GHG Goal Evaluation versus the RMI Stepping Up Paper. John talked about Electric Supply Implications, the effects of efficiency, and the need for renewable energy sources. The City of Fort Collins currently has to buy all of its electricity from Platte River Power Authority. He said you cannot reach your goals without addressing the supply side and our relationship with Platte River and the other cities using Platte River. As part of this we are reaching out and bringing Platte River into the collaboration. He talked about getting out of coal and the relationship to the financials of Platte River Power Authority. John showed the schedule of visits to various boards and commissions and the date of the Council Work Session. The key issues are order and alignment of the goal and plan and integrating Platte River into the goal evaluation analysis.

Comments/ Q & A

- Tom asked if these projections account for population growth. Lucinda said it is net, not based on population. The per capita emissions will have to have reductions that account for population growth. Tom said if we turn it into a household base metric that looks at kilowatt hours, people may be better able to understand the saving.

- John Phelan added that the risk of working with small percentage numbers is that to the layperson the difference between 1% and 1.5% doesn't seem like much. If the information is presented in kilowatt hours, there is a different perception.
- Rich said that we will have our greatest achievements early on.
- John Phelan said looking at supply side, at critical junctures you will see step-changes. You make the changes that make the most sense first, it gets harder as you go, but technology changes that. Low hanging fruit grows back as technology develops.
- Scott asked about development and maintenance cost of renewable energy. John clarified that there is a huge capital investment and maintenance costs, but the fuel itself is free (wind and solar).
- Scott asked what percentage wind could contribute to Fort Collins. John said RMI looked at how much it would cost to add more wind, but there isn't enough transmission for it yet.
- Tom asked if the two coal plants that Platte River is running have plans to continue or upgrade.
- John said the Craig Plant is old and will need large investments to keep running. He said Rawhide is one of the best in emissions for a coal plant. You need to look at the assets and when they are fully depreciated.
- Dave said a coal fired power plant could be a major liability in 20 or 30 years when there is a coal tax.
- John said coal contracts have been renewed in the last five years and he is unsure of the length of the contracts. Platte River is currently 98% coal. They are looking to diversify and have more renewables on the system.
- Greg asked to discuss the mindset difference of Jackie Sargent versus the old general manager.
- John said when she came in one of her main points was that they have four customers and need to deliver what those customers want. They are more willing to look at efficiency and program design, including the feed-in tariff solar program.
- Greg asked about the city municipalities.
- John said that on the utilities side we are now better aligned with Loveland than Longmont. Loveland recognizes the benefit of leading. Estes really just needs help right now, but the general manger there is interested in efficiencies. Going to 20% renewables doesn't push on these relationships, but getting to 80% does.
- Tom said he has attended Energy Board meetings recently. He said what is not in the policy and GHG is the Scope 3. We need to deal with where our energy comes from and develop the infrastructure to move the electrons from big power plants. We should explicitly talk about Scope 3, and have something to go along with this very optimistic RMI paper.
- John added that over-production on the renewable side will offset the use of gas. The importance of including Scope 3 is heard.
- Lucinda said what is included in the GHG is really important. It includes life cycle emissions of all aspects of energy and all the consumption we do. For methane, there are different ways to do emission accounting. It is important to measure progress on a goal. At the Council Work session they can discuss the value in setting a long term vision, then filling in the work details later.
- Rich said a goal implies what you need to do, which is a more difficult question.
- Tom said from an air quality health standard, we will never solve the problem of the Denver-Julesberg basin affecting our air quality if we don't decide what we need to do. We are doing incremental planning and never getting to the goal. It would be good to set a goal, and then determine how to integrate the pieces to achieve air quality benefits, as well as reduction in greenhouse gasses.
- Greg said if you can't even remotely figure out how to reach the goal, you can look at changing it. Set the need and what you want and start to force some more creative thinking.

