

**AIR QUALITY ADVISORY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2013**

DATE: MONDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2013
LOCATION: Community Room, 215 N. Mason Street
TIME: 5:30–8:00 pm

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
Nancy York
John Shenot
Tom Moore

Absent:
Jim Dennison
Michael Lynn

Staff Present:
Melissa Hovey, Staff Liaison
Dianne Tjalkens, Admin/Board Support

Guests: none

Call meeting to order: Rich Fischer called to order at 5:30pm.

Public Comments:
None

Member Comments:
Nancy requested the Air Quality Plan be directed to the Transportation Board and all new Transportation Board Members.

Review and Approval of November 18, 2013 minutes

Dave Dietrich moved and Scott Groen seconded a motion to approve the November 18, 2013 AQAB minutes as presented.

Motion passed: 4-2-0, John and Nancy abstained as they did not attend the November meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 1: Review of Nov. 25th Special Meeting of 4-Board Chairs

Rich Fisher, Chair, led a discussion summarizing items discussed and outcomes from the special meeting of the 4 board chairs on GHG goals and climate action planning.

This group has added a representative from the EAC. The next meeting is this Thursday at 4:00pm. In the first meeting, the chairs and vice chairs explained their perspectives on GHG goals and Energy Policy. Rich believes all boards are going in the same direction. The document written by RMI is important in looking at greenhouse gasses. The three general areas (built environment, transportation, and energy) need attention in order to reduce our carbon footprint and reduce energy usage and improve transportation. Fort Collins counts itself as a Net Zero City. Rich said his perspective is that if we believe this, we need to build on the concept. The question is how do we get there? We have several tools written over the last several years, including the Sustainability Plan, Energy Policy, etc. These all work toward the same goals, but are not brought together. Maybe it is a contribution of these five boards to suggest a pathway for better coordinating our inputs and how the plans, polices, strategies, and codes work together toward the vision of Net Zero. How do we get these boards together to achieve the coordination process and modifying our written guidance? Rich passed around a draft proposal, which is a preliminary attempt to do that. It has three parts: vision, goals, and plan. Can we get more specific about how what our strategies would look like in our energy production and usage, transportation, and building codes? The next step is to link these strategies so they work together to achieve the vision and goal. They will also look at the low hanging fruit that can be done immediately to get movement toward Net Zero. With new technology and better understanding/participation by the public, this can be changed every year in order to continue progress. The strategies and policies could be modified every few years, but the vision and goal would remain the same.

Comments/ Q & A

- Dave noted that the goals would be measurable, so you would know whether you achieved the goal or not. They would be incremental by year to show progress.
- Nancy asked if it was annual record keeping
- Dave said we would have to see what the committee decides.
- Rich said the idea is that the document would be dynamic and that we would try to do those things that make the most sense. The RMI document looks at cost/benefit analysis. He would also like to talk about the non-tangible values that aren't easily "costed-out" in dollars. If people talk about converting to electric cars, they can look at the tradeoff in cost of electric versus gas, but what is the value of seeing more electric cars on the road? There is valuation beyond the dollar trade-off. That thought process went into our conversation on fracking. Fort Collins' statement on this has value in a much larger sense.
- Tom added that the City utility is working hard on energy, which is measurable and quantifiable. The other 2/3 of the greenhouse gas emissions are from transportation and built environment. We have buildings we want to keep. What is the value of keeping existing buildings and reducing their energy use? There are values that won't be dollars and cents.
- Rich said that this board has a larger perspective than Transportation or Energy. We can recognize a lot of different aspect from an air quality perspective.
- Melissa said that there is an update in the built environment later in the agenda tonight.
- John said that it seems like the conversation got started with the Energy Board making noise. He thinks if the City wants to take this on in a coordinated way, he asks to take into the process the big picture view and if necessary offer different opinions than the Energy Board being the final authority on the Climate

Action Plan. The value is not having one board feeling like it has the one voice the City should listen to in setting goals and developing plans. The City will get the most value by listening to all of these boards equally.

