

**Wasatch Front Regional Council
Air Quality Committee
Meeting Summary – November 18, 2009**

Attending: Committee Members
Mayor Ralph Becker, SLC
Kip Billings, WFRC
Chuck Chappell, WFRC
Commissioner John Petroff, Davis Co.
Angelo Papastamos (*for Ahmad Jaber*), UDOT
Commissioner Jan Zogmaister, Weber Co.
Mayor JoAnn Seghini, Midvale
Ed Buchanan (*for Jerry Benson*), UTA
Bryce Bird (*for Cheryl Heying*), DAQ

Others
Elden Bingham, UDOT
Ned Hacker, WFRC
Stacey Adams, DEQ
Rick McKeague, UDAQ
Deborah Burney-Sigman, Utah Moms Clean Air
Vicki Bennett, SLC
Sam Klemm, WFRC

Summary

AQC Alternates – At the October meeting of the WFRC, the Council approved three alternates to the Air Quality Committee, one each from Weber, Davis, and Salt Lake Counties. In the event that one of the elected officials on the Air Quality Committee is unable to attend they can request that the alternate attend in their place in order to maintain proper representation on the Committee for the entire region. Chuck Chappell of WFRC read the names of the alternates:

Mayor Keith Butler, Marriott-Slatersville
Mayor Todd Stevenson, Fruit Heights
Carlton Christensen, Salt Lake City Council

2010 AQC Schedule and Agenda – Kip Billings of WFRC distributed a proposed schedule of AQC meetings for 2010. Five meetings are planned coinciding with the schedule for Regional Growth Committee meetings on the 3rd Thursday of select months. The AQC meetings will be from 11:00 AM to noon following the RGC meetings. The draft schedule is attached along with possible discussion items for each meeting. Chuck Chappell of WFRC suggested addition to the May 20th agenda a discussion about the EPA Grant to expand the Clear the Air Challenge that was initiated in 2009.

Mayor Becker noted that he has a conflict for the first scheduled meeting on January 21st, 2010.

EPA PM_{2.5} Designations – Bryce Bird distributed maps of the PM_{2.5} non-attainment areas. EPA published in the Federal Register their final PM_{2.5} designations on November 13, 2009; and these designations will become official on December 14, 2009 following a 30-day public review. Three areas in Utah are

designated as PM_{2.5} non-attainment areas including the Salt Lake City Area (Weber, Davis, and Salt Lake Counties; and portions of Tooele and Box Elder Counties); the Logan UT-ID Area (portions of Cache County, Utah and portions of Franklin County, Idaho); and the Provo Area (portions of Utah County). DAQ has until December 14, 2012 to prepare a SIP demonstrating how the state will reduce PM_{2.5} emissions to federal standards. The SIP will include budgets for mobile source emissions related to PM_{2.5}. DAQ will coordinate with stakeholders including WFRC to identify emission reduction strategies required to attain the new standard.

Elden Bingham asked if it will be possible to pass the interim PM_{2.5} conformity test prior to a PM_{2.5} budget being established in the SIP. Kip Billings of WFRC explained that EPA has not released final guidance on interim conformity for the new PM_{2.5}. It is anticipated that the interim test will be that future ozone related emissions must be lower than 2005 or some other baseline year. WFRC has demonstrated that net emissions of NO_x and VOC have been decreasing for several years and this trend is projected to continue beyond 2020, therefore the interim test is expected to be successful.

Ozone Non-attainment Recommendations – Bryce Bird distributed maps of the proposed ozone non-attainment areas. The areas in Utah likely to be designated as ozone non-attainment areas include Weber, Davis, and Salt Lake Counties. EPA recently postponed the ozone non-attainment area designations in order to re-evaluate the ozone standard. EPA is considering lowering the standard further to 70 or even 65 ppb compared to the currently proposed standard of 75 ppb.

Bryce's handouts included ozone data from the last six years indicating that Great Basin National Park would violate the proposed standard of 70 ppb and four other western national parks would violate the standard if it were set to 65 ppb. Deborah Sigman representing Utah Mom's for Clean Air asked if these high ozone levels in the national parks could be attributed to anything other than pollution transport from the Los Angeles area. Bryce answered that the elevated ozone levels occur in the national parks even when the transport index is low. Bryce further explained that western forests dominated by coniferous trees produce more ozone generating VOC emissions than eastern deciduous forests.