- Rich added that a vision is something you never achieve, but you strive for it. A goal is something that is achievable.
- John said there is leadership versus credibility. If you only do what you know you can accomplish, it's not very inspiring.
- Tom added that it has to be a balanced approach. The transportation issue has been a sticky issue for a while. Regarding the built environment, he drives to work and sees the police station that doesn't have solar panels on it. We are building thousands of apartments, but there isn't a solar panel in sight. What about LED lights?
- Rich said we don't see these things being put into practice in the community. There are many examples of places we could have made some real progress but didn't. How can we bridge that gap?
- Dave said to put things in the budget that can be done now. Instead of doing more planning, get something done. Do things that will yield results immediately. You could put solar on a lot of roofs right now with incentives. If you get people moving, you can get things done.
- Tom said maybe the BFO process could fund 3 to 5 solar neighborhoods.
- Rich said Habitat would like to build a lot more houses and they will build them any way you want them.
- Greg said his house isn't well set up for solar, but the house next door is fantastic. How can this be integrated?
- Dave said there is an open space near him that the owner cannot afford to water. The neighbors would be fine with having solar installed in that space.
- Dave said Germany turned their whole country around in 10 years. Some days they produce all the energy they need from solar and wind.
- Tom said we are not an island; we get our food from other places. We need to talk about the cost of feeding, and driving to Denver for entertainment.
- Rich said the board would bring these comments together and send them to Lucinda and John.
- Lucinda will return next month to discuss further.

AGENDA ITEM 3: Process for Updating the West Nile Virus Management Policy

Mike Calhoon, Parks Supervisor, Dan Weinheimer, Policy and Project Manager and Greg McMaster, WNV Task Force member will make a brief presentation on the process for updating the WNV management policy and how boards and public can participate in the process.

Mike Calhoon gave a PowerPoint on West Nile Virus Management. The program is focused on education and public outreach. They have an extensive trapping network and monitor adult mosquito populations. These are tested to determine WNV. They have an aggressive larval control program. They try to beat the larvae in the water using bacteria to keep them from hatching. There were 97 cases in the county this year. 60 were in Fort Collins. 51 were fever, 9 were neuro-invasive, and 3 were blood donors. On initial analysis from the county, when they track backwards from symptom onset, they found 49 cases were contracted before the spraying. 11 cases were contracted the week of spraying or later. They sought direction from Council regarding the Program Response Guidelines. They got three main directions from Council: 1. A comprehensive program document, 2. Expand the technical advisory committee to include different perspectives of the community (including beekeepers association, organic farmers, pesticide sensitive people); 3. Provide options for emergency adulticiding operations. They are not a nuisance mosquito program; they only spray when the virus activity is high. They are reconvening the technical advisory committee to review the adulticide operation of 2013. They will meet about 5 times before returning to Council. They will look at options for how to run the adulticiding

program if they have to run it again. They will look at best practices of other agencies, and develop a public engagement plan and make recommendations to Council in spring of 2014.

Comments/ Q & A

- Melissa asked if the public engagement plan was outward facing engagement or a plan to allow public input on adulticide. Will the people who want to present scientific data on the effects of permethrin have a forum to do that?
- Mike said it will be both. He talked about BTI and the effect of it on tadpoles, but wants to look more deeply, since the science was not peer reviewed.
- Greg said there are a lot of things that have been internal discussion. The risk index wasn't peer reviewed.
- Mike said the risk index was created by the CDC.
- Rich asked what option will there be this year, instead of massive spraying. We are spraying to prevent infestation of virus. Those communities that are interested in spraying can have it and those who don't want it can opt out.
- Mike said in 2004 there was an opt-out program. But it was ineffective in controlling the mosquitoes.
- Greg asked if we could we move toward spraying zones rather than whole city.
- Mike said we didn't meet the criteria until the virus was detected all over town. There was a recommendation to spray a small area, but it was declined because we hadn't met the criteria. Then there was a recommendation to spray half the town, which was also declined. Then we had to spray the whole town. The human infection criterion is a tough criterion to use. There has been talk about breaking the town into 7 zones. The idea is that if you have criteria triggered in one zone, you break the transmission cycle in that zone, and don't have to spray the whole town. But Mother Nature is involved. There is nothing to say that three weeks later the virus won't come up over the whole town. The data from the traps should point you to where to spray earlier. The only people who get shut off, are those who have gone through a medical process to show sensitivity.
- Melissa asked if a TBL analysis will be done this time, which looks at the social costs. If the City spends X on this disease, what diseases are we not able to spend money on? Can we test the effectiveness after spraying?
- Tom said there should be follow up on the exposure and medical data regarding effects on people.
- Tom said virus activity is being allowed to drive the spraying. He wasn't impressed with the technical skill of the sprayers in his neighborhood that drove through four times. He is concerned about contractors' work.
- Mike said he monitors people on the pesticide sensitivity registry.
- Dave asked if he knows of the HOAs who spray.
- Mike said he doesn't. But the contractor they use is the same as most of the HOAs use, so there is crossover information.
- Dave said it would be beneficial to their process to know which HOAs spray. You don't want to have the HOA spray and two days later the City comes and sprays the whole town. There should be coordination.
- Rich asked if there will be an AQAB member on the panel.
- Mike said Greg has been on the panel, but his term is ending. He can continue on the committee. There should be an AQAB member on the panel, though.
- Rich asked if there was an opportunity for the board to give input. Mike said that is why we want an AQAB member on the panel or committee. He said they will begin reviewing the 2013 operation in December.