- Rich said that the Energy Board chair is open and receptive to this 5-board committee. He anticipates the process will play out this way.
- John suggested that Rich try to keep in the conversation the “value” or co-benefits at appropriate times. Most of what you do in this kind of plan will have air quality benefits that don’t have anything to do with carbon emissions. Rich can bring in the aspect of public health benefits as the plans and goals are being set.
- Nancy said it is a great opportunity for consciousness rising.
- Rich asked the board for permission to continue to participate at this level in the 5-board committee. They hope to complete something that is useful to Lucinda before she goes to Council in February.
- Nancy asked if minutes were being taken. It is a point of unification to have the same set of minutes.
- Melissa said that one objective was to keep the meeting informal. Once three or more board members attend, then minutes must be taken. Notes being taken.
- Tom said that they have done a nice job in organizing a concept. The implication for us is that if the 5-board committee is going to stay informal, the AQAB should have a process to review the document and offer approval. It may be good to have a formal finding.
- Rich said that each of the five boards could vote to approve the final document.
- Melissa added that February 11 Lucinda is going to a Council Work Session. They will not be taking any action at the time, but will be looking at the information and giving general feedback. Lucinda will be looking for direction from Council on how aggressive goals should be.
- Rich said changes in energy production at PRPA should be client driven.
- Melissa said it would be good for the 5-board committee to have a discussion around this and to give support for a direction.
- Tom said he continues to be confused because we will never be Net Zero without moving away from electrical energy.
- Melissa said RMI and Brendle are looking at energy (the largest piece), as well as transportation and built environment.
- Tom said he has read both reports and they are both weak on the built environment and transportation. He thinks they should directly come make presentations to the five boards. He said they gave an hour long presentation to the Energy Board. He wants the process to be open and transparent. Can the AQAB review the Brendle and RMI products before they are finalized?
- Melissa said both have been sent to the board and the board is welcome to comment on them. She can field comments to Brendle Group.
- Greg said in 2008 when the first group came together to make the Climate Action Plan we sent one main and one alternate. They formed a clear group of all key players.
- Melissa clarified that we are now trying to decide if we even should revise the Greenhouse Gas Goals. There is concern that we need more concrete, measurable strategies in the Climate Action Plan. If we do revise, let’s match it to the Energy Policy and Climate Action Plan.
- Greg added that this is a good structure, but don’t forget that you have allies like federal and state researchers, CSU, etc., to make a more powerful, unified group.

- Rich said the contribution the 5-board group can make is that they can concur with the RMI paper finding that you need to do more and can. Plus the City has talked about and hosted Net Zero. If you are going to walk the walk, here is a framework by which you can achieve that. Moreover, picking the target isn't important, but making progress is. He is concerned that we don't have that much time. The work session is on February 11. It will take another attempt to get something to Lucinda by that time.
- Nancy said one objective for the 5-board group would be for the representatives to take information back to their boards.
- Rich said over the next year, we will have more opportunities to weigh in on the process. The 5-board group can come together with a rational statement of why a particular goal can be embraced.
- Nancy said her understanding of Net Zero is that it is a zone that includes some of Downtown and CSU.
- Melissa said that is FortZED, which is a defined area that has some partners in the effort. In general there is a goal for the city to become Net Zero. There are no dates or numbers put with that yet.
- Tom said the principal question the council is being asked to answer is whether or not to change the existing goals. We have to point out co-benefits more explicitly.
- Rich said that we can have this on the agenda for January and we can have a newer version of the document from the 5-board group, and a vote could be taken at the time.
- Greg said he would like to see Rich going forward with this and keeping the board informed, but not to make it too complicated.
- John added that the only hope for this is to give Rich flexibility to do what needs to get done. If we don't have an opportunity to vote on it as a board, then it will be hard to say it is something the board endorsed. If we need to vote next meeting, we'll do it.
- Melissa added that the 5-board group is an additional avenue to have input to staff, but any key decision points will come to the board via a staff presentation. Regardless of whether new goals get set, we need strategies to reach the current goals.

AGENDA ITEM 2: Discussion of City Strategic Plan and Budgeting for Outcomes Process

The City is beginning its strategic planning process for the next budget cycle. Input from boards and commissions is requested by January. Staff liaison will facilitate a discussion on the top 3 priorities for the City over the next 5 years and what should not be a priority. The board may take action and develop a memorandum to the budget office and Council to answer these questions.