Bryce also pointed out that the last three years of ozone data show improvements over the previous three years. This is partly explained by more favorable weather conditions in the most recent years. Kip Billings of WFRC suggested the improvement is also explained by lower vehicle miles of travel in 2008 due to high fuel prices and an economic slowdown, as well as turnover in the vehicle fleet with new and cleaner vehicles comprising an ever increasing percentage of the fleet. Emissions standards for diesel vehicles were also upgraded in 2007 which will gradually improve ozone related emissions.

Bryce pointed out that the NO_x emission reductions demanded for improving PM_{2.5} emissions can be counter-productive to ozone emission reductions. While NO_x is a partner ingredient with VOC (volatile organic compounds) as a pre-cursor to ozone formation, excess levels of NO_x in relation to VOC can have a "scavenging" effect on ozone.

2010 Winter AQ Strategies – Mayor Becker led a discussion on strategies that could be implemented by the AQC and the WFRC to address PM_{2.5} emissions for the 2010 winter season. Angelo Papastamos of UDOT spoke about expanding the Clear the Air Challenge and involving low cost social media (Facebook, Twitter) to get the message out. He also explained that it is likely too late to implement for the 2010 winter inversion season, and that it is too early to take advantage of an EPA grant for the Challenge as these funds have not yet been awarded. One possibility, however, would be to simply reset the counters on the Challenge website. Zion's Bank is a willing sponsor as are the Utah Jazz and their co-

sponsors Rocky Mountain Power and Questar. The Jazz sponsorship would be very helpful in promoting this cause. Debbie Sigman of UMCA said that their main concern is for heightened public awareness of emission causing activities during inversion conditions. Kip Billings of WFRC suggested local elected officials could champion flextime and telecommute options for employers by establishing such options for their own city employees.

After considering these and other ideas, there was consensus among the group that locally elected officials be prepared with talking points in time for the first PM_{2.5} “red alert” warning that attracts more media attention. Local officials addressing this issue should include those beyond Salt Lake County. Chuck will follow up with Michael Jensen, Chair of the WFRC.

Other: Greenhouse Gas Legislation – Sam Klemm of WFRC reported that a climate bill passed out of the House but still needs to pass three hostile Senate committees which include 14 democratic senators from coal-rich states. If the climate bill passes at all it will likely be with much weaker regulations than the House version. However, EPA has ruled that greenhouse gases (GHG), mainly CO₂, is a threat to human health. This gives EPA rule making authority to regulate GHG even without congressional support. Also, the highway reauthorization bill effectively puts a cap on mobile source GHG emissions. There may be a shift to effect GHG emissions through incentives rather than a cap.

In a related discussion, Bryce Bird of DAQ mentioned that beginning in 2010 EPA requires reporting of GHG emissions. He also reported that EPA is revising their rules about what constitutes a major pollution source under GHG rules since even a modest sized building would otherwise be subject to major source controls under existing rules due to CO₂ emissions from a simple boiler for space heating.

Next AQC Meeting – January 21, 2010 following the Regional Growth Committee meeting. This meeting will require a substitute Chair for Mayor Becker or a schedule change to a time that Mayor Becker can attend. AQC members will be notified via e-mail regarding the next meeting.

Possible Agenda Items:

- PM_{2.5} SIP Update
- Ozone non-attainment Recommendations
- PM_{2.5} Designations
- MOVES Final Version

WFRC Air Quality Committee

Proposed Schedule and Agenda for 2010

It is proposed that the WFRC Air Quality Committee meet at the WFRC office from 11:00 AM – noon on the 3rd Thursday of select months in coordination with the WFRC Regional Growth Committee. The DRAFT schedule and possible agenda items for 2010 are as follows :

Jan 21

- PM2.5 SIP Update
- Ozone non-attainment Recommendations
- PM2.5 Designations
- MOVES Final Version

Mar 18

- 2010 Ozone Strategies
- Greenhouse Gas Legislation

May 20

- EPA Grant (Clear the Air Challenge)
- AQ Scorecard (PM & CO)
- PM2.5 SIP Update
- 2016 TIP Conformity - DRAFT
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Aug 19

- PM2.5 SIP Update
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Oct 21

- AQ Scorecard (Ozone)
- 2040 RTP Conformity - DRAFT