- Greg asked Mike to talk about the work session. Mike said there was some turnover over the last few years. Darin realized the need to resource this and there are a number of new people getting involved in the program.
- Rich asked if any AQAB member was interested in being the rep for the panel. No one present volunteered.

AGENDA ITEM 4: 2014 Legislative Agenda

Dan Weinheimer, Policy and Project Manager gave a brief presentation on the priorities for the upcoming legislative session.

Dan shared a packet of priorities that will come forward in the legislature soon. This document and the policy agenda are going to Council tomorrow for adoption and will help guide the program for the next year. He has a number of staff giving him feedback. When bills come up, there is web tracking system so he can get feedback from experts, then take recommendations to legislative review committee and Councilmembers. Council will adopt a position. The assembly can be quite active, with up to 750 bills they read. The document he provided is a check in for staff to make sure these items are important to Fort Collins and Council. There are specific air quality statements. There were many items on oil and gas that have been put under one section, as well as marijuana, that is a big state issue.

Comments/ Q & A

- Rich asked, if we see an issue coming up and want to suggest a particular perspective, how does it wind its way through the process you described?
- Dan said the board can make direct contact, or go through Melissa, send it to him and he will make sure it's on his radar. Providing background information is helpful. Council will consider all the feedback they get. With the web based system the staff can add what the impact will be. Dan can add feedback from AQAB that Council will see and know the board's position.
- Tom asked how oil and gas is shaped by the moratorium.
- Dan said it is not shaped by the moratorium, but is shaped by the spirit of the moratorium in trying to have local control, mitigating potential risks, and changing things that will have negative consequences, at the state level.
- Tom said with 3 or 4 moratoria that the studies will only partially answer the questions. We have tried to advise Council. We are trying to figure out how to work more closely with Council. Things may come up with the legislature that we cannot anticipate now. Tom wonders about the moratorium and the air quality impacts of any decision of what to act on. The Council may be working with different assumptions.
- Dan said there is some discussion that there may be a bill to give more local control.
- Tom said there was an advisory process that went to Council in the early stages, but there has been little discussion about the inner county transport problems. He is encouraging more dialogue between Council and the board. Our advisory role ought to be respected in that regard.
- Dan said the advisory role can be respected through this process. The thing that comes up with legislation is that there are little snippets. It's hard to predict. There is difference between a bill that gives local control and one that controls specific emissions.
- Tom said giving us more local control is good at keeping at bay an industrial activity we'd like to keep out of the City, but doesn't solve the problem at the state level.
- Rich said we may be better off using our Council rep for this.

AGENDA ITEM 4: Updates and Future Agenda Items

Comments/ Q & A


- Rich will be meeting with Ross Cunniff tomorrow regarding communication. He has recommended a process by which communication can be more effectively done. There have been three documents sent to Council over the last year and half and he will ask about the progress of these.
- Tom asked what the role is of sending the documents to them, and what is their responsibility in bringing information back to the board? There is City management doing the document flow for Council, and maybe that is something to look at more closely.
- Rich said November 25 there will be a meeting between chairs coordinating GHG and Energy Policy. The idea is how to coordinate input on these documents more effectively.

Adjournment

Greg moved to adjourn. Dave seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:34pm.

Approved by the Board on December 16, 2013

Signed



Dianne Tjalkens, Administrative Clerk II

12/20/13
Date