The City is engaging in a budgeting strategic plan for the upcoming BFO cycle. Staff in the budget, finance, and communications departments are gathering input from citizens and boards and commissions to give on the top three priorities the City should be spending resources on for the next five years, and what is one thing the City should NOT spend resources on. Melissa suggested the board submit a one-page memo that uses the board's priorities as guidance for submittal in the next week or so. Individuals may submit their own comments on cards provided or via the website. The strategic plan will be used to inform the BFO offers. Once the BFO offers are rolled out to the public in April, the boards and public can provide additional feedback.

Comments/ Q & A

- Nancy said that what we draft today will be our most potent input.
- Melissa said that three areas of focus in the board's work plan are ozone, climate, and transportation planning.
- Nancy said aside from working on climate action, from a transportation point, she prefers greater resources provided to bicycle lanes and expanding the transit plan, making that the highest priority, especially where new buildings are going in. She would like the City to not focus on creating a new block for City buildings, investing in overpasses, or expanding conveniences for the automobile. The resources should go into climate change.
- John asked if she was looking for the types of things Nancy was talking about or outcomes we are trying to achieve. Is a priority reducing precursor emissions or something we want the City to do that reduces the precursor emissions?
- Melissa said at this step it is the priorities at a higher level.
- Nancy said reducing VMT would be that.
- Dave said accelerate greenhouse reduction goals and provide greater resources to encourage alternative forms of transportation from single occupancy internal combustions vehicles.
- Scott said that VMT is the only way to make reductions. The population will double, the VMTs will double, but the emissions will halve because of technologies.
- Dave added that in the rapid growth areas of the City they have ignored the City plans and aren't providing local services, like grocery stores and other walkable services.
- Scott asked why Planning and Zoning isn't denying these developments if they are in City limits.
- Dave said that was what was brought up in the meeting he attended. He would like to see focus on land use in rapid growth areas to obtain local services.
- Tom said Dave is pointing out the problem in pointing our air quality topics. Even if you come up with the best plans, the City is organized into silos that don't talk to each other. Maybe a BFO should be to make sure the City collaborates within itself.
- Nancy said adhering to City Plan could be one of these items. The student housing seems to be lacking in quality.
- Scott said he would like to see "*Enforce current City Plan*" in the text of the document. He is concerned with enforcement. The rules are on the books already. They need to start paying attention.
- Nancy asked how the City can dictate that there will be a grocery store.
- Melissa said that the City can zone for various uses, and there are codes on the books.
- Board members discussed specific wording of the top 3 priorities. Melissa recorded the priorities.
- Nancy offered Green Built Environment as a priority, to create quality buildings and avoid backtracking.
- Tom said what we are trying to do it create a placeholder for something that City staff can actually do, or needs funding to implement.
- John said when the question was posed his priorities were reduce emissions of particulates, ozone, greenhouse gasses, PM25, and indoor air pollutants. What shouldn't be done is anything that increases emissions of any of those air pollutants.
- Greg added that a BFO could be bringing in the City Plan.
- Nancy said developers build houses and commercial development follows houses.
- Rich asked to consider John's approach. Of the two approaches, which gets us to an outcome easier, better, faster?
- John suggested recasting the priorities making it clear they are coming from AQAB for a reason.

- Tom asked we be careful to not get trapped in a silo. How do we provide a robust conversation? It would be really clear from our board to talk about pollutants.
- Nancy would like to use priority air pollutants as the main items, with bullet points to clarify.
- John said he wants to treat the energy items not just as a greenhouse gas issue, but to look at the air quality benefits as well.
- Tom said he would like fewer strategic plans and more action plans.
- Melissa incorporated member comments into the document.

Nancy moved to adopt the Top Three Priorities if the AQAB document as drafted. Dave seconded.

Motion passed unanimously 7-0-0.

- Melissa will follow up by formatting the document into a memo and circulating it to the board.
- Board members are encouraged to submit additional comments online.

AGENDA ITEM 3: Discussion of Implementation of 2014 AQAB Work Plan

Rich Fisher led a discussion on implementation of the 2014 AQAQ Work Plan finalized at the last meeting.

The board received a handout of the final version of the Work Plan. Rich requested input from the board. He reviewed each item on the Work Plan.

Comments/ Q & A

- Rich said he would like to invite Ross Cunniff to the January meeting. He would also like to invite Gerry Horak to discuss the board's priorities and have an open discussion with him.
- John suggested wording for Rich's invitation.
- The board discussed revisions of the Work Plan document.
- Tom suggested inviting people from the Transportation and Planning department to inform the board on how they assess air quality impacts of development projects.
- John appreciated that this allows us to understand what they do and don't do before making suggestions.
- Rich suggested conducting a community air quality information forum will require a subcommittee. What would be a good date for this?
- Tom said October is a busy month for activities. We can get the date determined soon.
- Melissa added that air related conferences happen in September and October, so it may be difficult to get people here at that time.
- Rich suggested April.
- Melissa reminded the board that there will be 3 new members beginning in January. She also mentioned that Earth Day will be in April and something less formal could be done at that.
- Greg and John said there may be too much competition for attention.
- Greg said the last forum was in the summer and was well attended.
- Nancy said that when the weather is nice, how many people want to go to a meeting? But people are interested in their air.

- John said how to get people to show up is a separate discussion, but we need to allow enough time to plan.
- Rich asked for volunteers to the subcommittee.
- Nancy reminded Rich that the committee had met once already.
- John said he might be willing to participate on the subcommittee. He would like to ask his wife to advise and consult. She specializes in adult education.
- The committee will consist of Nancy, Tom, Greg and possibly John.
- Dave said the League of Women Voters can provide information. They hold public forums on various energy issues.
- Rich suggested Osher as a partner; it is a continuing education program at CSU. Osher could possibly provide a venue.
- Greg said CSU has a large environmental health department, and there are many resources there that would be easy to bring in.
- Nancy said the last forum there was a health professional who spoke about asthma.
- Melissa said she can provide the CD and agenda from the last forum.
- Nancy recommended that regarding #8, the MPO meets in Fort Collins, and the AQAB, as a citizen group, can go and speak there.

AGENDA ITEM 4: Brief Discussion of Fugitive Dust and Green Building

Melissa Hovey, staff liaison, gave a brief presentation on the expansion of the City's green building program followed by a discussion of fugitive dust issues.

Melissa gave a PowerPoint presentation on Green Building. The City has had a green building program for many years. In 2007 there was a stakeholder process and the City developed a roadmap for green building. The City has a policy of updating plans every five years. Maximizing efficiencies in the built environments is a key strategy in the Climate Action Plan. 40% of energy uses and 39% of greenhouse gas come from buildings, 25% from transportation. In Fort Collins we have a lower industrial base. Green building is a set of principles that reduce impacts from the built environment on human health and the natural environment. They are expanding the scope to green neighborhoods and focusing on the reduction of combustion of fossil fuels. One key action implemented is the Building Code Green Amendments. The roadmap identified four areas of action, 28 recommended tasks and 45 programs and services. In looking at progress made on 2007 goals, there has been progress on incentive based rebates and building codes. She noted that there has been growth in the number of plans, programs, etc. that are working on green building. Another task to complete was to benchmark to other similar cities. Fort Collins Utilities was ranked as outstanding, but a place for improvement was creating an interdisciplinary team. They also looked at code conflicts. They created a new vision that includes health, productivity, and sustainability. She talked about the elements of a comprehensive green building program including long range planning, partnerships, education, etc. She showed six areas that are opportunities for program enhancement, including building internal capacity and retrofitting existing buildings. The next steps are to convene an interdisciplinary team, finalize the roadmap, investigate the six opportunities identified, and develop a BFO offer.

Melissa also gave a presentation on Fugitive Dust. She showed a photo Tom took of a local dust issue. Dust is impacting the citizens and we haven't determined the City's role in responding to fugitive dust impacts and

complaints. With more infill development it has become more of an issue. We do not have any City ordinances, so there is nothing for the City to enforce. The City is going to work with the County on a collaborative response to issues and complaints. The proposed action for 2014 is to develop ordinances, guidance, and changes in DR. She discussed CDPHE, Larimer County, and City departments' responsibilities in responding to complaints. She also discussed various sources of fugitive dust, including development, City activities, and others. She talked about interim measures, with the main item being face-to-face meetings with contractors when a complaint is issued. She went over possible actions that could be taken in 2014, such as revisions to municipal code.

Comments/ Q & A

- Rich asked if Council had ever brought this up in a formal setting.
- Melissa said that Council's 2014 Work Plan has this issue on it.
- Rich asked what the first next step is.
- Melissa said the next step is to pick up where they left off; that when she started this, there was good progress, but that has waned. Next steps need to be determined. She cannot create code for City policy. But an ordinance could be created. This would take many steps. She may form a subcommittee.
- Tom suggested this would fall neatly into a BFO offer, from which a consultant could be hired to work on the issues. If we have a municipal code that determines standards for private citizens don't the City departments have to comply with that?
- Melissa answered that there was debate on this when her team first pulled together, but will need to be looked at again with the legal department.
- Rich asked if this group could give ideas on good practices, short of ordinance or code, a list of easily identified actions that city boards or citizens hope the building site managers will do.
- Melissa said there are other places with these types of items in place. We do not have to redevelop the wheel. No action form the
- Greg said regarding the green building road map, what is the goal of the program and what does success look like?
- Melissa said the goal is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and the amount attributable to the built environment. The internal team that will be expanded to a community stakeholder team will determine the exact measures and how it will be tracked.

AGENDA ITEM 5: West Nile Updates

Greg said there are five planned meetings. The City has come in with many City staff and Dan Weinheimer is leading it. It is an interesting group with a lot of technical information. He is unsure how successful it will be. There is not enough structure and there need to be clear questions that need to be addressed. The committee has been expanded some, including a person from a CSA farm. They are looking for someone who has a chemical sensitivity. There will be four more meetings over the next two months. There was discussion about the advisory board members. It is a public meeting, so citizens can attend.

Comments/ Q & A

- Melissa asked if the meetings have been publicly posted.
- Greg said it meets the second and fourth Wednesdays. Tim Allen is in charge of communication.

- Rich said Tim should be making sure the community has the opportunity for input.
 - Greg said policy is in place and one faction is pushing for earlier spraying. That would require change in policy and he hopes that would be somewhat difficult to do.
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AGENDA ITEM 6: Announcements

1. Melissa gave four updates:
 1. There is new confidential document proposing changes in the ethics codes. If the board has any comments, they will need to submit a comment, as a board, by mid-January. This can be covered in the next meeting.
 2. Oil and Gas announcements. There are proposed regulations out that make changes to oil and gas rules. The City has joined a government coalition. Melissa will be the representative on that coalition and they are filing for party status. The hearing for the regulations will be February 19-21. They are in the process of developing prehearing statement and list of issues. She will bring document to January meeting.
 3. There is an air monitoring study happening around the oil and gas well pad sites. It is a quick 90-day snapshot. Results will be made public. They are getting consultations services from ARS (Air Resource Specialists). Call her directly with questions. They are monitoring hydrogen sulfide and sampling for a range of VOCs, including some typically associated with gas development. They do not expect to see much. They are also doing some control locations. She will give the board a full report at a later date.
 - Rich asked where the towers are located. Melissa said one is located at an oil pad east of the Hearthfire neighborhood, off Terry Lake and Douglas Roads.
 - Tom asked the motivation of the sampling.
 - Melissa said it started to be responsive to neighbors in that area, then air monitoring became a component of the operator agreement. The study is a snapshot of baseline emissions without hydraulic fracturing going on at the time. The intent is to gather data for concerned neighbors, then a study to comply with operator agreement, and as a baseline assessment of air quality conditions.
 - Tom asked if the operator was paying for it.
 - Melissa said the cost is split between the City and the operator.
 4. The Northern Front Range Oil and Gas Air Emissions study that was announced by CDPHE several months ago, has gotten funding and Dr. Jeff Collett from CSU has been selected to be the principle investigator. They have formed technical advisory committee and Melissa has been appointed to that.

AGENDA ITEM 7: Acknowledgement of Members

- Rich acknowledged Nancy and Greg's contributions to the AQAB. Greg has been on the board for nine years.

- Greg said that over the nine years he has been part of this, the group has been knowledgeable, committed and sincere. He has learned a lot from his time on the board.
 - Nancy said she thinks the boards have improved over her time, including cooperation and level of knowledge. She wants to remain on the mailing list for the board and continue to receive the agendas. She will continue to assist on the forum subcommittee.
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Adjournment

Greg moved to adjourn. Nancy seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:20pm.

Approved by the Board on January 27, 201~~3~~⁴

Signed


Dianne Tjalkens, Administrative Clerk II

1-27-14
Date